

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 13, 2014

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *All Hail the Power* Hughes

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our strength,

C we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

P Sisters and brothers,

all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *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-phiant 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

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

C And also with you.

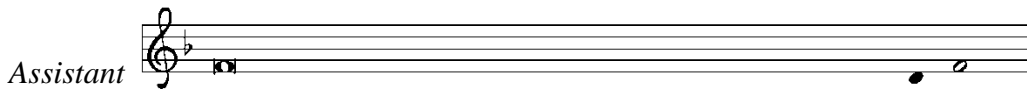
KYRIE

Assistant

Congregation



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



Assistant

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

Cong.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

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.

Cong.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated

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

Isaiah 55:10–13

A reading from the fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65:9–13 All Read Responsively

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

**¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1–11

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure

of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON: "...*And the Seed Will Grow*" (Notes page 17) Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* All Stand & Sing

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm 1866–1960
 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957
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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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PEACE

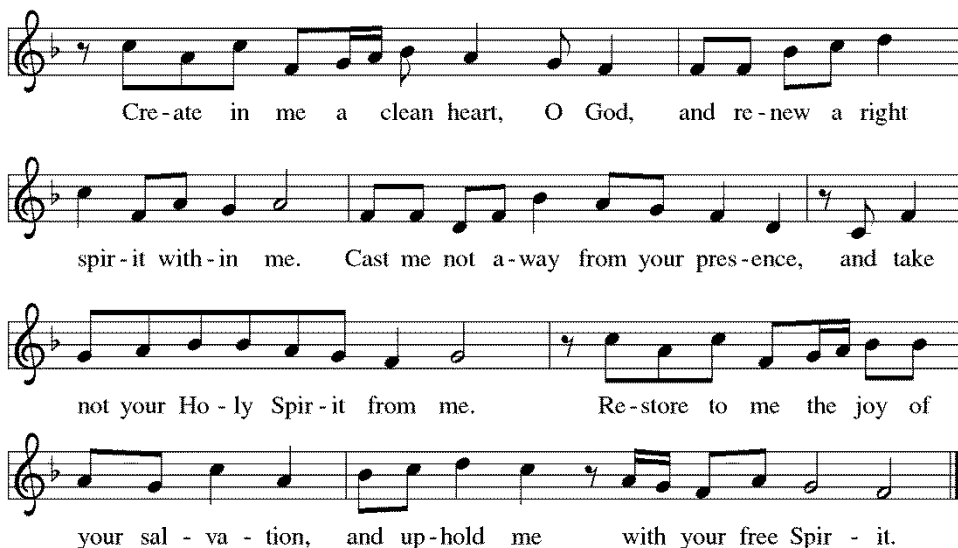
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY: *The Lord Into His Garden Comes* Price

OFFERTORY RESPONSE All Stand and 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, you give your word to guide, correct, teach, and inspire. Draw us into your story, and give us wisdom, understanding, and obedient hearts as we follow your Son Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The amazing cycle of birth, growth, and death sustains your creation. Bring forth an abundant harvest, keep farmers safe, and teach us to cherish life in all its forms and stages. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In places of war, bring peace, and in places of hatred, sow love. Help world leaders set aside their prejudices, put down their weapons, and work together for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We live in a land of plenty, and still there are those without enough to eat. Give us generous hearts to those who are hungry. Bless the hands of those who work so that others might eat. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise up leaders for your church who will tend to your harvest. We lift up seminaries and church colleges, bishops and synod staffs, Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, as they live out their callings to serve. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless the memory of those who now worship at your eternal throne (*especially*) and bless those who worship in hopeful expectation of your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, God of mercy, confident that all things are in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray.
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 May God the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

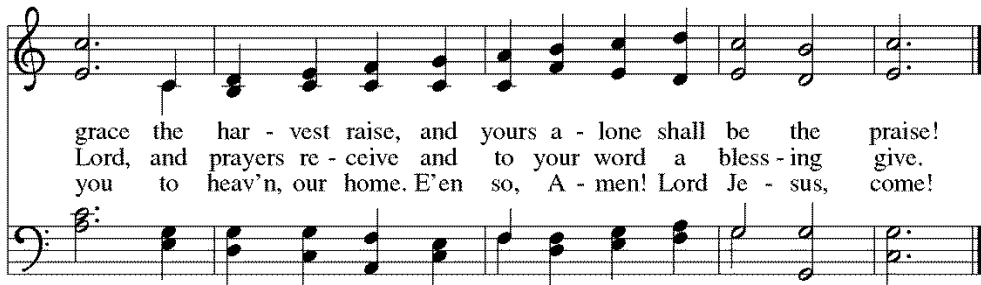
C Amen.



SENDING SONG: *On What Has Now Been Sown* All Stand & Sing

1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Prelude in C Minor* Bach

COMMUNION OFFERED immediately after the service at the altar.

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

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

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

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

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Jean Ferguson in honor of Pastor John and Dianne Lail.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, July 6, 2014:

Attendance: 130

Budget Report

July 6, 2014

Current Offering Received 7/6/14	\$ 5,574.00
Weekly Budget Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$111,756.23
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 6,473.95
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 9,213.77)

VISION FUND CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY January 1 - June 29, 2014

Vision Fund Contribution for the Period (April 1-June 29 - 2 nd Quarter)	\$ 3,215.00
Vision Fund Contribution YTD	\$ 7,124.00

Jack Tench, Financial Secretary

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Beth Brittain

GREETERS: Lyn Miller,
Becky Richards

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin, Matthew Carr

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)
Sherry Alexander & Courtney Gatlin

CRUCIFERS: Cody Koehler, Gage Gatlin

TELLERS: Jerri & Mike Wesson

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain	Donna Bean	Nancy Powell
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain	Becky Richards	

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER:

Shelia Kelly + Helper

USHERS: Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: July 13-19

Today, July 13 Don Robinson

July 14 Beverley Mauney

July 15 Makayla Feliz Brooks

Russell Fleming

July 16 Sierra Hullander

July 18 Nicholas Ashe

Steve Bingham

Holly Peche

July 19 Lynne Sudarich



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, July 13

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Church Council meets after

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Monday, July 14-18

9 am – 3 pm ***Agape Day Camp***

Tuesday, July 15

7:00 pm Nar-Anon



Camp Agape July 14-18

Rising 1st Graders — Rising 8th Graders!

All spaces are filled for the camp this year!

We are looking forward to another wonderful week.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator

HCY and Kids' Club will meet at 3:45 pm on **Sunday, July 20th** to go to a ***Knights Game*** for *Faith & Family Fun Night!* (They should return by 8:30 pm)



Tickets are \$14.00 and include a \$2.00 coupon towards food and drink.

Parents and friends are invited.

Please email Kristen at keclanton@gmail.com to reserve your ticket!



Grizzlies Baseball Game for Zac's Fund

July 31, 2013

Gastonia, NC

Sign-up sheet for tickets @ **\$6.00** each

See **Tom Bocchino** to sign up.





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Virginia Crump
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Cher Grant

Ferrie Hedrick
Richard Holden
Zac Hullander
Betty King Family
John Kreitzer
Chase Lineberger

Roger Norris Family
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese
Bob Williams

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Donald Freeman
Ronnie Hersey
Dennis Jordan
Wesley Jordan & Family
Betty Kannapel

Marshall Kinley
Becky Knick
Alice Langley
Laura Lanuto & Family
Pierce Lee
Peggy McKenney & Family
Carolyn Moss
Grady Nichols
Sandra Nix
Jean Peters
Leland "Lee" Peterson
Scott Phillips
Steve Pletsas

Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Mara Rappleyea
Earl Riedley
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
Buck Weatherford
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward
Bryan Wayburn

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

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

“...And the Seed Will Grow” Sermon notes

What Growing Plants Can Teach Us (about our faith!)

- **The Seed on the Road** (path) – the hardened hearer
- **The Seed on the Rocky Ground** – the superficial hearer
- **The Seed in the Thorns** – the distracted hearer
- **The Seed on the Good Soil** – the responsive hearer

We like quick results, but “only time will tell”

God: *“So the words that come out of My mouth will not come back empty-handed. They’ll do the work I sent them to do; they’ll complete the assignment I gave them.”*
(Isaiah 55:11 from *The Message*)

From the Lutheran Handbook –

a “Lutheran approach” to witnessing your faith in Jesus!

- ✓ **Be Authentic** – Relax and be honest. Share what God has done in your life – not made you perfect -- just loves you for who you are!
- ✓ **Be a Listener** – It’s a conversation, not a sermon. Listen carefully to where another is on their Spiritual journey.
- ✓ **Leave the Results to the Holy Spirit** – you plant the seed; the Spirit does the cultivating.
- ✓ **Expect God to Use You** – Pray for the Spirit’s direction and watch what God does. Always speak to God about another person before you speak to another person about God.

“Once the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives within you He will, by that same Spirit, bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.”
(Romans 8:11 from *J.B. Phillips Translation*)

+ + + + +

Be a “Johnny Appleseed” in your faith walk with Jesus!

Please welcome quest organist Vonne Hall to the console today.



THE CONGREGATION OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER
IS CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF
DOUGLAS MICAH KEARNEY
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014
4 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

BISHOP BOLICK OF THE ELCA NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD
WILL PRESIDE

Heather Mauney Yount Memorial Playground Project



The playground, built on our church grounds, will be a commercial structure designed for 2-12 year-olds.

The location for the build is the empty lot beside of the storage building. Other children outside the congregation will be allowed the use of the equipment, but will be a *play-at-your-own-risk* situation.

Half of the \$36,000 cost has already been raised by the generous contributions from family, congregation members at the time of Heather's passing and anonymous donors.

We need your help to raise the \$18,000 in order to complete this project.

Please join us in making the playground a reality by indication on your check memo line or offering envelope: *Playground Project*.

Blast Off VBS Take TWO!

Here is the revised VBS Plan: We will have **VBS** on two Sunday afternoons in August...**August 10 and August 17**. We will meet from 2:30-4:30ish each of these afternoons. **Rally Day** for the new Sunday School year will be on **Sunday, August 24** and we will use some of the closing activities from VBS to begin the Rally Day activities.

I need teacher and helpers for each afternoon of VBS...I need story tellers, craft leaders, game players and small group helpers. In addition, I need help with the opening and closing for each Sunday.

Please contact me ASAP if you are willing to help. So far, Sherry Alexander has volunteered to work with the preschool group and Molly Caldwell has agreed to be a helper. Contact me via email at revbethbreittain@gmail.com or by phone 704-956-1203.

The leaders' meeting on Sunday, August 3 during the Sunday School hour in the parlor. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this part of Children's ministry.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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

John Propst, Interim Pastor; email: JohnCPropst@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager