

## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

● 216 N. Main Street ● Belmont, NC 28012 ● May 19, 2024 ●

### Day of Pentecost



## WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *The Heavens Declare*

*Brighten*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C Amen.**

L We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

L Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

L We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

L At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

L We give thanks for this water which makes us new!

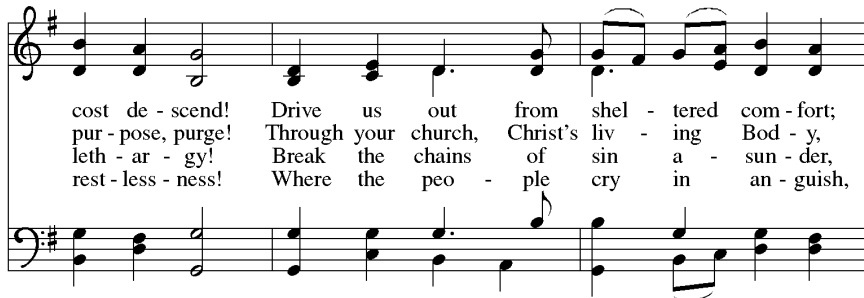
**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

# GATHERING SONG: *God of Tempest*

*All Stand and Sing*



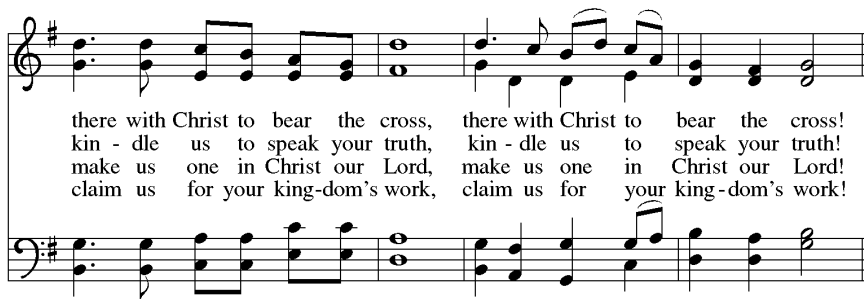
1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -  
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932  
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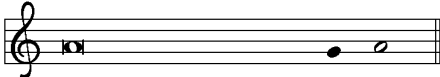
## GREETING

**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 Stand and Sing*

L 

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

L 

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

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

L 

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.

L

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

L C

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

L C

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

“THIS IS THE FEAST”

*All Stand and Sing*

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## SALUTATION

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through 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

**Acts 2:1-21**

A reading from the second chapter of Acts.

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8: 22-27**

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE

*All Stand & Sing*



## GOSPEL

**John 15: 26-27; 16:4B-15**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth & sixteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16:4b</sup>“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Congregation is seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Micah

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

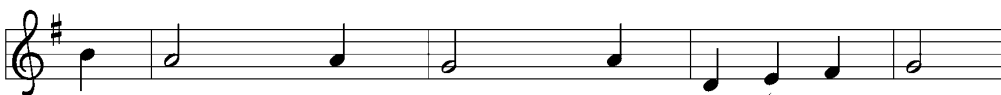


HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Spirit Of Life*

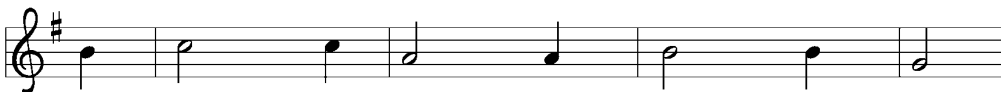
*All Stand & Sing*



1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,



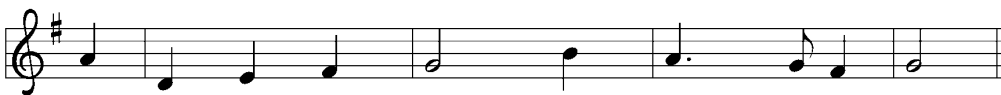
in ev - 'ry need you bring us aid,  
 in - crease our faith in our dear Lord;  
 make us to love your sa - cred word;  
 en - light - en us by that same word;



pro - ceed - ing forth from heav - en's throne,  
 un - less your grace the pow'r should give,  
 the ho - ly flame of love im - part,  
 teach us to know God's ra - dianc love,



from God, the Fa - ther and the Son;  
 none can be - lieve in Christ and live;  
 that char - i - ty may warm each heart;  
 lead us to Christ who reigns a - bove;



O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.  
 Music: O HELIGER GEIST, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

## 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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Shower your Spirit upon all who teach and proclaim your word, and for those with ears to listen.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, for acolytes and communion servers, for readers and tech ministers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Holy Manna*

*Church Choir*

*A QR Code is available on page 18 to give your offering online*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

*All Stand and Sing*



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



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

P Risen One,

C **You call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

C Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

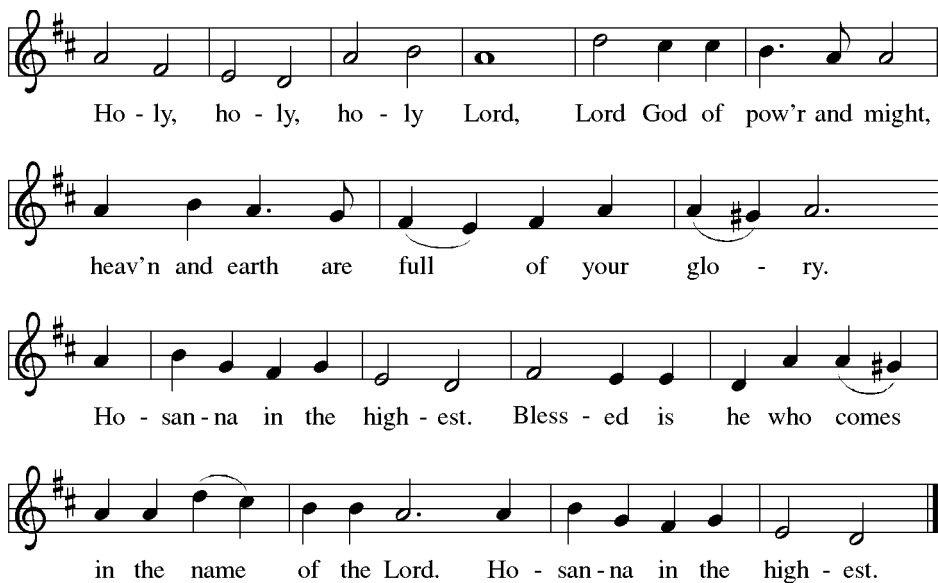
### DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.  
 P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.  
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace. You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able. You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink. You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

## 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: *Spirit of God*

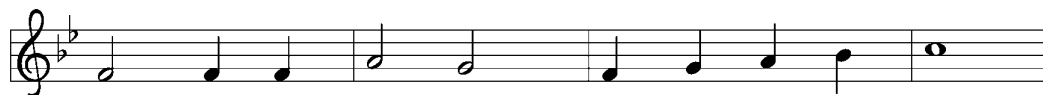
All Sing



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

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

C **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray.

**C Shepherd God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚ bless you now and always.

**C Amen.**



# CLOSING HYMN: *O Day Full of Grace*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on  
2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the  
3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the  
4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new  
5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may  
earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -  
cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the  
life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be  
us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us  
lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all  
stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -  
lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling. This flame will the  
glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.  
mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.  
gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.  
mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.  
join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.  
Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## SENDING

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE:** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

*Pelz*

\*Altar Flowers are given by Rochelle Potter, in honor of Perri Gross' birthday.

\*Special thanks to our Lector, Anne Reese.

## Sunday, May 19th

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship Service

12:00pm – Church Council Meeting

**GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!**

## Tuesday, May 21st

7:00 pm – Christian Education

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting



## Meet the Summer Mission Trip Travelers!

Holy Comforter is excited to send all 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 my name is Raylan Lewis. I am 12 years old and in 6th grade at Erwin Middle School in Granite Quarry, NC. In my free time, I like to play games, draw, make stop motion and 3D animations. I also enjoy playing outside and playing with my little brother and sister (Cohen and Amelia). What I enjoy about HCY is the questions, the random topics, and the fun times that we have. At The Dwelling, I hope to learn more about homelessness and how to treat the homeless.

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Courtney Strickland, Office Manager



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

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