

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 2, 2018

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *I'll Walk With God* 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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Let Justice Flow like Streams* All Stand & Sing

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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

P

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.

C

Lord, have mer - cy.

P

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C

Lord, have mer - cy.

A

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

Pastor *Congregation*

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

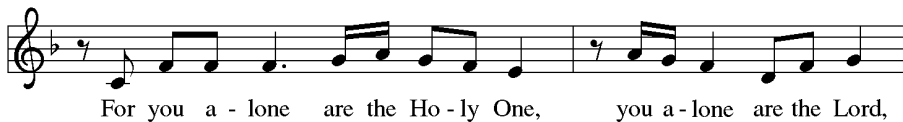
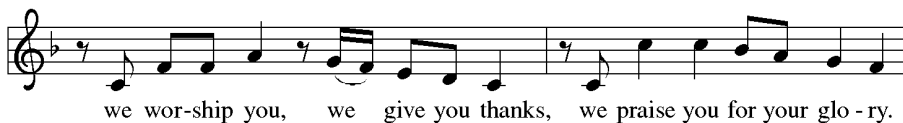
GLORY TO GOD All Sing

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from

within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Congregation is seated and 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

Deuteronomy 4:1–2,6-9

A reading from the fourth chapter of Deuteronomy.

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children’s children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 1:17–27

A reading from the first chapter of James.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

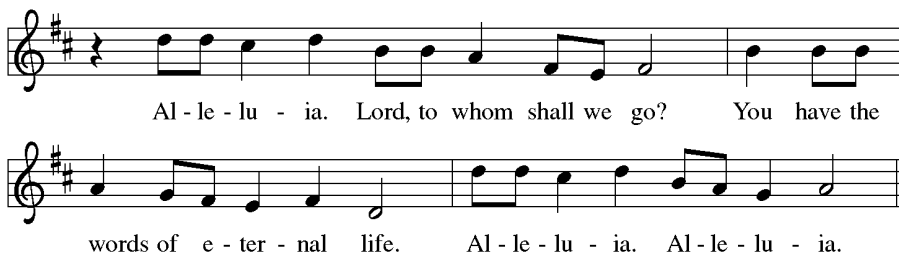
²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14–15, 21-23

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

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

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Be Thou My Vision* All Stand & Sing



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we pray for all those who labor to bear your word into the world by welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, and caring for the orphan. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creative God, we pray for the earth. Keep watch over those who rescue endangered species and repair scorched landscapes. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for the nations of the world, for governments, leaders, and citizens. Watch over refugees and immigrants. Inspire us to welcome them with glad hearts when they arrive on our shores and in our neighborhoods. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you call us to serve our neighbors. Bless our vocations as we fill the cups of the thirsty, the plates of the hungry, and the hearts of the lonely. Make our presence your presence for all who sorrow (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, at tables around the world, through story and meal, strangers become guests and guests become friends. Embolden this congregation to always extend the wide-armed welcome you extend to us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses whose lives inspire us to loving service. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen.

PEACE

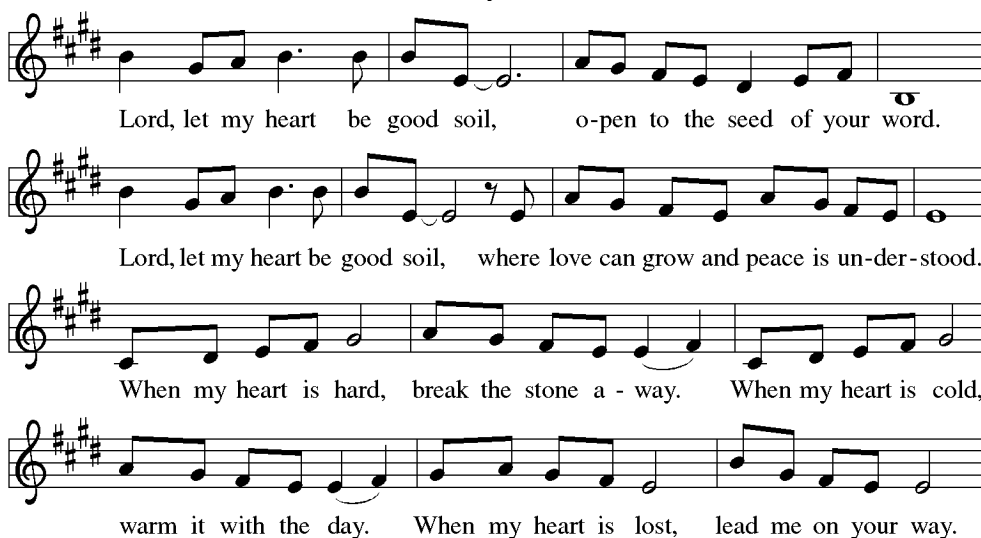
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *On Eagle's Wings* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* All Stand & Sing



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

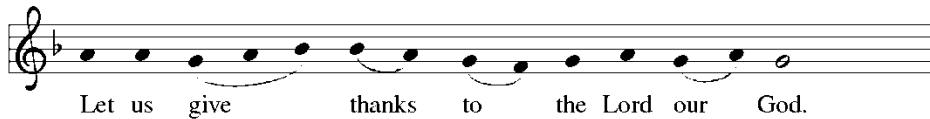
DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation



Pastor



Cong.



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

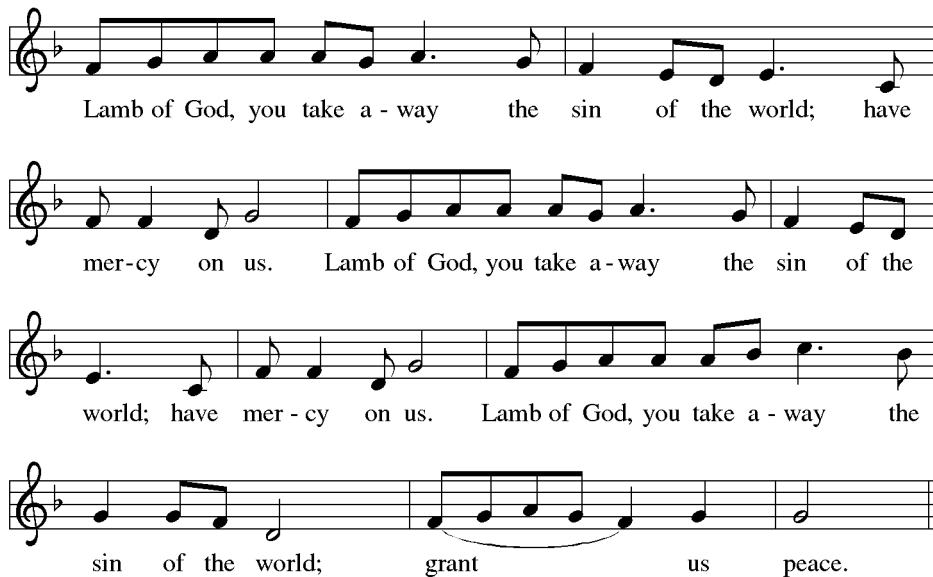
Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.



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: *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am All Sing*
Repeated by Congregation and Choir

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
 Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
 www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3338. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

I Come With Joy All Sing

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'I Come With Joy'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a single treble staff. The melody is written in the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system covers the first five lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next five lines. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

BLESSING

P God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *This Is My Father's World* All Stand & Sing



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

SENDING

P Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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



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

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

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Charles & Bev Mauney in memory of Heather, Ray & Betsy Mauney and Mary Jane McCoy.

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

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 26, 2018:

Attendance: 127

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>August 26, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 3,890.00	\$ 178,979.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$ 182,682.16
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,661.17)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,703.13)</u>
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses		<u>189,004.23</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 10,025.20)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Debbie Mendez

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Tim & Shelia Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland & Tracey Nault, Co-Captains

Dean & Diann Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jill Cassel

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

Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Barb Kasmer, Shelia Kelly, Tim Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

SOLOIST: Don Robinson

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 2-8

Today, September 2 Preston Baker

September 6 Alex Buell

September 7 Elizabeth Bruchon



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 2

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, September 6

7:00 pm **HolyC Men's Group**

Location TBA

Tuesday, September 4

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Saturday, September 8

7:00 pm **Staying Connected**

Meet at the church to
Prepare for **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Join us for

"God's work. Our hands."
day of service



**Sunday,
September 9**

RALLY DAY

9:00 am Breakfast

**10:00 am Abbreviated
Worship**

**10:30 am Depart for
Service
Projects**



**Children's Church &
Nursery Volunteers Needed!**

**Contact Beka at
rforst@holyc.org.**



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin

Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Pat Roberson
Krystyna Sarrazin &
Family

Kathie Schaumburg
Scott Schaumburg
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett

Brandi Hager
Ruth Lail
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy
George Rogers
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

Please remember these people in your prayers.
**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

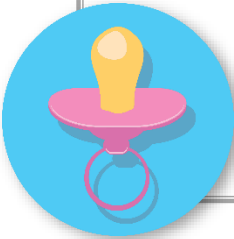
The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Holy Doodles

Welcome to
Grayson Timothy Kelly
Born to Amanda & Nathan Kelly on
August 18th.
Grayson weighed 9 lbs. and
was 21.5 inches long

Everyone is doing great!
(According to Grandma Shelia)



BCO September Items



Saltine
Crackers



Rice



Pasta
Sauce



Cookies

**ALL MUSIC ENSEMBLES
WILL RESUME NEXT
SUNDAY:**

8:45-9:00 am Children's Ensemble
Special Pre-Breakfast Mini Session (Upstairs)

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir





*Words of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to
Krystyna Sarrazin & Family
On the death of her Grandmother,
Staniswala Sikora*

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