

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 9, 2014

## The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *A Hymn to God the Father* . . . . . Stocker

### 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, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.

**C** **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

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

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

**C** **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *O God beyond All Praising* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Text © 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

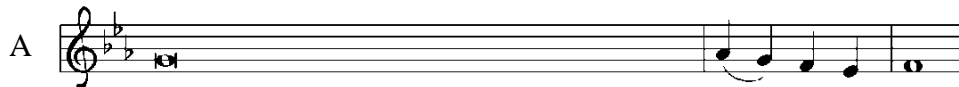
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



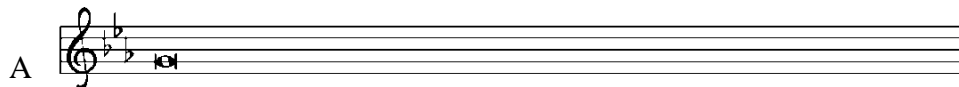
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



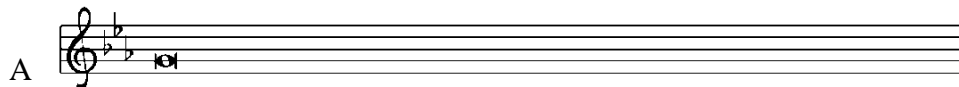
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

A 

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

C 

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

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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**.

**LESSON ANTHEM:** *Shine On Me* . . . . . Chamber Choir

## FIRST READING

**Amos 5:18–24**

A reading from the fifth chapter of Amos.

*In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 70** . . . . . All Read Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me  
turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

A reading from the fourth chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,

who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1–13**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with



their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

<sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

<sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'

<sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

<sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Soon and Very Soon* ..... All Stand & Sing



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 3 No more dy - in' there,  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon

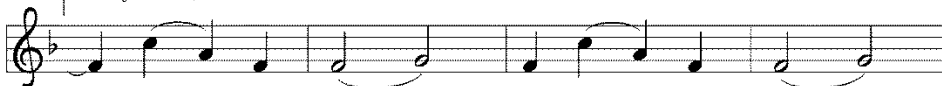


soon and ver - y soon  
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
 no more dy - in' there,  
 soon and ver - y soon

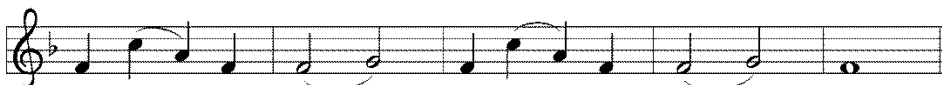


Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## 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:** *Hallelujah, Praise the Lord* .....Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* .....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



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, we desire your wisdom and instruction. Fill our gatherings with your spirit of joy, that the church's daily work be life-giving. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Word of life, as you spoke this good creation into being, guide our actions and help us renew and protect the earth's resources. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Judge of the nations, guide us to bring down barriers so peace will flow over all nations like an ever-flowing stream. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Healer of our every ill, teach us to be watchful for people who need healing, especially for people whose needs are easily overlooked. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Righteous Teacher, guide our congregation that we will, in all circumstances, encourage one another with words of peace, forgiveness, and mercy. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give you thanks for all the saints who lived and died in faith. Grant us one day to know also the full measure of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through 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.**

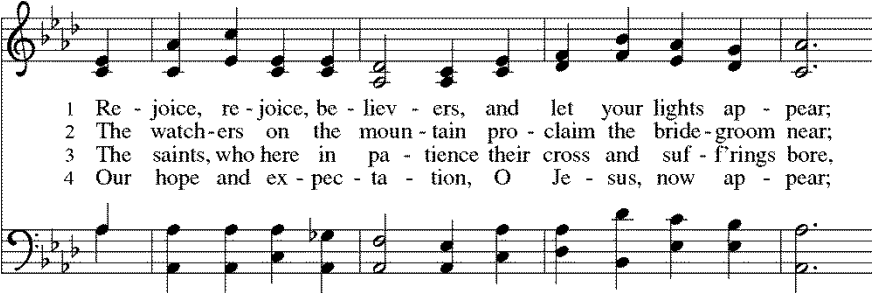
**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

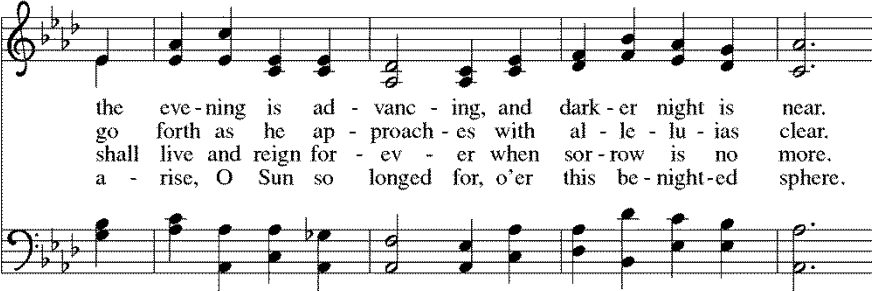
**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C Amen.**

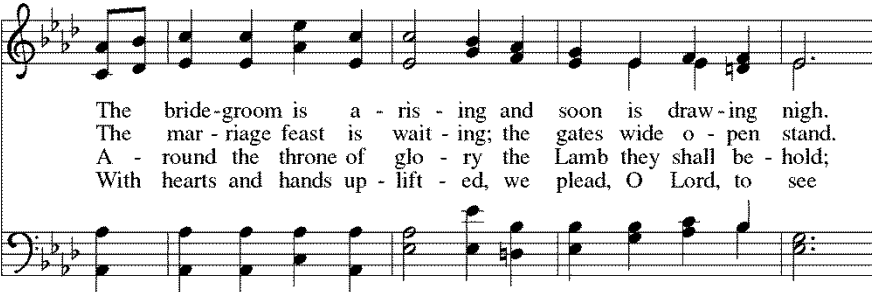
# SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



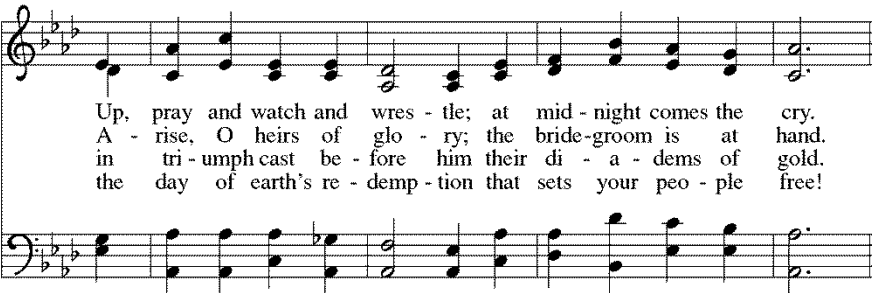
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Twenty-second 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Faye & Warren Heller in appreciation of the Causby family; and by Dianne Lail in honor of all our veterans and their sacrifices made for our country.

**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, November 2, 2014:**

Attendance: 152

## **Budget Report**

Current Offering Received 11/2/14  
Weekly Budgeted Expenses  
Offering, YTD  
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD  
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

**November 2, 2014**

\$ 7,205.50  
\$ 4,504.60  
\$181,756.92  
\$ 6.98  
(\$ 14,725.75)

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr., Elizabeth Bruchon

**ACOLYTES:** Garrett Carpenter  
Garrett Fox

**CRUCIFERS:** Cody Koehler  
Gage Gatlin

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)  
Fran Holland, Co-Captain  
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain  
Courtney Gatlin Tracey Nault  
Stephanie Hinson

**NURSERY:** (9:30 – 11:45 am)  
Brooke & Jessica Martin

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**  
Tom Bocchino + Helper

**GREETER:** Katie Kessen

**TELLERS:** Sherry Alexander &  
Tom Causby

**DOUBLE BASS:** Steve Bingham

**USHERS:** Need Volunteers

## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Today, Sunday, November 9**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Church Choir  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### **Tuesday, November 11, Veterans' Day**

12:00 Noon *Agape Lunch Bunch*  
Potluck lunch/Bible study  
7:00 pm Chamber Choir, Nar-Anon



### **Saturday, November 15**

8:30 am Confirmands carpool to  
Antioch Lutheran, Dallas  
9:00 am Church Choir meets at  
Queen of Apostles  
10:30 am **Kids' Club** meets at the  
home of Melissa & Tom  
Bocchino for crafts,  
activities & lunch



## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: November 9-15**

November 11 Ashley Ange  
Richard Holden



November 12 Greg Byrum  
Libby Joye

November 15 Laurel Mauney



**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 23.**  
Council nomination forms due November 9 are now available in the narthex or from an usher.  
NC Synod nominations forms (3 delegates needed) are also available & due at the same time.

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**Annual  
Congregational  
Luncheon**

Decorate for  
Advent/Christmas  
On Sunday,  
November 23

**Meat & drinks provided by the church.  
Please bring a side dish and/or  
dessert.**

**We will decorate the church  
following the luncheon.**

Please join us for a  
Drop-In Baby Shower  
Honoring Jennifer Kearney

Today, November 9  
2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Holy Comforter Fellowship Hall

Jennifer is registered at Target  
Contact Misty Koehler or Melissa Bocchino  
if you have questions.



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

Brian Achor & Family  
Louise Austin  
Daniel Dowd  
Cher Grant  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Kay Holden

Zac Hullander  
Bill & Pauline Joye  
Eva Kline  
Chase Lineberger  
Virginia Neagle  
Carol Posey

Mabel Ratchford  
George Roberson  
Mark Reese  
Marguerite Shive  
Jerri Wesson

### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Harriett Ange  
Paige Beaver  
Jenny Beer  
Father Frank Cancro  
Tina Capwell  
Poss Garrett  
Ronnie Garrison  
Brian Hedrick

Dennis Jordan  
Marshall Kinley  
Lance Kirkland  
Terry Mahaffey  
Mark Outlaw  
Taylor Propst & Family  
David Prouty  
Anna Rudder

Megan Sigler  
Jimmy Surratt  
E. Taylor & Family  
Gloria Ward  
Pastor Gary Weant  
Olivia Wilcox

### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

### **OUR MISSIONARIES**

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

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

Please consider nominating someone for Church Council AND delegates (need 3) for the NC Synod meeting to be held in May, 2015. Use the forms here or ask an usher for a form.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION – 2014**

The Nominating Committee will submit a list of candidates to the congregation at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 23rd for Church Council.

**Any active, confirmed member may nominate any qualified member to run for Church Council. In order to submit their name for nomination, you must fill out the form below and return it to the church office.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name) would like to nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Member Nominated**

to run for Church Council. I have already asked this person and **have their consent** to put their name in nomination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of person nominated*

**This form must be submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, November 9th so that their names may be placed on the ballot.**

### **SYNOD DELEGATE NOMINATION – 2015**

In order to accomplish the bishop's election, this year's NC Synod Assembly will be extended to three days – **Thursday, May 28 through Saturday, May 30, 2015.** To accommodate the anticipated numbers of attendees, the 2015 NC Synod Assembly will be held at the **Koury Convention Center/Sheraton in Greensboro.**

**We need 3 synod delegates** from our congregation to attend: **1 male, 1 female & 1 Youth.** The Nominating Committee will submit a list of candidates to the congregation at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 23rd for Synod Assembly.

**Any active, confirmed member may nominate any qualified member to run for Synod Delegate. In order to submit their name for nomination, you must fill out the form below and return it to the church office.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name) would like to nominate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Male Delegate Nominated*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Female Delegate Nominated*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Youth Delegate Nominated*

to run for Synod delegate. I have already asked these persons and **have their consent** to put their name in nomination.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*Signatures of persons nominated*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, November 16th so that their names may be placed on the ballot.**



*Prayers of Sympathy & Hope  
Are offered to Brian Anchor & Family  
On the death of his mother, Shirley Anchor*

*We just want to say thank you for all the cards and  
expressions of sympathy from the congregation during my  
mother's illness and death.*

*Thank you,  
Brian & Janet Anchor*

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

P.O. Box 666 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager