

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 23, 2016

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



Brandon Heavner
Guest Seminararian

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Autumn* Vivaldi

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: *How Small Our Span of Life* All Stand & Sing



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death;
 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
 3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
 4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,
 our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
 to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
 il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
 While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
 You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
 for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
 while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
 and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans-cend.
 for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional

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GREETING

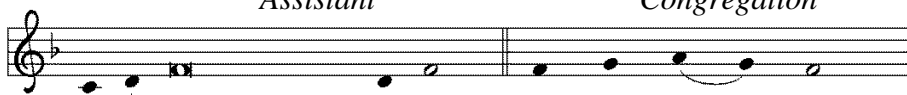
P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Assistant

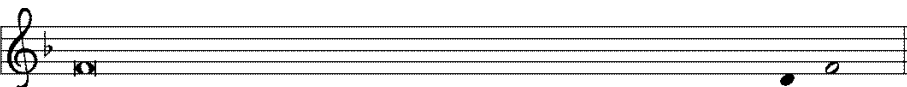
Congregation



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

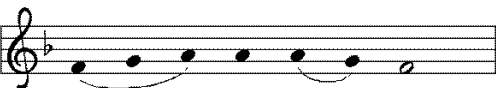
Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant



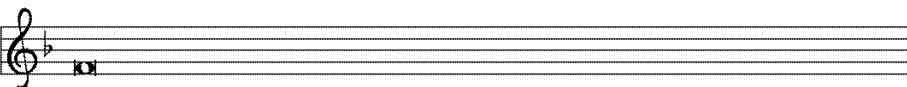
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Cong.

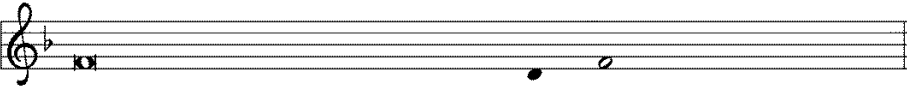


Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



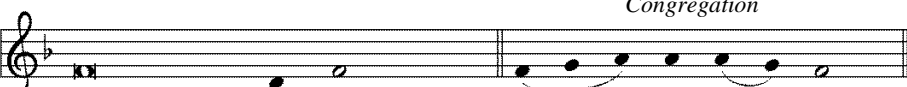
Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may

find their glory in you, through 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

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

A reading from the fourteenth chapter of Jeremiah.

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God’s power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name’s sake;
our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.
⁸O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?
⁹Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!
¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
 Does your heart loathe Zion?
 Why have you struck us down
 so that there is no healing for us?
 We look for peace, but find no good;
 for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.
²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
 the iniquity of our ancestors,
 for we have sinned against you.
²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
 do not dishonor your glorious throne;
 remember and do not break your covenant with us.
²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
 Or can the heavens give showers?
 Is it not you, O LORD our God?
 We set our hope on you,
 for it is you who do all this.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84:1-7 Men Read Odd verses,
 Women Read Even

¹How dear to me is your dwelling,
 O LORD of hosts!
²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**
³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her
 young,
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.
⁴**Happy are they who dwell in your house!
 They will always be praising you.**
⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
⁶**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**
⁷They will climb from height to height,
 and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the fourth chapter of 2 Timothy.

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who is now facing death. Though others have let him down, Paul is sure of his faith in the Lord, who has stood by him and lent him strength.

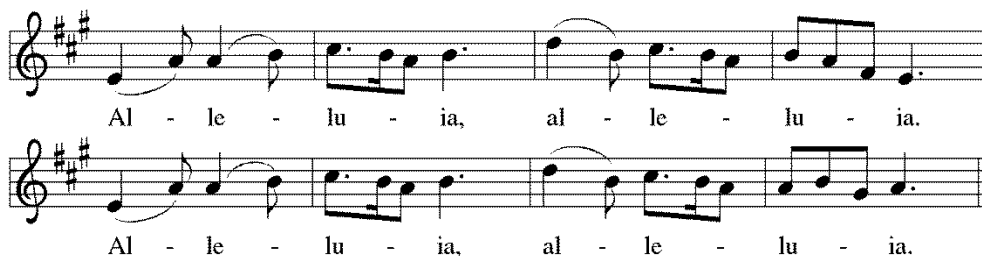
⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

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

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

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”



P The gospel of the Lord.

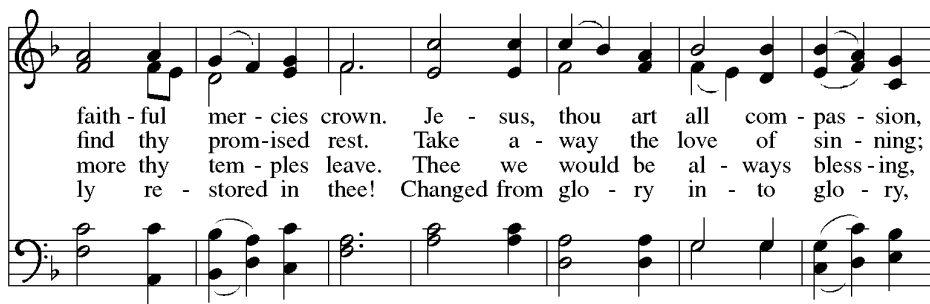
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON..... Brandon Heavner, Guest Seminarian

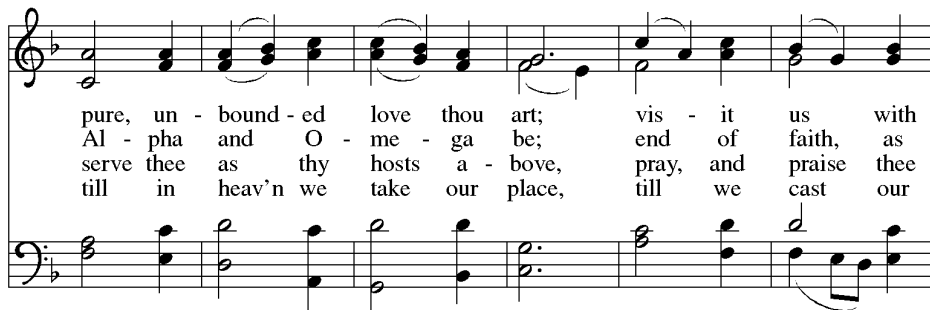
HYMN OF THE DAY: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* All Stand & Sing

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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: *Come By Here* 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 Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills

were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free by the truth of God's gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

Only you are righteous, O God. Lead your church to true repentance so that we reflect your light and truth to the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Only you can bring rain, O God. Be with those who lack clean water or must walk miles to quench their thirst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Only you can judge the nations, O God. Raise up leaders with humble hearts so that your peace spreads across the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Only you can bring healing, O God. Be with all whose hearts ache, who hold out empty hands, who long for forgiveness. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Only you know the depths of our hearts, O God. Call this congregation to loving action in your name and open our eyes to what you are doing among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Those who live in your house are happy, O God. Keep us by your grace until we join the saints around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* All Stand & Sing

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r-ful hand. Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,
all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-'rer, strong de-liv-'rer,
safe on Ca-naan's side. Songs and prais-es, songs and prais-es

feed me now and ev-er-more, ev-er-more, feed me now and ev-er-more.
shield me with your might-y arm, might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for-ev-er-more, ev-er-more, I will raise for-ev-er-more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Twenty-third 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 Danny, Rochelle & Perri Potter in honor of Carson's birthday; and by Richard & Kay Holden in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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 October 16, 2016:

Attendance: 127

Budget Report

	<u>October 16, 2016</u>
Current Offering Received	\$ 4,316.36
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 210,720.17
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 16,142.33
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	\$ 3,492.04

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Brian Achor

GREETER: Becky Richards

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers

TELLERS:
Rochelle & Danny Potter

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain
Stephanie Hinson Tracey Nault

USHERS: Volunteers

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)
Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Krystyna Sarrazin

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: October 23-29

Today, October 23 Eva Kline

Noah Rogers

October 24 Renee Carpenter

October 27 Kay Holden

October 28 Andrew Bryant

Sarah Reese



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, October 23

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am Worship Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, October 25

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Christian Ed. meets

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, October 26

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen

Elizabeth Bruchon

Shirley Causby

Tommy Causby

Brenda Dabrowski

Shawn De Nicholas

Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland

Zac Hullander

Tom Irwin

Chase Lineberger

Ann Outlaw & Family

Holly Peche

Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor

Mark Reese

Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro

Parker Holland

Jennifer Lineberger

Capt. Basil Jeff Maret

Bill Walker

Bruce Zander



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner

Tom Kasmer

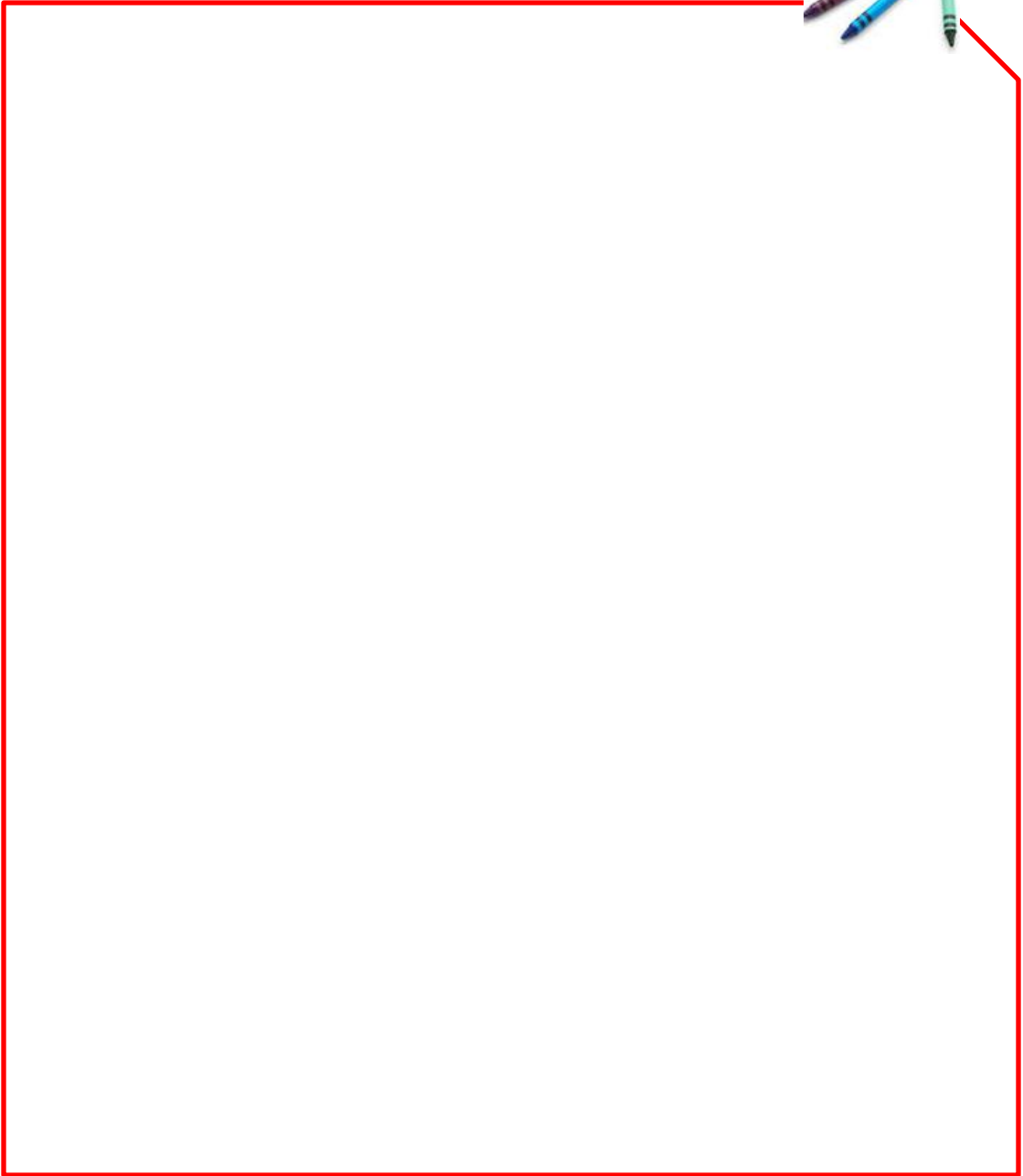
Dillon Kasmer

Mike Kelso

OUR MISSIONARY

Alyssa Buchanan in Manzini, Swaziland Africa

Holy Doodles



BCO OCTOBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH:



Jelly



Rice



Mac & Cheese

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: October 16, 2016

	KIDS	ADULTS
Nursery:	2	1
Preschool:	4	2
Elementary:	8	1
Middle School:	2	1
High School:	0	0
Seekers:		9
Adults:		13
Totals:	16	27



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

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager