

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 28, 2014

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Oh, Sing, My Soul* Jan Bender

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

C Amen.

P Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

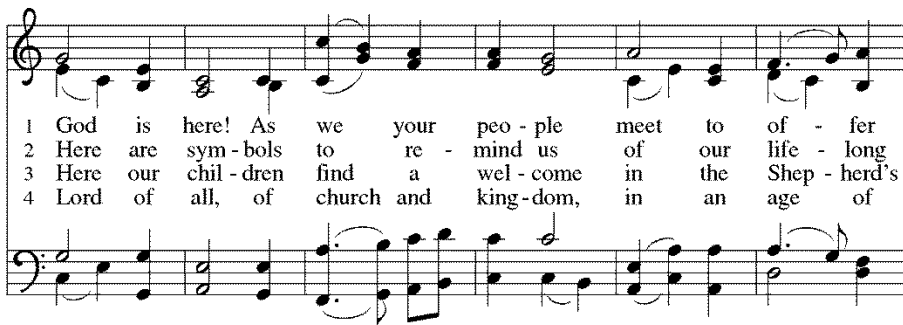
P Generous and faithful God,

C we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy. Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others. Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin, and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *God is Here* All Stand & Sing



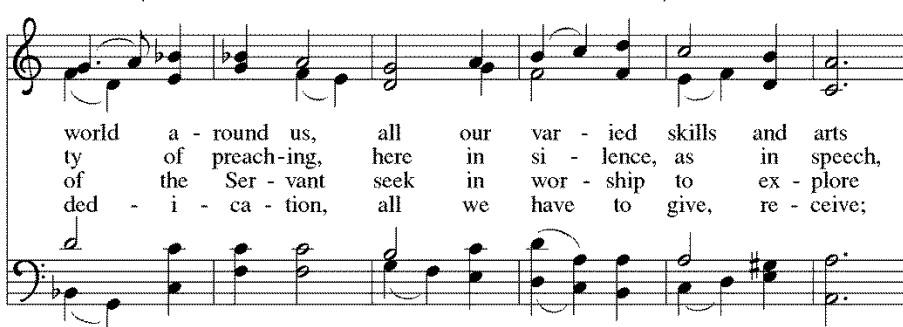
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company.
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE All Sing

1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of love, giver of life,

C you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 nursery.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

A reading from the eighteenth chapter of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

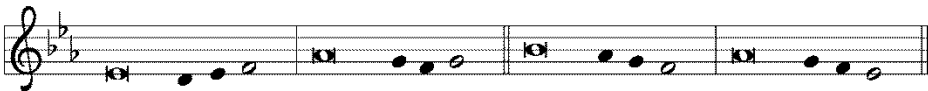
The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 25:1–8. All Sing

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1–13

A reading from the second chapter of Philippians.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All Stand & Sing



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23–32

P The holy gospel according to the twenty-first chapter of St Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.



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

Congregation is Seated

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* All Stand & Sing

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. composite
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500; adapt. Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612;
 arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

**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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM & RESPONSE: *For By Grace You Have Been Saved*

Chamber Choir sings verses 1 & 2, Congregation Stand & Sing verse 3



- 1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



own, it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have
own, for my strength is now made per - fect for each child who is my
self, all my hard - ships, pains, and griefs that still lie deep with - in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
God's great gift." A - men.
God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
Text and music © Fenrica Gehman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Fill your church throughout the world with the spirit to work for your pleasure. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Teach us how to value and enjoy the beauty of your creation with humility and to set aside selfish ambitions in how we share its resources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Refresh the people of all nations with your compassion and love and give us the same mind in Christ, living in peace with loving hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rush to the aid of those who wait for you. Heal their pain, mend their brokenness, take

away their sorrow, lift them out of their troubles, and relieve their burdens.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage us in our lives together. Lead us in your path and teach us to care for the needs of the poor, the exploited, and the outcast. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Make our joy complete in the knowledge of the good news of the resurrection. Console those who mourn and give us the assurance of your presence in this life and the next.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* All Stand & Sing

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems, each with a treble and bass staff.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National
Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Sixteenth 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. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.



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 on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Brad & Brandy Milton in honor of William James Milton’s First birthday!

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 14, 2014:

Attendance: **155**

Budget Report

September 21, 2014

Current Offering Received 9/21/14	\$ 5,460.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$154,272.78
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	(\$ 3,188.13)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 15,368.00)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.
Tom Bocchino

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

Today: Jill Leitner
Next Sunday: Makayla Brooks

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell,
Nathan Baakko

GREETERS: Brenda Daly,
Louise Day

CRUCIFERS: Aaron Nault, Ashton Nault

USHERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
 Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain
 Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain
 Carmen Buell, Barbara Kasmer, Deb Williams

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin
 Bill Hollar

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS: Today: Beth Brittain
 Next Sunday: Trudy Whitener + Helper

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 28

9:30 am Sunday School
 10:10 am Choir meets in choir room
 10:30 am The Service
 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
 6:00 pm Church Choir
 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, September 30

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
 Nar-Anon

Wednesday, October 1

1:30 pm ***Morning Circle*** meets at
 Holy Comforter to discuss
 Plans for the year

Saturday, October 3

3:00 pm ***Church Picnic***
 Bring side dishes.
 Hotdogs, hamburgers &
 drinks provided!



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 28-October 4

Today, Sept. 28	Leo Kasmer	September 30	Louise Austin
	Elizabeth Passer	October 1	Ellen Fleming
September 29	Barbara Beale		Andres Mendez
	Claire Mitchell	October 4	Mark Reese



Sunday School Attendance September 21, 2014



	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	2
Pre-K	2	1
God's Eden	6	1
Youth	1	1
Seekers		6
Adult Bible Class		13
Totals:	12	24



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Daniel Dowd
Cher Grant

Ferrie Hedrick
Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger

Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese
Marguerite Shive

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Janice Barker
Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Father Frank Cancro
Ken Capps
Wesley Coleman
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Donald Freeman
Ronnie Garrison
Ronnie Hersey
Judy Jackson

Dennis Jordan
Wesley Jordan & Family
Betty Kannapel
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Becky Knick
Alice Langley
Laura Lanuto & Family
Pierce Lee
Steve Mathis
Peggy McKenney & Family
Sandra Nix
Mark Outlaw
Jean Peters
Leland "Lee" Peterson
Scott Phillips

Steve Pletsas
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Mara Rappleyea
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
E. Taylor & Family
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward
Bryan Wayburn
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

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



If you would like
to help with the
Church Picnic

Please contact
Tom Bocchino

(for details) at
tbocchino@hotmail.com
Or 704-461-8208

Congregation is asked to bring
side dishes, i.e. baked beans,
potato salad, chips, pickles, etc.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager