

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 30, 2017

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *We Eat the Bread of Teaching* Wisdom's Feast

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: *God of Grace* All Stand and Sing

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

KYRIE

Congregation

3

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,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from 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

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great

people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 119:129-136 All Sing

¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;**
it gives understanding | to the simple.
¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name.
¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.
¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

These words celebrate the depth of God’s actions for us. Through Christ’s death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God’s love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

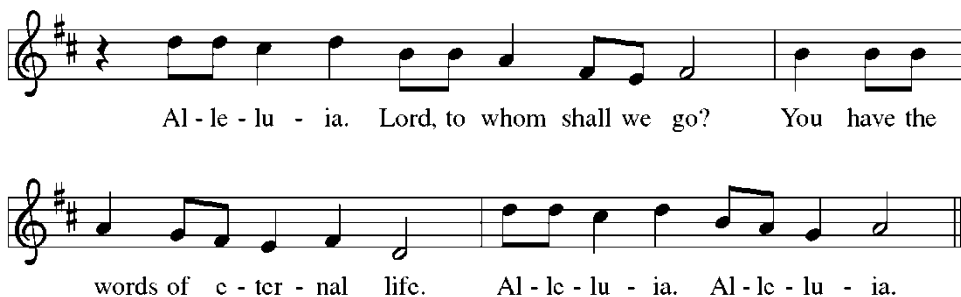
“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."



P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness All Stand and Sing*

1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der
 4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea - sure,

come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
 There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:

Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal;
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."
 Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re-ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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: *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring All Sing*

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925
 Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 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: ourselves, 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

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Shine the light of understanding on your church on earth. Bind us together in the word to share your love with the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect birds and their nests, fields full of crops, the seas and the fish that swim in them. Inspire us to care for the creation you love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise up just and wise advocates and judges from small-town courts to international tribunals. Enlighten all leaders to discern what is right and do what is good. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurture faith in those who doubt. Lift up those who are weak in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, and surround with love those facing their last days (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Expand the understanding of this assembly to see our neighbors as you see them. Let the yeast of your word grow beyond us to expand your boundless love to those around us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain us by the intercession of your Holy Spirit. Let the Spirit's sighs, too deep for words, comfort us until we rejoice with those already united with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.
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: *O Jesus, Blessed Lord* All Stand and Sing

O Jesus blessed Lord to you
my heartfelt thanks and praise are due;
you have so lovingly bestowed
on me your body and your blood.

Break forth my soul in joy and say:
What wealth has come to me today!
My Savior dwells within my soul
And makes my wounded spirit whole!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928, alt.
Tune: Tallis Canon

SENDING

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

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Eighth 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.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Rebecca & Mark Yount, Luke & Alec Via in loving memory or Bob & Betty King and Judy Outlaw.

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 23, 2017:

Attendance: 94

Budget Report

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 3,741.38	\$ 152,577.93
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 162,173.58
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,915.04)</u>	<u>(\$ 9,595.65)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 165,647.96</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 13,070.03)</u>

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: July 30-August 5

Today, July 30 Madison Morton

August 4 Kathy Graves

August 2 Alyssa Buchanan

Mark Yount



ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Judy Caldwell

GREETER: Misty Koehler

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Fran Holland
Trudy Whitener

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Rebecca Yount

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, July 30

9:30am New Member class
Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, August 1

7:00 pm Property Committee
Nar-Anon

BCO July Items of the Month



Peanut butter

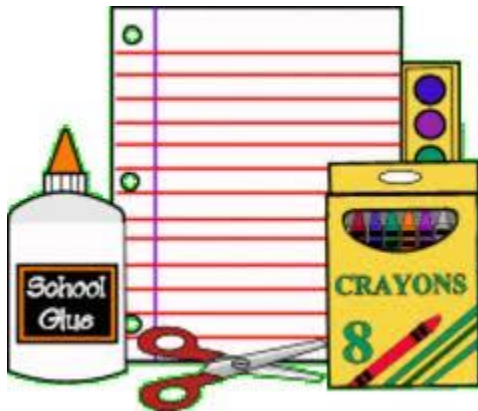


Saltines



Tuna

BCO August Items of the Month



School Supplies



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
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.



Holy Doodles



In the death of our loved one,
Sarah Pauline Joye,
we want to thank you so much for the
prayers, cards, visits and the preparing
of the meal.

We love you all.
The Joye Family

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