Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, May 8, 2016

The Seventh Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

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, \oplus one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of grace and glory,

C you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and # frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Faith of Our Fathers All Stand & Sing



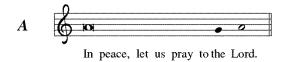
Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain Text sts. 2-4 \circledcirc Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

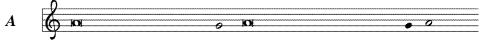






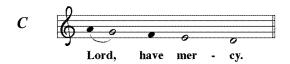
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.





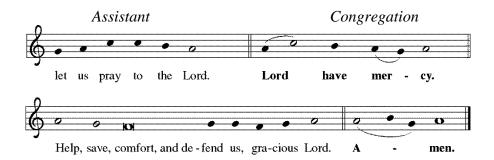
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







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



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 Acts 16:16-34

A reading from Acts, the sixteenth chapter.

The owners of a slave-girl who used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for "healing" her and, consequently, ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus

Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

righteousness and justice are the foundations | of his throne.

¹The LORD is king; let the | earth rejoice;*

²Clouds and darkness are | round about him,*

³A fire | goes before him*

and burns up his enemies on | every side.

⁴His lightnings light | up the world;*

the earth sees it and | is afraid.

⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence | of the LORD,* at the presence of the Lord of | the whole earth.

⁶The heavens de- | clare his righteousness,*

and all the peoples | see his glory.

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!* Bow down before him, | all you gods.

 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,*

because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;* you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

¹⁰The LORD loves those | who hate evil;*

he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand | of the wicked.

¹¹Light has sprung up | for the righteous,*

and joyful gladness for those who | are truehearted.

¹²Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,* and give thanks to his | holy name.

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter.

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

¹²"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

¹⁶"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 17:20--26

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! All Stand & Sing (Members of the Children's Ensemble join the Church Choir in the balcony during the singing of the hymn.)



- 1 A hymn of glo-ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
- 2 The ho ly ap os tol ic band up on the Mount of Ol ives
- 3 To whom the shin-ing an-gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up-on the
- 4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
- 5 O ris en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac-



Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by ring: Al-le - lu - ia! road be - fore un -Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers stand, skv?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they skv." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.

say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -

see re - turn-ing in great maj - es - ty." run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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,

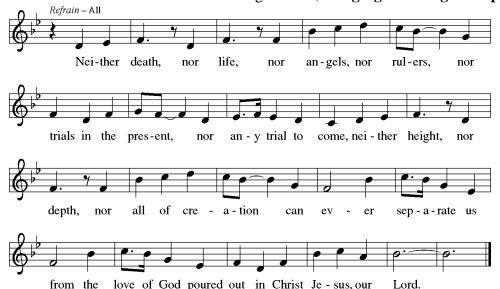
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

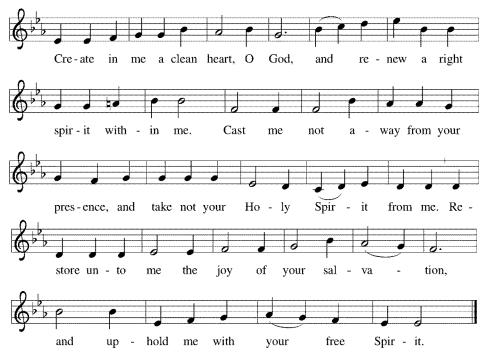
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Neither Death, Nor Life* Church Choir & Children's Ensemble sing 1st time; **Congregation sings as repeated**



OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create In Me All Stand & Sing



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of renewal, fill us to overflowing with the grace we receive in word, in water, in the meal. Draw others to join the life we share in your church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Declare your righteousness through the blossoming of creation. By the wind's blowing and birds' singing, inspire us to join in the hymn of all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Be the source of all strength and peace for people who are imprisoned. Renew them with the overwhelming power of your salvation, and give them release for their spirits. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal yourself to those who feel isolated because of illness, grief, status, or the prejudice of others (*especially*). Comfort and welcome them into your Spirit-filled community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless those who serve in a mothering role for others. Send your Spirit to those who mourn, who have not known their mothers, or who long to be a mother. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You draw all the saints into your presence. Draw us into the mystery and wonder of your presence until Christ comes again. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of 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,

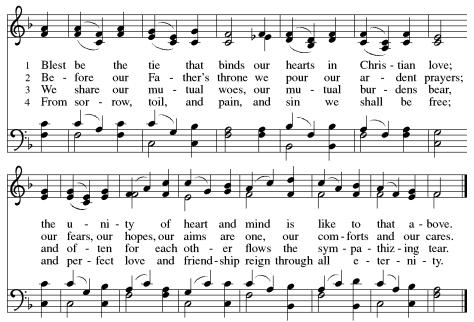
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of \oplus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Blest Be The Tie That Binds All Stand & Sing



Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt. Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Seventh Sunday of Easter**. 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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.

<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> 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.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Carmen De Nicholas, Arden & Merritt in honor of Dianne Lail's birthday; and by Dianne Lail in honor of all mothers.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music Committee

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: May 8-14

May 10 Zac Hullander



May 12 Jennifer Wiegand Perez

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Bonnie Faust

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) Bev Mauney, Co-Captain Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ginger MacDonald

GREETER: Pat Long

TELLERS:

Courtney Gatlin & Bill Hollar

USHERS: Volunteers

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

Infants: Staff

Toddlers: Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE ASSISTANT: Beth Brittain

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, May 8

9:15 am Handbells

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir & Kids in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, May 10

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, May 11

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study "Spiritual Gifts"

Saturday, May 14

4:00 -7:00 pm Meet at the church for a *Pentecost Picnic*. All food provided. Bring a dessert, bring a friend. Bouncy slide provided for the children.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, May 1, 2016:

Attendance: 110

Budget ReportMay 1, 2016Current Offering Received\$ 6,158.00Weekly Budgeted Expenses\$ 5,019.46Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)\$ 96,021.25Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD\$ 6,379.01Offering less Expenses Year-To-Date\$ 8,302.15

If you would like to help set up for the *Pentecost Picnic*, contact Tom Bocchino at <u>Tbocchino@hotmail.com</u> or 704-616-3049.



Vacation Bible School 2016

June 26-29th • 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our Vacation Bible School program will allow children to submerge themselves in God's Word. They will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth!



A quick meal will be provided, then the children rotate through activities of play, studying scripture, singing, and art. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. **Registration forms are available from the church office OR** by emailing holycomforter@gmail.com and requesting the form. If you are interested in helping with the program, you would be welcomed, whether it's providing a meal or assisting with one of the activity stations. **More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.** Contact Melissa Bocchino at Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.



Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape* the week of July 18-22. Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again include 6th-rising 8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. **We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.**

Registration forms are available in the narthex or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Brenda Dabrowski Shawn De Nicholas Ardean Ewing Dot Holland

Zack Hullander

Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Mark Reese

Beverley Reynolds Anna Spikes Jack Tench & Family Kevin Washle

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Brian Hedrick

Richard Abernethy
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Barbara Bingham
Graham Brezler
Libby Byrum
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell

Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Zachary Evans
Jamey Gardner
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Tammy Gordon

Sam Holloway
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Jennifer Lineberger
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Clay McCoy
Gene McRorie
Don Moore
Jean Peters
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty

Julio Quiros
Dan Robinson and
Daughters Breanna & Mikayla
Anna Rudder
Tangie Shingler
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Carson Thomas
Sally Vanhoy
Pat Via
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Bruce Zander

OUR SERVICEMEN

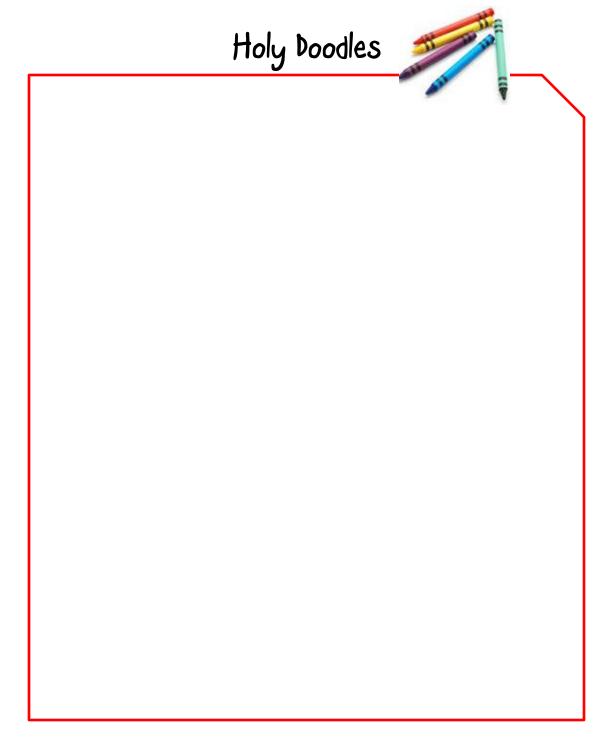
Beau Carroll Matt Cisek Jason Gardner Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer Mike Kelso Jeremy Shaver



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

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



Belated Birthday Greetings to *Erin Cassel* whose birthday was May 3rd!



Sunday School Attendance May 1, 2016



	<u>Children</u>	Adults
Nursery	2	2
Pre-School	2	6
Lower Elem.	9	1
Upper Elem.	1	1
Middle School	2	1
High School		
Seekers		4
Adult Bible Class		10
Totals:	16	25





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 Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager