

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 5, 2017

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Hymn to Joy

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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

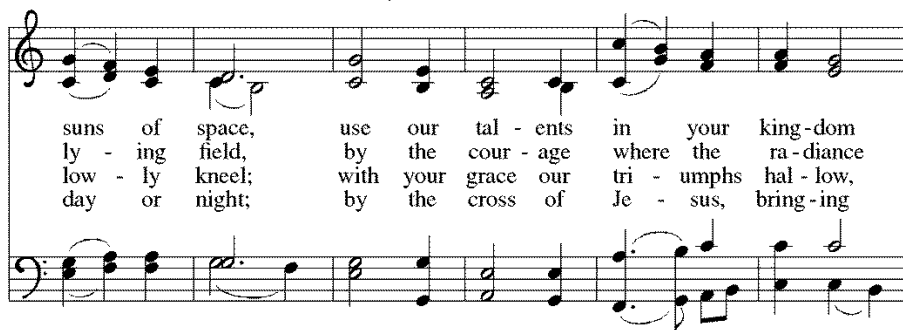
P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

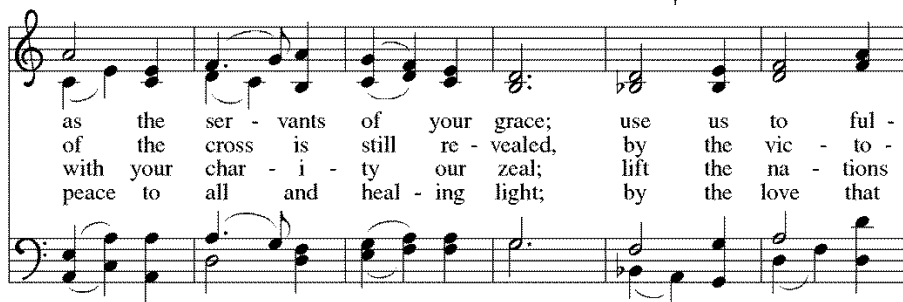
GATHERING SONG: *Lord of Light* All Stand & Sing



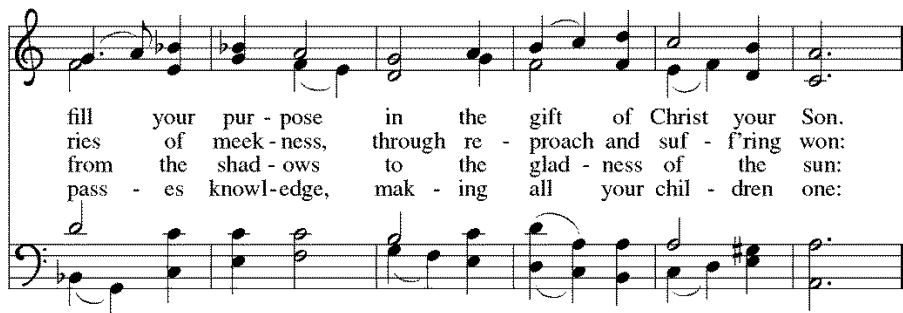
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav-en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
 Text © Union of Welsh Independents.
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

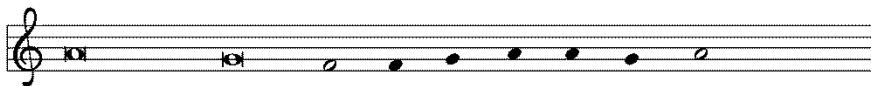
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C

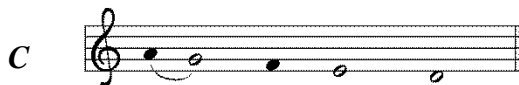
Lord, have mer - cy.

A

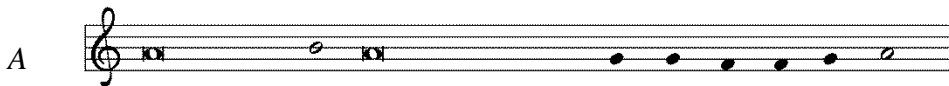
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



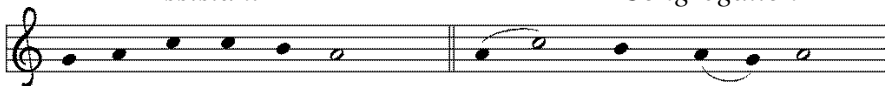
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

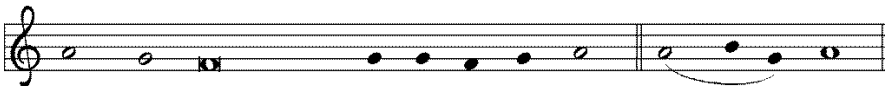
Assistant

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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



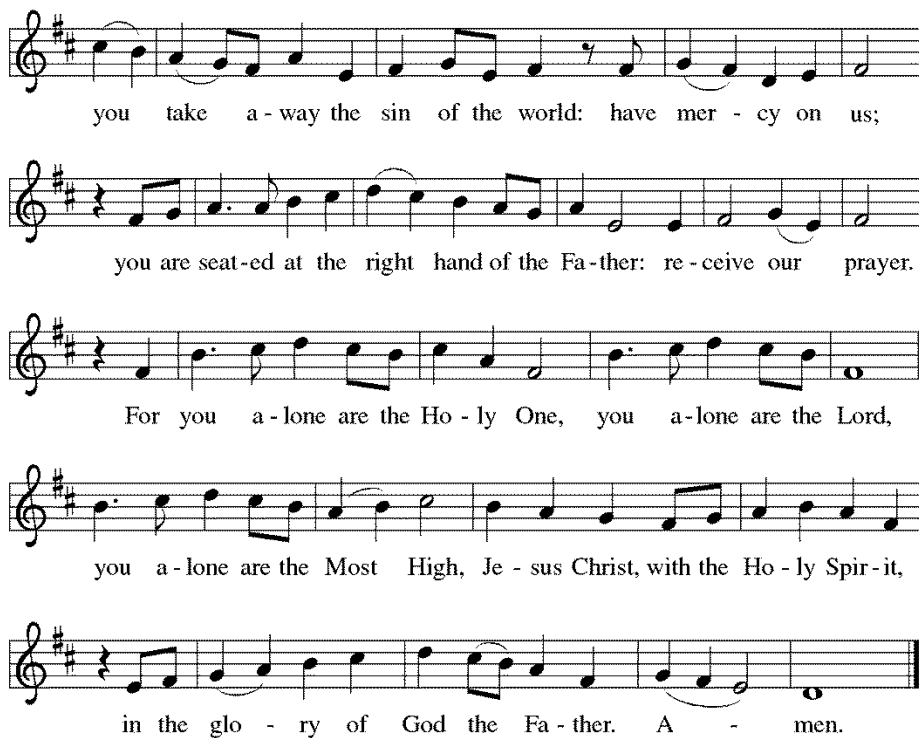
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, 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 nurseries.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9. Read Responsively

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
 and have great delight in God's commandments!
²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
 and their righteousness will last forever.
⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
 and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶**For they will never be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
 their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,**
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
 they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the second chapter.

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

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

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Gather Us In* All Stand & Sing



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

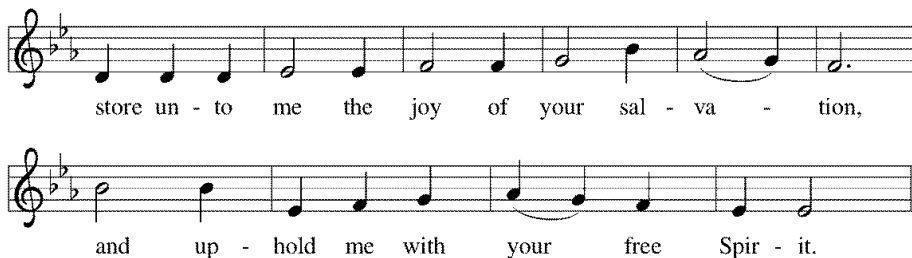
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Sing, Be Joyful* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



Fill those who form the faith of others with insight and energy. Multiply the fruit of their labor. Grow disciples eager to feast on your living word and embody it each day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for all the saints who dared to shine with the light of Christ. Compel us to shine freely and witness to your abundant grace each day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P 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: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* All Stand & Sing

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear four-part setting. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first three lines corresponding to the first system and the next three lines to the second system.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fifth 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. 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Tim Kelly in honor of Shelia'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.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music Committee

Offering and Attendance Report for January 29, 2017:

Attendance: 139

Budget Report

	<u>January 29, 2017</u>
Current Offering Received	\$ 5,305.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,656.42
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 24,948.00
Offering less Budgeted Expenses Year-To-Date	\$ 1,516.46

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Tracey Nault, Co-Captain
Amanda Kelly
Katie Kessen
Rebecca Yount

TELLERS: Raini Kimball

Dennis Tucker

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

GREETER: Pat Koehler

USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 5-11

February 6 Julia Ratchford

February 8 Jennifer Boone
Chris Hullander
Scott Zander

February 9 Shelia Kelly

Karen Rogers

February 10 Jennipher McLaughlin-
Williams

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 5

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection
by our Holy Comforter Youth

3:00 pm Children's Ensemble

4:00 pm Handbell Choir

5:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Property Committee

Finance (tellers) meet in
fellowship building
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 8

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



Saturday, February 11

7:00 pm *Staying Connected*

**Remember to pick up your 2017 offering envelopes
located in the narthex of the church.**



Today, **February 5**, the youth of Holy Comforter will collect for the



More than 25 years ago, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through *Souper Bowl of Caring*. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated by you today goes to Belmont Community Organization (BCO).



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to Jo Singleton & Family
on the death of Jo’s sister,
Reva Weatherman



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Carmen De Nicholas &
Family
Shawn De Nicholas

Ardean Ewing
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Jo Singleton & Family
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Scott Frisk
Carol Fox

Brian Jackson & Family
Terry Faulkner & Family
Parker Holland

Jennifer Lineberger
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
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 www.holyc.org.



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to Carmen De Nicholas & Family
on the death of Carmen's uncle,
Grady Ross Nichols

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: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager