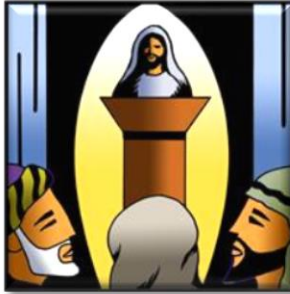


Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 26, 2018 •

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* Dahl

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, 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 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: *Come, Gracious Spirit* All Stand & Sing

1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and
 2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us
 3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us
 4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
 know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in
 from his pas - tures stray. Lead us in ho - li -
 joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -

and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
 ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.
 ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God
 ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

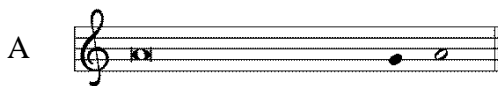
Text: Simon Browne, 1680–1732, alt.
 Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINS, German folk tune, 15th cent.

GREETING

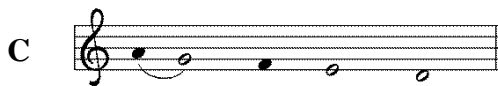
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

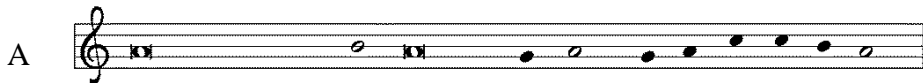
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



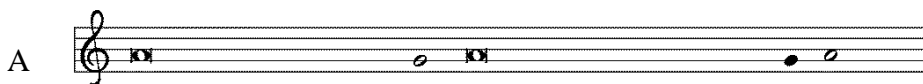
Lord, have mer - cy.



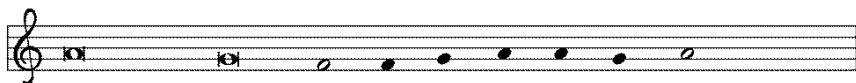
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



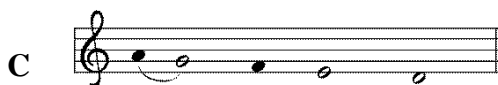
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



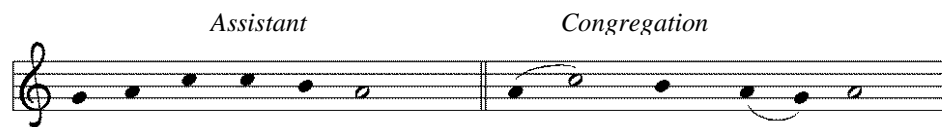
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, 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

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

A reading from the twenty-fourth chapter of Joshua.

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from the sixth chapter of Ephesians.

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against

the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

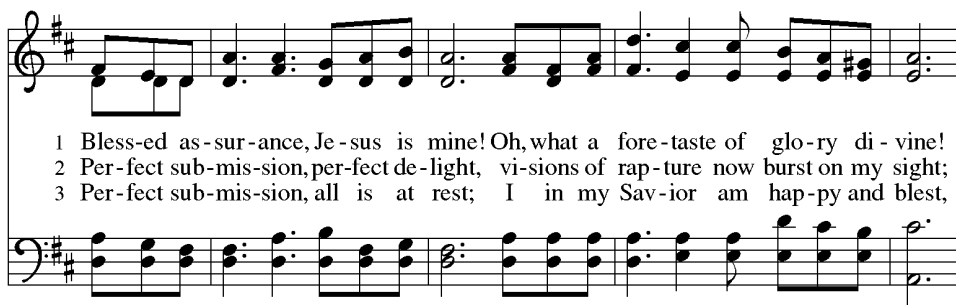
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blessed Assurance* All Stand & Sing



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

That God bless the church universal in every place, inspiring strength and courage to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God the creator bless wild animals and family pets, prairies and kitchen gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and hearths, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God spread the gospel throughout the nations of the world, announcing the words of eternal life to peoples in every land and country, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God remember the poor and the brokenhearted and rescue all those in trouble (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God protect members of this congregation along all our ways and empower us to serve Christ in sincerity and faithfulness, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God redeem the lives of those who have served in the faith and raise them up, according to the promises of Jesus Christ, the bread that nourishes eternal life, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Many and Great, O God* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *For the Beauty of the Earth* All Stand & Sing



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

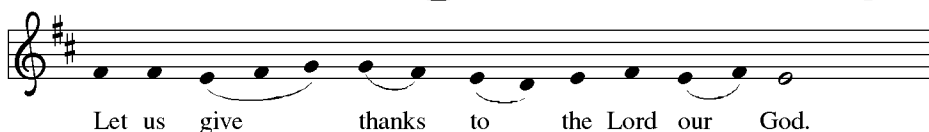
DIALOGUE

Pastor

Congregation



Pastor



Cong.



PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

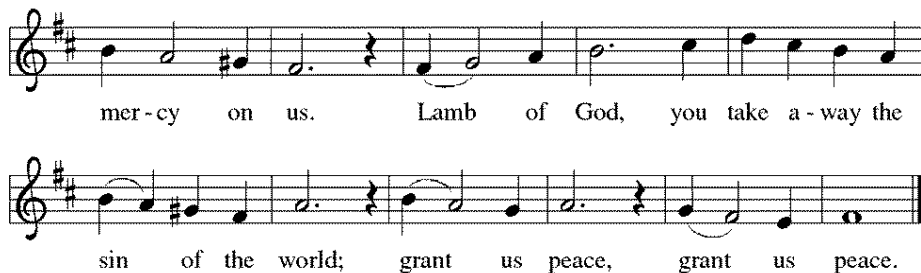


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG

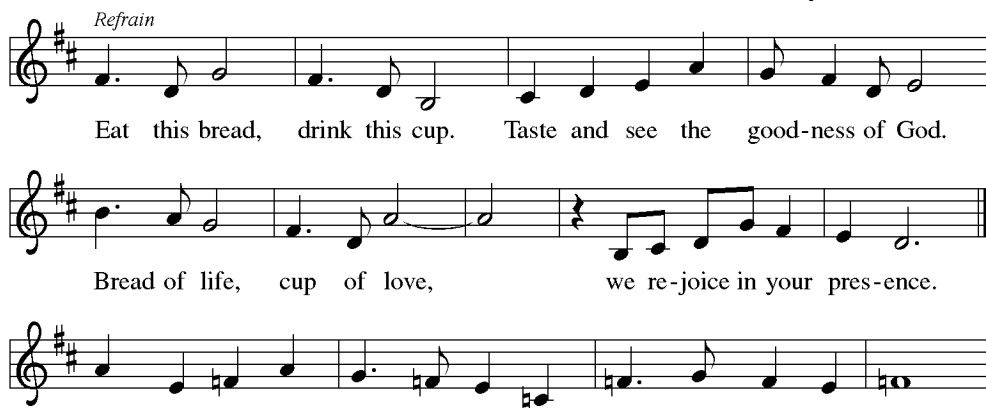




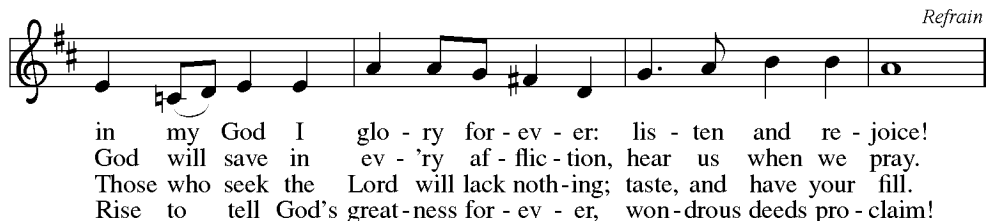
COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup All Sing*



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray,

C **Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. 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: *On Our Way Rejoicing* All Stand & Sing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

SENDING

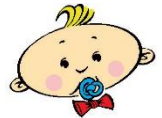
A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Fourteenth 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 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Bob & Pat Koehler in honor of all students and teachers returning to school; and by Shirley Causby and Greg Cline in memory of Tommy Causby.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 19, 2018:

Attendance: 101

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>August 19, 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 6,858.00	\$175,089.03
Expenses	\$ 5,551.17	\$177,130.99
Offering less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,306.83</u>	<u>(\$ 2,041.96)</u>
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses		<u>183,453.05</u>
Offering less Expected Expenses		<u>(\$ 8,364.02)</u>

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Shirley Drum

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Lauren Shoemaker

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Carmen Buell, Captain

Dean & Dian Halvorson

Barbara Kasmer

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

Volunteer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)

Bev Mauney Fran Holland Sherry Alexander

USHERS: Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Jo Irwin

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, August 26:

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

Monday, August 27:

7:30-9:00 am *Parents in Prayer* breakfast

Tuesday, August 28:

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 26-September 1

August 27 Dillon Kasmer

August 30 Eric Ange`

August 29 Matthew Bruchon



Sunday, September 9th

Rally Day Breakfast at 9:00 am

Abbreviated worship at 10:00 am

Depart for Service projects at 10:30 am



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin

Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Pat Roberson
Kathie Schaumburg
Scott Schaumburg

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett

Brandi Hager
Ruth Lail
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy
George Rogers
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN



Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer Colton Parker

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 in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



Holy Doodles



**Children's Church &
Nursery Volunteers Needed!**

**Contact Beka at
rforst@holyc.org.**

As a New School Year Begins,
Join Us
To Pray for a Safe, Healthy, and Successful Year for
Our Students and Our Teachers



Stop by for some coffee, donuts and prayer.
Everyone is welcome.
Monday, August 27
7:30 – 9:00 am

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter
216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC
(the church by the popcorn store)

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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager