The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

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, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
C Amen.

P Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Eternal God our creator,
C in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.
C Amen.
GATHERING SONG:  Jesus Shall Reign  ................................ All Stand & Sing

1 Jesus shall reign wher’er the sun does its

2 To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises

3 People and realms of every tongue dwell on his

4 Blessings abound wher’er he reigns; the pris’ners

5 Let every creature rise and bring peculiar

cessive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per-
love with sweetest song; and infant voices
leap to lose their chains, the weary find e-
honors to our king; angels descend with
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
ter nal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793
GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C And also with you.

KYRIE

A

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C

Lord, have mercy.

A

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C

Lord, have mercy.

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.

C

Lord, have mercy.

A

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest...
SALUTATION
P  The Lord be with you.
C  And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P  Let us pray.
God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, 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
A reading from the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

1Thus says the LORD:
   Maintain justice, and do what is right,
   for soon my salvation will come,
   and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM 67. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Women sing odd verses, Men even verses

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

2 Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. R

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

7 May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.
SECOND READING

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Romans.

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable, so that while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] 1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2a God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

GOSPEL VERSE ................................. All Stand & Sing

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

10Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” 13He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”

15But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

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-ter-y, 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-ish ed 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-ter-y,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ter-s,
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-ple-s 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
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

10
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: Shalom ......................... All Sing

\[\text{Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.}
\[\text{Shalom, cha-ve-rim, shalom, cha-ve-rim, shalom, shalom.}
\[\text{Shalom my friends, shalom, my friends. Shalom, shalom.}
\[\text{Shalom cha-ve-rim, shalom cha-ve-rim. Shalom, shalom.}

*may be sung in canon
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

_A brief silence._

Unite us, O God, so that all who worship receive assurance and nourishment by faith. Rescue those who suffer from religious persecution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us, O God, so that the holy mountains and peaceful valleys of your good creation can be restored to the health you intend. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower us, O God, to advocate for those on the margins. Open the hearts of leaders in every nation to serve those who are most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Equip us, O God, with your love for our brothers and sisters. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, and calm those in distress _especially_. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
Rouse us, O God, to praise you with gladness. We give thanks for musicians, worship leaders, intercessors, acolytes, crucifers, altar guild, and all who make our worship express our joy. Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints who have deepened our lives of prayer. Gather us with them in endless praise of you. Lord, in your mercy, 
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.
**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 God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**
SENDING SONG: Soli Deo Gloria .......................... All Stand & Sing

1 O God of bles-sings, all praise to you! Your love sur-rounds us our whole life through. You are the free-dom of those op-pressed; you are the com-fort of all dis-tressed. Come now, O ho-ly and wel-come guest:
2 All praise for proph-ets, through grace in-spired to preach and wit-ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir-it fall; with them may we live your gos-pel call:
3 All praise for mu-sic, deep gift pro-found, through hands and voic-es in ho-ly sound; the psalms of phrase, with all cre-a-tion one song we raise:
4 All praise for Je-sus, best gift di-vine through word and wit-ness, in bread and wine; in-car-nate sea, with Christ we praise you e-ter-nal-ly:
5 A bil-lion voic-es in one great song, now soft and gen-tle, now deep and strong, in ev-’ry So-li De-o glo-ri-a! So-li De-o glo-ri-a!

SENDING
A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
C Thanks be to God.
A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. 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 online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by the Featherstone Family in honor of Ned & Becke’s birthdays (Ned’s on August 13, Becke’s the 22nd).

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the empty containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 13, 2017:
Attendance: 115
Budget Report  
August 13, 2017  
Year-to-Date
Offering  $ 8,520.00  $ 165,053.93
Expenses $ 5,656.42  $ 179,053.71
Offering less Expenses $ 2,863.58  ($ 13,999.78)
Budgeted Expenses $ 182,069.67
Offering less Budgeted Expenses ($ 17,015.74)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:
LECTOR:  Jim Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:  Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD:  (Team 4)
Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains
Carmen Buell
Barbara Kasmer

TELLERS:  Janet & Brian Achor

GREETER:  Lyn Miller

CHILDREN’S CHURCH:
Jenn Kearney, Shelia Kelly

NURSERY:  (9:30-11:45 am)
Infants:  Volunteers
Toddlers:  Staff

USHERS:  Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK:  August 20-26
August 21  Andrew Robinson
August 22  Becke Featherstone
                  Allison Wallace

THIS WEEK’S MEETINGS:
Today, Sunday, August 20
9:30 am  Adult Sunday School
10:10 am  Church Choir prep
10:30 am  The Service
4:00 pm  HCY Pool Party at the Carr’s
5:00 pm  Adult Handbells
6:00 pm  Church Choir

Tuesday, August 22
7:00 pm  Chamber Choir
          Nar-Anon

Wednesday, August 23
6:45 pm  Women’s Bible Study

Thursday, August 24
7:00 pm  Evangelism Committee

Saturday, August 26
11:00 am  Kid’s Club  Pool Party
4:00 pm  Sandwich Group at the Clark’s home
BCO August Items of the Month

School Supplies

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
**PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cathleen Allen</th>
<th>Kay Holden</th>
<th>Marguerite Shive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Dabrowski</td>
<td>Dot Holland</td>
<td>Denise Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn De Nicholas</td>
<td>Zac Hullander</td>
<td>Jack Tench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardean Ewing</td>
<td>Chase Lineberger</td>
<td>Beverly Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becke Featherstone</td>
<td>Holly Peche</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ned Featherstone</td>
<td>Sherry Perry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marsha Barr</th>
<th>Carol Fox</th>
<th>Glenda Hinkle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Bernhardt</td>
<td>Scott Frisk</td>
<td>John McDermid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Bingham</td>
<td>Larry “Poss” Garrett</td>
<td>Jennifer Lineberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midge Cunningham</td>
<td>Brandi Hager</td>
<td>Anne Murdy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen de la Vega</td>
<td>Bill Hinkle</td>
<td>Karen Wayt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUR SERVICEMEN**

| Tom Kasmer | Leo Kasmer |

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](http://www.holyc.org)
Do life situations sometimes leave you feeling “sandwiched”? Do you ever feel like the middle slice of meat – maybe fried to a crisp – expected to hold together a whole club sandwich? Would a little Christian community pick-me-up help pull you through?

Join us for scripture, dinner, laughter and togetherness on **Saturday, August 26 at 4:00 pm** at Susan & Gary Clark’s home, 8426 Catawba Cove Drive in Belmont.

Whether you’re single, married, or somewhere in between, You are welcomed!

The hope is to foster a community of support that can continue meeting regularly. Please email geeclark59@gmail.com to let us know you’re coming.

*Now for the fine print:* This is a co-production of Susan & Gary Clark and Pat & Ron Speck. We will provide Snacks, Drinks, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, rolls, plates and utensils.

1. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share
2. Please coordinate amongst your friends who are attending to carpool as we have limited parking on our road, lawn, driveway, etc.
3. Arrive any time after 4:00 pm for snacks, fellowship and jumping in the lake if you desire.
4. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. A short devotion will be held before dessert.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Peace,
Gary & Susan Clark
Ron & Pat Speck