

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 19, 2017

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Arioso* from Jubilee Suite Young

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, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

C Amen.

P One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

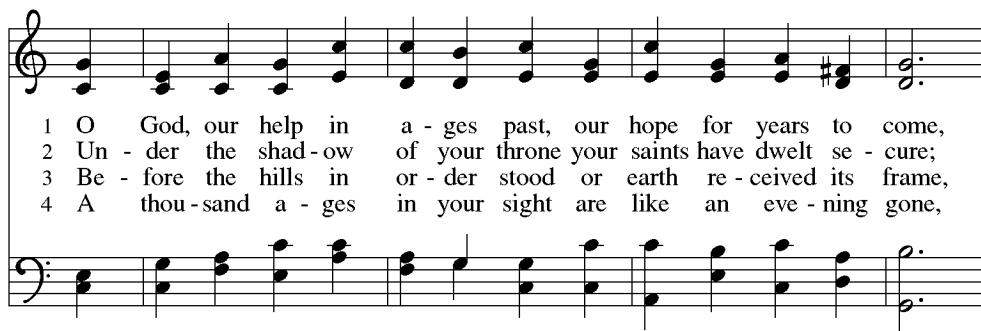
P O God, our merciful redeemer,

C we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

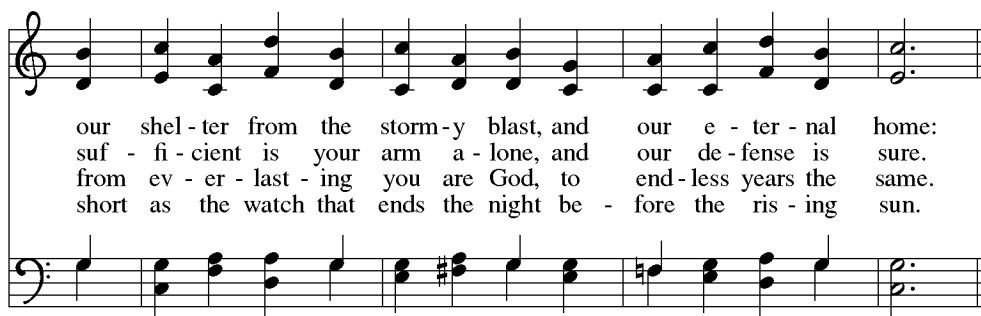
P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for ☩ his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* All Stand & Sing



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 we fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 still be our guard while troubles last
 and our eternal home!

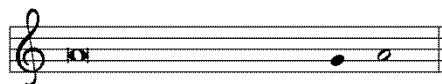
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING

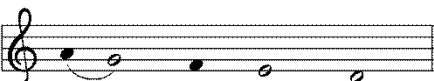
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

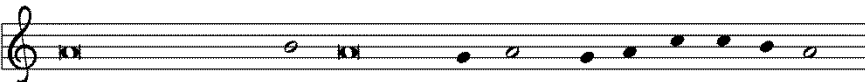
C And also with you.

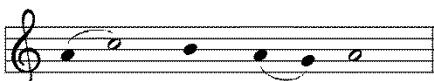
KYRIE

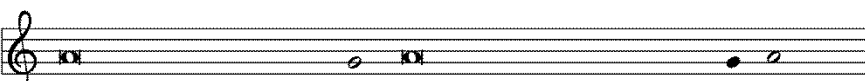
A 

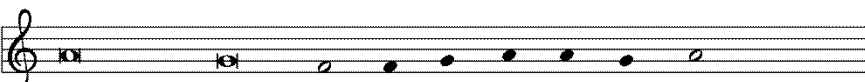
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

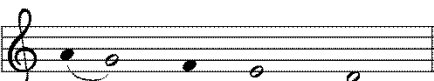
C 
 Lord, have mer - cy.

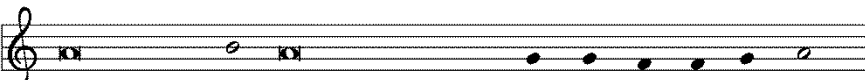
A 
 For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C 
 Lord, have mer - cy.

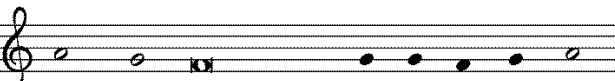
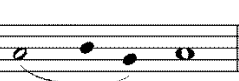
A 
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,


 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



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, 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

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah, the first chapter.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week’s first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,

a day of distress and anguish,
 a day of ruin and devastation,
 a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
 against the fortified cities
 and against the lofty battlements.
¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
 that they shall walk like the blind;
 because they have sinned against the LORD,
 their blood shall be poured out like dust,
 and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
 will be able to save them
 on the day of the LORD's wrath;
 in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
 for a full, a terrible end
 he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



PSALM 90:1-8 All Sing

¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
 from one generation | to another.
²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
 "Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night;
⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
 they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the fifth chapter.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”



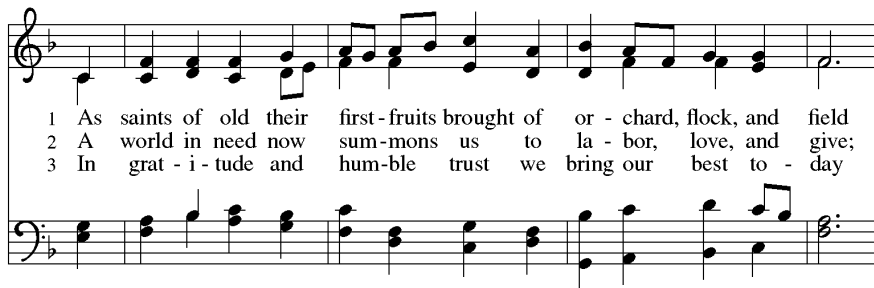
P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

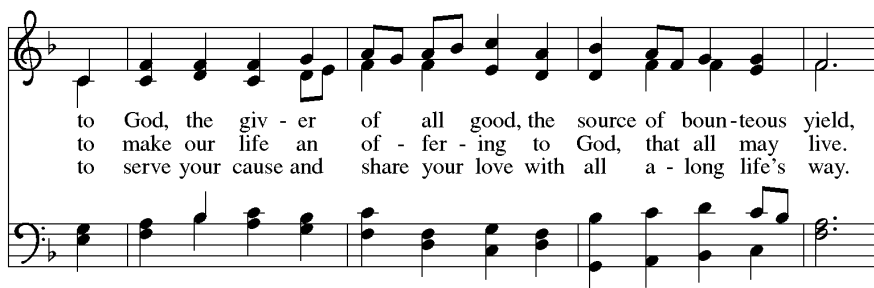
Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

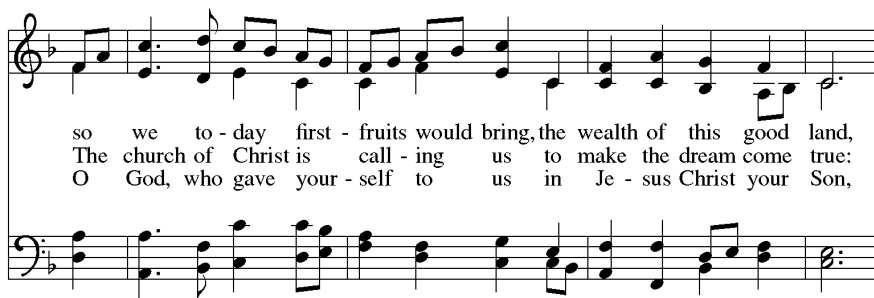
HYMN OF THE DAY: *As Saints of Old* All Stand & Sing



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live,
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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.

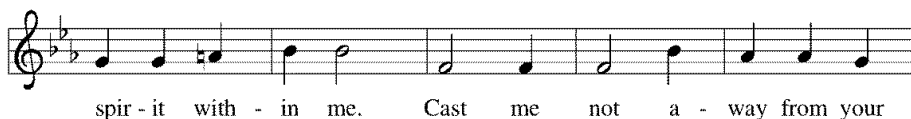
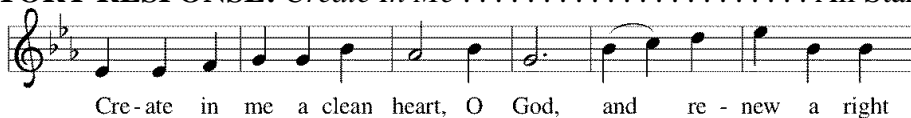
C And also with you.

OFFERING

During the offering, families are invited to come forward to offer their
estimate of giving card in the basket by the Baptismal font.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Spirit, Open My Heart* Church Choir

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





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

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Enliven its witness in ecumenical ministries, feeding programs, and new ventures. Open our hearts to friendships that share faith, and open our mouths to share your good news. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for parks and open spaces, for clean air and clear water. Help us protect places where we are reminded of God's work in creation and find renewal. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have been and are still today enslaved, trafficked, or oppressed. Make clear the needs of those who are silenced by suffering, that we may listen and bring an end to exploitation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who cry out for healing, hope, or help, and for those for whom we have promised to pray (*especially*). Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and the talents and treasures each person brings. Bring new talents to blossom among us, as we encourage and build up one another. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, our dwelling place in all generations, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in you. Teach us to count our days as gifts from you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, 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

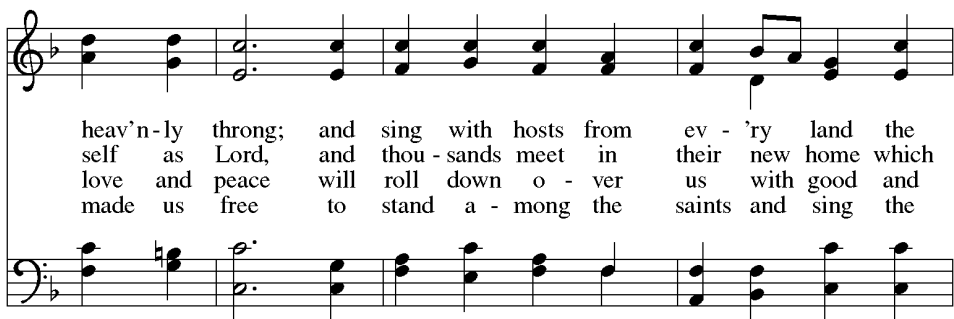
P The love of God surround you; the grace of ☩ Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

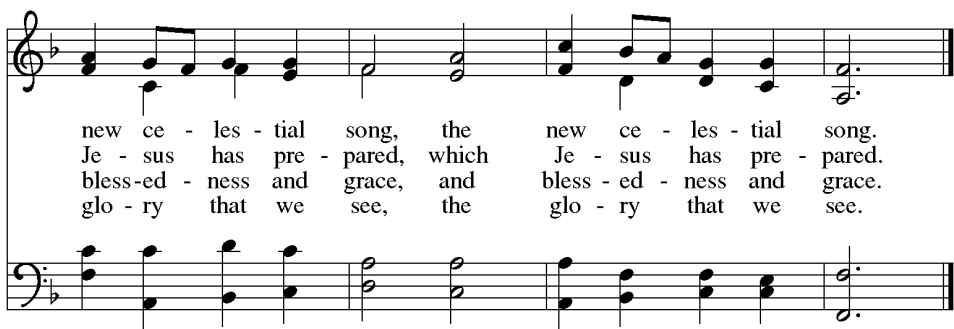
SENDING SONG: *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand All Stand & Sing*



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
 2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
 3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
 4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
 self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
 love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
 made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
 Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; text sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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SENDING

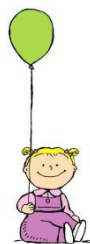
A Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **Twenty-fourth 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 Rochelle, Perri & Carson Potter in honor of Danny's birthday; and by Angie Morton in honor of Mallory'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, November 12, 2017:

Attendance: 105

| <u>Budget Report</u> | <u>November 12, 2017</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offering | \$ 3,205.00 | \$ 235,657.93 |
| Expenses | \$ 5,656.42 | \$ 245,678.73 |
| Offering less Expenses | (\$ 2,451.42) | (\$ 10,020.80) |
| Budgeted Expenses | | \$ 254,797.33 |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses | | (\$ 19,139.40) |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Becky Richards

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny
Potter

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Carmen Buell, Captain
Dean & Diann Halvorson
Barbara Kasmer

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jill Cassel

ACCOMPANIST: Jo Irwin

HANDBELL DUET: Janet Achor, Julia Gunter

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: November 19-25

Today, Nathaniel Kearney

Danny Potter

November 20 David Bruchon

Lucy Mitchell



November 22 Olivia Sarrazin

November 23 Cheryl Fox

November 25 Mallory Morton

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, November 19

9:00 am Handbells

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

2:00 pm **Confirmation** at St. Paul's

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm **HCY** meets at church

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, November 21

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing
Becke Featherstone
Ned Featherstone
Kay Holden

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

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Kathie Schaumburg
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates



Beau Carroll

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

BCO November Items of the Month



Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles/Pasta



We wish a belated *Happy Birthday* to **Greg Byrum** (Birthday on 11/12)

The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like,
30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.
We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.



**There are 220 days till our group
of 7 travels to Houston!**

For more information or looking to help,
talk to Beka.

PB&J CAMPAIGN

The **North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program** is conducting its annual ***Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign***. Peanut butter is something all food banks need. The collection of jelly was added because we were all once children, and we fondly remember peanut butter & jelly sandwiches as a staple of a happy childhood.

Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall. Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county.

The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.



Peanut
Butter
& Jelly
Campaign



volunteerforgal.org

 North Carolina
GUARDIAN AD LITEM
A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT



Advent Wreath Order Form

With Advent right around the corner it is now time to order your family an Advent wreath. The following wreaths are \$10 each, and that includes 4 candles and a brass ring. Please place your order form with your check written to Holy Comforter (with a notation that it is for an *Advent Wreath*) in the offering plate or give to Beka.

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 19th.



Name: _____

Number of wreaths ordered: _____ Total cost @ \$10 each: _____

Payment by check: _____ Payment by cash: _____



It is with great joy that HolyC has a Christmas float in the Belmont Christmas Parade. HolyC's float has room for 10 riders. Email Beka at rforst@holyc.org to sign a waiver to ride. First come, first served.



Holy Doodles



Sunday School Attendance November 12, 2017

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Preschool | 2 |
| Elementary | 5 |
| Middle School | 2 |
| High School | 2 |

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Seekers | 5 |
| Adults | 6 |
| Total: | 22 |





Poinsettia Order Form



Your Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____ Total cost @ \$15 each: _____

Payment by check: _____ Payment by cash: _____

Remember to add **\$15 for each** poinsettia ordered.
Payment must be attached to order form.

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, December 10th.

You may give your order form and payment to an usher or
take to the church office.

Please indicate on your check that it is for a poinsettia order.

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