

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 20, 2017 •

## The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* . . . . . Dahl

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

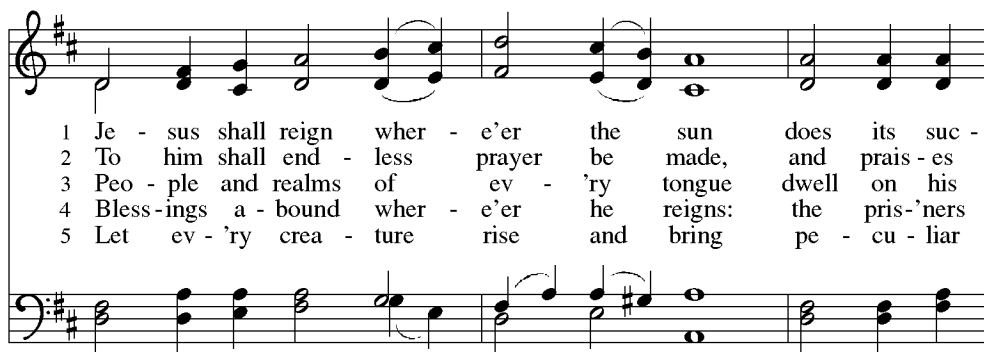
**P** Eternal God our creator,

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

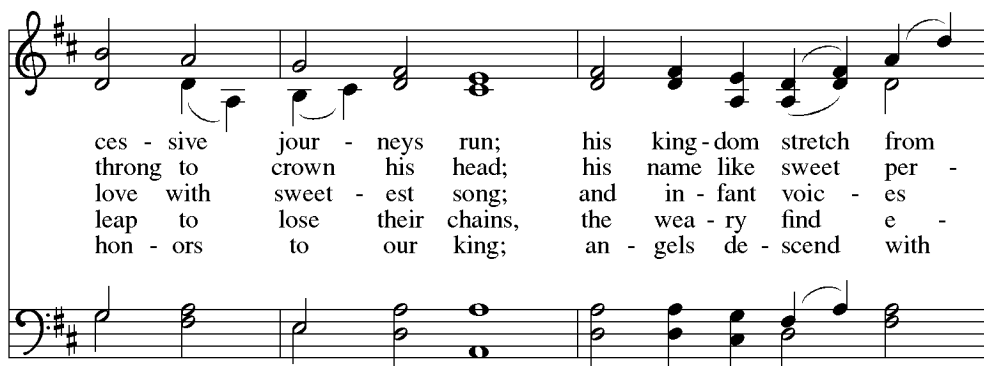
**P** Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *Jesus Shall Reign* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

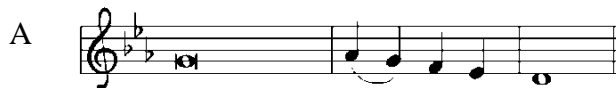
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

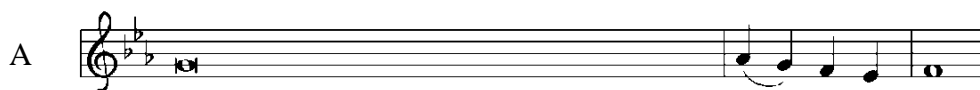
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



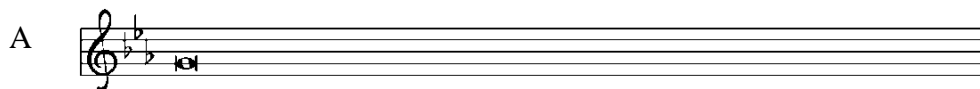
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



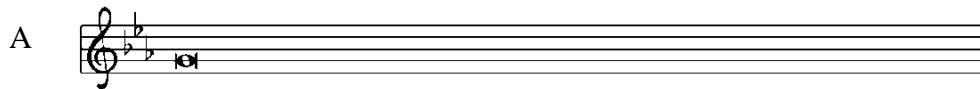
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

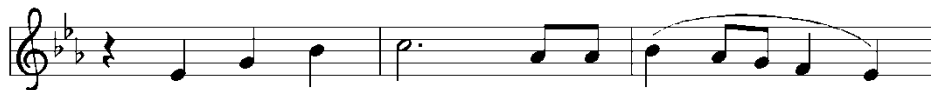


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



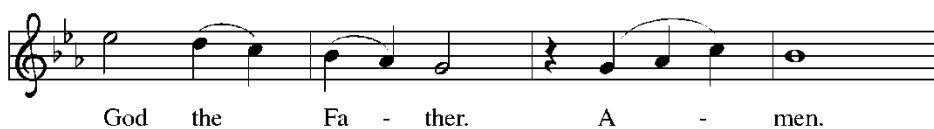
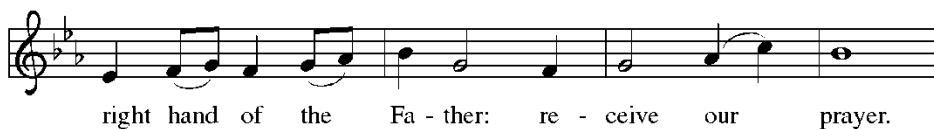
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,





## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Congregation is Seated and are invited to **sing “Jesus Loves Me”**  
as the children come forward.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

**Children ages 4 to 8 years-old** are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nurseries**.

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

A reading from the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah.

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

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



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

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known | upon earth,**  
**your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**  
**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth. R**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples | praise you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought | forth its increase;**  
**God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

## SECOND READING

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Romans.

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

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

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

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



## GOSPEL

Matthew 15:10-28

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

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

*Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.*

<sup>10</sup>Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”



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

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Gather Us In* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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: *Shalom* ..... All Sing



Shal - lom, my friends, sha - lom, my friends, sha - lom, sha - lom.  
Sha - lom, cha-ve-rim, sha - lom, cha-ve-rim, sha - lom, sha - lom.



Sha - lom my friends, sha - lom, my friends. Sha - lom, sha - lom.  
Sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom cha-ve-rim. Sha - lom, sha - lom.

*\*may be sung in canon*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

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

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

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

Equip us, O God, with your love for our brothers and sisters. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, and calm those in distress (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Rouse us, O God, to praise you with gladness. We give thanks for musicians, worship leaders, intercessors, acolytes, crucifers, altar guild, and all who make our worship express our joy. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

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

### **BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG: *Soli Deo Gloria* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -  
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and  
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and  
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and  
 5 A bil - lion voice - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the  
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it  
 voice - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of  
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate  
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -  
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y  
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic  
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and  
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:  
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:  
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:  
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:  
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen

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## 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 of our visitors on this **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Nurseries  
Available

**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](http://www.holyc.org).**

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

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

***Carmen Buell, Worship & Music***

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 13, 2017:**

Attendance: 115

**Budget Report****August 13, 2017****Year-to-Date**

Offering	\$ 8,520.00	\$ 165,053.93
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 179,053.71
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 2,863.58</u>	<u>(\$ 13,999.78)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 182,069.67</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 17,015.74)</u>

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**ASSISTING MINISTERS:****LECTOR:** Jim Buell**GREETER:** Lyn Miller**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Jenn Kearney, Shelia Kelly

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)

Diann &amp; Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains

Carmen Buell

Barbara Kasmer

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)*Infants:* Volunteers*Toddlers:* Staff**TELLERS:** Janet & Brian Achor**USHERS:** Volunteers

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 20-26**

August 21 Andrew Robinson

August 22 Becke Featherstone  
Allison Wallace**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, August 20**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm **HCY** Pool Party at the Carr's

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

**Tuesday, August 22**7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon**Wednesday, August 23**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, August 24**

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee

**Saturday, August 26**11:00 am **Kid's Club** Pool Party4:00 pm **Sandwich Group** at the  
Clark's home



## BCO August Items of the Month



### School Supplies

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#### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



## **PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER**

Cathleen Allen  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Marsha Barr  
Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Midge Cunningham  
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox  
Scott Frisk  
Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager  
Bill Hinkle

Glenda Hinkle  
John McDermid  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy  
Karen Wayt

## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Tom Kasmer



Leo Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,  
please inform the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org)



# Holy Doodles



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

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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you all.

Peace,  
Gary & Susan Clark  
Ron & Pat Speck

