

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 14, 2017 •

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Variations on *Netherlands Folk Song* Curtis

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at 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 Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of life,

C by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ, Amen.

P People of God, Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism you have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name, and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *You Servants of God* All Stand & Sing

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

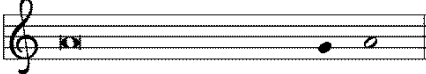
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

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

A 

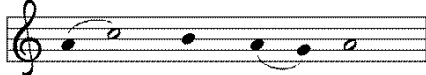
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C 


Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

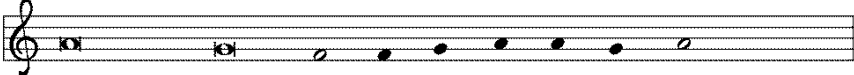
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C 


Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

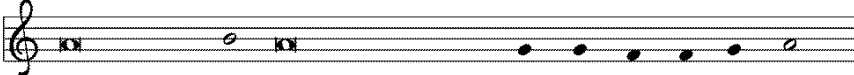
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,





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

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

Assistant  *Congregation* 

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Assistant

Congregation



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

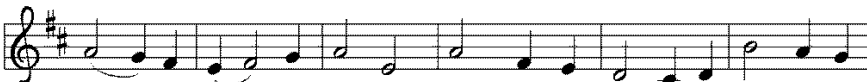
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is seated and 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 7:55-60

A reading from the seventh chapter of Acts.

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God’s word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city

and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Peter.

Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do



not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* All Stand & Sing



1	Come,	my	way,	my	truth,	my	life:	such	a
2	Come,	my	light,	my	feast,	my	strength:	such	a
3	Come,	my	joy,	my	love,	my	heart:	such	a



way	as	gives	us	breath;	such	a	truth	as	ends	all
light	as	shows	a	feast;	such	a	feast	as	mends	in
joy	as	none	can	move;	such	a	love	as	none	can



strife;	such	a	life	as	kill	-	eth	death.
length;	such	a	strength	as	makes		his	guest.
part;	such	a	heart	as	joys		in	love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. www.stainer.co.uk.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Show us your ways. Teach us your truth. Enliven us in mission. Keep us from discord. Lead us to unity for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. Turn us away from impulses to pollute this world. Protect fragile habitats. Nurture our planet to be a life-sustaining home for generations yet to be born. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Fill all leaders with a spirit of compassion for the poor and oppressed. Give courage to those who work for justice and equality. Bring an end to conflict and violence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. Draw near to those who struggle with depression. Comfort those for whom this day evokes heartache or sorrow. Console those who grieve, and heal those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless mothers and all who offer motherly care. Strengthen child care workers, nursery attendants, and those who teach our youth. Uphold our elders and those who care for aging parents. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith and those who have borne witness to your love. Bring us with them to dwell with you forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* All Stand & Sing



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble





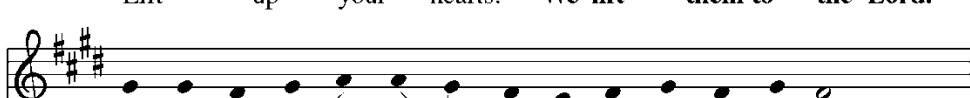
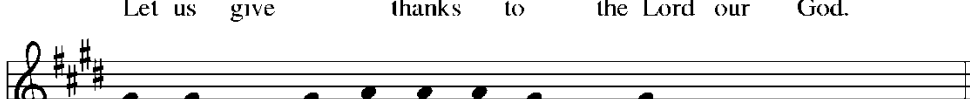


OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

DIALOGUE

<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
	
	
	

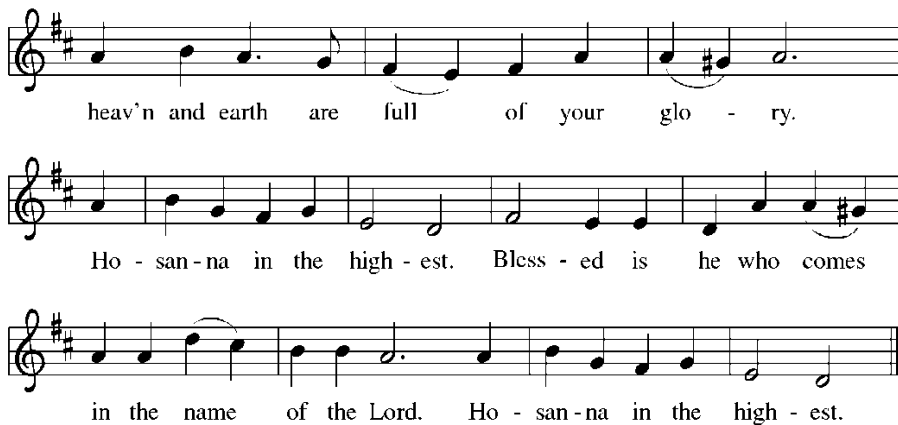
PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION


A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *I Received the Living God All Sing*

Refrain




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Life-giving God,

C in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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: *The Risen Christ* All Stand & Sing

- 1 The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
- 2 The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.
- 3 The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.
- 4 May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with those oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952

Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

A 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 **The Fifth 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 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.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Jim & Carmen Buell in memory of their mothers; and by Brad, Brandy & James Milton in honor of Rebekah's 1st 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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 7, 2017:

Attendance: 128

Budget Report

	<u>May 7, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 7,375.00	\$ 100,698.75
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 102,184.99
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,718.58</u>	<u>(\$ 1,486.24)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 103,685.59</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 2,986.84)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Carmen Buell**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)*Infants:* Volunteers; *Toddlers:* Staff**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Katie Kessen, Amanda Kelly

Rebecca Yount

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jill Cassel

USHERS: Need Volunteers**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team A)

Shelia Kelly Jo Singleton Jack Tench

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:Volunteers Needed

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: May 14-20

May 16 Sherry Perry

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, May 14**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

***Happy Mother's Day***

No Afternoon Music practices

Wednesday, May 17

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

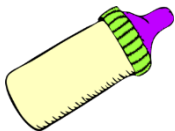
Thursday, May 18

7:00 pm Evangelism meeting

Tuesday, May 16

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Today, Mother's Day, until Father's Day, June 18st, we will be collecting loose change in baby bottles for a very special project...**Baby Bottle Blessings** that will **Change** countless lives.



Your spare pocket change can help provide numerous services to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Some of the services include peer counseling, maternity and baby clothes, ultrasounds, and more.

You do not have to fill the bottles completely. However, what you do collect will be greatly appreciated.

The baby bottles will be received June 18th and returned to The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County (5 locations across Gaston County).



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School 2017

June 25th – June 28th from 6pm – 8pm



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. Registration forms for children in rising grades K through 5th are available in the narthex (inside front doors of entrance to sanctuary). We invite our middle schoolers & high schoolers to volunteer to help! Please reach out with any questions!

Through the month of May we are collecting new and gently used athletic balls and sports equipment to donate to *Boys and Girls Club*. As part of this collection, we will have a **Holy Comforter Field Day** at the church on **May 21 at 2 pm**. Come play with us, laugh with us, or cheer for us, and bring something to donate!





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Barbara Bingham
Father Frank Cancro
Teresa Beale Davis
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Scott Frisk
Bill Hinkle
Glenda Hinkle
Brian Jackson & Family
Jennifer Lineberger

Capt. Basil Jeff Maret
Anne Murdy
Heather Plichta
Karen Wayt
Donnie Yavelak

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner



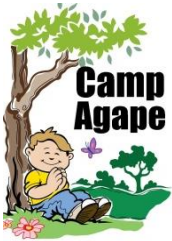
Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer

Tom 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 located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org



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.**

BCO May Items of the Month...



Packaged crackers

Packaged cookies

Canned Pasta:

Ex. Spaghetti &

Meatballs or

Spaghetti Os



Holy Doodles

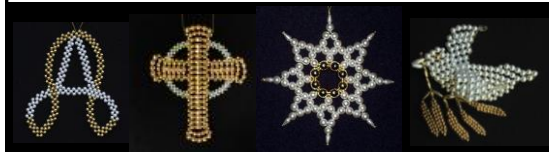




Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or ***Chrismons***, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

You are invited to join with the women of Holy Comforter as we work to repair the old and create new *Chrismons* for our Christmas tree.

Meet May 28th, 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.





Say Cheese!



Be included in Holy Comforter's 2017 Photo Directory!

Lifetouch (formerly Olan Mills) supplies professional photographers on-site to provide members with the highest quality family photos as well as providing the church with a top-notch Photo Directory. We strongly encourage EVERY FAMILY to participate in this opportunity! Here are a few reasons why:

- **It's 100% FREE! Lifetouch only requires there be at least 15 families photographed to provide this free service.**
- **Each family receives a FREE 8x10, no purchase necessary!**
- **Each family receives a FREE Photo Directory, a professionally bound book of photos and contact information as well as a history lesson celebrating Holy Comforter's Centennial year!**
- **Easy online scheduling! Visit our website or Facebook for link.**
- **For every session scheduled, Holy C receives \$5! So not only is the session beneficial to your family, but it's a fundraising opportunity!**
- **We have coupons! \$10 off any photo package simply for providing your e-mail address!**

We have **FOUR** dates to ensure everyone will be able to participate.



Monday, June 12 2 pm - 9 pm



Tuesday, June 13 2 pm - 9 pm



Friday, June 23 2 pm - 9 pm



Saturday, June 24 10 am - 5 pm

Questions? Contact Katie Kessen at 815.762.5480 or ktkssn112@aol.com

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