

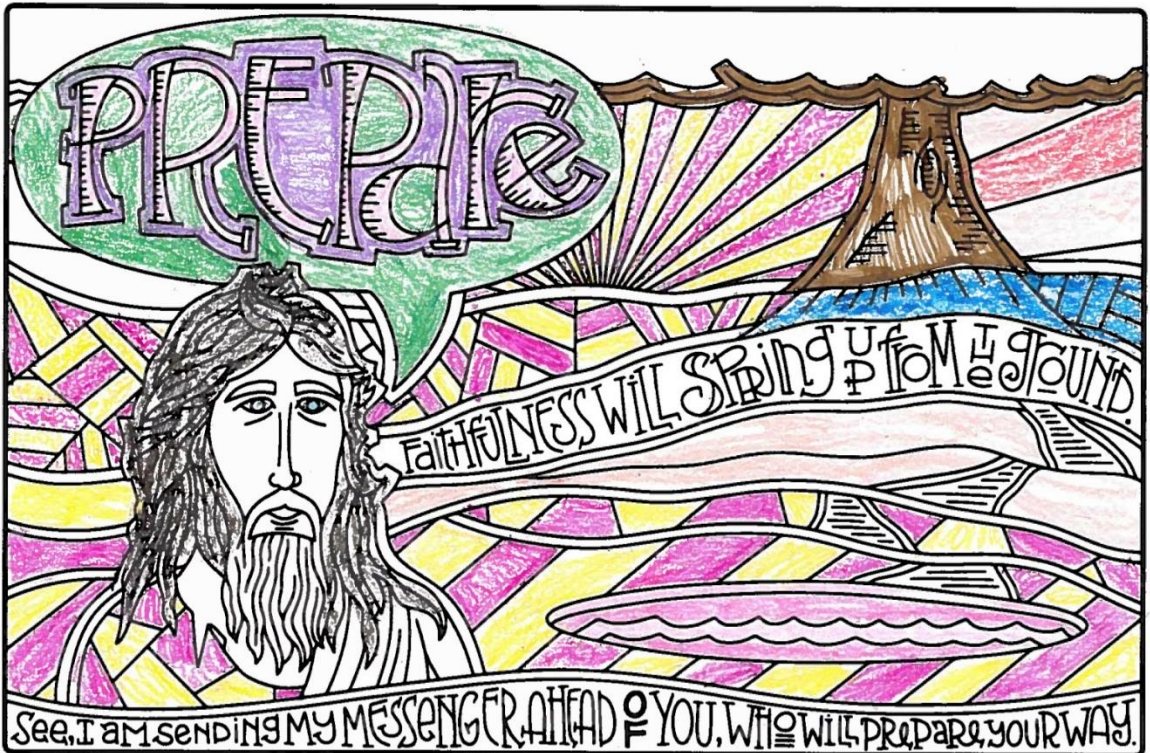
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 3, 2017

The First Sunday of Advent

Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



By Erin Cassel

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Many the Light Beams* Chamber Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of all time,

C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Fling Wide the Door* All Stand & Sing

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

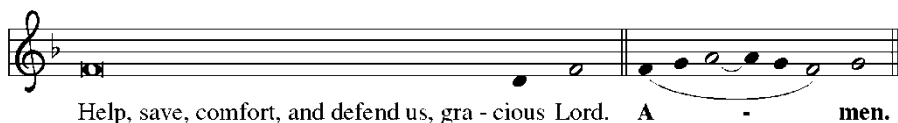
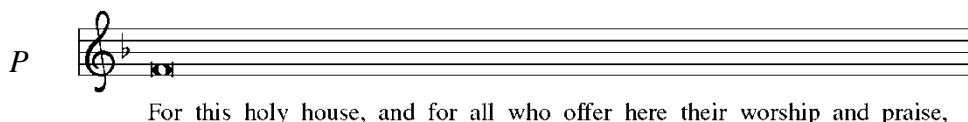
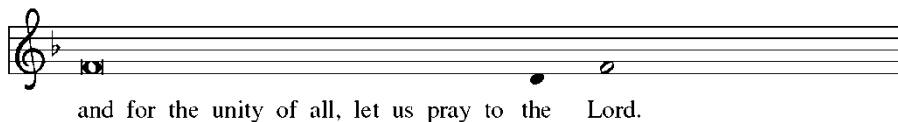
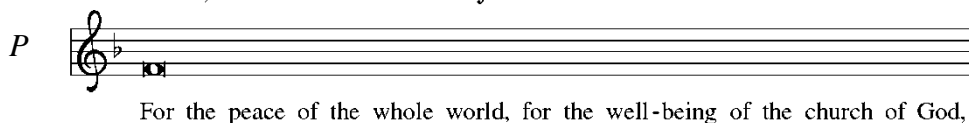
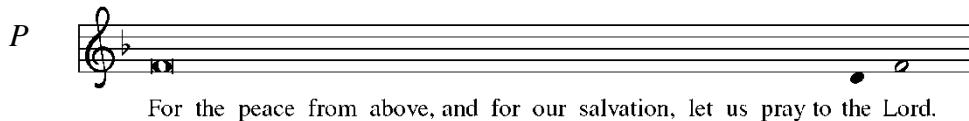
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Pastor

Congregation



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Pastor



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are scat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing “Jesus Loves Me”
as the children come forward.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon.** *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nurseries.**

ADVENT ANTHEM: *Comfort These My People* Handbell Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the sixty-fourth chapter of Isaiah.

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH: *Light One Candle* All Sing
The first candle represents HOPE. Long ago, peoples' hearts were sustained by hope
as they waited for a Savior. We hope, too, for the Savior and his love to fill and cover the
world.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

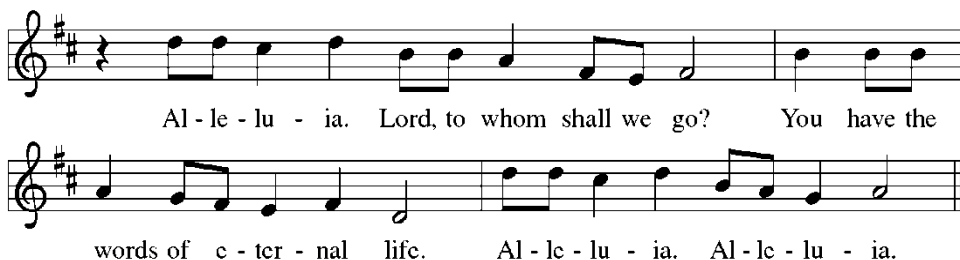
³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.
²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will not pass away.
³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep
awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or
at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Lord, What a Morning* All Stand & Sing

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* All Stand & Sing



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, and those who are in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

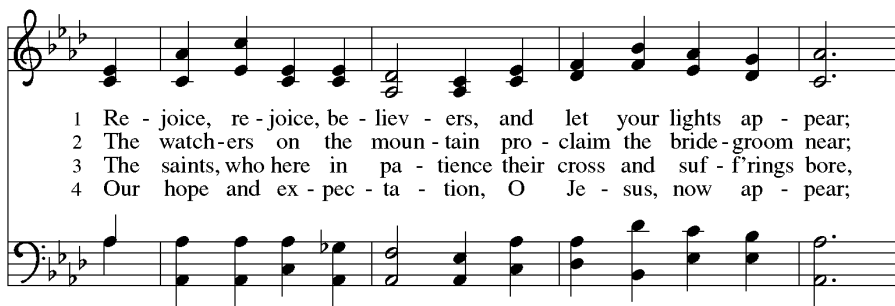
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING

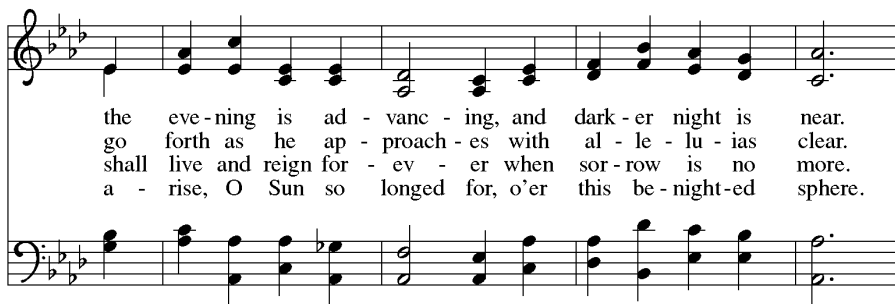
P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

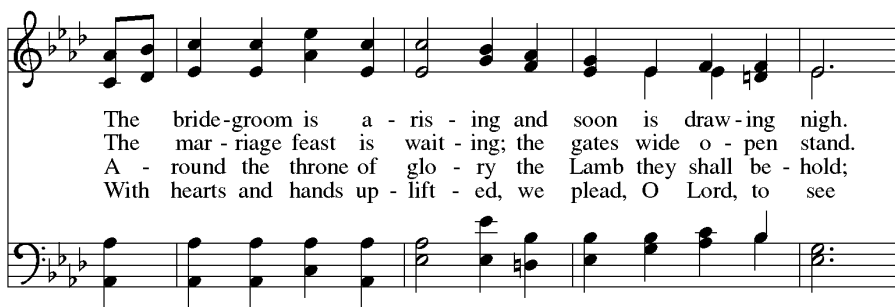
SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* All Stand & Sing



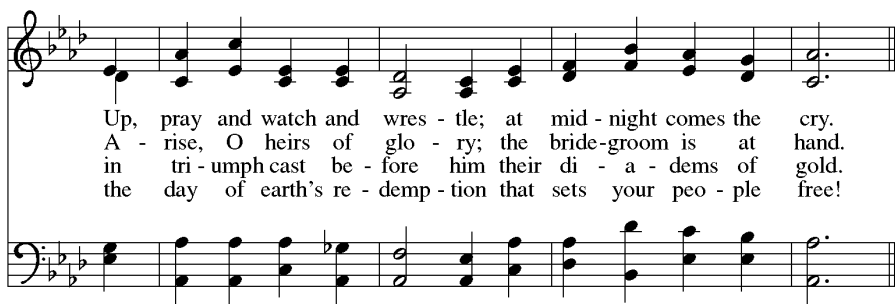
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

SENDING

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **First Sunday of Advent**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. Nurseries for children **(infants through 3 years old)** are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Kathy Graves.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Offering and Attendance Report for November 26, 2017:

Attendance: 128

Budget Report

Offering

Expenses

Offering less Expenses

Budgeted Expenses

Offering less Budgeted Expenses

This Week

\$ 2,302.00

\$ 5,656.42

(\$ 3,354.42)

Year-to-Date

\$ 243,671.93

\$ 256,991.57

(\$ 13,319.64)

\$ 266,110.17

(\$ 22,438.24)

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 3-9Today, December 3 Travis Fleming
Brenda Jenkins

December 4 Anne Lineberger

December 5 Aaron Nault

December 7 Jackson Bryant

December 8 Nathan Kelly
Vivian Lane
Brian Wallace
December 9 Bob Koehler**ASSISTING MINISTERS:****LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Katie Kessen**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Amanda Kelly Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

ACCOMPANIST: Jo Irwin**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers**HURDY GURDY:** Julia Gunter**USHERS:** Volunteers**PERCUSSION:** Janet Achor, Steve Bingham, Diann Halvorson**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, December 3**

9:00 am Handbell practice

9:30 am **Christmas Play practice**, Adult S.S.

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

2:30 pm **HCY** meets at church to carpool to Gastonia for Christmas Parade

4:00 pm Church Choir

4:30 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm **All Choirs dress rehearsal, HCY Dinner**

Tuesday, December 5

1:30 pm Riders for Belmont parade float meet at the church
7:00 pm Nar-Anon



Wednesday, December 6

6:00 pm Dinner
6:45 pm Advent worship w/Holy Communion
7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 9

2:00 pm Christmas play practice
3:00 pm Christmas Caroling
7:00 pm *Staying Connected* meets at the Sarrazins

THE CRECHE is set up this morning with only a manger and a blue vigil candle. The empty crèche suggests that lowliness and poverty surrounding our infant Savior who for humanity's sake became poor that through His poverty, people might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9)

THE BLUE CANDLE in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.

The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.



**There are 206 days till our group
of 7 travels to Houston!**

For more information or looking to help,
talk to Beka.

BCO December Items of the Month



Grits & Oatmeal



Sunday School Attendance November 26, 2017

Preschool 5
Elementary 10
Middle School 2

Seekers 7
Adults 6
Total: 30



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Kathie Schaumburg
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid
Clarence McLain

Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates



Beau Carroll

OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers.
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Holy Doodles



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



Poinsettia Order Form



Your Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Number of poinsettias ordered: ____ Total cost @ \$15 each: _____

Payment by check: _____ Payment by cash: _____

Remember to add **\$15 for each** poinsettia ordered.
Payment must be attached to order form.

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 10th.

You may give your order form and payment to an usher or
take to the church office.

Please indicate on your check that it is for a poinsettia order.

PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual ***Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign***. Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall. Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county. The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.



Peanut
Butter
& Jelly
Campaign



volunteerforgal.org

North Carolina
GUARDIAN AD LITEM
A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT