

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 27, 2014

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less* Dykes

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our strength,

C we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

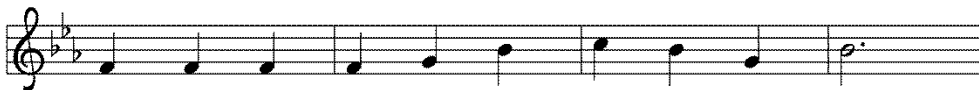
P Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C Amen.

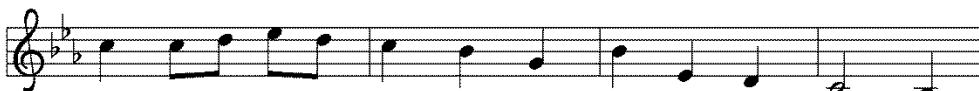
GATHERING SONG: *Be Thou My Vision* All Stand & Sing



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.

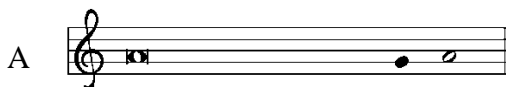
Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace 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.

All
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.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children remain in the sanctuary. No Children's church this Sunday.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5–12

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING **Romans 8:26–39**

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing



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

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

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

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

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has

grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.


⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Gather Us In* All Stand & Sing



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



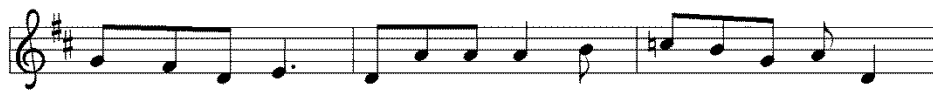
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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.**

* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

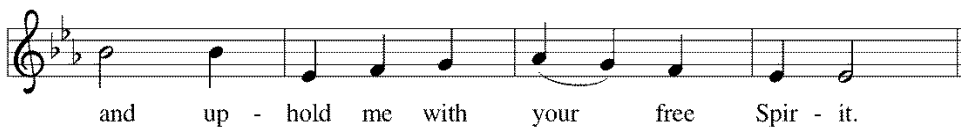
C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Still, My Soul, Be Still* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand and 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,



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious Lord, the unfolding of your words gives light to those who love your name throughout the world. Fill the hearts of all preachers and teachers with your wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your earth is filled with abundant life: fish, animals, and plants of all shapes and sizes, from the smallest shrub to the greatest tree. Teach us to conserve these gifts for the benefit of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Righteous God, people of all nations clamor for justice. Give their leaders understanding minds to discern between good and evil, govern wisely, and listen to their suffering people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Faithful One, we trust that all things work together for good. Bring hope to those who have no job, who have no place to call home, or who are in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Search our hearts and minds and open the doors of this congregation to those who seek refuge or need a place to belong, that all who come to us find shelter in our life together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your face shines upon those faithful servants who now rest with you in your heavenly kingdom. Remind us that neither death nor life can separate us from your love in Christ

Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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.**

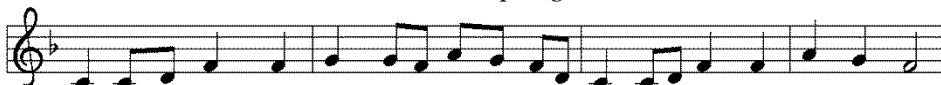
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

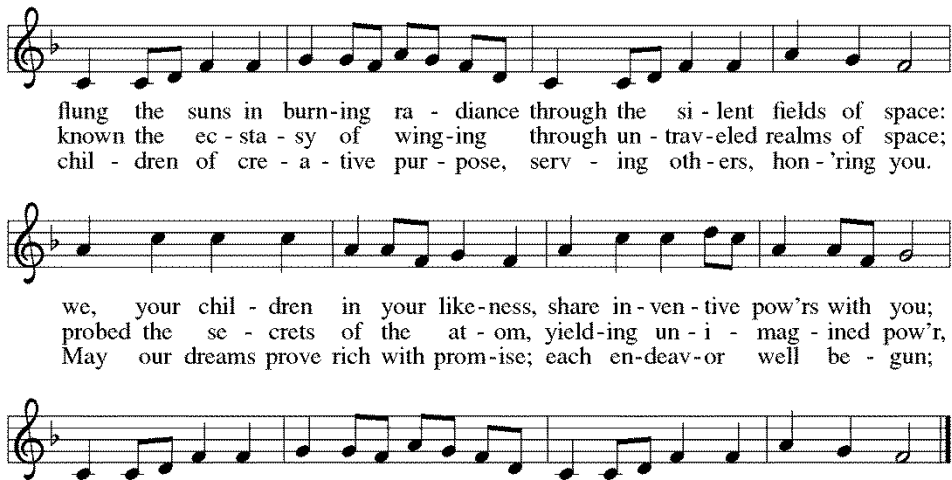
P May God the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING 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
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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Awake, My Soul, and Sing* Church Choir

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Seventh 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. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or online at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Paul, Tracey & Aaron Nault in honor of Caroline & Ashton's birthday; and by Tim & Shelia Kelly in honor of Micah Kearney & Family... *Welcome to Holy Comforter!*

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, July 20, 2014:

Attendance: 160

Budget Report

July 20, 2014

Current Offering Received 7/20/14	\$ 3,963.01
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, YTD	\$115,719.24
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 5,932.36
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 9,755.36)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Beth Brittain

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin, Matthew Carr

CRUCIFERS: Cody Koehler, Gage Gatlin

GREETERS: Lyn Miller, Becky Richards

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain Donna Bean
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain Becky Richards
Nancy Powell

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

Sherry Alexander, Courtney Gatlin

TELLERS: Jerri & Mike Wesson

USHERS: Need Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, July 27

- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
- 10:10 am Choir meets in choir room
- 10:30 am The Service
- 4:00 pm **Ordination/Installation** for Pastor Micah
Reception for Pastor Micah immediately after the ordination/installation...
All are invited!
- 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, July 29

- 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: July 27-August 2

- July 29 Ardene Ewing
Pauline Joye
- July 30 Madison Morton
- August 2 Alyssa Buchanan



July 31 is Zac's Day at the Grizzlies game. Sign-up sheet for tickets is available from **Tom Bocchino**. Tickets are **\$6 each**. Since Zac has completed all his treatments, the Hullanders are donating the proceeds to the *Heather Mauney Yount Memorial Playground*.

Blast Off VBS Take TWO! Here is the revised VBS Plan: We will have **VBS** on two Sunday afternoons in August...**August 10 and August 17**. We will meet from 2:30-4:30ish each of these afternoons. **Rally Day** for the new Sunday School year will be on **Sunday, August 24** and we will use some of the closing activities from VBS to begin the Rally Day activities.

I need teacher and helpers for each afternoon of VBS...I need story tellers, craft leaders, game players and small group helpers. In addition, I need help with the opening and closing for each Sunday. Please contact me ASAP if you are willing to help. So far, Sherry Alexander has volunteered to work with the preschool group and Molly Caldwell has agreed to be a helper. Contact me via email at revbethbreittain@gmail.com or by phone 704-956-1203.

The leaders' meeting on Sunday, August 3 during the Sunday School hour in the parlor. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this part of Children's ministry.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Scott Caldwell
Virginia Crump
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd

Cher Grant
Ferrie Hedrick
Richard Holden
Zac Hullander
John Kreitzer

Chase Lineberger
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese
Bob Williams Family

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange
Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Ronnie Hagy
Brian Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox
Claudia Frazier
Donald Freeman
Ronnie Hersey
Judy Jackson
Dennis Jordan
Wesley Jordan & Family

Betty Kannapel
Marshall Kinley
Becky Knick
Alice Langley
Laura Lanuto & Family
Pierce Lee
Peggy McKenney & Family
Carolyn Moss
Grady Nichols
Sandra Nix
Jean Peters
Leland "Lee" Peterson
Scott Phillips
Steve Pletsas

Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Mara Rappleyea
Earl Riedley
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Jimmy Surratt
Buck Weatherford
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward
Bryan Wayburn

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



THE CONGREGATION OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER
IS CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF
DOUGLAS MICAH KEARNEY
TODAY, JULY 27, 2014
4 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

BISHOP BOLICK OF THE ELCA NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD
WILL PRESIDE
RECEPTION FOLLOWS THE SERVICE

Heather Mauney Yount Memorial Playground Project



The playground, built on our church grounds, will be a commercial structure designed for 2-12 year-olds. Over 2/3 of the \$36,000 cost has already been raised by the generous contributions from family, congregation members at the time of Heather's passing and anonymous donors.

We need your help to raise the \$12,500 in order to complete this project.

Please join us in making the playground a reality by indication on your check memo line or offering envelope: *Playground Project*.



Prayers of Sympathy And Hope
Are offered
To the family of Bob Williams.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager