

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 18, 2016

## The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING /WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Sing A New Song Unto the Lord* . . . . . Schutte

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;  
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of overflowing grace,

**C** we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.

**Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on  
fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from  
the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in ☩ Christ  
Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free.  
Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and  
forever.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens . . All Stand & Sing*



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

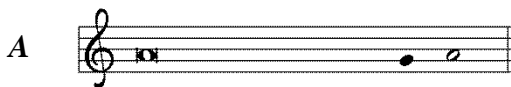
Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## GREETING

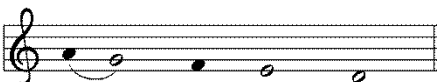
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

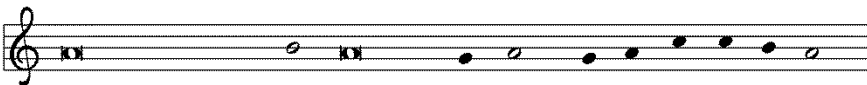
**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE

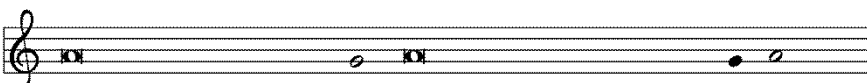


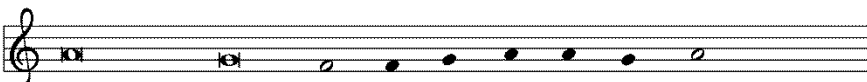
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

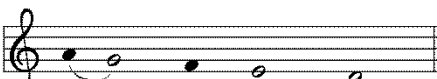
C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

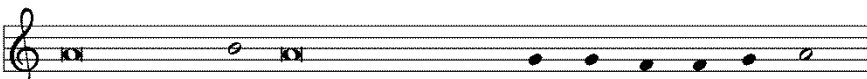
A   
 For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

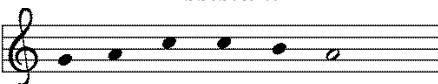
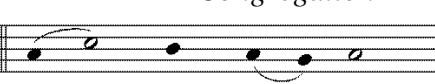
C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

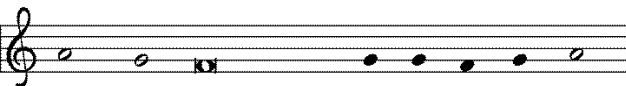

A   
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

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

C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

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

*Assistant*  *Congregation*   
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

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

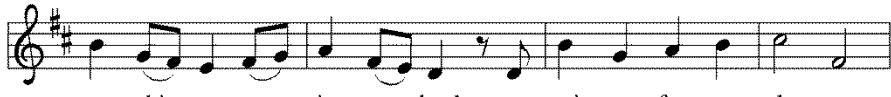
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in 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

**Amos 8:4-7**

A reading from Amos, the eighth chapter.

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup>saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain;  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

- A The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM: 113** ..... **All Sing**

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;  
praise the name | of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,**  
**from this time forth for- | evermore.**  
<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its | going down  
let the name of the | LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup>**The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;**  
**God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Who is like the | LORD our God,  
who sits en- | throned on high,  
<sup>6</sup>**but stoops | to behold**  
**the heavens | and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust  
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them | with the rulers,**  
**with the rulers | of the people.**  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!  
**Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;**  
**praise the name | of the LORD.**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

A reading from 1 Timothy, the second chapter.

*The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a

quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Luke 16:1-13**

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

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

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now



that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

*Congregation is seated.*

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;  
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.





There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## 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

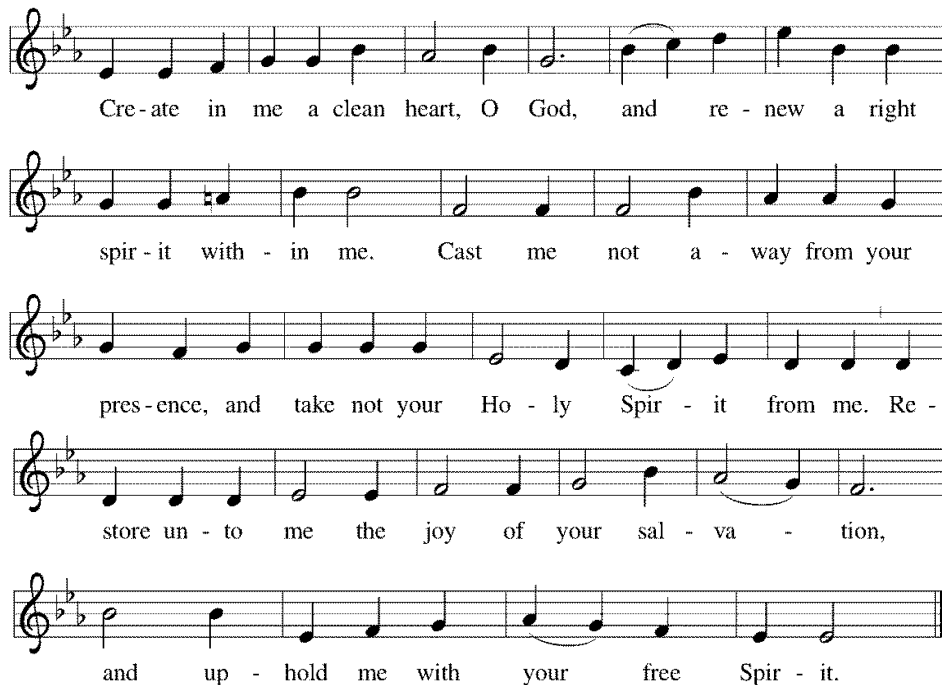
**P The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C And also with you.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Holy, Holy, Holy* . . . . . Church Choir

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



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - 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** Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Giver of the feast, bless your church and all who hunger and thirst. Nourish us richly with your word and meal, and send us as signs of your living presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the earth, bring forth an abundant harvest from fields, orchards, and gardens.  
Renew fields that will soon lie fallow. Feed and protect all wild creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, we pray for places in the world affected by conflict, war, and turmoil.  
We pray that your perfect peace and order be restored. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our weary years, we remember before you those among us who are sick or who  
are recovering from illness or surgery (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and ending, we thank you for hope even in the midst of despair. Visit  
this assembly with your light and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of our silent tears, we remember the faithful departed who make up the great cloud  
of witnesses. Gather us all in praise around your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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 Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

## SENDING SONG: *Be Thou My Vision* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Eighteenth 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:** Beginning October 1, we will start a new "Greater Family of God" prayer list. You are asked to email the church or call the church office to add a name to this list. You are also asked to *give a date as to when you want that person removed from the list*. If no date is given, then the **name will remain on the list for one month**. We hope by doing this the prayer list will be up to date for all concerned.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Fran Holland in honor of Dot Holland and in memory of Willie Holland.

**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 11, 2016:**

Attendance: 149

### **Budget Report**

### **September 11, 2016**

Current Offering Received	\$ 4,582.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)	\$ 184,825.39
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 12,500.59
Offering less Budgeted Expenses Year-To-Date	\$ 2,937.52

### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 18-24**

Today, September 18	Winston Baker	September 22	Dean Burwell
September 20	Lyn Miller	September 23	Mary Page
	Beverly Reynolds		Anne Reese
	Dan Wallace	September 24	Collin Martin
September 21	Horace Bean		



### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Jim Buell

**GREETER:** Pat Long

### **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Raini Kimball,  
Dennis Tucker

### **ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)**

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains  
Carmen Buell  
Barbara Kasmer

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Volunteers

**USHERS:** Volunteers

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

### **MIT (Musician in Training):**

Olivia Sarrazin

### **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

#### **Today, September 18**

9:30 am ***Sunday School for All***  
10:10 am Church Choir prep  
10:30 am Worship Service  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Handbells  
6:00 pm Church Choir

#### **Tuesday, September 20**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Nar-Anon



## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Louise Austin  
Shirley Causby  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Tom Irwin  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy  
Paige Beaver  
Jenny Beer  
Barbara Bingham  
Emma Davis Bremer  
Graham Brezler  
Libby Byrum  
Father Frank Cancro  
Tina Capwell  
Clell Davis  
J. Don Devine  
Zachary Evans  
Carol Baker Fox  
Poss Garrett  
Ronnie Garrison

Tammy Gordon  
Brian Hedrick  
Stacy Hunsucker  
Dennis Jordan  
Steven Keating  
Marshall Kinley  
Laura Lanuto  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Terry Mahaffey  
Amy McGinnis  
Gene McRorie  
Don Moore  
Jean Peters  
Jim Poag  
Taylor Propst & Family  
David Prouty

Julio Quiros  
Tim Reid  
Dan Robinson &  
Daughters Breanna & Mikayla  
Anna Rudder  
Tangie Shingler  
Megan Sigler  
E. Taylor & Family  
Carson Thomas  
Sally Vanhoy  
Gloria Ward  
Olivia Wilcox  
Jeff Wiles  
Bruce Zander

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek  
Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner  
Tom Kasmer

Dillon Kasmer  
Mike Kelso



## OUR MISSIONARY

Alyssa Buchanan in Manzini, Swaziland Africa

In order to ensure an up-to-date prayer list, a new list for the *Greater Family of God* will start on October 1. Please email or call the church office to add any name you wish to appear on the *Greater Family of God*. Also give us an "end date" for that name, or the name will remain for just one month.

## BCO September Items of the Month:

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Peanut Butter & Jelly

### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

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

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager