

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 11, 2016

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of overflowing grace,

**C we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.
Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on
fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from
the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God
in ☩ Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are
made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another!
We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* All Stand & Sing

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

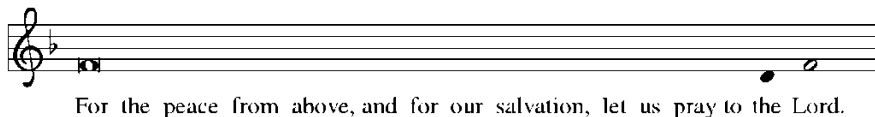
Assistant

Congregation



Lord, have mer - cy.

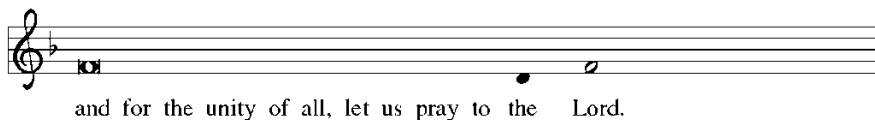
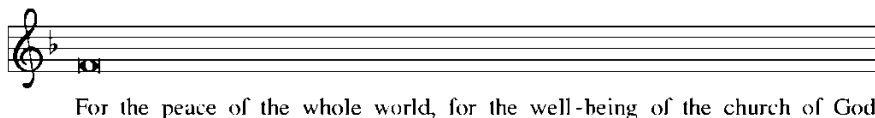
Assistant



Cong.



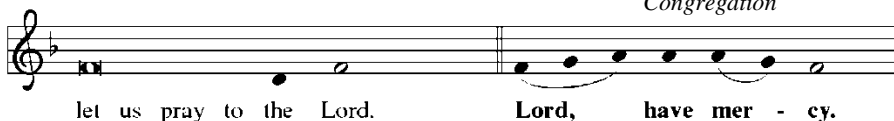
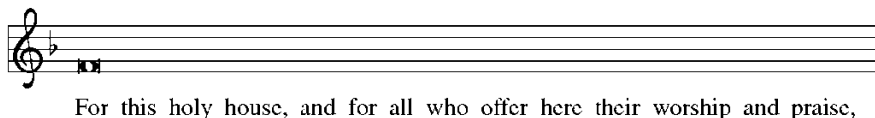
Assistant



Cong.

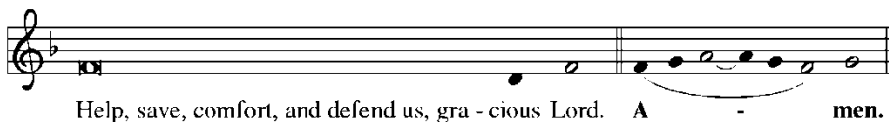


Assistant



Congregation

Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in 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

Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from the thirty-second chapter of Exodus.

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today’s reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God’s own people and boldly asks mercy for them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like

the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-10 Men Read Odd verses,
Women Read Even

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Timothy.

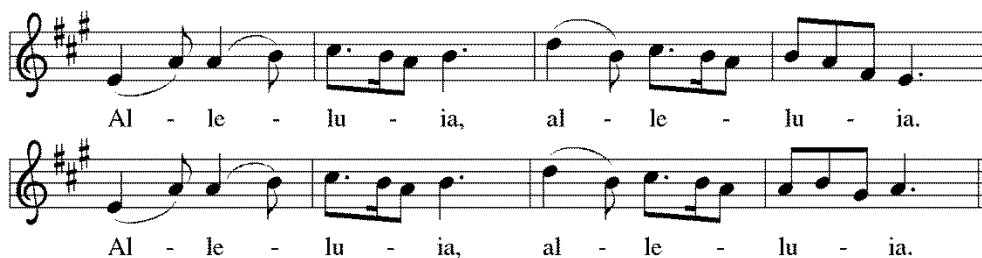
The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

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

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

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them,

‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.



⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON..... Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak* All Stand & Sing

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

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.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Lord, You Have Searched Me and Known Me*
 Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* 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 pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

C God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we thank you for your word that strengthens the weak and the faint in heart. We thank you for your word that encourages the believer and saves sinners. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those places in our world ravaged by fires or floods. Restore the land, and bless the efforts of those who work to save and protect it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the leaders of nations and all those in positions of authority. Guide them as they make decisions for the good of all. Lead them in the ways that make for peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who suffer as the result of war, violence, terrorism, or natural disaster. And we pray for those who willingly serve others in dangerous situations: first responders, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, members of the military, law enforcement. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our congregation. Prepare us to welcome newcomers. Make this a place of hope for the least of these in our community. Be with those who are sick, injured, or in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed dead who rest from their labors. Gladden us by their lives of faith, and at the last day unite us in the joy of heaven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, 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 God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life.
The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of
almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.
C Amen.



SENDING SONG: O Zion, Haste All Stand & Sing

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

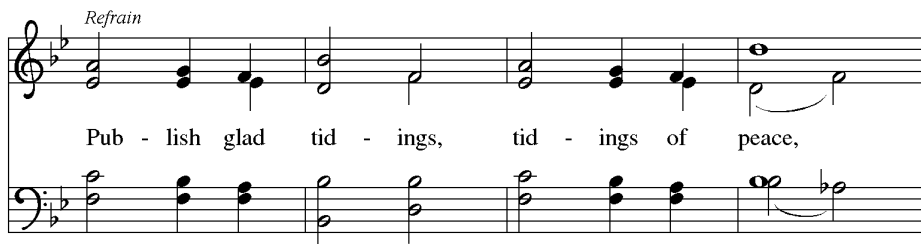
to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

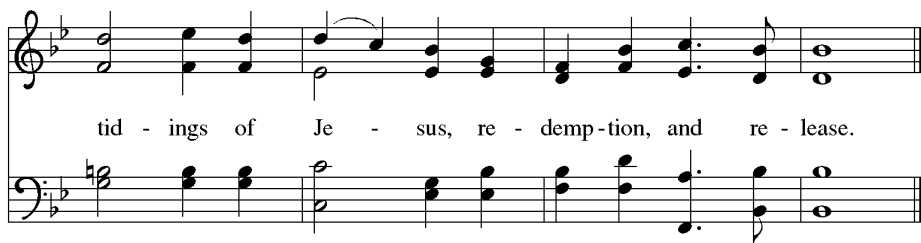


one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923
Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Welch, 1837–1901

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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COMMUNION is available after the service for those who wish to receive it.

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Seventeenth 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 located 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online 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 McCoy and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

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

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Offering and Attendance Report for September 4, 2016:

Attendance: 99

Budget Report

Current Offering Received
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD
Offering less Expenses Year-To-Date

September 4, 2016

\$ 4,266.00
\$ 5,019.46
\$ 180,243.39
\$ 12,938.05
\$ 3,374.98

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Judy Caldwell**GREETER:** Tracey Nault**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

TELLERS: Raini Kimball,
Dennis Tucker**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains
Carmen Buell
Barbara Kasmer**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Shelia Kelly, Amanda Kelly

USHERS: Need Volunteers**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)*Infants:* Staff*Toddlers:* Volunteers**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 11-17**Today, Hannah Carnes
Maria Carr
Madison CarrSeptember 14 Emily Koehler
September 16 Leslie Payne
September 17 Bill Hollar**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, September 11**9:30 am ***RALLY DAY!*** Breakfast and meet the teachers
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
HCY
6:00 pm Church Choir**Thursday, September 15**

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee

Friday, September 166:00 pm ***Kids' Club Lock-In***
Bring sleeping bag and pillow.**Tuesday, September 13**12:00 Noon *Agape Lunch Bunch*/Bible Study
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee meets
7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon**Saturday, September 17**7:00 am Pickup kids from *Lock-In***Wednesday, September 14**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Shirley Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Barbara Bingham
Emma Davis Bremer
Graham Brezler
Libby Byrum
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Zachary Evans
Carol Baker Fox
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Tammy Gordon

Brian Hedrick
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Laura Lanuto
Jennifer Lineberger
Terry Mahaffey
Amy McGinnis
Gene McRorie
Don Moore
Jean Peters
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst &
Family
David Prouty

Julio Quiros
Tim Reid
Dan Robinson &
Daughters Breanna & Mikayla
Anna Rudder
Tangie Shingler
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Sally Vanhoy
Gloria Ward
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Bruce Zander

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner
Tom Kasmer

Dillon Kasmer
Mike Kelso



OUR MISSIONARY

Alyssa Buchanan in Manzini, Swaziland Africa

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

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



Rally Day 2016! Hear about the classes we will offer this year, meet your teachers, and enjoy some delicious breakfast and fellowship.

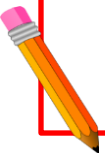
Sunday School for ages 3 and up begins September 18th. If you are unsure which class to attend, come explore our offerings this morning or ask Pastor Micah or a Christian Education team member for assistance.

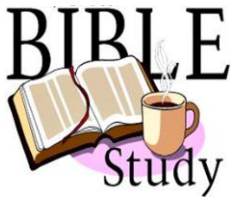
BCO September Items of the Month:



Peanut Butter & Jelly

Holy Doodles





For any women interested in Bible Study, we will have our first gathering September 14. Last year's studies were such a good time of fellowship and studying God's Word. We will begin this year studying the book of Romans.

If you are interested in joining for some or all, we will meet **Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00.** This is an intergenerational gathering, so please join us.

Please email Jenn Kearney if you are interested, jenniferhasskearney@gmail.com.



*Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to
Shelia Kelly and Family
On the death of her uncle
James Potts*

Kids' Club will have its annual *lock-in* on September 16. Please drop off your child/children at **6:00 pm** at the church. The children will play games, have devotion, watch a movie and maybe even sleep! **Each child needs to bring a sleeping bag and pillow.** Dinner on Friday and breakfast Saturday morning will be provided. Pick up time on Saturday morning is **7:00 am**. Please be prompt.

If your child is interested in attending the *lock-in*, please email Misty at mistykoehler@gmail.com. A count of expected children is needed so the correct amount of food can be purchased.

**Misty Koehler,
Kids' Club Coordinator**



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: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager