

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, June 17, 2018 •

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

Farewell and Godspeed to Steve and Deb Bingham

PRELUDE: *Arioso* Young

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.

C Amen.

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: *What Is This Place* All Stand & Sing



1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

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GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C

Lord, have mer - cy.

A

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

C

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

A

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

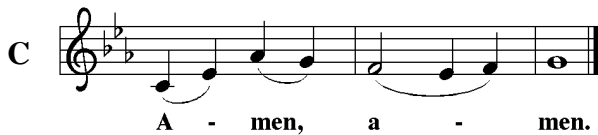
let us pray to the Lord.

C

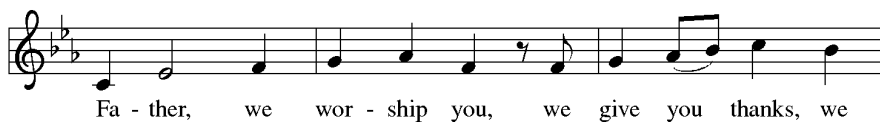
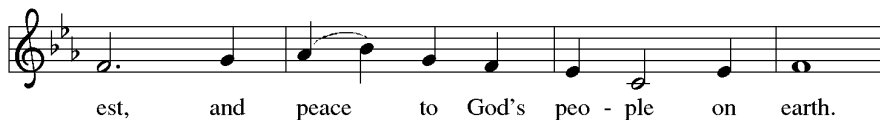
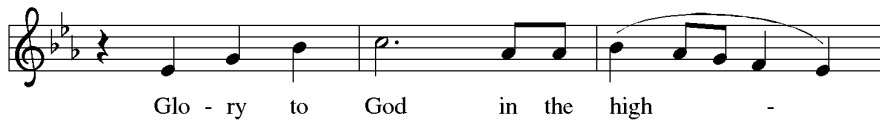
Lord, have mer - cy.

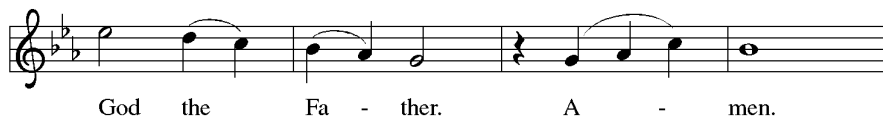
A

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



GLORY TO GOD





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Ezekiel.

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah’s royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.



A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15 All Sing

¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

A reading from the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing



GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

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

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As Rain From the Clouds* All Stand & Sing



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



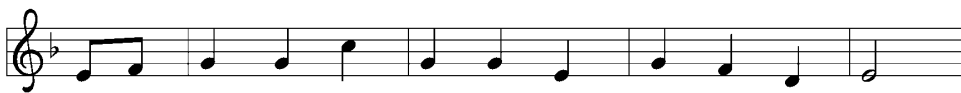
as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



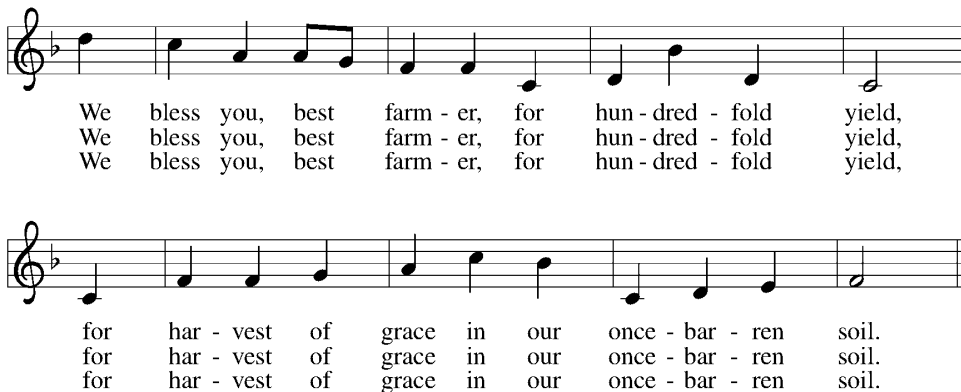
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for yo ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, oss, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896

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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: *A Scottish Blessing* Church Choir

Be a light before to lead me; Be a guiding star above; Jesu, may I always know thee, may I always know thy love. There is no bird that soars the mountain, there is no deer upon the hill, there is no creature of the forest, but shall sing thy praises still.

Be a Kindly shepherd for me, keep me safe through all my days; Jesu, may I always know thee, may I always sing thy praise. There is no life that swims the ocean; there is no creature of the sea; there is no fish within the river, but proclaims its praise for thee.

As the day falls into evening, as the night is lit with stars, at the ending of life's journey may thy heavenly peace be ours. Let every creature in God's kingdom, let every life upon the shore sing praise to God, the world's creator, Sing praises now and evermore.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *For the Fruit of All Creation* All Stand & Sing



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

A brief silence.

O Most High, your divine realm is like a noble tree whose boughs and branches give shade and rest to the peoples of the earth. Make your church a nesting place for all who need your peace and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, all the world is a garden for your creativity. Refresh places of drought with abundant rains. Strengthen and keep safe those who fight fires in your forests. Help us tend your mountains and plains, oceans and rivers with loving care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, you speak and your word is accomplished. Speak to the leaders of the nations so they might end cycles of violence, giving people everywhere tranquility and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Bring the abundant healing blessings of the new creation into the lives of those who suffer illness or deprivation of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, your steadfast love and faithfulness sustain your people. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, just as the earth produces of itself and the harvest comes, you gather up your people from all times and places. Bring us along with those who have died (*especially*) into the lasting harvest of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; 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.**

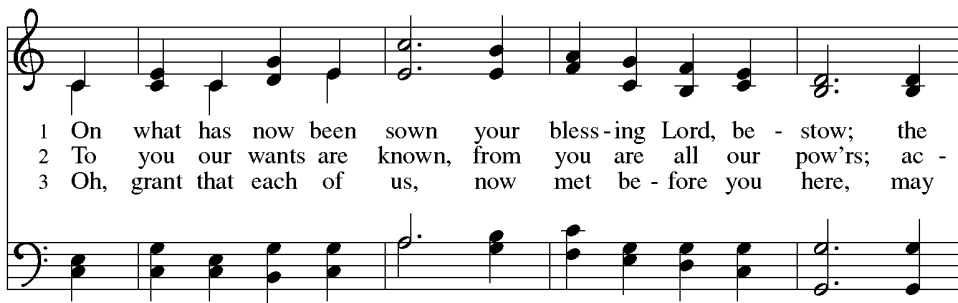
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

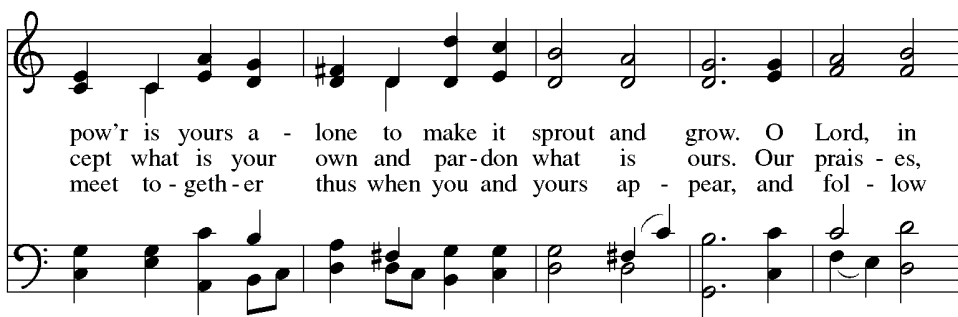
P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

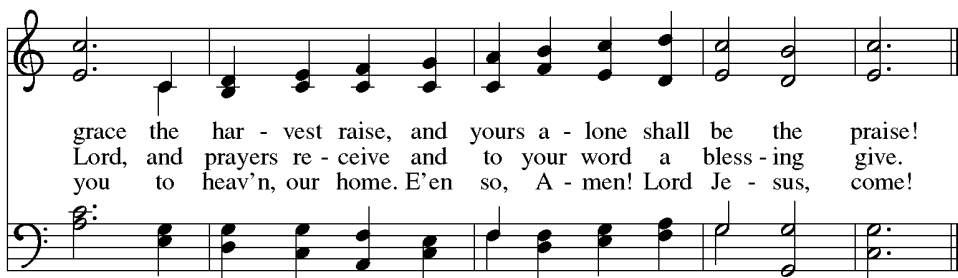
SENDING SONG: *On What Has Now Been Sown* All Stand & Sing



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth-er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

SENDING

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **Fourth 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 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 on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in memory of her father A. O. Lail and to honor all fathers who have cared for their children.

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

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, June 10, 2018:

Attendance: 122

Budget Report

	<u>June 10, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 4,294.00	\$122,958.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$123,905.79
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,257.17)</u>	<u>(\$ 947.76)</u>
Expected Expenses		<u>\$ 128,205.48</u>
Offering less Expected Expenses		<u>(\$ 5,247.63)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Debbie Mendez

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: John Koehler

Fran Holland

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean Amanda Kelly

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Lauren Shoemaker

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

Volunteer

USHERS: Volunteers

Happy Father's Day!

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, June 17

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, June 19

7:00 pm Christian Ed virtual meeting

Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: June 17-23

Today, June 17 Marsha Kinley

Megan Sulak

June 18 Dawn Fleming

June 19 John Koehler

June 23 Eric Scholer





Baby Bottle Blessings

Change for Change
Bottles are due today, Father's Day, June 17th.



BCO June Items of the Month



Peanut Butter & Jelly



Agape Day Camp will be held July 16th-20th For grades entering 1st - 8th



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 campers, so register soon.

The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



VBS Registration Is Here!
Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2
Contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org to register.

Song sheets and a practice CD
for children participating in VBS
are now available. The names of those
preregistered are on the handouts and CDs.
See Greg Cline if you would like one
and you did not pre-register.





*Words of Sympathy and Hope
Are offered to Laura Tench & Family
on the death of
Jack Tench,
husband, father & granddaddy*

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander

Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Pat Roberson
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor
Family of Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jim Barbee
Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
Jennifer Lineberger
Clarence McLain
Ray McNeely
Catie Mitchell

Anne Murdy
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





The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.

There are 10 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



My name is Matthew Carr. I am 16 years old and a 10th grader at South Point High School. I have been a member of Holy Comforter for 14 years and was confirmed last year. I enjoy playing soccer, playing video games, playing guitar, and volunteering at food banks. I am looking forward to meeting other Lutheran youth and serving the community. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow closer to God.

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: mkearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager