

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • February 12, 2017

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *This Is My Father's World* Leavitt

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: *What Is This Place* All Stand & Sing



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

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GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

For your

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

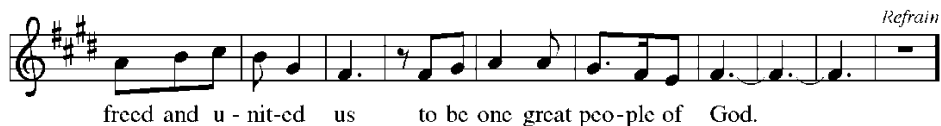
mer - cy. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

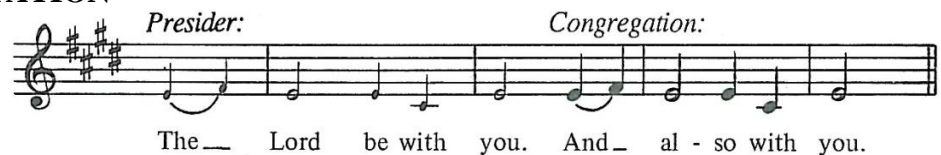
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us 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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy.

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God’s presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

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

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

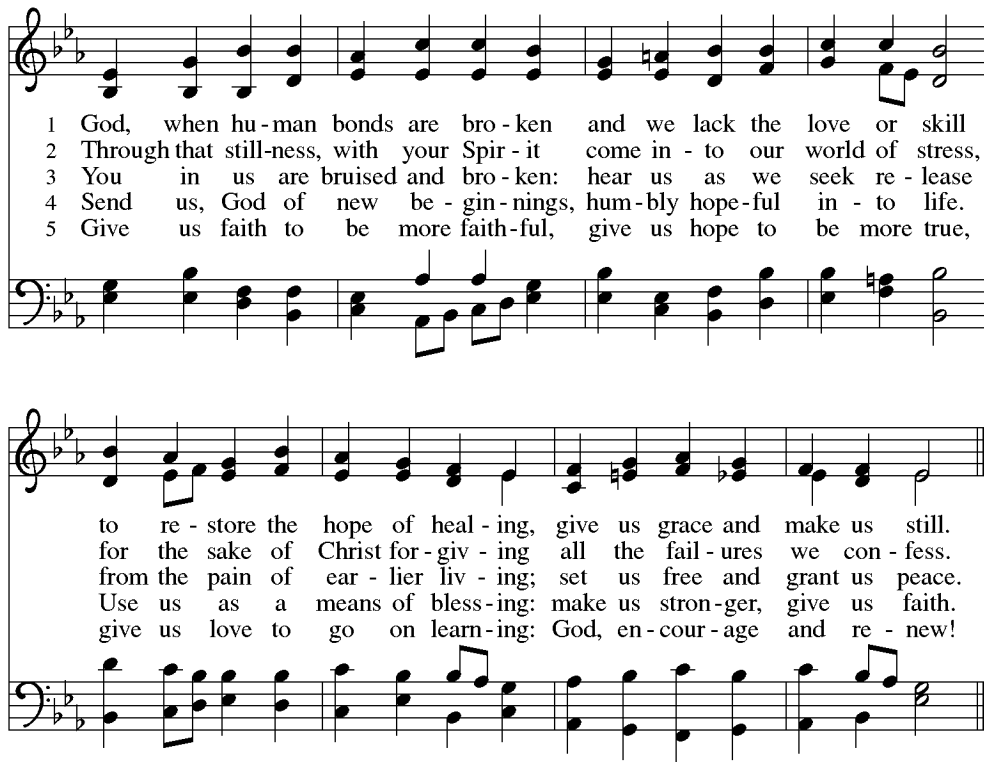
³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* All Stand & Sing



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle (*especially*). Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Little Innocent Lamb* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *As the Grains of Wheat* All Stand & Sing

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The — Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And — al - so with

Presider: you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

Presider: lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

THROUGH CHRIST

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

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.

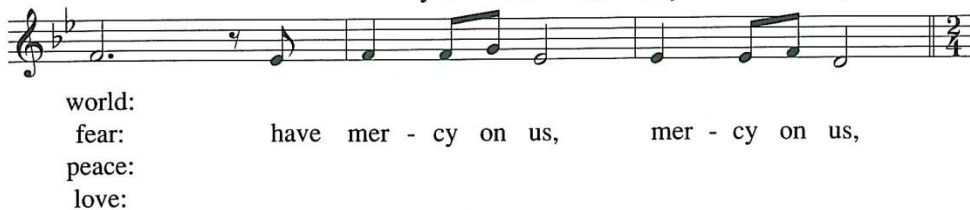
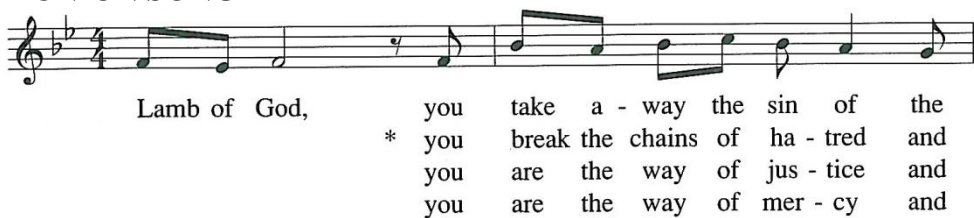
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

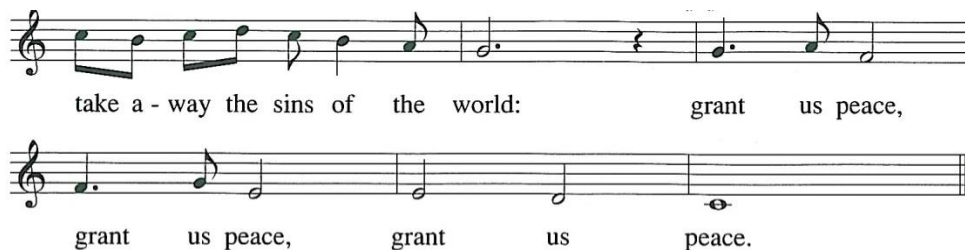
P We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
Come. Be filled with light and life.

C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION SONG





COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Healer Of Our Every Ill* All Sing

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O Morning Star, fair and bright,

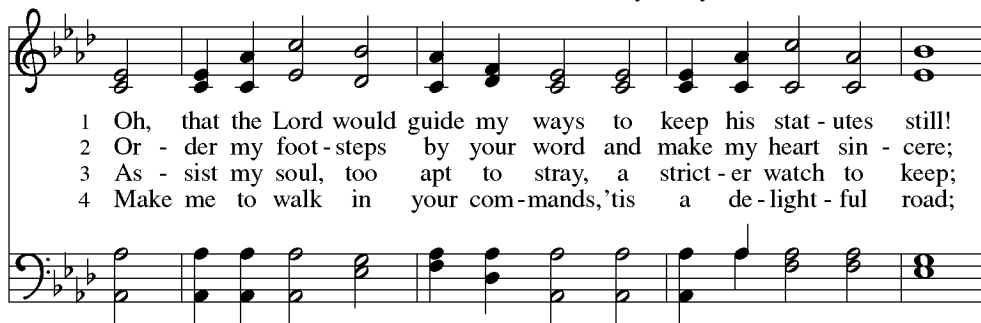
C **you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

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: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways All Stand & Sing*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sincere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wandering sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

Children's Ensemble members are asked to come to the balcony during the postlude. We will have a very brief session concerning our afternoon program.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. 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 Dee & Dennis Tucker in honor of their anniversary.

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 February 5, 2017:

Attendance: 115

Budget Report

Current Offering Received
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

February 5, 2017

\$ 4,833.00
\$ 5,656.42
\$ 29,800.00
\$ 189.39
\$ 1,259.60

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Raini Kimball,
Dennis Tucker

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

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

Infants: Staff

Toddlers: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

4 Volunteers

USHERS: Need Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

FLUTE: Julia Gunter

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: February 12-18

February 14 Will Howard
Noah Rawlins

February 16 Courtney Gatlin
Rochelle Potter

February 15 Leslie Crist
Sam Thompson



Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm HCLC will host 50 members from Lenoir-Rhyne University Choir. This will be the start of their week-long spring tour, thus requiring overnight housing with hosts from each congregation. If you are willing to assist, please sign up today. **Basically it's "bed & breakfast."** This substantially defrays expenses. We are exceedingly grateful for your hospitality and to LRU for sharing this concert as part of our centennial celebration.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, February 12

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
With **Holy Communion**
Council meets after
2-4:00 pm Confirmation
3:00 pm Children's Ens. meets at
Carillon in Cramerton
(All are invited)
5:00 pm Handbells
HCY at Holy Comforter
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, February 14



6:00 pm Stewardship Committee
7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 15

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Thursday, February 16

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee

Friday, February 17

7:00 pm *Staying Connected*

Meet at Sarrazin's to cook
a meal for ***The Shelter***

Saturday, February 18

10:30 am ***Kids' Club***

Meet at the church to
do a service project.
Send a picnic lunch with
your child.



BCO February Items of the Month:

School Supplies Needed

Crayola Crayons, Glue Sticks,
Index cards, Sticky notes, Sharpies,
Kleenex, Erasers (pencil top),
Highlighters, Notebook paper



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
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

Brian Jackson & Family
Parker Holland
Jennifer Lineberger

Capt. Basil Jeff Maret
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 www.holyc.org.

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