

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, March 17th, 2024 •

Fifth Sunday in Lent



## WELCOME/ GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *I Love You From The Old Rugged Cross*

Solo

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C Amen.**

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

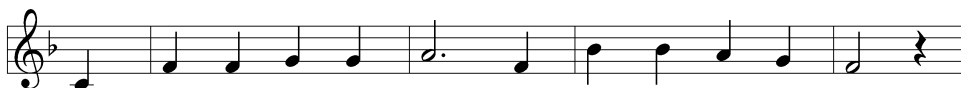
**Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *My Song Is Love Unknown*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,  
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;  
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;  
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683  
Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885

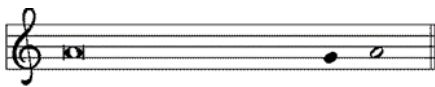
## GREETING

**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

P



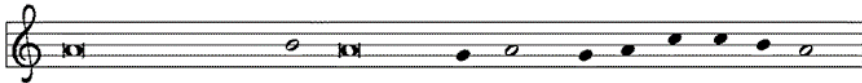
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

P



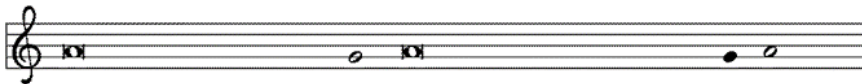
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C

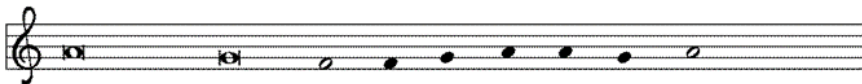


Lord, have mer - cy.

P



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



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

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

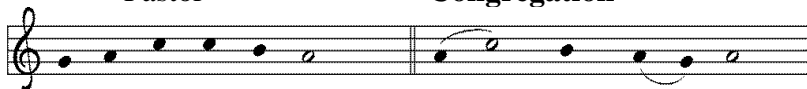
P



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

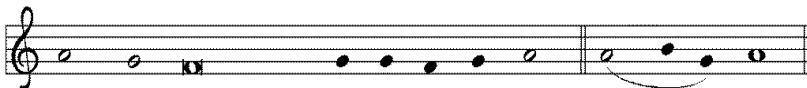
Pastor

Congregation



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews, the fifth chapter.

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

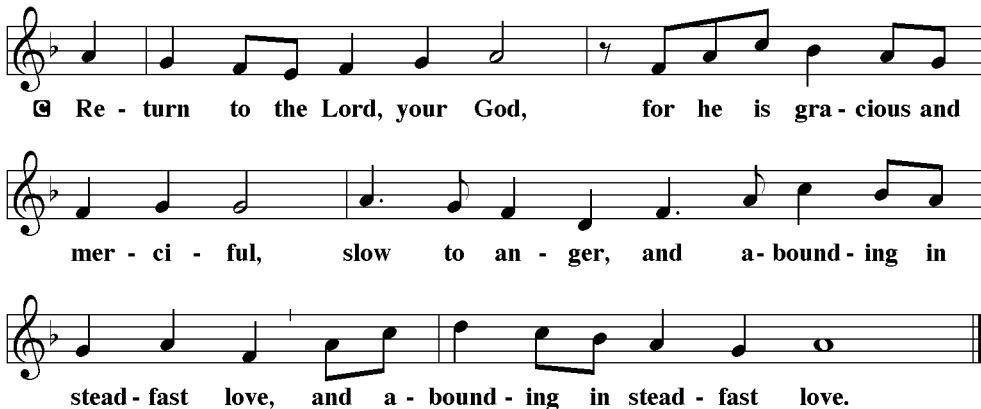
“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:1-12**

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

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

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Congregation is seated.*

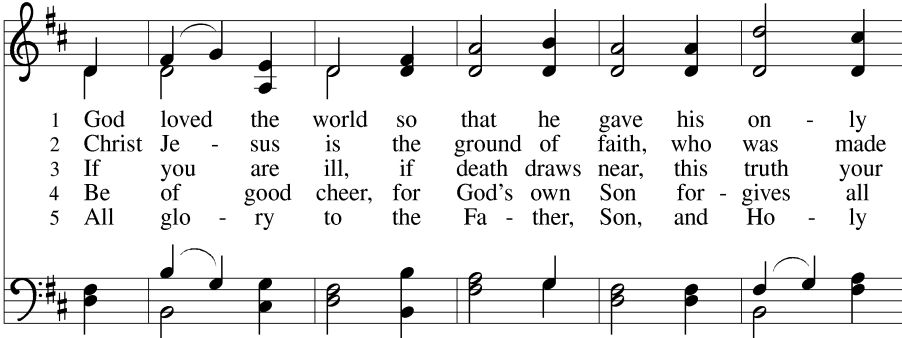
## SERMON

Pastor Emily Norris

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *God Loved the World*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Handbell Choir

*\*If you'd like to give your offering online, you can scan the QR code on page 15*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

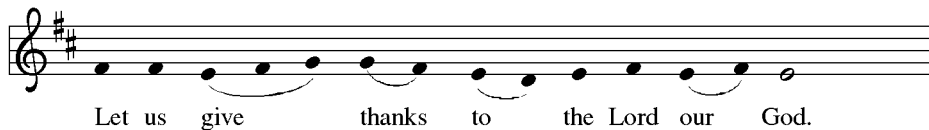
## DIALOGUE

*Pastor*

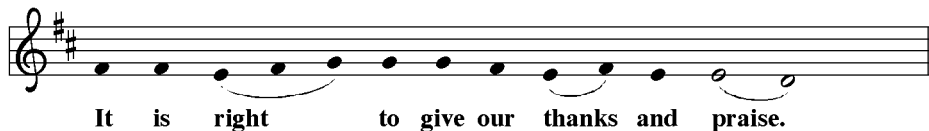
*Congregation*



*Pastor*



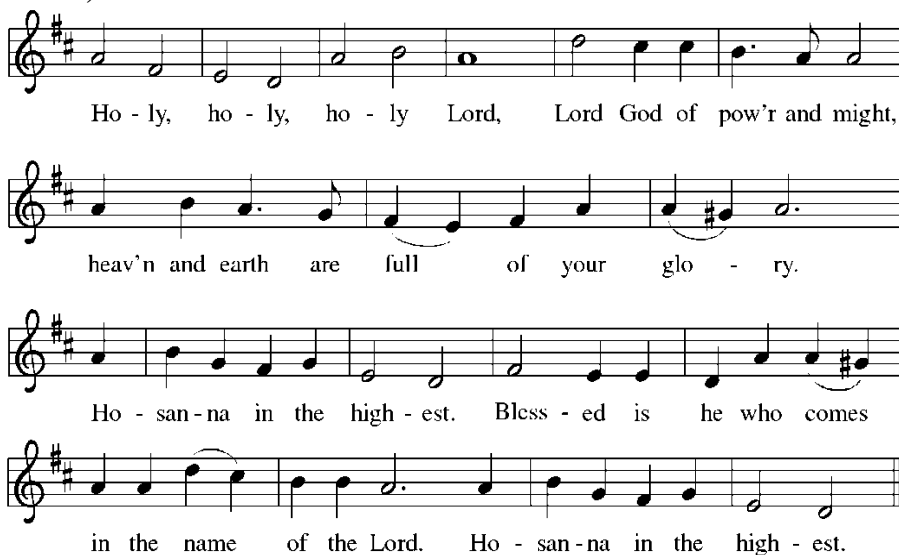
*Cong.*



## 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,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## 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** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**C** Thanks be to God.

## COMMUNION

*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*All Sing*



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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*All Sing*



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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

**C** Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Let us pray,

**C** Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

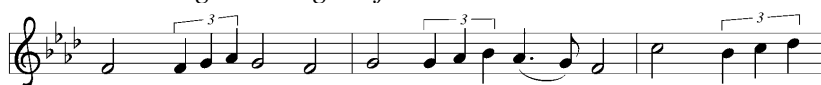
## BLESSING

**P** Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



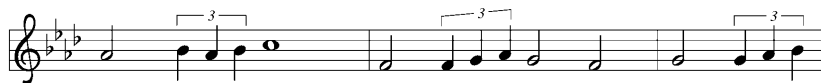
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the  
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.  
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Share your bread. **C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Fugue in G major by Buxtehude*

\*Thanks to our Lector, Mason Morton.

\*The altar flowers are given by Jerri Wesson

In honor of Mike's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday,

\*Thanks to our soloist, Don Robinson

Give your offering online!



**Sunday, March 17th**

9:15 am – Adult Handbells

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship w/ Holy Communion

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir Practice

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Book Club

**Tuesday, March 19th**

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

7:00 pm – Christian Education  
Meeting

**Wednesday, March 20th**

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 pm – Lenoir Rhyne Choir Concert



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**Lenoir-Rhyne Choir at Holy Comforter!**

On Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 pm, the Lenoir-Rhyne Choir will perform at Holy Comforter. We are excited to host this wonderful event and opportunity to have such exquisite music in our sanctuary. This concert is open to the community, so tell and bring your friends!

## Meet the Summer Mission Trip Travelers!

Holy Comforter is excited to send all of our active youth group members and adults to the Dwelling and the Youth Gathering this summer! June 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, our group will spend time learning about homelessness while serving the community of Winston-Salem and The Dwelling. July 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> is our second trip to New Orleans where we are excited to experience the Youth Gathering. We are spotlighting each traveler over the upcoming months.



Hi, I'm Erin Cassel. I'm 12 and in 7th grade at Mountain Island Charter school. In my free time I like to play volleyball, play the oboe, and come to HCY. I'm active in HCY, confirmation, and worship by helping with communion or acolyting. Last summer I went to the Dwelling and had so many new experiences. I learned that when people's basic needs are not being met, they cannot be the best version of themselves. I can't wait to go back and have so many more experiences and meet new people.



**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

### **Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483  
[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster - [gclinea440@aol.com](mailto:gclinea440@aol.com)