# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 26, 2017

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

### **GATHERING/WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** Prelude in G Minor . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . J. S. Bach

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son. Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- P With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

# 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.

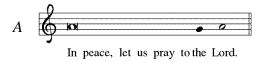


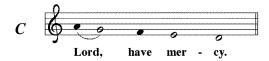
Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687

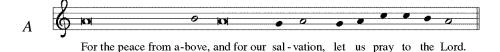
## **GREETING**

- P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

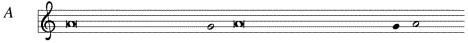
## **KYRIE**











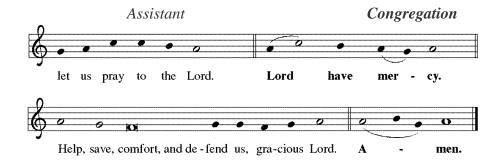
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







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



#### SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

#### 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 1 Samuel 16:1–13

A reading from the sixteenth chapter of 1 Samuel.

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said,

"How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the fifth chapter of Ephesians.

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL VERSE**





GOSPEL John 9:1-41

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed

and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we

are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

SERMON: Pastor Micah

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Amazing Grace . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

## **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

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

# A brief silence.

God of the ages, as your church prepares your table for all to celebrate in one holy meal, restore the unity of those who gather in your name. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

You shed light on your creation. Let the changing of the seasons bring forth growth and new life from what was dormant and fallow. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Shine your light on the people of every nation. Reveal your reconciling love in places where fear and conflict thrive. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

God of wholeness, bring clarity to those in confusing times, bring healing to those in painful times, bring peace to those in trying times. (*We pray especially for* . . .) Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Restore, renew, and enliven the ministry and work of this congregation. Help us to see your purpose clearly. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

We remember and give thanks for those who have joined you in eternal light. Let their lives of faith shine in our hearts and guide our paths. 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.

#### **PEACE**

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

all:

#### **OFFERING**

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

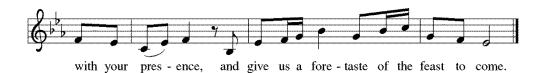
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

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

them with the prayers we of - fer.

Grace our

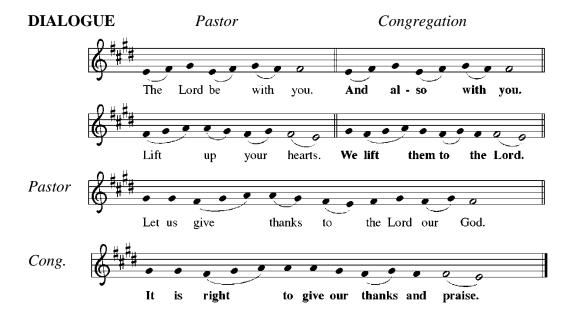


#### OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

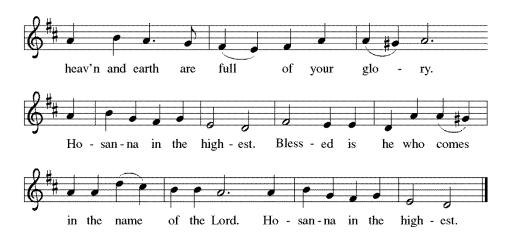


#### **PREFACE**

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### 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 All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

C Thanks be to God.



### **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.

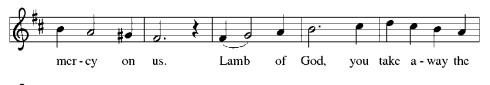
## **COMMUNION SONG**



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





# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: For the Bread Which You Have Broken . . All Sing



- 1 For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly board,
- 4 In your ser vice, Lord, de fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord. may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord. in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.



Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE, Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895
Text ♥ Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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 Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. 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.

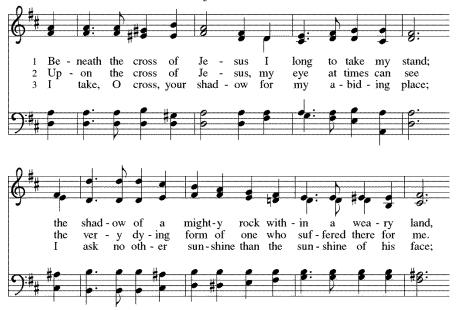
The Lord bless you and keep you.

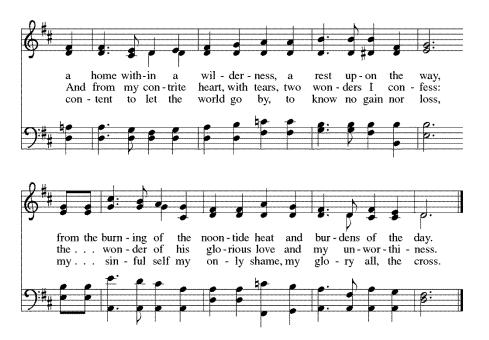
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

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

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Prederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## **DISMISSAL**

- A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fourth Sunday of 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.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Cher Grant and Linda Grimsley in memory of Louise Grant.

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 March 19, 2017:

Attendance: 132

**Budget Report** This Week Year-to-Date  $6,384.\overline{40}$ Offerina \$ 61.903.59 Expenses 5,656.42 \$ 65,149.60 Offering less Expenses 727.58) (\$ 3,246.01) **Budgeted Expenses** \$ 64,364.41 Offering less Budgeted Expenses 2,460.82)

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye **CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Jill Cassel

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: GREETER: Katie Kessen

Volunteers

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

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Infants: Volunteer
Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains Toddlers: Volunteer
Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 

Volunteers

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** 

Volunteers

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: March 26-April 1** 

Today, March 26 Hailey Ange Cheryl Grant

March 28 Callum Nance

March 31 Pat Long

April 1 Barbara Kasmer Michael Martin



# THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, March 26

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Worship Service w/HC

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

**HCY** 

6:00 pm Church Choir

## Tuesday, March 28

7:00 pm Nar-Anon Nar-Anon

# Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm Dinner

6:45 pm Lenten Worship 7:15 pm Chamber Choir



# Saturday, April 1

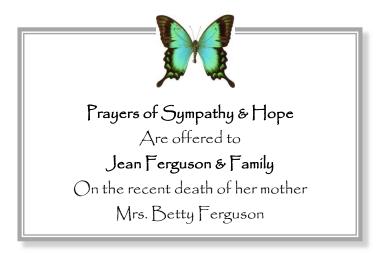
6:30 pm Holy C Sandwich Group Home of Mark & Rebecca



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. Registration forms will be available soon for children in rising grades K through 5th. 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.



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.

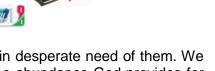
The items need to be **new**, and are as follows:



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.



# PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Shirley Causby & Family Brenda Dabrowski Shawn De Nicholas Ardean Ewing Ned Featherstone Jean Ferguson & Family Dot Holland Zac Hullander Chase Lineberger Lucy Mitchell & Family 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 Bill Hinkle Glenda Hinkle Parker Holland Brian Jackson & Family Jennifer Lineberger Capt. Basil Jeff Marett Heather Plichta 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 <a href="https://www.holyc.org"><u>www.holyc.org</u></a>



# Holy C Sandwich Group

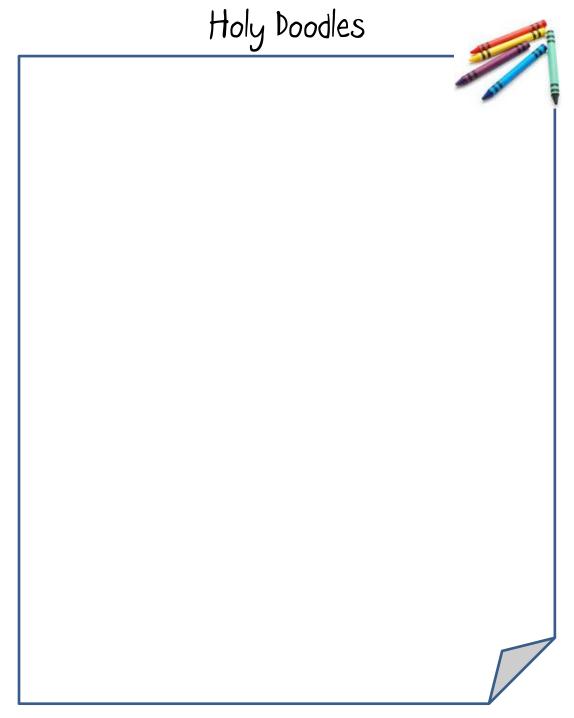
Do life situations sometimes leave you feeling "sandwiched?"

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.



# **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