

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 1, 2019

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Stay With Us* Church Choir

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

C Amen.

P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our helper,

C we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P Put your trust in these promises:

God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *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 name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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GREETING

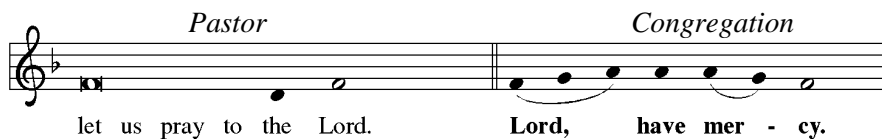
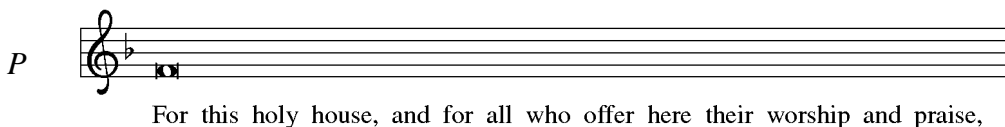
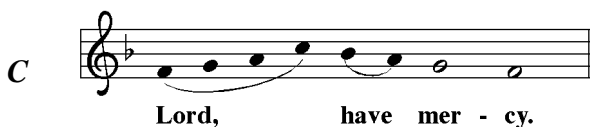
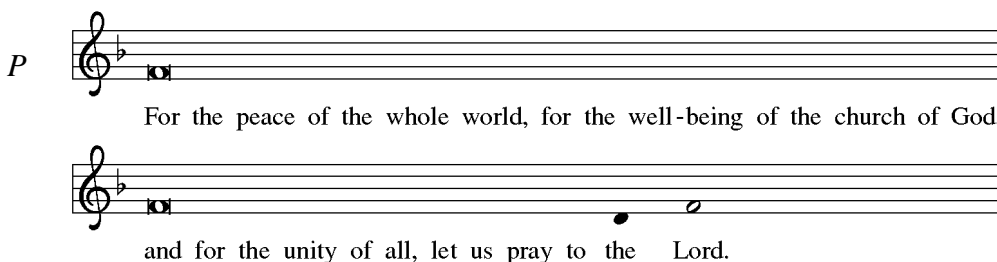
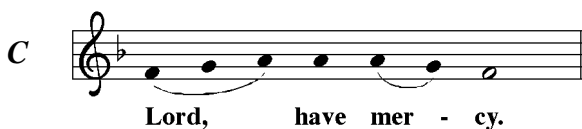
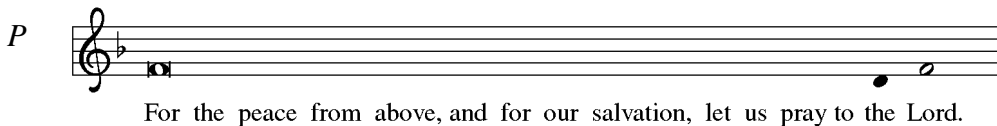
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Pastor

Congregation



<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.	

THIS IS THE FEAST All Sing
 Women sing Odd verses; Men sing Even verses

Refrain

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of 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

Proverbs 25:6-7

A reading from the twenty-fifth chapter of Proverbs.

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel’s leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today’s reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, “Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews.

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God’s love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for Reflection.

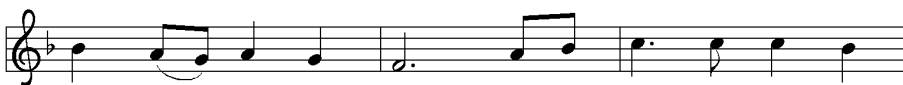
HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Are Welcome* All Stand & Sing



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of peace, we pray for the leaders, teachers, and preachers who fearlessly share your word and who reveal you through humble sacrifice. Uphold and sustain all who seek to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of generosity, we pray for crops growing ripe in the fields and fruit becoming ready to harvest. Grant safety to workers who will gather this bounty, and bless the yield to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of power, we pray for humility, kindness, and generosity to be instilled in the leaders of all nations. Inspire them to become models of servanthood, and to work for worldwide peace and prosperity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of love, we pray for all those who are forgotten or pushed aside; for those who are suffering from poverty, neglect, illness, physical or emotional trauma; and those who are homeless or are without a homeland (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of grace, we pray for students of all ages and disciplines, teachers and professors, teaching assistants and aids, substitute teachers, and administrators. Provide safety in travel and in the classroom, so that a spirit of learning is fostered for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy, we remember those you love who now rest from their labors. Grant all your beloved saints a place at your eternal banquet table. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *People Need the Lord* Solo

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *God, Whose Farm Is All Creation* All Stand & Sing
God, whose farm is all creation, take the gratitude we give;
Take the finest of our harvest, crops we grow that we may live.

Take our plowing, seeding, reaping, hopes and fears of sun and rain,
All our thinking, planning, waiting, ripened in this fruit and grain.

All our labor, all our watching, all our calendar of care
In these crops of your creation, take, O God: they are our prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

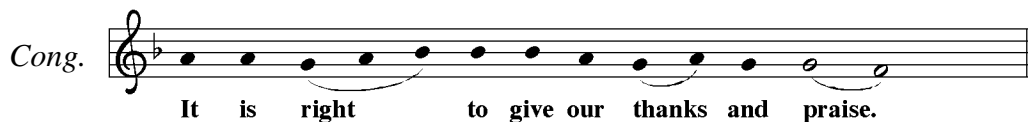
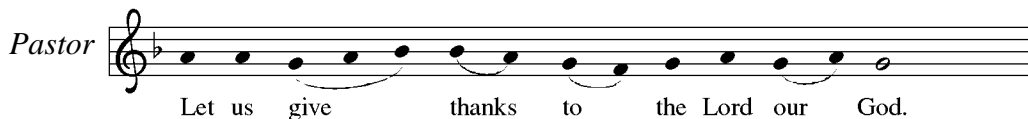
P Let us pray,

C God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor

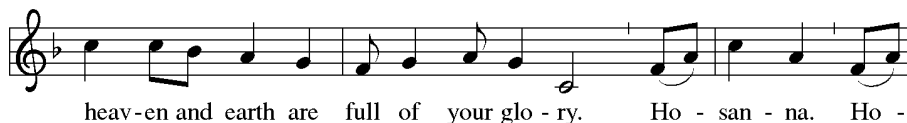
Congregation

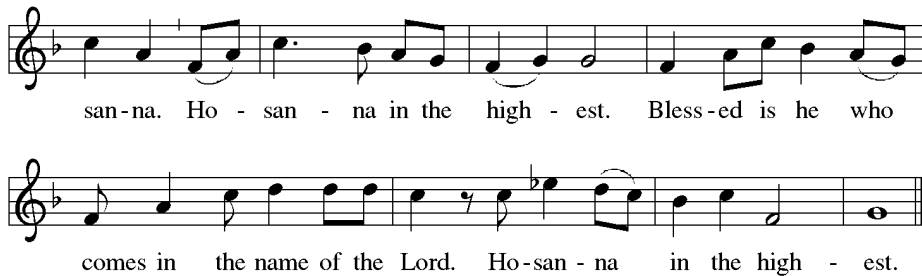


PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

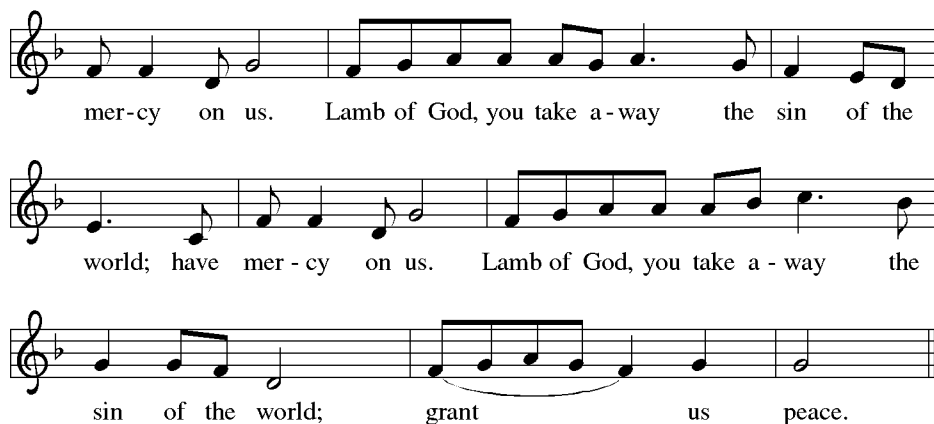


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



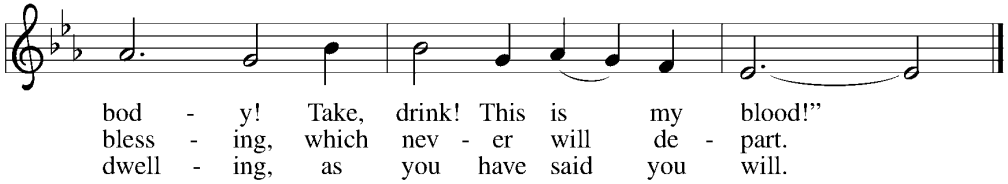


COMMUNION

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Around You, O Lord Jesus* All Sing





Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite
Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God ☩ bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *How Firm a Foundation* All Stand & Sing



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply;
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

SENDING

P Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all 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 in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

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

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 25, 2019:

Attendance: 111

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Offering	\$ 4,331.00	\$195,378.77	(399.06)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$195,889.35	(111.52)
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 1,443.35)	(\$ 510.58)	(510.58)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 8/25/19

Goal: \$225,000
Received to Date: 162,850
Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000
Remaining Needed: \$ 27,150

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Volunteer

GREETER: Nancy Powell

ACOLYTE: Eva Kline

TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

CRUCIFER: Arden De Nicholas

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Jenn Kearney

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains
Donna Bean
Beverly Robinson

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

SOLOIST: Greg Byrum

USHERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 1

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Tuesday, September 3

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Monday, September 2

Office closed

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 1-7

September 2 Preston Baker
September 6 Alex Buell





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

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

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

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Margaret Barbee
Mike Barbee
Sue Barbee
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain
Lyle McNamara
Pat Mullen

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

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

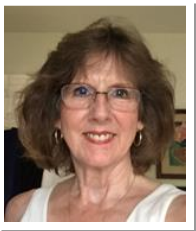
Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Make the Most of a Doctor Visit Because a doctor's time is valuable, patients often feel rushed or uneasy taking it up. When you're sick, there's a tendency to feel vulnerable and passive, but by heeding these suggestions, you can make the most of your doctor-patient communications:

- Be prepared with your list of questions written down
- Repeat back in your own words what the doctor has told you – for clarification
- Use simple phrases like “do I hear you say that...?” or “my understanding of the problem is...”
- Plan ahead of time what you want to say to your doctor and make sure you've written down the signs and symptoms you've been having and how long you've been experiencing them
- Take notes on what is wrong and what you need to do
- If the “medical-eze” confuses you, ask for simple definitions
- When a medicine is prescribed, be sure you know what it does for you, how to take it and what the possible side effects are
- Be frank with your doctor if any part of your visit is annoying
- Be sure to inform your doctor of any self-care practices you've used, such as using herbal drugs or alternative therapies like acupuncture or CBD
- Find out the best time for the doctor to receive your phone calls should any questions arise

Remember, **you are your own best advocate and it's your health so don't be afraid to assert yourself.** And, if you need or want help, your Parish Nurse is always happy to go along on your visit to help you advocate for yourself!

The WWG program is now over!! The participants walked coast to coast and back to North Carolina! SUPER JOB folks! Let's do it again next year.

NO BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING today...it's Labor Day weekend and the nurses have the time off. We will see you next month!

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays.**



Holy Doodles



BCO September Items Needed



**Instant Grits • Canned Fruit
Instant Mashed Potatoes
& Instant Oatmeal**

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

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse