

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 17, 2019 •

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Reflection on Thee We Adore* Andrew Moore

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C Amen.

P Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

P Mighty and loving God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

P Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *We Know That Christ Is Raised All Stand & Sing*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

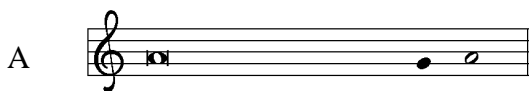
Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
 Text © John B. Geyer.

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




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C




Lord, have mer - cy.

A



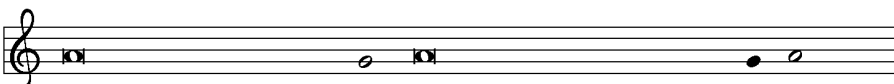
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C




Lord, have mer - cy.

A




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



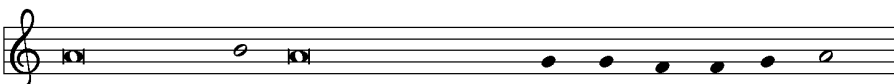
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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.



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.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 nursery**.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Jeremiah.

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,

and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we

are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and



defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

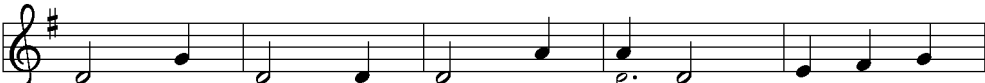
P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.


SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blest Are They* All Stand & Sing



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they, who
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be they glad,

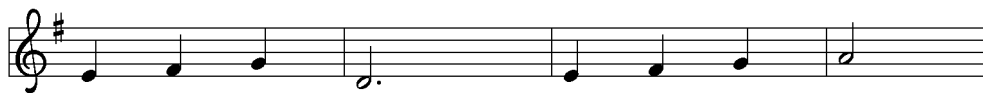


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: BLEST ARE THEY, David Haas

Text and music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Raise up faithful leaders to proclaim the gospel. Guide us in the ways of love. Empower us in ministry and service. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. Bless deserts and canyons, farmlands and vineyards. Bring sufficient rainfall to lands parched by drought, and restore places scorched by wildfire. Protect fragile environments from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders for the sake of the common good. Give courage to those who suffer persecution. Give patience and perseverance to those who work to bring an end to injustice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. For those who do not have enough food; for those who lack money; for those who are estranged from their families; for those who worry about many things. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and strengthen those who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. For newcomers, visitors, longtime members, and those who are absent from us today. Root us deeply in your word and increase our faith. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Encourage us by their example and lead us in faith until we are united at your unending feast. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Deep River* Handbell Choir

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



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

bles - sing. 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 the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

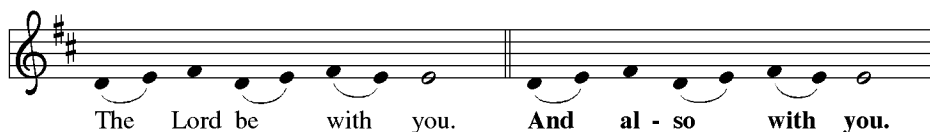
A Let us pray.

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

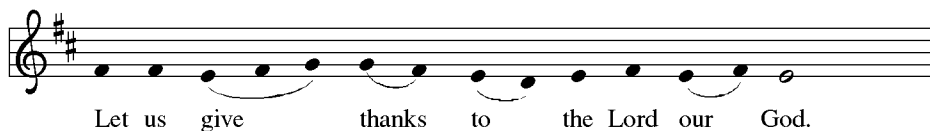
DIALOGUE

Pastor

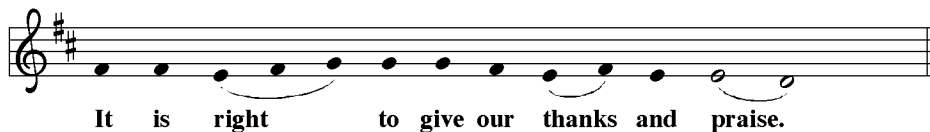
Congregation



Pastor



Cong.

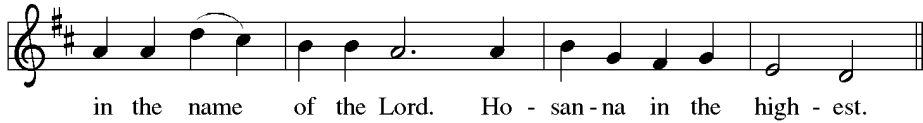


PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

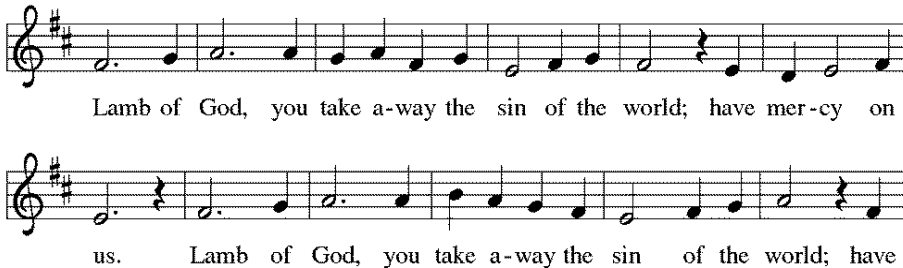
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

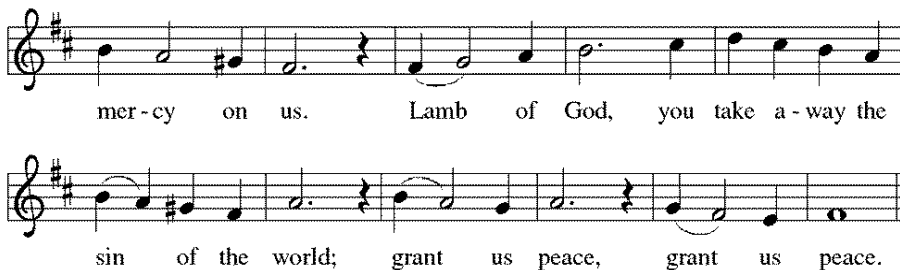


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG





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: *Thee We Adore* Dale Wood
by Suzanne Fairbairn
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 Let us pray,

C **We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Canticle of the Turning* All Stand & Sing



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

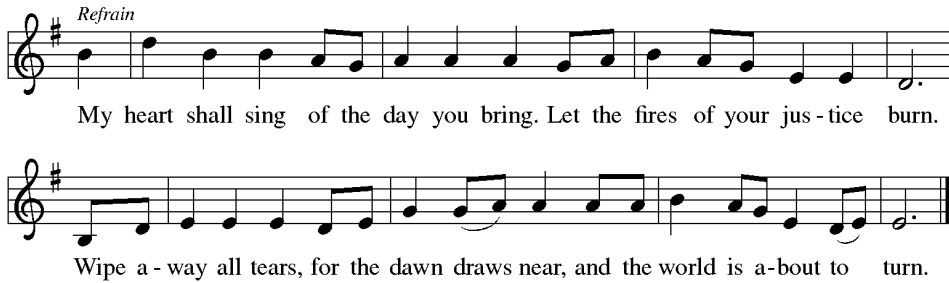


weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SENDING

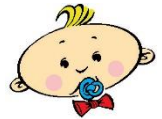
A Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.
 New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council
 of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**. 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. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is 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 Danny Potter in honor of Rochelle'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.

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 10, 2019:

Attendance: 137

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>February 10, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 2,485.00	\$ 25,883.01
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$ 35,034.88
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 3,289.35)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,151.87)</u>
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses		<u>33,271.24</u>
Offering less Expected Expenses		(\$ 7,388.23)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Melissa Bocchino

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

Beverly Robinson

TELLERS: Fran Holland, John Koehler

USHERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

ASSISTANT ORGANIST: Suzanne Fairbairn

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 17:

- 8:45 am Children's Ensemble
- 9:30 am Sunday School
Adult Handbells
- 10:10 am Church Choir prep
- 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
- 5:00 pm **HCY**
- 6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

Tuesday, February 19:

- 7:00 pm Chamber Choir
- Christian Ed meeting
- Health Committee
- Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 20:

- 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: February 17-23

February 20 Buck Buchanan

February 27 Valerie Bruchon





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Sarah Tench Helms
Zac Hullander

Teresa Keller
Sue Lahr
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Kathie Schaumburg

Scott Schaumburg
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Amy Beale Blythe
Wayne Bradshaw
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Dallas Foscue
Carol Fox

Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Jane Marino

Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
Richard Peters
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.



With cold and flu season upon us, it's not unusual to be set upon by canker sores, too. They seem to go hand in hand. Canker sores develop inside the mouth as small white or gray sores with a red border. You may notice a tingling or burning a sensation a day or two before the sores appear and you may get one or several. They aren't contagious but they are painful.

It's uncertain exactly what causes them. Some believe that immune system problems, viruses or bacteria may be the culprit. Certain toothpastes or food sensitivities may be to blame. They may also occur with certain conditions and diseases like celiac disease, inflammatory bowel diseases or HIV/AIDS.

Treatment – canker sores usually heal on their own after one or two weeks but you might be able to shorten the duration by using home treatments that include rinsing your mouth with warm salt water or baking soda, and avoiding foods that are spicy, acidic, or abrasive. There are also over-the-counter gels, cream, pastes and liquids – look for these active ingredients:

- Benzocaine (Anbesol, Kank-A, Orabase, etc.)
- Hydrogen peroxide (Orajel Antiseptic Mouth Sore Rinse, Peroxyl)
- Fluocinonide (Lidex and Vanos)

Contact your health care professional if any of these conditions exist:

- Your canker sore is unusually large
- You have recurring sores (new ones develop before old ones heal or you get frequent outbreaks)
- The sores are painful despite treatments.
- The sores don't heal, lasting more than two weeks.
- You have a high fever with the sores.
- You have extreme difficulty drinking or eating.

Your health care professional may prescribe a mouth rinse containing a steroid to reduce pain and inflammation or lidocaine for pain management. He or she may also suggest nutritional supplements or prescribe oral medications.

Canker sores may seem like just “little things” but they can quickly become big things when you are the one dealing with the pain, so treat them at the first signs and you will help them heal faster. And remember, **WASH YOUR HANDS**, wash your hands, wash your hands!

Remember when we launched the Health Ministry and asked you to fill out a survey indicating areas of interest?

Well, we are in need of help from you so we can bring to you what you most need from us. Several of you indicated interest in the topic of **depression**. We'd like to most fully address that but are not sure of the perspective, so **we are inviting all folks interested to please stay late for about a half hour on February 24th** and talk with us about what you'd like to see us provide. Any clarification you bring to us will be of great help and will then be used to develop a more beneficial program! We will not ask you to share your own experiences or stories, simply to let us know what you'd like to see us address for you. We will meet in the fellowship hall immediately after church. Refreshments will be provided but we promise we won't keep you longer than about a half hour.

Contact Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse, at 717-329-8507 or parishnurse0407@gmail.com.



A signup sheet for the ***Isle of Palms Retreat*** is floating around the church. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Cost: \$99 per room with 2-night minimum stay.

There are several Sundays available for you to honor a loved one by placing altar flowers in their name. You may choose one vase for \$22.50 or both vases for \$45.00.

Sign your name and the name of who you are placing the flowers in memory or in honor of at the date you choose. Make your check/payment to Holy Comforter and write on the memo line that it is for *altar flowers*. You may place your payment in the offering plate or take to the church office.



Signup sheet for altar flowers is in the rack located in the narthex. Please print plainly so proper credit can be given.



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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse