

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 7, 2016

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Baptism of Callum Jack Nance



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Have No Fear, Little Flock* Based on Baptismal Tune

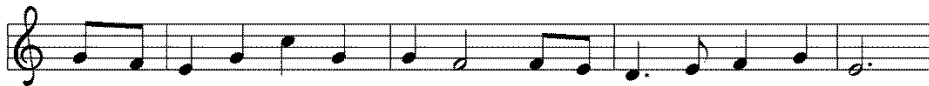
GATHERING SONG: *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus* All Stand & Sing



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors:

I present Callum Jack Nance for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Callum baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

As you bring Callum to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Callum may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Callum grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Callum by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

P Callum Jack Nance, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

P Sustain Callum with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Callum Jack Nance, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen.**

WELCOME

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, 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

Genesis 15: 1-6

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of Genesis.

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 33:12-22 All Sing

¹²Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!

**13 The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.

**¹⁵ God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**17 The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**

18 Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

Happy is the nation who's God | is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

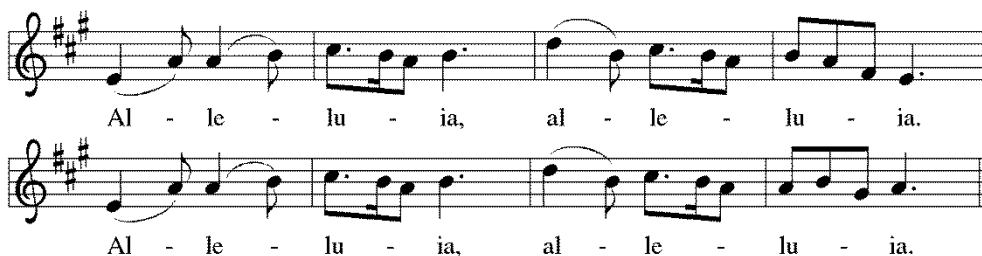
⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

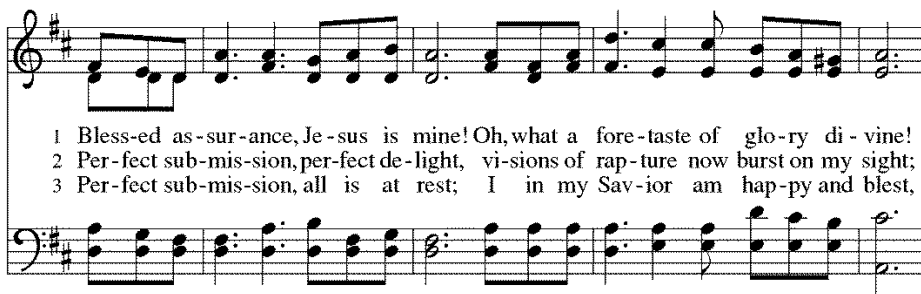
³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

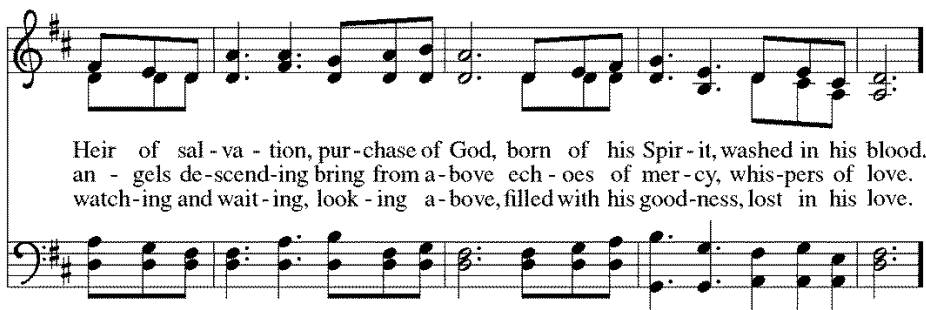
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blessed Assurance* All Stand & Sing

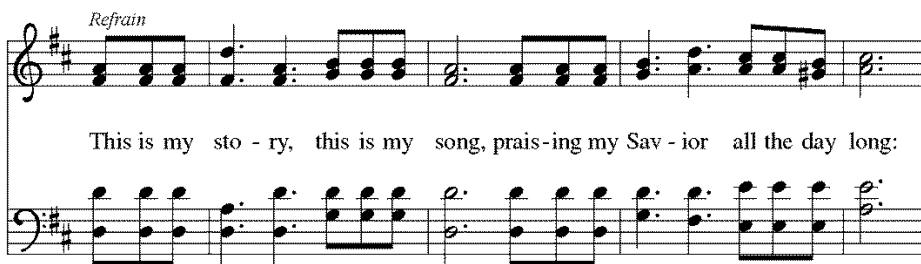


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-vation, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Bless The Lord, O My Soul* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Children of the Heavenly Father* All Stand & Sing

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, encourage your church in new ventures of faith: new congregations, ministries, conversations, and partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, the abundance of your creation fills us with awe and delight. Call us daily to be vigilant and responsible stewards of all you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, calm the fears that produce wars, prejudice, and injustice. Equip governments, leaders, and peacemakers to be models of cooperation and reconciliation among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restoring God, comfort all who long for relief from circumstances of grief or sickness (*especially*). Bless hospitals, mental health facilities, and all places of healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, we pray for those in life transitions that bring anxiety. Heal those hurt by broken promises, and sustain them with your never-ending love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all the saints who now enjoy unfailing treasure in heaven, and we rejoice that we are united with them in your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through 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.

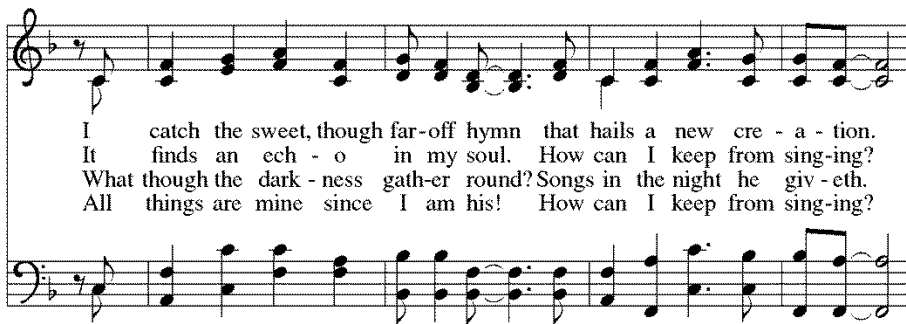
BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
 C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* All Stand & Sing

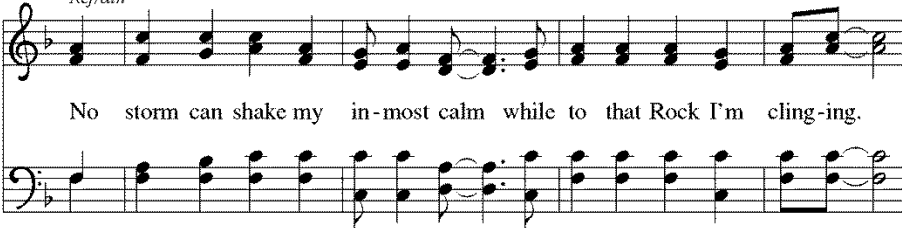


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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We welcome to Holy Comforter
 via Infant Baptism
Callum Jack Nance
 Son of Tom & Rianna Nance
 Born March 28, 2016

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Twelfth 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Faye & Warren Heller in honor of Shirley & Tommy Causby and Greg Cline.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, for July 31, 2016:

Attendance: 135

Budget Report

	<u>July 31, 2016</u>
Current Offering Received	\$ 3,093.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 157,038.88
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 8,916.10
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 4,309.73

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Katie Kessen

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER:

Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Trudy Whitener + Rebecca Yount

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

Infants: Staff

Toddlers: Volunteers Needed

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin +
Volunteer

USHERS: Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 7-13

August 11 Cynthia Buchanan

Jill Leitner

Ginger MacDonald

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, August 7**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, August 9

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch &
Bible Study

7:00 pm Nar-Anon



Rally Day 2016! Christian Education would like to invite everyone to attend Rally Day, September 11th at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Come hear about the classes we will offer this year, meet your teachers, and enjoy some delicious breakfast and fellowship.

If you would like to contribute a dish to the breakfast meal, please email Melissa Bocchino at melissa.bocchino@pwc.com to let her know what you plan to bring so we can make sure we have everything covered for a good meal for all.

Sunday School for ages 3 and up begins September 18th. If you are unsure which class to attend, come explore our offerings on Rally Day or ask Pastor Micah or a Christian Education team member for assistance.

Christian Education Committee members should watch your email for additional information regarding Rally Day, next in person meeting and other items.

Yours in Christ,

Your friendly Christian Education Committee



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to
Elizabeth Bruchon & Family
On the death of her mother
Emma Davis Bremer

NOTE: The pew cushions will be removed and replaced with new fabric this week. Today, everyone is invited to take as many of the old cushions as you wish. So, if you know of anyone else who may like a cushion, feel free to clean out the pews.

Greg Cline



BCO Items of the month for August:

School supplies for kids still needed.

Any school supplies are appreciated, but particular needs are binders, glue sticks and hand sanitizers.



BCO also requests donations of Spaghetti sauce & pasta.





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds
Kevin Washle

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Barbara Bingham
Graham Brezler
Libby Byrum
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Zachary Evans
Carol Baker Fox
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Tammy Gordon
Brian Hedrick

Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Laura Lanuto
Jennifer Lineberger
Terry Mahaffey
Amy McGinnis
Gene McRorie
Don Moore
Amanda Murray
Tyler Murray
Jean Peters
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty

Julio Quiros
Tim Reid
Dan Robinson &
Daughters Breanna & Mikayla
Anna Rudder
Tangie Shingler
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Sally Vanhoy
Bill Walker
Gloria Ward
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Bruce Zander



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner
Tom Kasmer

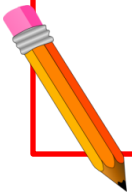
Dillon Kasmer
Mike Kelso

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

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

Holy Doodles





Lutheran Men in Mission for the
Gaston County & Southwestern Conference
will sponsor an

**Ice Cream Social and Vesper Service on
August 14 from 5:30-7:00 pm**

at Baker's Buffalo Creek Winery in Fallston, NC
(located off Waco-Fallston Road)

The setting is a dairy farm that has
been in existence for over 100 years.

5:30 pm Dairy Queen Blizzards

(Corn hole boards, swings, and room for kids to play games)

6:30 pm Gather in the Chapel area

and look out on the
South Mountains as the Vesper Service begins.



By 7:00 pm the service is complete.

Some folks will stay for one more *DQ Blizzard* before heading home.

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

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager