

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 5, 2017

## The First Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Scottish Melody* ..... Chandler

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

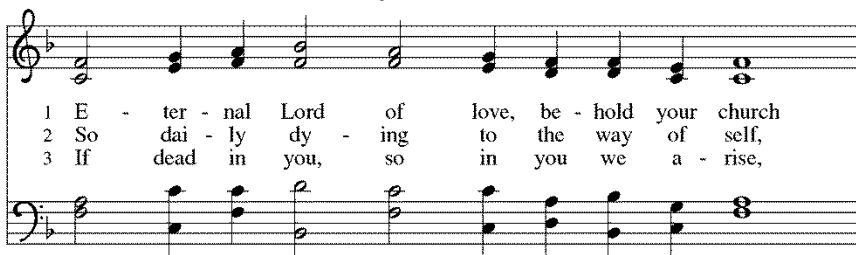
P Merciful God,

**C you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

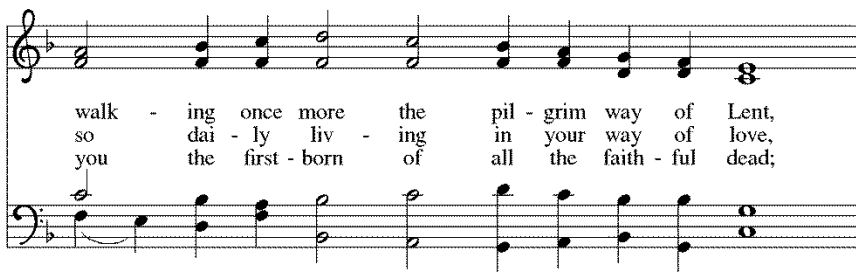
P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C Amen.**

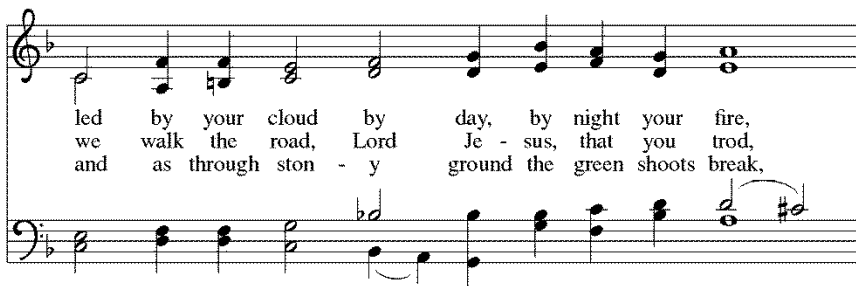
# GATHERING SONG: *Eternal Lord of Love*. . . . . All Stand and Sing



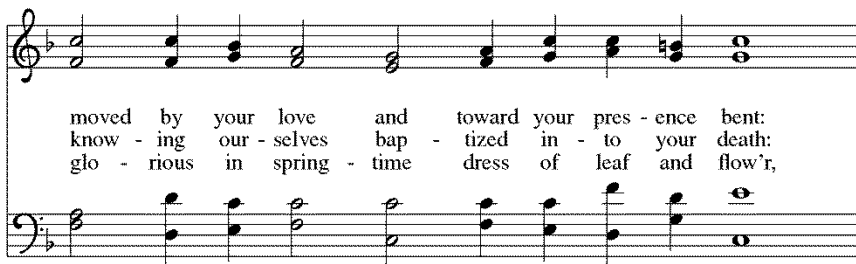
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death;  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here—the goal of all de-sire.  
 so we are dead and live with you in God.  
 so in-to life and glo-ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003  
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551  
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

## 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*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

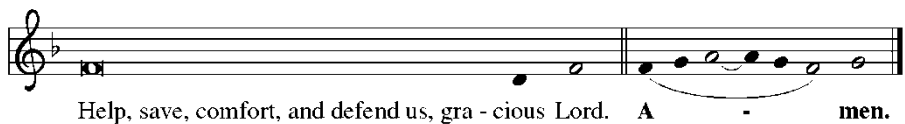
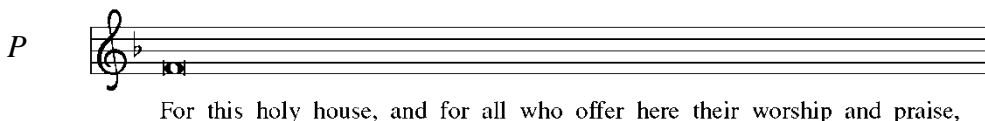
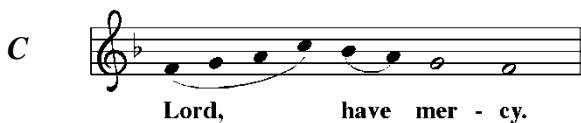
*C*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



## SALUTATION

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P* Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 – third grade** 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**.

## FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

A reading from the second & third chapters of Genesis.

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 32 ..... All Sing in Unison

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;**

**my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

## SECOND READING

**Romans 5:12-19**

A reading from the fifth chapter of Romans.

*Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

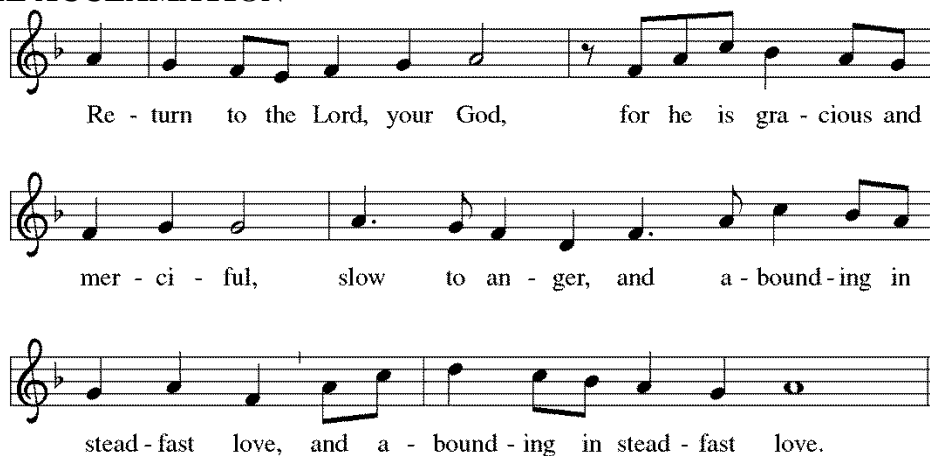
<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of

righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL

**Matthew 4:1-11**

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,  
'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.


*The assembly is seated*

**SERMON** ..... Pastor Micah

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* ..... All Stand and Sing



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me, walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.

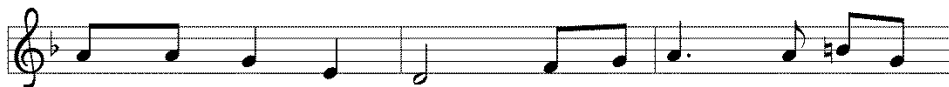
## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** Kum Ba Ya (Come By Here) . . . . . Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Tree of Life* . . . . . All Stand and Sing



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

**C Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, lead your church on earth to do your will and strive for your kingdom. Teach us your ways and increase our understanding. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show us how to care for your creation and to treasure the fruits of your creating. Guide our actions and increase our commitment. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give knowledge and wisdom to all leaders throughout your world. Turn hardened hearts of stone toward your nourishing word and let the powerful become providers of daily bread. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rush to the aid of your people in times of distress. Send your peace and healing to those in need. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide those preparing for baptism, sponsors, and this whole assembly toward living into the promises made in baptism. Lead us to scripture, the holy supper, and toward your will for all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our Lenten journeys and inspire us by the witness of the saints who walked faithfully with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through 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 God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

**C Amen.**

# SENDING SONG: *Jesus, Still Lead On* . . . . . All Stand and Sing

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: SEELENBRAUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

## DISMISSAL

**P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **The First Sunday in Lent**. 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 located 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Tim Baker in honor of Debbie's birthday.

**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***

**The 2017 Flower Chart is available in the narthex.**

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both).

**If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.**

Cost of both vases = \$45, One vase = \$22.50.

## **Offering and Attendance Report for February 26, 2017:**

Attendance: 114

### **Budget Report**

### **February 26, 2017**

Current Offering Received	\$ 5,201.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,656.42
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 46,894.59
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 314.71
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 1,384.92

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### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Julia Gunter

**GREETER:** Sherry Alexander

### **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

*Infants:* Volunteer; *Toddlers:* Volunteer

### **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams

**TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

**USHERS:** Need Volunteers

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Rebecca Yount

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### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 5-11**

Today, March 5 Rob Ratchford

March 6 Debbie Baker

Jo Singleton



March 7 Roger DiBiase

Holly Harper

March 10 Dee Smith

March 11 Thomas Kasmer

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### **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

#### **Today, March 5**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service

*Volunteer Appreciation Lunch*

*Children's Ensemble after lunch*

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church choir

#### **Tuesday, March 7**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

#### **Wednesday, March 8**

6:00 pm Dinner

6:45 pm Lenten Worship

7:30 pm Chamber Choir

#### **Saturday, March 11**

***Staying Connected*** meets at

6:30 pm Dinner at Mayworth's

in Cramerton

7:45 pm *Escape Room* at the Mill

Belmont, NC

Call Krystyna to reserve: Cost \$15/person for 1 hour



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Shirley Causby & Family  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro  
Scott Frisk  
Carol Fox  
Brian Jackson & Family

Parker Holland  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett  
Margaret Sparks

Karen Wayt  
Donnie Yavelak

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek  
Jason Gardner



Dillon Kasmer  
Leo Kasmer

Tom Kasmer  
Mike Kelso

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 located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).

*We wish to thank our congregational family for your outpouring of love and support, not just during the past weeks, but during our entire journey. Tommy loved his Lord, family, and extended church family. We felt God's presence and peace through the prayers and petitions that were offered.*

*To so many of you who demonstrated myriad acts of kindness visibly, and behind the scenes, we thank you.*

*Blessings now and always!*

*Shirley Causby*

*Greg Cline*





**Join us June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm, for our Annual Vacation Bible School!** This year we will learn how God created each of us through song, bible discovery, games and the imagination station! We are in need of volunteers to help in many capacities through the evening activities. We will also provide a quick meal each evening for all participants & volunteers.

**If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group of kids, a breakout session or help prepare a meal, please email Melissa Bocchino at [melissa.bocchino@pwc.com](mailto:melissa.bocchino@pwc.com).** Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5<sup>th</sup>. We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!



**It is hard to believe but it is already time to start planning for summer camp!**



**Holy Comforter is hosting Camp Agape July 17-21.**



*Agape* is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**.

The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a “first come, first served” basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

**Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm** HCLC will host 50 members from Lenoir-Rhyne University Choir. This will be the start of their week-long spring tour, thus requiring overnight housing with hosts from each congregation. If you are willing to assist, please sign up today. **Basically it's “bed & breakfast.”** This substantially defrays expenses. We are exceedingly grateful for your hospitality and to LRU for sharing this concert as part of our centennial celebration.

**NOTE:** Due to the Volunteer Appreciation Meal today, **March 5**, we would like to offer Children's Ensemble immediately after lunch.

Due to the Lenoir-Rhyne Choir Concert **next Sunday, March 12**, we would like for the kids to meet briefly with the church choir immediately after the service of worship.

The March newsletter has already been delivered, but we will include a reminder this week and next. Hope this works for the majority. I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience, but hope that the time changes actually make it easier for all.

Blessings,  
Greg



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

On **March 26**, following the service, we will provide lunch and will pack personal care kits for ***Lutheran World Relief***.

**Throughout the month of March we will collect items for those kits.**

The items need to be **new**, and are as follows:

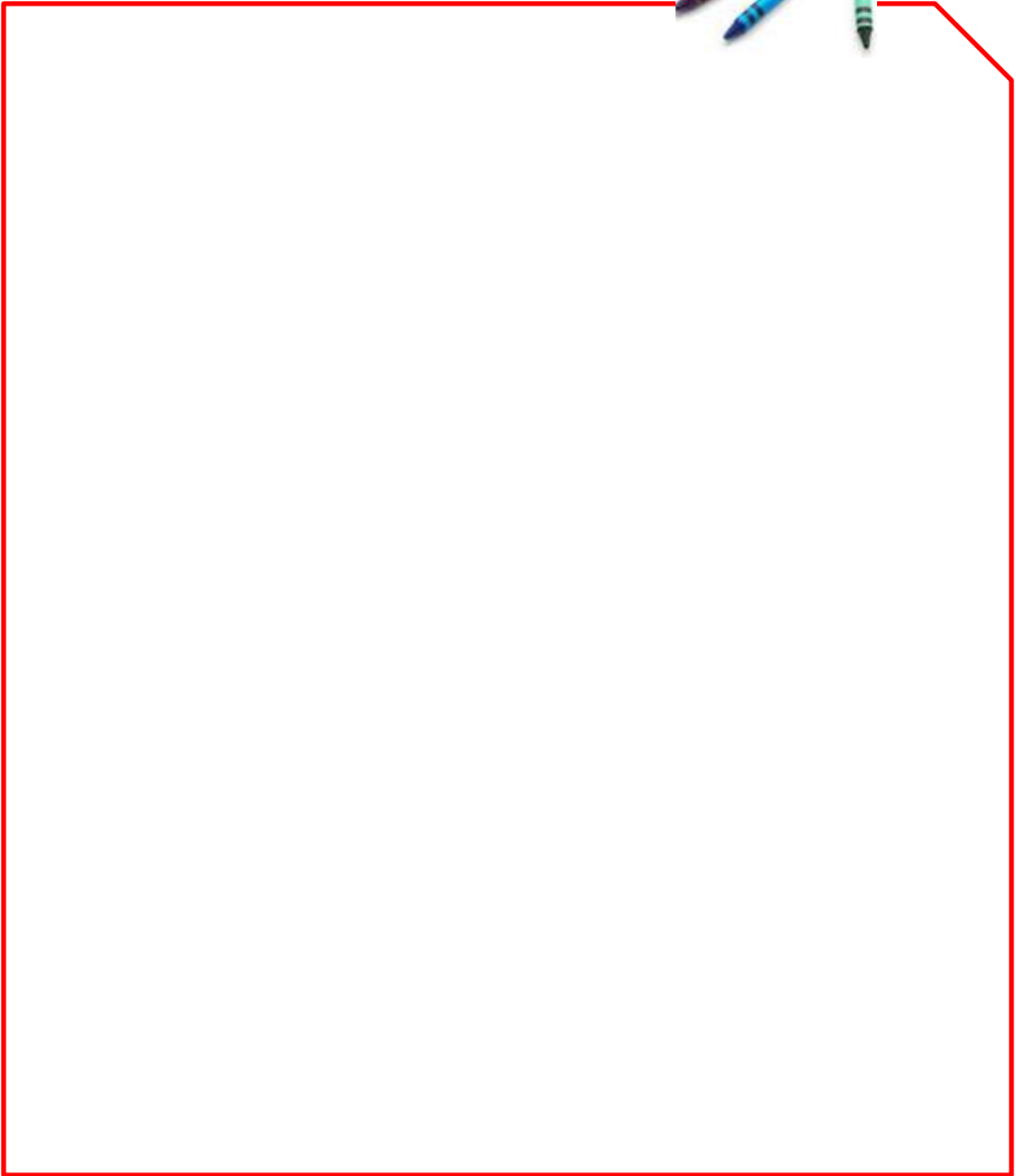


- **lightweight bath-size towels**
  - **unopened soap**
- **adult size toothbrush**
  - **sturdy comb**
- **metal nail clippers**



These kits will then get sent around the world to people in desperate need of them. We appreciate your generosity to provide for others out of the abundance God provides for us.

# Holy Doodles





## Holy C Sandwich Group

**Do life situations sometimes leave you feeling “sandwiched?”**

Do you ever feel like the middle slice of meat — maybe fried to a crisp — expected to hold together a whole club sandwich?

Would a little Christian community pick-me-up help pull you through?

**Join us for scripture, dinner, laughter and togetherness on  
Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30** at Mark & Rebecca Yount’s  
511 Belwood Drive in Belmont.

Whether you’re single, married, or somewhere in between,  
all are welcomed, with the hope to meet on a regular basis.

Please email [myount@belmontfederal.com](mailto:myount@belmontfederal.com) or [Rebecca.yount@lashgroup.com](mailto:Rebecca.yount@lashgroup.com)  
**by March 17<sup>th</sup>** to let us know you’re coming.

### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager