

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 10, 2017

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Fugue in F Major* J. S. Bach

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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.

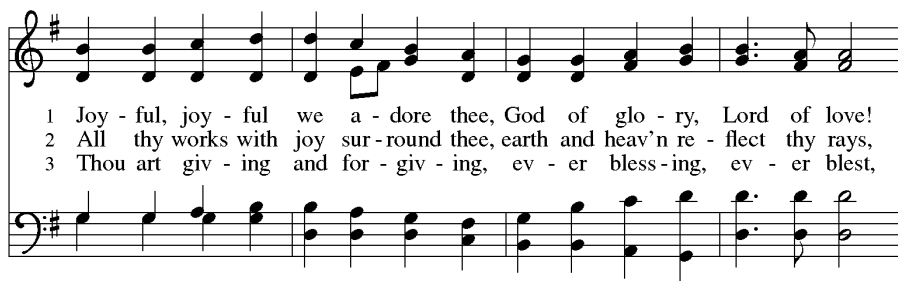
Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

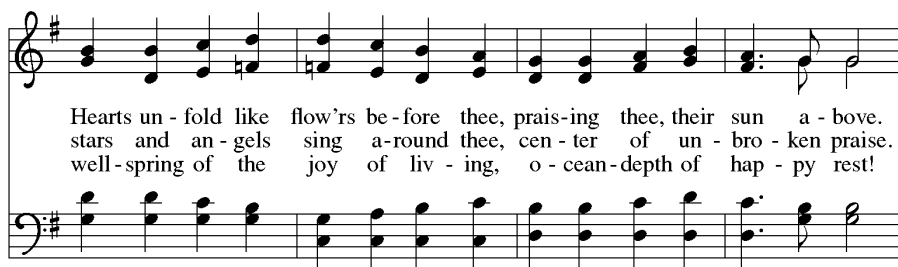
P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* All Stand & Sing



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

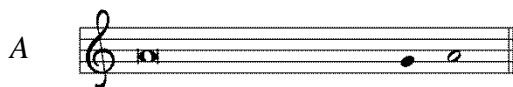
Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

GREETING

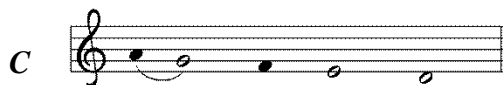
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

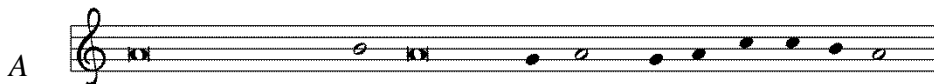
KYRIE



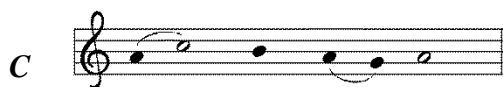
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



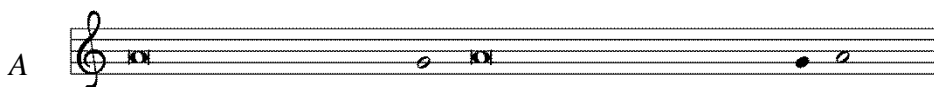
Lord, have mer - cy.



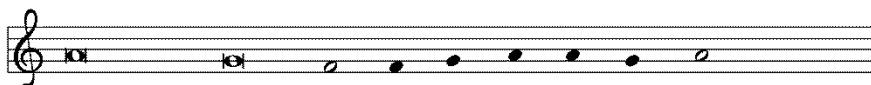
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



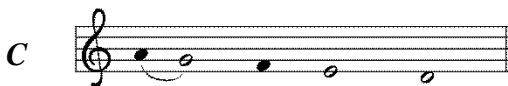
Lord, have mer - cy.



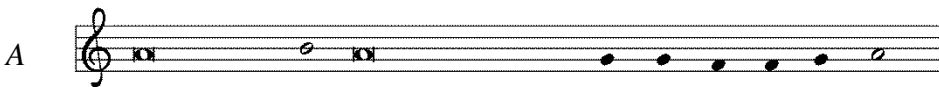
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




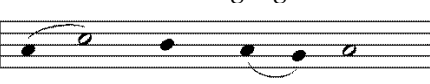
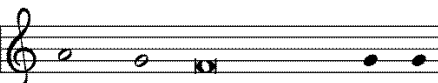
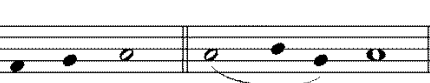
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.







Lord, have mer - cy.

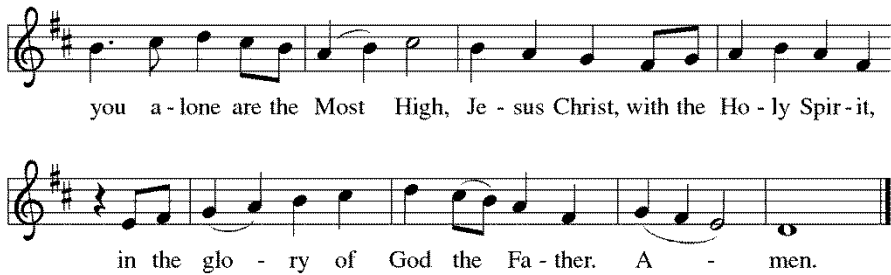


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
 <p>let us pray to the Lord.</p>	 <p>Lord have mer - cy.</p>
 <p>Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.</p>	 <p>A - men.</p>

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Assisting minister</i></p>  <p>Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>All</i></p>  <p>Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we</p>
 <p>wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.</p>
 <p>Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,</p>
 <p>you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;</p>
 <p>you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.</p>
 <p>For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,</p>



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, 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

Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-third chapter.

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.

⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?”

¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 119:33-40. All Sing

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**
I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees**
and not to | unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,**
which is for | those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;**
by your righteousness en- | liven me.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If



the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* All Stand & Sing



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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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.

PEACE

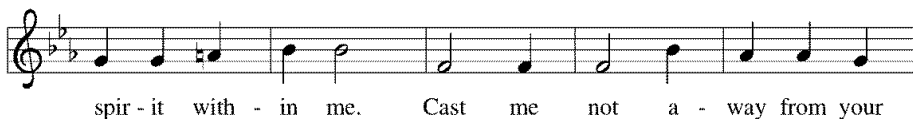
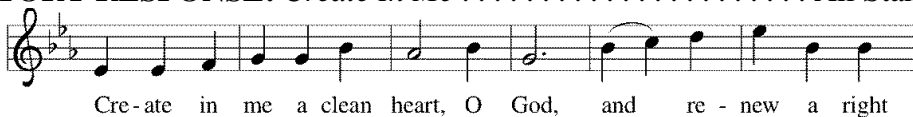
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *When We Are Living* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing





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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. Reconcile our differences. Forgive our divisions. Unite us at your table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For your creation. Increase our stewardship of all that you have given to us. Let the earth flourish for those who come after us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For peace in the world. End conflicts among nations. Help leaders and citizens truly to listen to one another and to act for the good of all. Teach us by your example. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all those in need. Bind up our hurts. Heal divisions in our families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Comfort those who need your special care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For this congregation. Make us signs of your love and forgiveness in this community and in the world. Help us to grow in our love for one another. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

In thanksgiving for all the faithful witnesses who put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful until the day we rejoice in your majesty with them. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.
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 God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death All Stand & Sing*

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

A Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **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 located in the Education building. We encourage you to use the nurseries if your children become restless and/or vocal. 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 Warren & Faye Heller in honor of Greg Cline and Shirley 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 Committee

Offering and Attendance Report for September 3, 2017:

Attendance: 96

Budget Report

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 2,949.50	\$ 178,848.43
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 193,288.71
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 2,706.92)</u>	<u>(\$ 14,440.28)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 198,506.87</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 19,658.44)

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 10-16

September 11 Hannah Carnes
Maria Carr
Madison Carr

September 14 Emily Koehler
September 16 Leslie Payne



ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Judy Caldwell

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Amanda Kelly

Nathan Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Sunday, September 10

9:15 am **RALLY DAY**



Breakfast and meet the teachers

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service

Council after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

HCY, dinner & activities

6:00 pm Church Choir

Wednesday, September 13

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Friday, September 15

6:00 pm **Kids' Club Lock-In**
"drop off"

Saturday, September 16

8:15 am **Kids' Club Lock-In**
"pick up"

Staying Connected

Details to come...

Tuesday, September 12

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

BCO September Items of the Month



Oatmeal



Dried Beans



Canned Beans

Kids' Club needs old sheets for the *Lock-In* activity. **Sheets will not be returned!**
Sheets (any size) are **needed before September 15**. Please give to Beka.



All ladies of the church are invited to join
Staying Connected on
September 16th at 7:00 pm.

We will be making the special ornaments for the church ***Chrismon*** tree.

Please RSVP to Krystyna at 262-497-4046
so you can pick a kit (most kits are under \$25).

Bring an appetizer to share. Host will provide beverages.
Meet at the Sarrazin house (5901 Gilchrist Circle, Belmont).



Holy Doodles





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
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

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

Carol Fox
Scott Frisk
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Karen Way

OUR SERVICEMEN

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 Comforter Lutheran Church

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