

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 15, 2018

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Children of the Heavenly Father* Olstad

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 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: *Lead On, O King Eternal!* All Stand & Sing

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

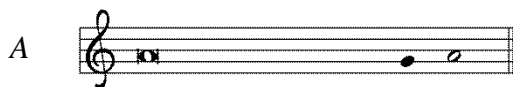
Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917
 Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

GREETING

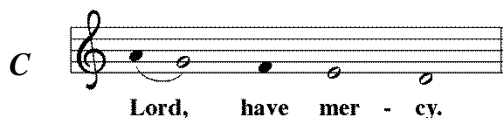
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

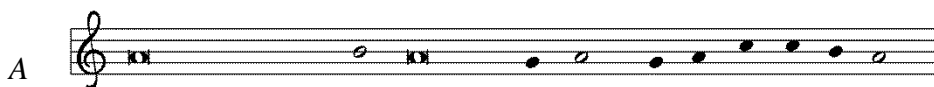
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



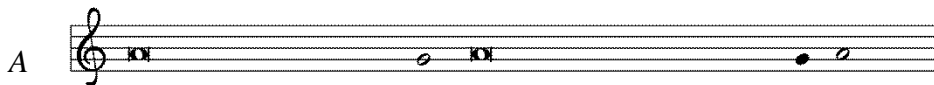
Lord, have mer - cy.



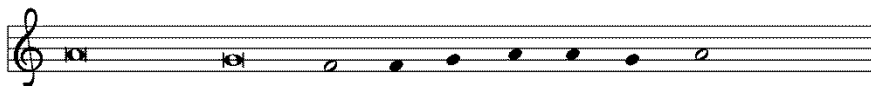
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



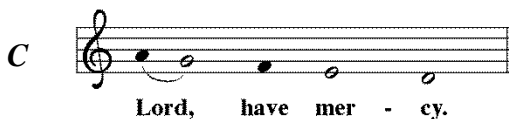
Lord, have mer - cy.



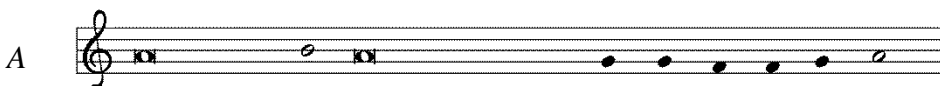
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




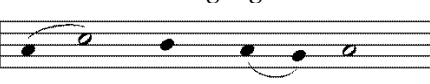
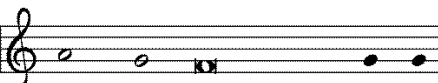
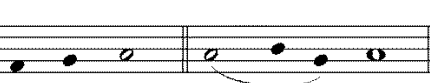
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



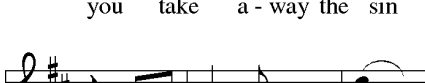
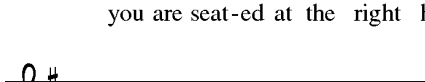
Lord, have mer - cy.

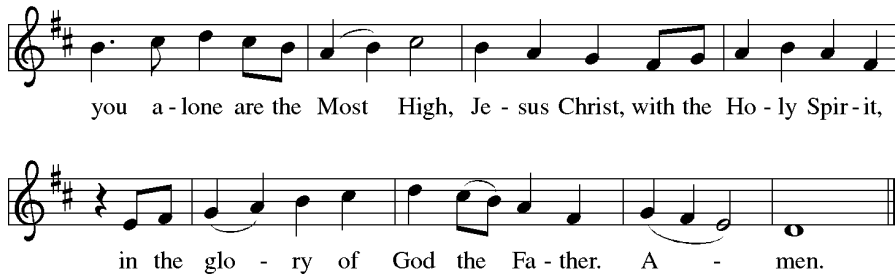


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

<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

<i>Assisting minister</i>	
 <p>Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.</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 God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, 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

Amos 7:7-15

A reading from Amos, the seventh chapter.

Amos was not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he was an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God’s word of judgment through Amos conflicted with the king’s court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encountered at Bethel.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land.’ ”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:8-13 All Read Responsively

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,**

that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,**

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD**

and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

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

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

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist’s martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples’ preaching,] for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” ²³And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

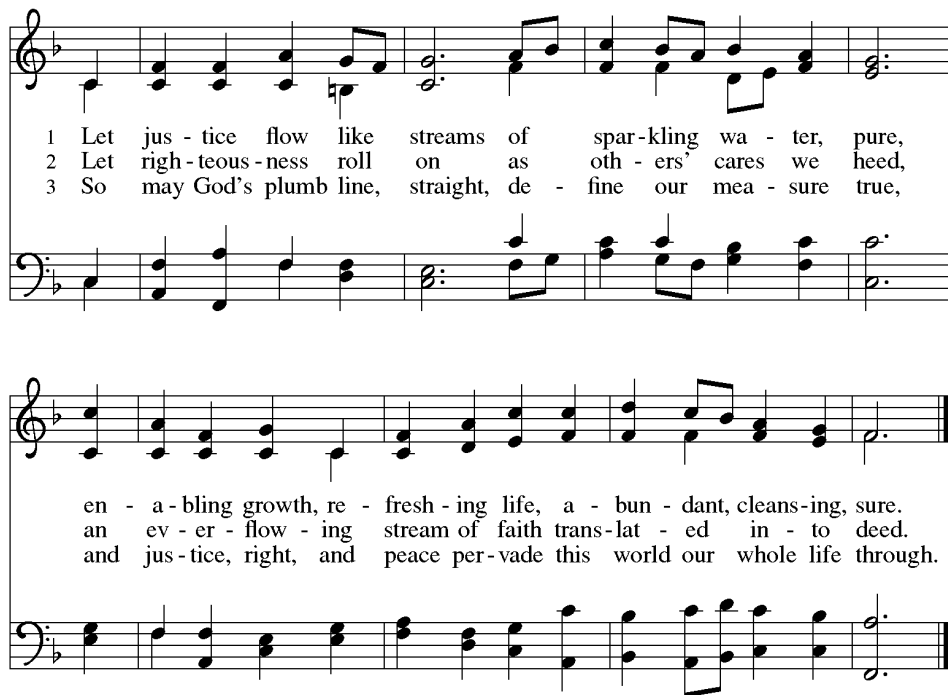
P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* All Stand & Sing



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
 an - ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
 and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

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: *Andante* Quartz
Allegro

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

A 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

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of truth, put your word of justice on our lips. Bless your church in the task of holy resistance. Make us a living and persistent sign of your righteousness and your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, pour your healing power upon our fragile earth for us and for all who will inherit it. Inspire the work of engineers and environmentalists who seek sustainable sources of energy, food, and clean water. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of justice, hold your plumb line to the nations. Speak convicting words of holy judgment to those in positions of authority. Redeem all harms caused by corruption and the hunger for power. Restore peace to our world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of salvation, bring wholeness to all your beloved children. Anoint the hands of all caregivers, nurses, doctors, therapists, hospice workers, and chaplains. Bring abundance of life to all who long for healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of tenderness, you adopt us as your own. Help us to provide nourishing care for all children in our midst. Inspire us with their creativity and energy. Heal and protect children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or scorn. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the saints, you have claimed the faithful departed as your own and given them an inheritance in glory. Sustain us in faith until the fullness of time, when you gather up all things in heaven and on earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus 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: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* All Stand & Sing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a range of approximately one octave. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The first line of the melody corresponds to the first line of the lyrics, and so on. The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format.

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

SENDING

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Vivace* Quartz

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all 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 in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Nurseries
Available

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 Mark & Rebecca Yount in honor of Beka's 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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, July 8, 2018:

Attendance: 124

Budget Report

Offering
Expenses
Offering less Expenses
Expected (Budgeted) Expenses
Offering less Budgeted Expenses

July 8, 2018

\$ 9,210.00
\$ 5,551.17
\$ 3,658.83

Year-to-Date

\$ 145,799.03
\$ 144,046.53
\$ 1,752.50
\$ 150,674.70
(\$ 4,875.67)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Volunteer**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

TELLERS: Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain
Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Lauren Shoemaker

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Brandy Milton

GUEST ORGANIST: Suzanne Fairbairne**USHERS:** Volunteers**FLUTE:** Joann Evans and Kailey Lawing**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: July 15-21**

Today, Russell Fleming
July 16 Sierra Hullander
July 18 Steve Bingham
July 19 Lynne Sudarich
July 20 Tyler Cassel
 Garrett Fox
 Brian Mitchell



July 21 John Crist
 Caroline Nault
 Ashton Nault
 Alex Sarrazin

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**Today, Sunday, July 15**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, July 17

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Thursday, July 19

7:00 pm Agape Parent Program

Monday, July 16-Friday, July 20

9:00 am Agape Day Camp begins
3:00 pm Parents pick up kids from camp

We are delighted to welcome **Suzanne Fairbairne** to the organ console today. Suzanne most recently served for over 25 years at First Presbyterian Church in Belmont.

Camp Agape takes place this week. We are hosting counselors and opening the church to our children and some children from the community. Welcome!



Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2
Contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org to register.

BCO July Items of the Month:



&



Mac N' Cheese

Instant Potatoes

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



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

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jim Barbee
Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
Ruth Lail
Jennifer Lineberger
Clarence McLain
Ray McNeely

Anne Murdy
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.



Welcome Back Meal

Cookout after the service on Sunday, July 22nd
to celebrate the *Youth Gathering* folks.

**The church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and drinks.
The congregation is asked to provide the desserts.**



Gathering Group will share their Houston trip experiences.

Holy Doodles

