

-Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 31, 2014

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

***PRELUDE:** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Handbell Solo

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 In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

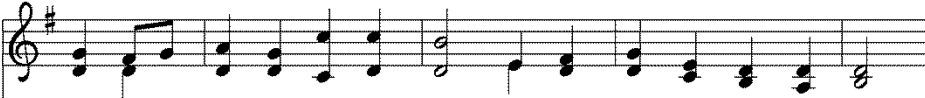
P God our strength,

C we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.


P Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *For The Beauty of the Earth* All Stand & Sing




1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



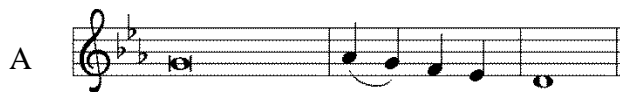
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

GREETING

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

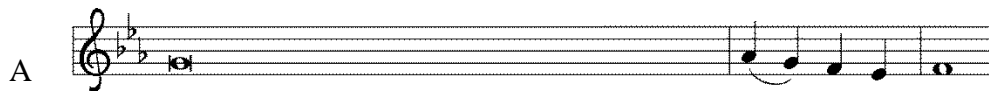
KYRIE



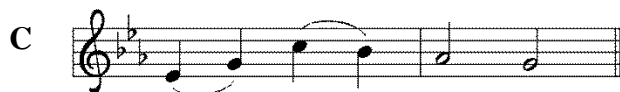
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



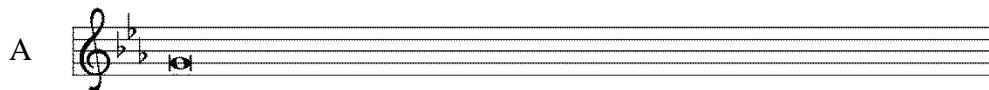
Lord, have mer - cy.



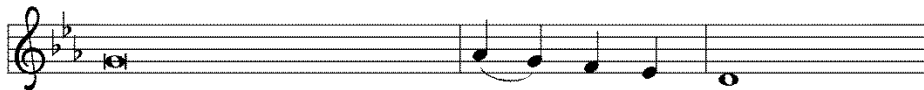
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



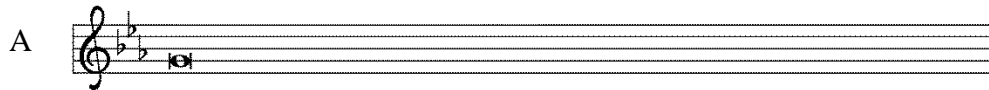
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

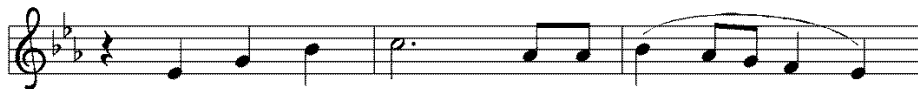


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

GLORY TO GOD



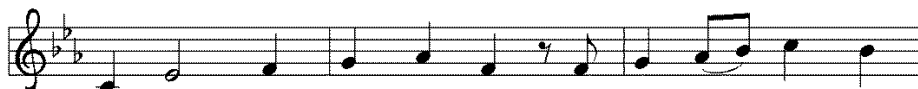
Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



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



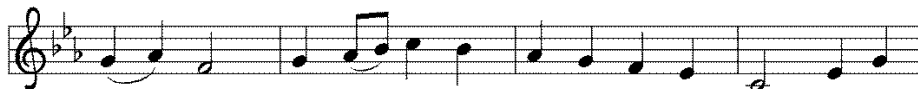
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



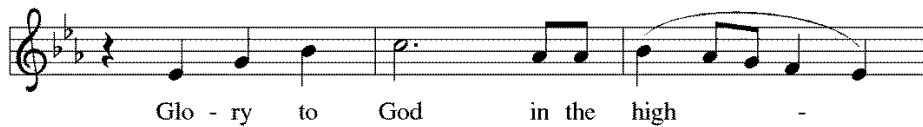
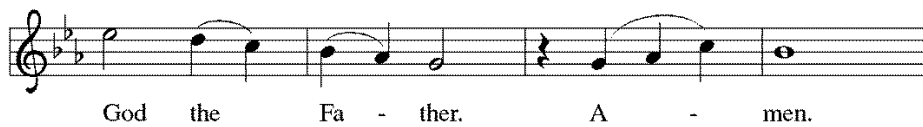
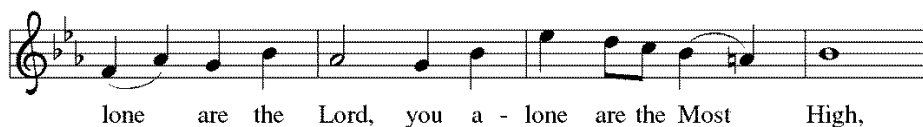
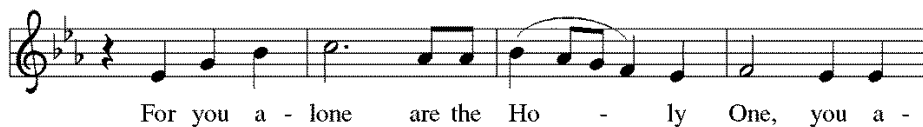
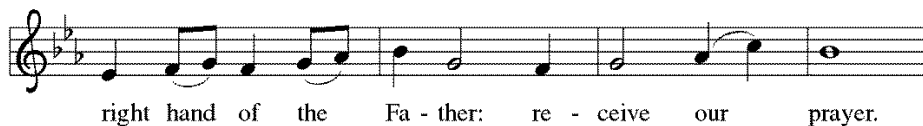
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



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



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, 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

Jeremiah 15:15–21

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 26:1-8 All Sing

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived [|] with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and [|] have not faltered.

²**Test me, O [|] LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart [|] and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is be- [|] fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- [|] ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat [|] with the worthless,**

nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

**⁶I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

**⁸LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell
and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9–21

A reading from the twelfth chapter of Romans.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21–28

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his



Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* All Stand & Sing

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Alleluia* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* . . All Stand & Sing

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, off’ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

O Lord, you know and see all that your baptized accomplish across the church universal.
Prove us and try us; test our hearts and minds as we walk in faithfulness with you. Lord,

in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the summer breezes wane, and forests and foliage begin their colorful journey into fall, make us ever mindful of these earthly blessings and renew our zeal to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Teach us to live peaceably with all nations, our enemies, and those who seek to do us harm. Bring light into the dark corners of the world and give courage to organizations that seek to overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When our pain is unceasing, give us patience in suffering. When our wounds refuse to be healed, remember us with your mercy. When hope seems lost, remind us that you are with us always. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As we rally our congregation's time, talents, and resources, remove the stumbling blocks that hinder our desire to put you first. Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember with gratitude those who have recently died (*especially*). Through the lives of your saints, show us how to hold fast to what is good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through 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 May God the sower make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rise, O Sun of Righteousness* All Stand & Sing

1 Rise, O Sun of right - teous - ness; with your
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566
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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. 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 Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of their children and grandchildren.

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, August 24, 2014:

Attendance: 170

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 8/17/14
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

August 24, 2014

\$ 2,963.50
\$ 4,504.60
\$137,691.92
\$ 2,487.29
(\$ 14,386.54)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Greg Byrum

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

Rebecca Yount & Jane Howard

ACOLYTES: Garrett Carpenter, Garrett Fox

GREETER: Need Volunteer

CRUCIFERS: Noah Rogers, Molly Koehler

USHERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas, Brandy Milton, Charles Mauney

TELLERS: John Koehler

Sherry Alexander

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS:

Today: Beth Brittain

Next Sunday, Sept. 7: Trudy Whitener + Helper

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Choir meets in choir room
10:30 am The Service

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, September 2

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

**NOTE: *Children's' Ensemble* will
resume September 21 at 4 pm.**

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 31-September 6

September 2 Preston Baker

September 5 Taylor Burwell

September 4 Deborah Bingham



*The Prelude is offered to the Glory of God and in celebration of Tommy Causby's 90th birthday!

Heather Mauney Yount Memorial Playground Project

We need your help to raise less than \$10,000 in order to complete this project.

Please join us in making the playground a reality by indication on your check memo line
or offering envelope: *Playground Project*





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Virginia Crump
Brenda Dabrowski
Louise Day

Jane Deaton Family
Daniel Dowd
Cher Grant
Ferrie Hedrick
Kay Holden

Zac Hullander
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Janice Barker
Kathy Beam
Helen Brasfield
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
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.

Holy Comforter Worship At Lutheridge Sunday, September 14



Worship in *Whisnant Chapel* at 10:30 am
8:00 am Depart from Holy Comforter

Covered Dish Luncheon at Lakeside Lodge.
Please bring side dishes and/or dessert to feed your family and others.

There will be NO Sunday School for the children on this Sunday.
There WILL be Worship Service at Holy Comforter
(for those who cannot attend at Lutheridge).
All afternoon church meetings cancelled.



**Come, let us Worship together on this
Church Family Day!**



FOOD, *Fellowship* & **FUN!**

Saturday, October 4 starting at 3 pm

Holy Comforter Lawn



All Ages Welcome!

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