

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 11, 2013

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst  
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* . . . . . Burkhardt

### 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, abounding in steadfast love toward us,  
healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Just and gracious God,

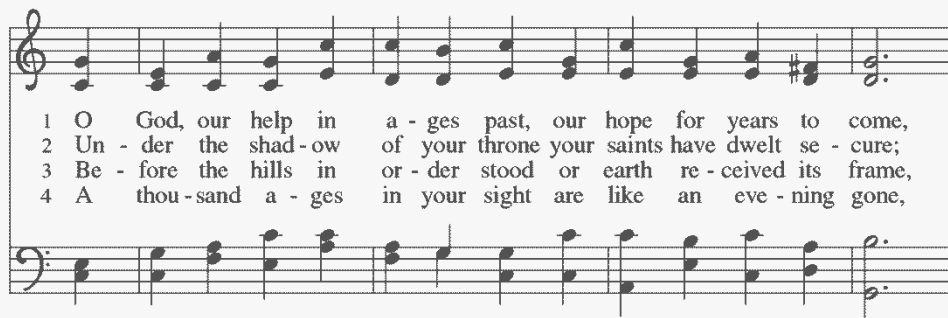
**C** we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we  
confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you.

**Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to  
love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

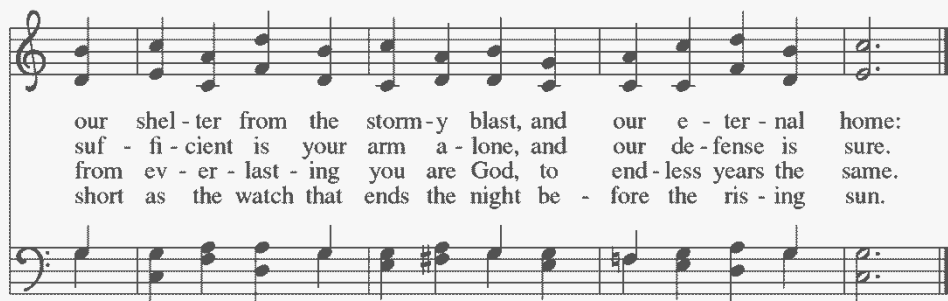
**P** The apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us  
alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to you, +  
"Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 we fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 still be our guard while troubles last  
 and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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

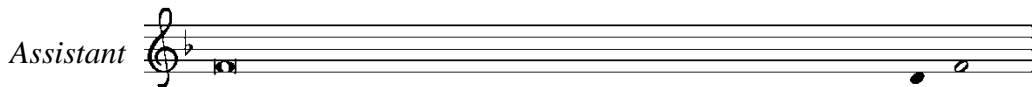
## KYRIE

*Assistant*

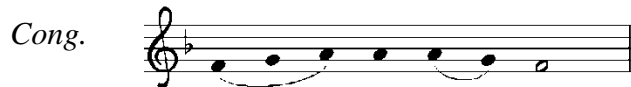
*Congregation*



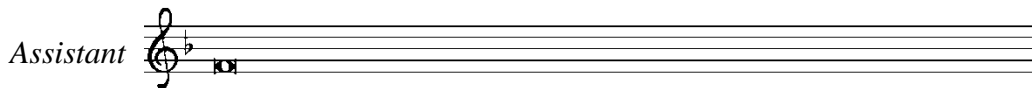
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



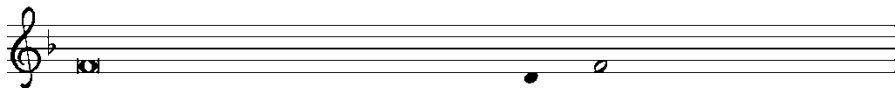
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



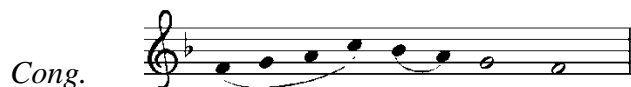
Lord, have mer - cy.



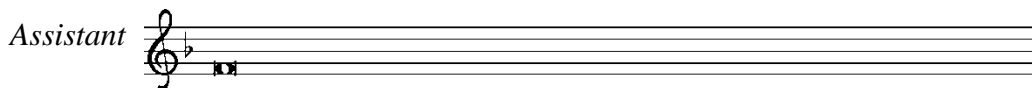
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

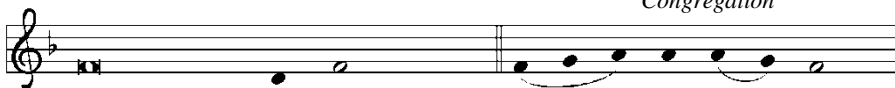


Lord, have mer - cy.



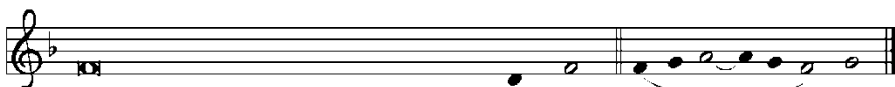
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

*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

*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,

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God,

you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the

riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C    Amen.**

*Congregation is Seated*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 15:1–6**

A reading from the fifteenth chapter of Genesis.

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**A    The word of the Lord.**

**C    Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 33:12–22.** . . . . . All Read Responsively

<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**<sup>17</sup>The horse gives vain hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it cannot save.**  
<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,  
**<sup>19</sup>to deliver their lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**  
<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,  
our helper and our shield.  
**<sup>21</sup>Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.**  
<sup>22</sup>Let your loving kindness, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we place our hope in you.

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16**

A reading from the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

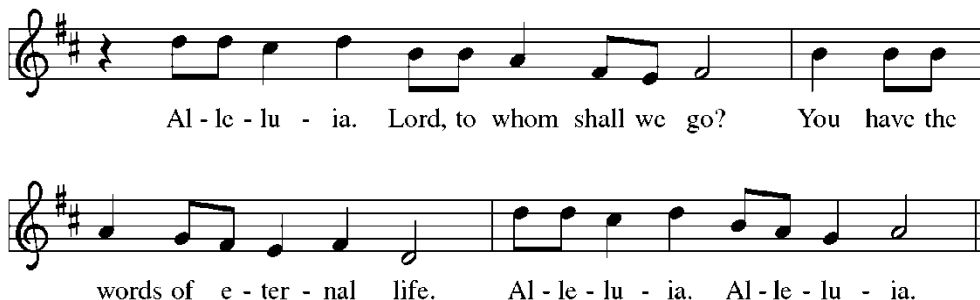
<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a

heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Luke 12:32–40**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

<sup>32</sup>Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P The gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON:** “God Has a Gift for You” (Sermon Notes pages 15-16) . . . . . Pastor John

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens . . All Stand & Sing*

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place;  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child - hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal - lenge us a - new:  
flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.  
we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise; each en - deav - or well be - gun;  
great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927  
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835  
Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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:** *Kyrie* ..... from *Land and Seasons*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** ..... All Stand and Sing

How can any praise we offer measure all the thanks we owe?  
Take our hearts and hands and voices — gifts of love we can bestow.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Invigorate the varied ministries in your church and encourage new avenues of praying and proclaiming, nurturing and teaching the good news to all in need of receiving it.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Nourish the vital web that connects all of creation, and open in us occasions for reflection and rejuvenation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Intercede where justice and peace are lacking, and raise up wise leaders who will regard the needs of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Assure the restless and those seeking answers; relieve the suffering of all who need healing or resolution. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Accompany all who travel and are far from home; help us to welcome the visitors among us and learn from what they have to offer. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Draw us to the heavenly city prepared for those who have trusted in your promises, and grant us the assurance of all that we hope for. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High! . . . . . All Stand & Sing*



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,  
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-  
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**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.

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**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.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:** A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book.

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**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Dianne Lail in honor of her mother Ruth Lail's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (on August 10<sup>th</sup>).

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 Committee***

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### **Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 4, 2013:**

Attendance: 105

#### **Budget Report**

#### **August 4, 2013**

Current Offering Received 8/4/13	\$ 5,812.08
Total Current Offering, Y-T-D (1/1/13-8/4/13)	\$142,363.82
Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$124,820.79

The Current Offering Received for the year through August 4, 2013 is \$ 17,543.03 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

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#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr. + Charles Mauney

**ACOLYTES:** Becca Gatlin  
Gage Gatlin

**CRUCIFERS:** Wil Carpenter  
Cody Koehler

**GREETERS:** Need Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)  
Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain  
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain  
Barbara Kasmer  
Gayla Foscue

**USHERS:** Courtney Gatlin  
Denise Wiegand

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**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, Sunday, August 11**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service  
6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Tuesday, August 13**

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 11-17**

Today, August 11 Cynthia Buchanan  
Ginger MacDonald

August 13 Ned Featherstone

August 15 Brenda Dabrowski

August 17 Wesley Ashe  
Mark Dabrowski  
Carol Posey



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The **Call Committee** is now in the process of receiving names for Pastoral Candidates. If anyone in the congregation has someone they would like to nominate for *consideration*, **the forms are available in the church office and should be returned to me.**

The Call Committee welcomes your suggestion of possible candidates. **Only a member of the clergy roster for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America may be nominated.** All ELCA pastors with the exception of our interim pastors, John Propst and Jack & Linda McHenry are eligible.

The Call Committee will take all nominations seriously and share appropriate names with the office of the Bishop. **If the nominee is from a synod other than NC, our bishop will obtain clearances from the nominee's synod.** It is *strongly suggested* that the first contact with the nominee be made by his or her bishop. Also, due to the call process and confidentiality, please know that there may be no direct response.

The Call Committee appreciates your input and if you have any questions, please let us know.

Faithfully yours, **John Crist, Call Committee Chair**

## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Wesley Ashe  
Louise Austin  
Virginia P. Crump  
Daniel Dowd

Gayla Foscue  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Richard Holden  
Zac Hullander

Lee Ireland  
Chase Lineberger  
Liz Propst

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Family of Beth Austin  
Family of John Bingham  
Dale Burris  
Ceci Colbert  
Joyce Davis  
Brian Hedrick  
Ms. Frankie Hedrick

Kathy Helton  
Betty Fox  
Betty Kannapel  
Paul Outlaw  
Jean Peters  
Taylor Propst & Family  
Ramona J. Sinclair

Rose Strait  
Buck Weatherford  
Junior Westmorland  
Beverly F. Wall



## OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll (Honduras)

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

Jeremy Shaver

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 sheets are located in the narthex.



*Prayers of Sympathy & Hope  
Are extended to  
The Family & Friends of  
Mrs. Gisela Stone*

## SERMON NOTES: “God Has a Gift for You” Luke 12:32

*“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32 from NRSV) or “Don’t be afraid of missing out. You’re My dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.” (The Message)*

### God has a gift for you – the gift of the kingdom

The kingdom: “For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17 from NRSV)

Jesus: “The time has come; the kingdom of God has come near.”  
(Mark 1:15 from Today’s NIV)

Jesus: “I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**.” (John 10:10b from NRSV) **and** “I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your **joy** may be **complete**.”  
(John 15:11 from Today’s NIV)

Might Jesus be describing “kingdom living” in the **now**!? ummm...abundant life and complete joy!

### Kingdom could be related to *fulfillment*, and to be fulfilled ...

#### 1) Find Joy in the ordinary

An eternal instant ... a moment that reminds you of the treasures surrounding you: your home, your peace of mind, your health, your \_\_\_\_\_

Describe an “eternal instant” that you have experienced. Go home this afternoon and meditate on a few passages: Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15-16 (Jesus knew how to experience an “eternal instant!”)

*Eternal instants remind us that love is still the greatest possession and the future is nothing to fear.*

What makes the future seem fearful? Check out Hebrews 10:19-25; Jeremiah 29:11-13

#### 2) Count Your Blessings

An hour of contentment ... an hour when deadlines are forgotten and strivings have ceased; an hour when what we have overshadows what we want.

Describe what it means to be content.

Meditate on these wonderful words: *Philippians 4:11-13*. OK, now go home and meditate on today's "key verse" **BUT** add a few more verses to it ... Luke 12:22-34

+ + + + + + +

*"Fulfilled. What a word. Two simple syllables and yet so elusive for our frazzled and restless hearts."* ~Max Lucado

*"We need much less than we think we need."* ~Maya Angelou

*"granpops, isn't there a difference between what somebody **wants** and what somebody **needs**?"* ~Nola Propst, my 7 year old grand-daughter

*"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought."*

(Jesus from The Beatitudes, Matthew 5 – from The Message)

*"there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment;"*

(1 Timothy 6:6 from NRSV)

*"So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you"*  
(1 Peter 5:6-7 from The Message)

*"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."* ~Willie Nelson

*"When we lose one blessing, another is often most unexpectedly given in its place."*  
~C.S. Lewis

*"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."*  
~Neil A. Maxwell

*"How many times do we miss blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?"*

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)