

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 6, 2018

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Good Christian Friends* ..... Leavitt

### 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  $\text{✝}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

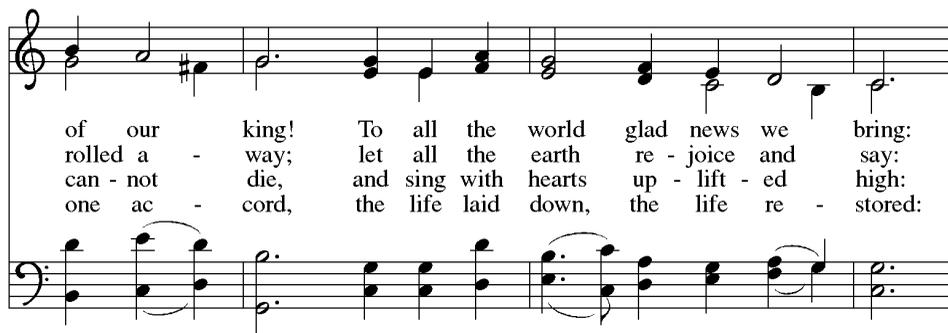
P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\text{✝}$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.  
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615  
Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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## 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.



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 seat - 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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your

promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 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.**

## **FIRST READING**

**Acts 10:44-48**

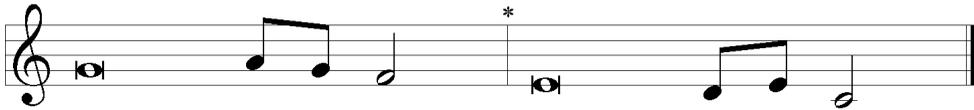
A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 98 ..... All Sing

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the | voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,  
the world and those who | dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers | clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the  
earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peo- | ples with equity.

**SECOND READING**

**1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from the fifth chapter of 1 John.

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of

God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL

**John 15:9-17**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.



<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose

me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

*The assembly is seated*

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ..... All Stand & Sing

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922  
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## **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.**

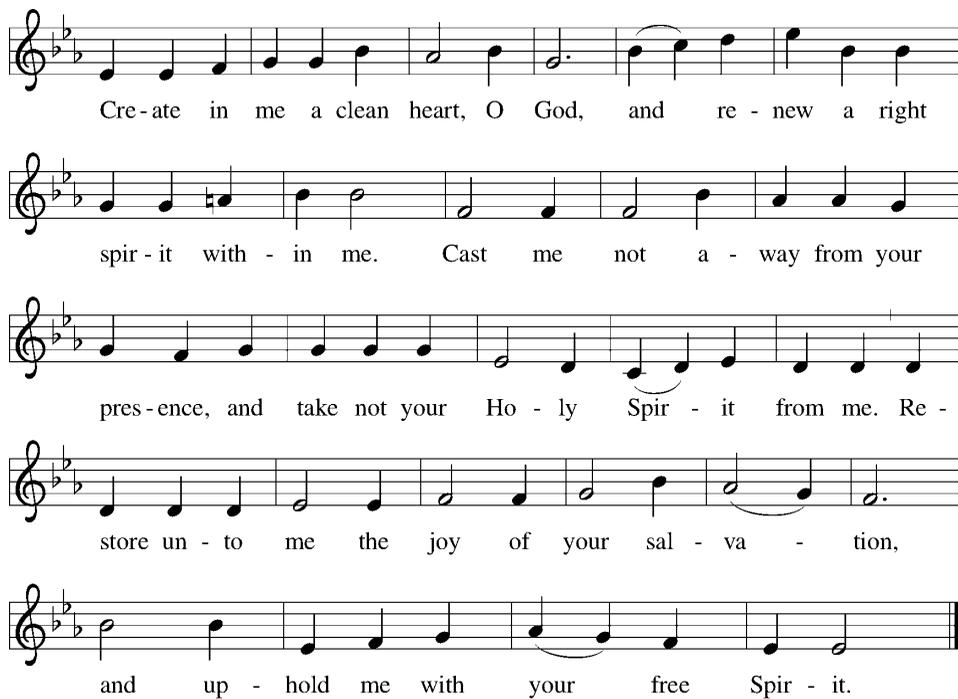
## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *I Wanna Thank You, Lord* . . . . . Chamber Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**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**

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, your voice calls us to worship. Where discord bellows within the church, unite us in harmony. Where we lack direction, guide us in singing your song with our unique voices. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creative Lord, your melodies formed the earth and all that is in it. Receive the roar of the sea and the rhythmic clap of the rivers. Rejoice as the hills ring out in praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, you hear all our moans and groans. Where lament and frustration resound, send us to listen. Send us to comfort. Send us to build relationships rooted in your justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Serenade the estranged and all who suffer alone. Accompany high-functioning addicts and the frightened who have no one to turn to. Give rest to overworked caregivers. Today we pray especially for . . . . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Song, you call us to share our gifts for your glory. We thank you and praise you for our musicians and vocalists, choir directors and hymnwriters. Bless all who lead and all who sing in worship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your goodness echoes through all time with the songs of the saints. Thank you for all the disciples who have mentored us through their gift of music. Keep your song within us this day and always. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, 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 God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## SENDING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.  
Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Sixth Sunday of Easter**. 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Marsh & Jill Cassel in honor of Erin's birthday; and Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke Via in honor of Alec's 16<sup>th</sup> 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***

**Offering and Attendance Report for April 29, 2018:**

Attendance: 120

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 4,929.00	\$ 91,701.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 89,728.94
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 622.17)</u>	<u>\$ 1,972.09</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 95,162.97</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 3,461.94)</u>

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 6-12**

May 7 Dianne Lail

Alec Via

May 8 James Spikes

May 9 Anthony DiBiase

May 10 Zac Hullander



**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Jim Buell

**GREETER:** Jill Cassel

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Amanda & Nathan Kelly

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen Rebecca Yount

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Jo Singleton

**SOLOIST:** Greg Byrum

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Rianna Nance

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, Sunday, May 6**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

***H*CY meets at the church**

6:00 pm Church Choir

7:15 pm Chamber Choir

**Tuesday, May 8**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesday, May 9**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, May 10**

12 Noon *Retired Member's Lunch*

7:00 pm Church Council meets

**Saturday, May 12**

8:00 am ***Kids' Club***

Leave church for the Riverbank Zoo





# Agape Day Camp will be held July 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> For grades entering 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 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.

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## VBS Registration Coming Soon... Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2

Volunteers needed to teach, set up, cleanup, and collect supplies.  
Contact Beka at [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org) to volunteer.

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## BCO May Items of the Month



Soups



Baked Beans



Dried Beans



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Carmen Buell  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Becke Featherstone  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander

Jo Irwin  
Shelia Kelly & Family  
Ben Moose  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry  
Pat Roberson

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds  
Jerri Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham  
Amy Beale Blythe  
Doug Brewer  
Karen de la Vega  
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Clarence McLain  
Anne Murdy

Tommy Smith  
Brody Thornburg  
Dennis Yates

## OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll    Tom Kasmer    Leo Kasmer    Colton Parker

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](http://www.holyc.org)



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 52 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!**  
 For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



Hi, my name is Catherine Carr and I am 14 years old. I am in 9th grade at South Point high school. My hobbies include soccer, playing piano, baking, and running. I love being a part of our church family and am so excited to attend the National Youth Gathering in June. I look forward to volunteering in Houston and being around other Lutheran youth while growing closer to Christ!

### Sunday School Attendance for April 29, 2018

Pre-K	6
Lower Elementary	5
Upper Elementary	1
Middle School	0
High School	0
Seekers	5
<u>Adults</u>	<u>9</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>



Help Holy Comforter Youth go to the  
*National Youth Gathering* in  
Houston, Texas!

# Holy Comforter



**We are looking for BBQ of All kinds!**

**Bring your best BBQ to be voted on by  
a “change” donation on May 20.**

*(We'll be eating this BBQ and then casting a vote.)*

**For those not bringing BBQ, we ask that you provide a side dish and/or a dessert.**

Drinks & some BBQ provided by the church.



**Winner will be awarded a trophy and bragging rights.**

**If interested, please fill out flyer distributed by Beka  
Or email Beka at [rforst@holyc.com](mailto:rforst@holyc.com).**

## ***Middle School Sunday School Class Community Service Bags***

*A service project that can provide to the community through  
the teenagers of our congregation.*

We are asking for your help with the love that we want to share with the  
community by helping fill bags for the homeless.

### **Donations Needed by May 13**



**12 toothbrushes**  
**12 first aid kits, travel size**  
**12 travel size Kleenex tissues**



**Granola Bars**  
**Chewing Gum**  
**Baby Wipes, travel size**



**Water**



**12 tubes toothpaste**  
**Combs & Hair Brushes**  
**Hard Candy**  
**Hand Sanitizer, travel size**  
**Lip Balm**  
**Sunscreen**



Please place your donations in the Middle School Room upstairs in the  
education building or give to Beka.

**Questions: Contact Ashley at 704-868-6574 or  
smiley1112000@yahoo.com.**

#### **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: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager