

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 26, 2020

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Prelude in F major*J. S. Bach

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, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

C Amen.

P As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God who searches us and knows us,

C you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you.

With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; ☩ your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*All Stand & Sing



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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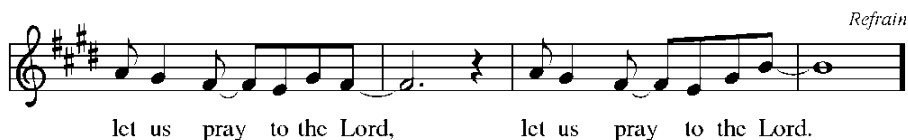
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GREETING

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 All Sing Refrain; Cantor sings verses



GLORY TO GOD.....All Sing Refrain and Verses

Refrain



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



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



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



2 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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

*Congregation is seated and invited to sing “Jesus Loves Me”
as the children come forward.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nursery**.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

A reading from the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

Read Responsively

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord. R

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A reading from the first chapter of first Corinthians.

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone

else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God’s reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”
¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

SERMON Seminarian Beka Forst

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.....All Stand & Sing*



1	You	have come down to the	lake - shore	seek - ing
2	You	know full well what I	have, Lord:	nei - ther
3	You	need my hands, my	ex - haus - tion,	work - ing
4	You	who have fished oth - er	wa - ters;	you, the



nei - ther	the wise nor the	wealth - y,	but on - ly
trea - sure	nor wea - pons for	con - quest,	just these my
love for	the rest of the	wea - ry—	a love that's
long - ing	of souls that are	yearn - ing:	O lov - ing



ask - ing	for me	to fol - low.
fish - nets	and will	for work - ing.
will - ing	to go	on lov - ing.
Friend, you	have come	to call me.



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind-ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a-ban-doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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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

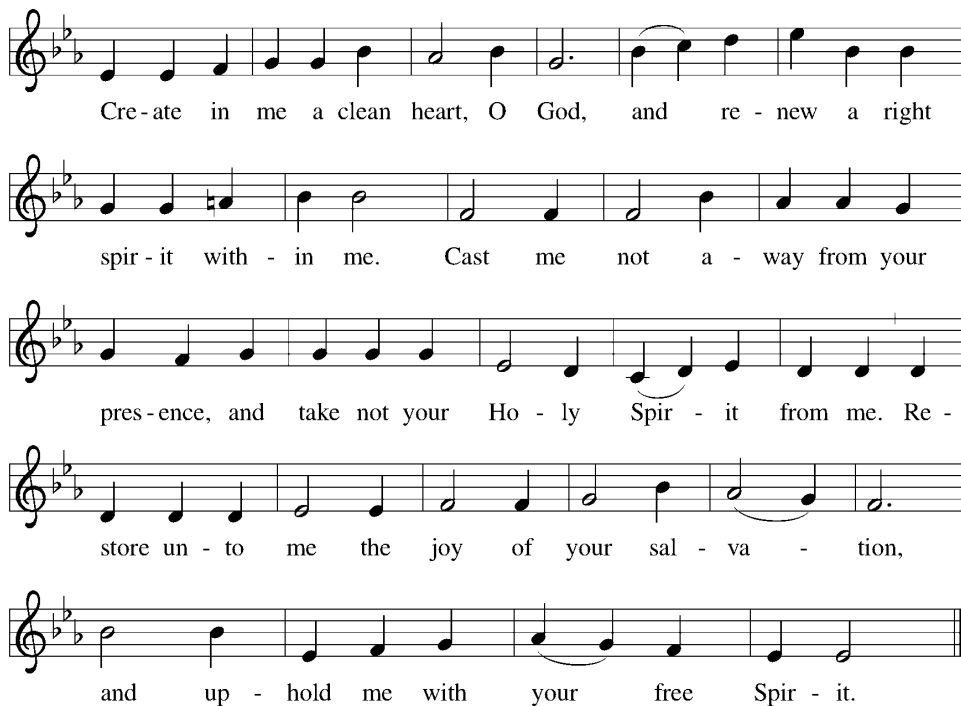
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Above The Voices*Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me A Clean Heart* 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 -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of wonder, you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

A brief silence.

Holy One, your voice calls us to follow. Thank you for raising up missionaries in every generation and for all who create communities of grace today. Open our hearts to serve you near and far. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Maker of all, we rejoice in the beauty and abundance of the earth. Unite us in our shared calling to be stewards of creation, to reduce waste, and to simplify our lives for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Ruler of all, thank you for those who run for local and national office, and all who serve as elected leaders. Gather wise and courageous voices together, that your mercy and justice would dawn upon all people and nations. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Healer of all, thank you for sanctuary and safety. Uplift all who live where fear governs and evil divides. Give refugees and all who seek safety a path toward hope and new life. Grant healing and wholeness to all who are sick, lonely, or grieving (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of courage, thank you for faithful teachers and evangelists in this and every place. Inspire our faith formation efforts with all generations as you call us to follow you. Bless our children, youth, and adults who engage in learning. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, we marvel at the meaning of your resurrection. Give us faith to place all hope in you as we give thanks for the faithful departed. May their witness help us follow your call. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Jesus Calls Us* All Stand & Sing

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

SENDING

A Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **Third Sunday after 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 by Jerri and Mike Wesson in honor of Jerri's birthday on January 18th.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Julia Gunter, Worship & Music***

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, January 19, 2020:

Attendance: 125

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 4,223.00	\$ 13,291.00	(\$2,544.40)
Expenses	<u>\$ 5,834.10</u>	<u>\$ 15,835.40</u>	<u>---</u>
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,611.10)</u>	<u>(\$ 2,544.40)</u>	<u>(\$2,544.40)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Alex Sarrazin**ACOLYTE:** Leah and Justin Koehler**CRUCIFER:** Emily Koehler**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Fran Holland (Captain),

Deb Bray, Dee Smith

USHERS: Volunteers**GREETER:** Volunteer**TELLERS:** Dixie Spivey, John Koehler**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Rebecca Yount**NURSERY:**(10:30-11:45a) Volunteer**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, January 26**

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

3:00 pm HCY Ice-Skating

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church choir practice

Monday, January 27

6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class

Tuesday, January 28

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, January 29

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

HCY Girls' Bible Study

****On Saturday, February 22, at 7 pm, **The National Lutheran Choir** will be singing at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte as part of their Southeast US Tour. Our choir, along with many others, will be joining them for a few pieces. **The concert is free**, and attendees are invited to bring a donation of new or gently used clothing for the Crisis Assistance Ministry.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 26-February 1

January 26-Matthew Carr

February 1-Teddy Scharpenberg





How to Help a Person with Addiction to Alcohol or Drugs

First you have to break the denial – both the addicted person and the people close to that person are almost always in “denial.” Chemical dependency respects no rank – you first have to face the fact that the person has an addiction.

Secondly, learn the facts. People do not misuse alcohol or drugs because they are abnormal; they behave abnormally because they misuse chemicals. Thirdly, stop trying to change the addict – you can’t change the behavior without first addressing the

disease.

Next, seek out an expert counselor – he/she may suggest you go to Al-Anon and keep working on yourself or may provide treatment or intervention with you and the family.

Now, reach out to the addicted person – you need to detach yourself from the symptoms of the disease such as lying, cheating, etc. You need to see the drug-affected actions as part of the sickness and your loved one as a sick person.

Lastly, reach out to God – you have only to ask that God’s will be done, and that God will give you strength to cooperate with it. You will be able to see yourself as God’s child, walking in dignity and grace, and to see others – especially those dealing with alcohol or drugs – as God’s children, and accord them the same dignity and grace.

Some Final comments: America has been called an “addictive society” because people are addicted to many things besides alcohol or drugs. For instance, gambling, eating, shopping, emotions, and working are some of the addictions. Anything can be abused, but spiritual wellness is the cornerstone of all 12-step programs – may God heal our hurts, energize our dreams, and guide us in his service!

Guatemala Mission

Please keep Pastor Micah, Shelia Kelly, and Mark Kline in your prayers as they spend this week in Guatemala on a mission trip to support the ministry of Casa Bernabe orphanage outside of Guatemala City.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Becke Featherstone
Ellen Fleming
Sarah Tench Helms

Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry
Caitlin Reese

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Charlene Barbee
Jim Barbee
Janice Barker
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Mark Glaeser
Meredith Hovis

Mary Huggins
Family of
Mark Lineberger
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain

Family of Dawn Mitchell
Ann Mundy
Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Jack and Doris Wade
Jeff Wiles

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.**

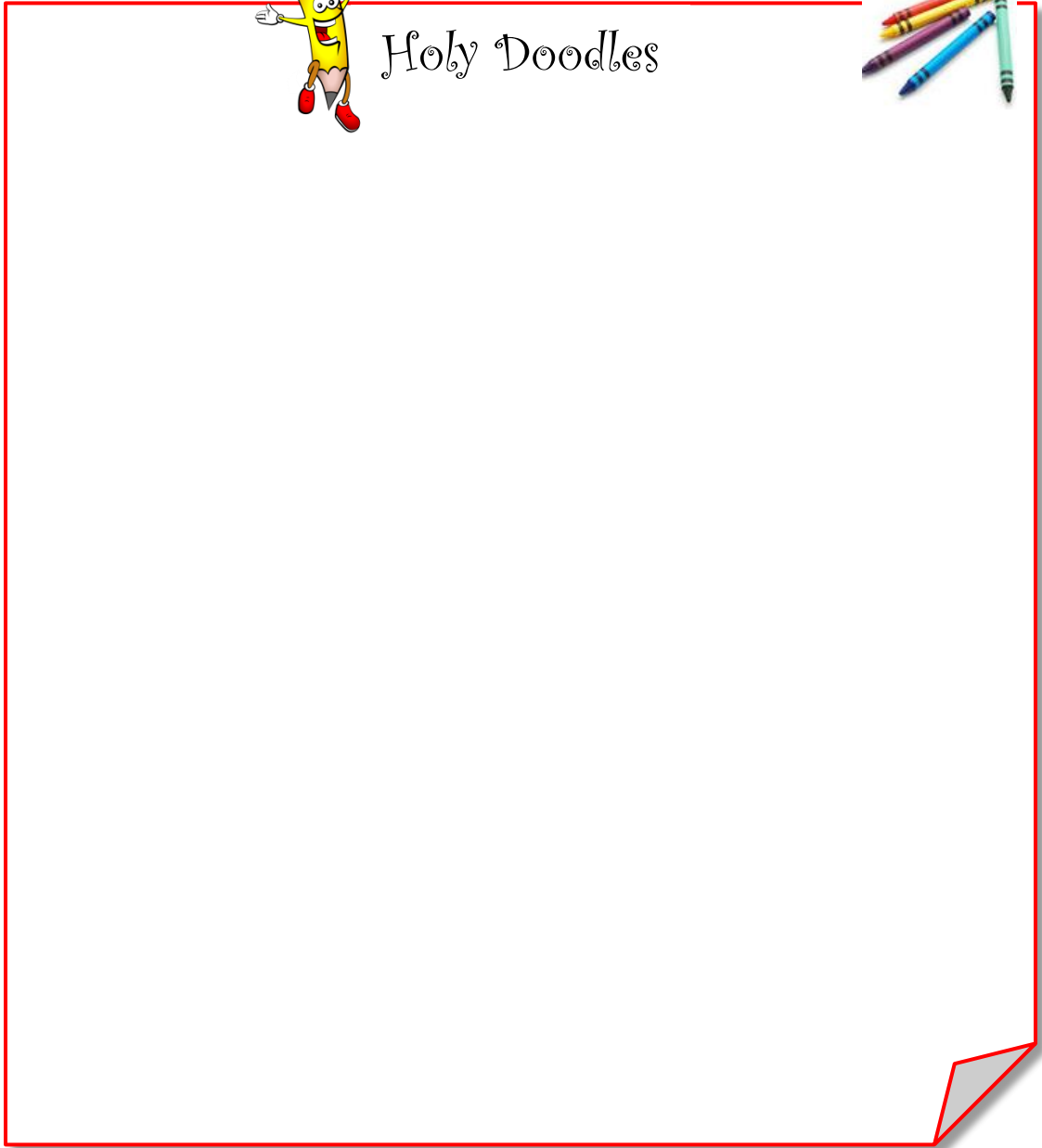
The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by **12**

Noon on Wednesdays.



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

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse