

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 16, 2017

## The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Jo Irwin  
Accompanist

### WELCOME/GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C Amen.**

P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P Eternal God our creator,

**C in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

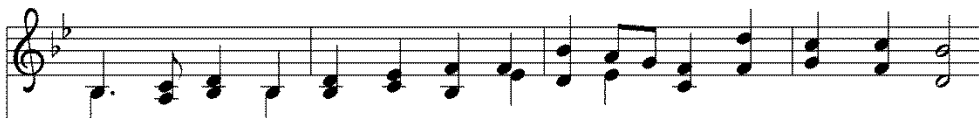
P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

**C Amen.**

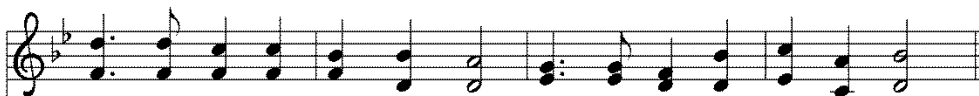
# GATHERING SONG: *Open Now The Gates of Beauty . . . . . All Stand and Sing*



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

## 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.

*C*

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

*P*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*C*

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

*P*

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

*C*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*

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

*Pastor*

let us pray to the Lord.

*Congregation*

Lord, have mer - cy.

*Pastor* *Congregation*

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

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glor-y 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,



## 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 and are invited to **sing “Jesus Loves Me”**  
as the children come forward.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

**Children ages 4 to 8 years-old** are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon.** *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* **Children birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nurseries.**

## 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.*

<sup>10</sup>For 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,  
<sup>11</sup>so 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.

<sup>12</sup>For 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.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead 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**

<sup>9</sup>You 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.

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

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

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

<sup>13</sup>May 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.*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For 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, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the

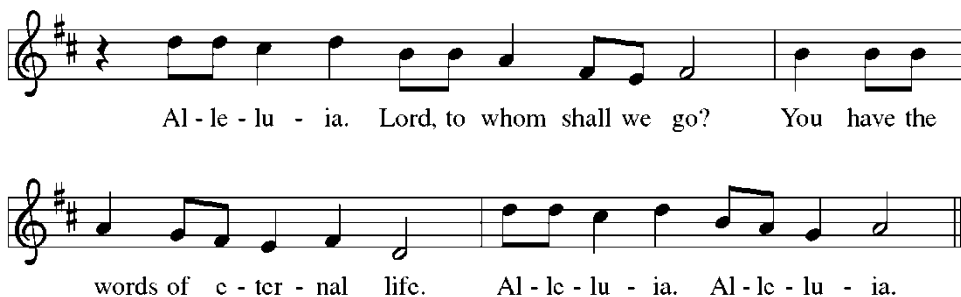
flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For 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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If 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**

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

C **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.*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them

up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"



<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When 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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet 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. <sup>22</sup>As 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. <sup>23</sup>But 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.

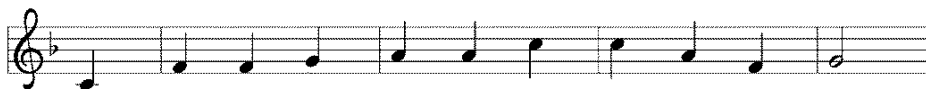
*The assembly is seated*

SERMON ..... Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As Rain From the Clouds* ..... All Stand and Sing

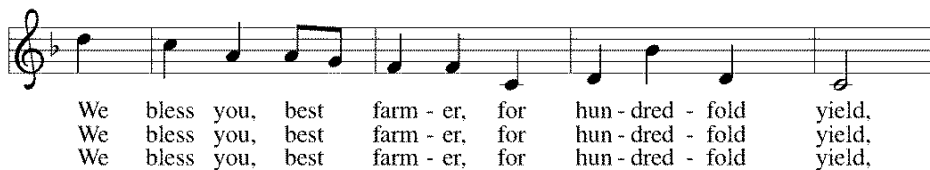
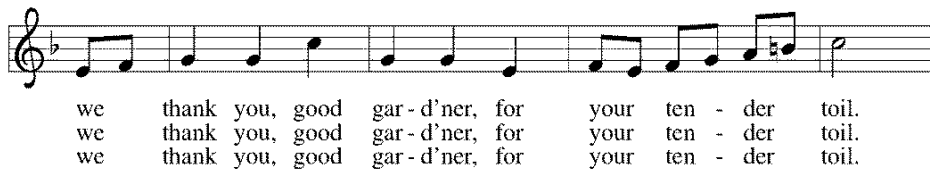
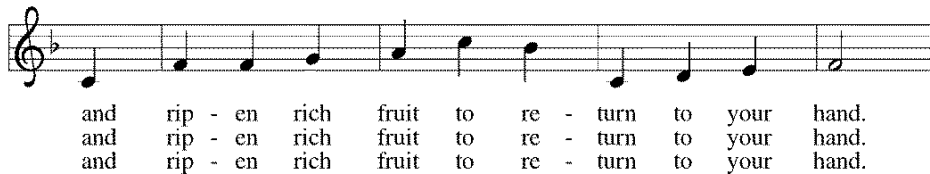
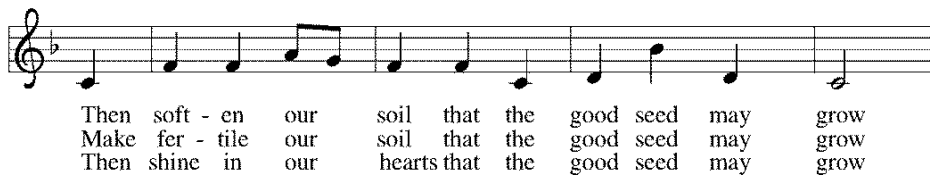


1	As	rain	from	the	clouds	will	your	word	come	to	earth,
2	As	grain	that	is	scat -	tered	your	word	has	been	sown
3	As	rays	of	the	sun	shall	your	word	light	the	world,



as	snow	from	the	heav -	ens	re -	fresh -	ing	the	land.
on	rocks	and	on	road -	ways,	in	good	earth	and	sand.
a -	wak -	ing	and	warm -	ing	and	heal -	ing	our	land.





Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896

Text © 1983, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)  
 800.442.3358 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.

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY:** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* . . . . . All Sing



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.

## 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 Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and

**what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we give thanks for your living word that goes out and does not return empty. Make your church a partner in accomplishing what you desire. Unite us in faith, witness, and mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For land, creatures, and people suffering from drought, that gentle rain bring life and hope. For mountains, hills, and the trees of the field, that all creation clap for joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For nations suffering the violence and hunger of war. For exiles and refugees. Lead them home in peace and bless them with your fullness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For victims and perpetrators of hate crime. For all who suffer sorrow, illness, or injury (*especially*). Bring them justice, healing, and new life by the power of your Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For this congregation and its leaders; through our shared work, let your word prosper among us and bring life to the community beyond our doors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In thanksgiving for all who have died recently, for strangers and dear ones who have blessed our lives and sparked our hope. Give comfort and confidence to all who mourn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

**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**

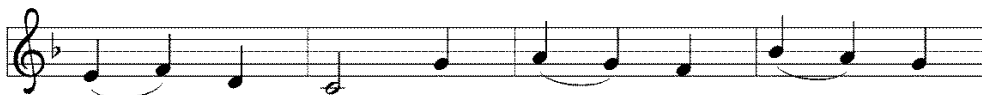
**P** May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

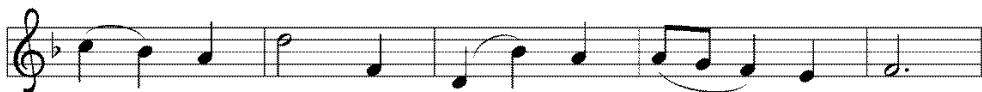
## SENDING SONG: *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve . . . . . All Stand and Sing*



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**C** Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Sixth 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 board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the online form at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Marsh & Jill Cassel in honor of Tyler Cassel’s 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**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 Committee***

**Offering and Attendance Report for July 9, 2017:**

Attendance: 132

**Budget Report**

	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 6,473.30	\$ 142,162.55
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 150,860.74
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 816.88</u>	<u>(\$ 8,698.19)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 154,335.12</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 12,172.57)</u>

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: July 16-22**

Today, July 16 Sierra Hullander  
July 18 Steve Bingham  
July 19 Lynne Sudarich

July 20 Tyler Cassel  
Garrett Fox  
Brian Mitchell



**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Jim Buell

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am)

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

**GREETER:** Lyn Miller

**TELLERS:** Fran Holland

Trudy Whitener

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Veronica Bryant

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

**Today, Sunday, July 16**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

**Monday, July 17**

9:00 am Beginning of  
***Agape Day Camp***

3:00 pm End of 1<sup>st</sup> day of camp

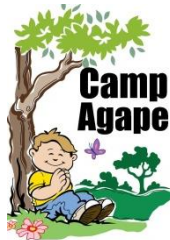
**Tuesday, July 18**

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets

Nar-Anon

**Friday, July 21**

Last day of *Agape Day Camp*



Peanut butter



Saltines



Tuna

**NOTE: The HCY group will go tubing Sunday, July 23.**

Meet at the church at 2:00 pm to carpool to the Clarks' home.

Dinner will be provided.







## **PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER**

Cathleen Allen  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone  
Kay Holden

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Family & Friends of  
Pauline Joye  
Family & Friends of  
Stan Lahr  
Chase Lineberger

Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry  
Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Marsha Barr  
Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Midge Cunningham  
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox  
Scott Frisk  
Bill Hinkle  
Glenda Hinkle  
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy  
Karen Wayt  
Donnie Yavelak



## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Dillon Kasmer

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

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 located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).



# Holy Doodles





Words of Sympathy & Hope  
Are offered to  
The Family & Friends of  
Sarah Pauline Joye



Words of Sympathy & Hope  
Are offered to  
The Family & Friends of  
Stan Lahr

**Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager