

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 11, 2019

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Rise, My Soul, To Watch and Pray* Albrecht

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

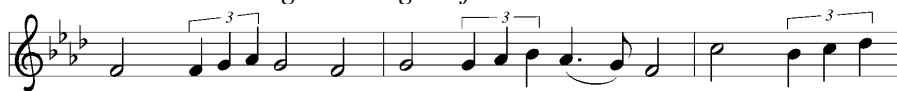
P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us ☩ all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow All Stand & Sing*



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



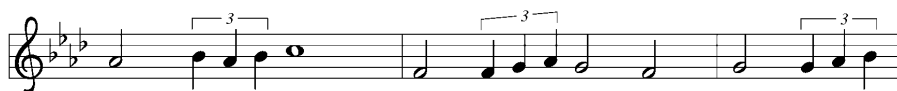
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

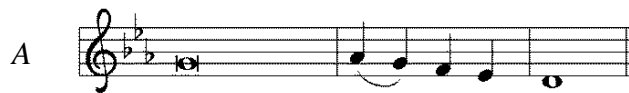
Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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.

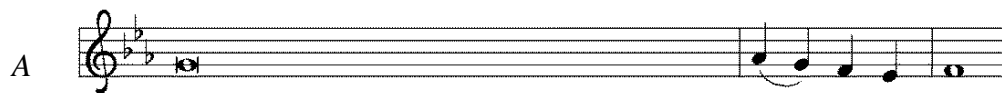
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



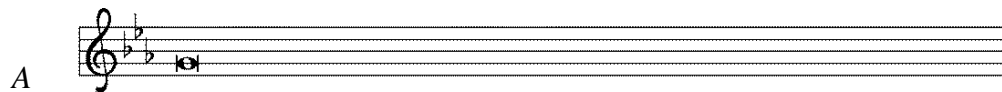
Lord, have mer - cy.



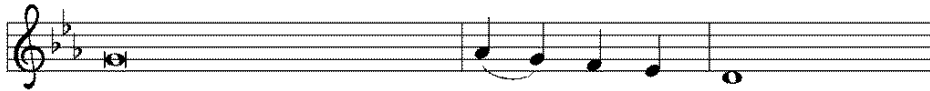
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



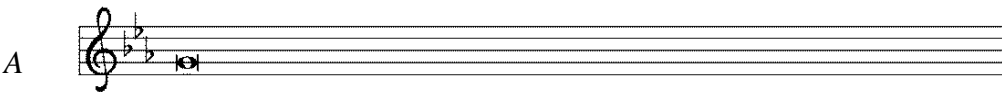
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



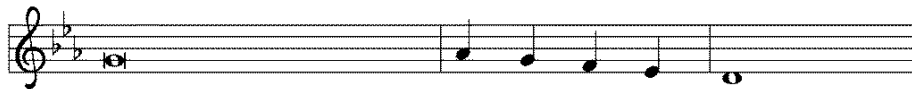
let us pray to the Lord.

C



Lord, have mer - cy.

A



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

C



A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE All Sing

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



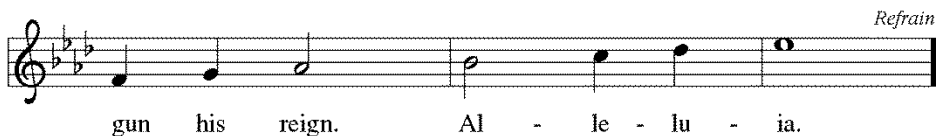
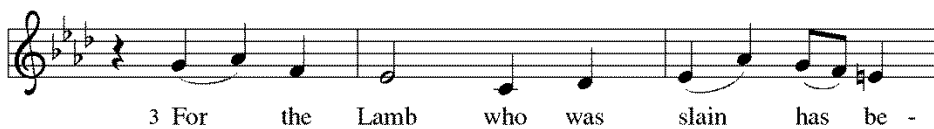
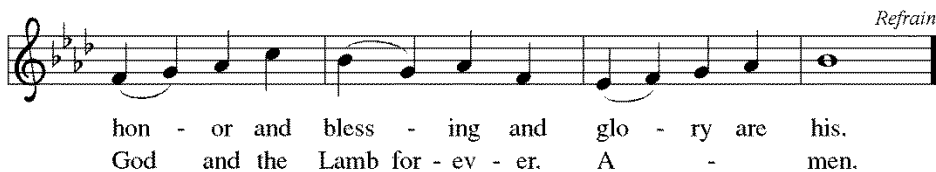
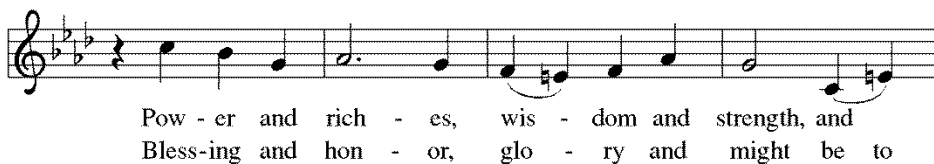
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, 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 nursery**.

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.

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.”

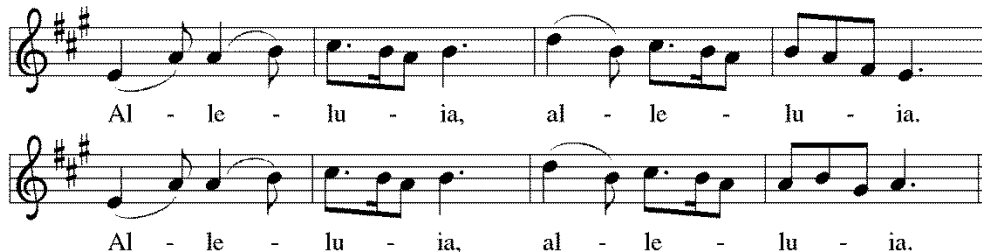
¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

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 VERSE



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.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence for Reflection is Kept.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* All Stand & Sing



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be-yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Lord God, bless and send your church out from each place of worship to be a light to the nations. Wherever we set out in faith, equip us to share our hope in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless and protect your creation, raising up stewards and innovators to nourish and sustain natural wonders too many to number. Protect bees and butterflies, and send sun and rain where they are needed. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless and govern the nations, uniting all humankind in seeking justice and peace. Fashion our hearts and guide our deeds in love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless and comfort those in need, providing shelter to those without homes, food for those who hunger, companionship to those who are lonely, and health to the sick (*especially*). Be their help and their shield. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless and sustain those wanting but unable to bear children, those in the adoption process, and children longing for parents. Welcome in love those who seek homes in a new community or country, and give us eyes to see and hearts to respond to the needs of our newest neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Keep in your care the faithful loved ones who have died in Christ, until we join them in the everlasting city, whose architect and builder is God. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.


C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Lord, Take My Hand* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards* All Stand & 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 dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine. Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Presider

Congregation

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. 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

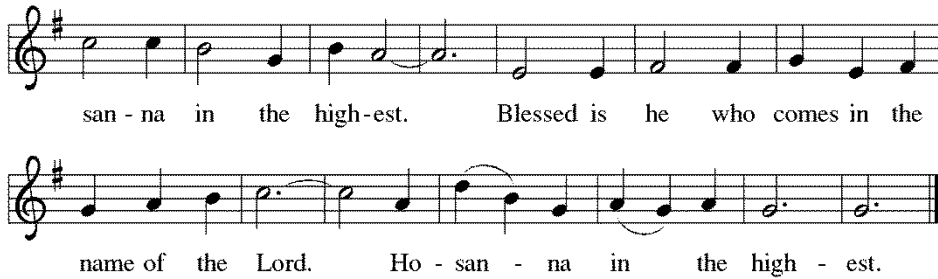
P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical notation is written on two staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.
C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Blessed Assurance* All 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-va-tion, 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

- 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.

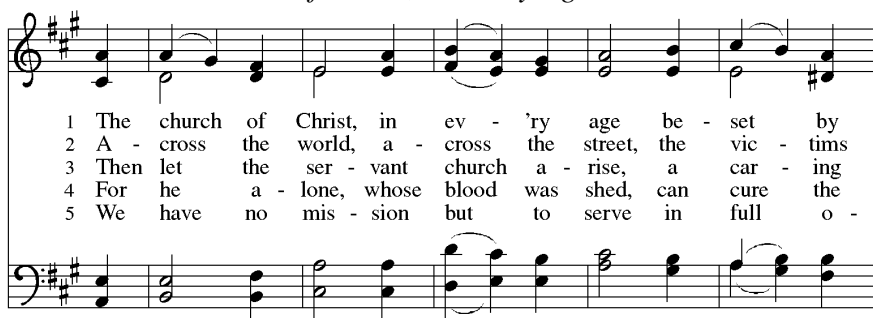
C O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving;
and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you
forever.

C Amen.

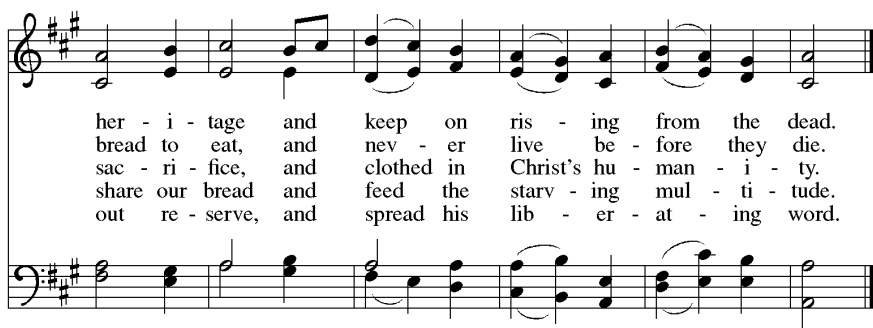
SENDING SONG: *The Church of Christ, In Every Age All Stand & Sing*



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SENDING

A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **Ninth 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 in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Debbie Mendez in memory of Cookie Lynn.

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

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music

Offering and Attendance Report for August 4, 2019:

Attendance: 123

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 4,710.00	\$181,857.77	3,402.98
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$178,566.32	(111.52)
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,064.35)</u>	<u>\$ 3,291.45</u>	<u>3,291.45</u>

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 8/4/19

Goal: \$225,000
 Received to Date: 161,787
 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000
 Remaining Needed: \$ 28,213

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 11-17

Today, August 11 Cynthia Buchanan
 Jill Leitner
 Ginger MacDonald
 August 15 Brenda Dabrowski

August 17 Theo Bruchon
 Mark Dabrowski



ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTE: Merritt De Nicholas

TELLERS: Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener

CRUCIFER: Matthew Carr

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenn Kearney

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Katie Howard, Captain
 Dean & Diann Halvorson
 Barbara Kasmer

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)
 Catherine Carr

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Sunday, August 11

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:10 am Church Choir prep
 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
 Church council after worship

Tuesday, August 13

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Saturday, August 17

10:00 am-1:00 pm ***Kids' Club***

Pool party at the Morton's home

6:30 pm ***Staying Connected***

Meet at Taxco Restaurant in Belmont



Women – This Message is For You! Did you know that women play an important role in the health care of men through education and awareness? Men often learn about health from wives, girlfriends, and/or mothers, while women tend to get health information from doctors, the television, the Internet, and printed materials. Also, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality states that American men are 25% less likely than women to visit a doctor. A lot of times it's difficult for them to

be convinced they NEED to see a physician. There is a lot of denial going on and, in some cases, that denial can be deadly. Although men need to take charge of their own health, you can help the men in your life get started by raising awareness about men's health. So, get the word out – share with those men in your lives and prod them to take care of themselves properly! And men...LISTEN to the ladies in your lives! They may have important information for you!

WWG participants – Only four more weeks of this program left! We are doing SUPER! 3,819 miles and we landed in Big Spring, Texas last week! What a trip – keep up the good work!

Remember P.E.P? That was the first exercise program we brought you. The one for ANYONE with joint mobility issues and taught by myself. We will be bringing it back in the fall and will probably run it through the entire school year – once a week. If you are interested, watch for further info.



BCO August Items of the month:
Canned Pasta & Tuna
Pop tarts
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Shirley Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Merritt De Nicholas
Becke Featherstone

Ellen Fleming
Sarah Tench Helms
Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Mike Barbee
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett

Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ruth Lyerly
Cookie Lynn
Jane Marino
Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy

Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



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 in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Holy Doodles



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

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager