

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, July 9, 2017

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Morning Hymn* Archer

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

C Amen.

P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Eternal God our creator,

C in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Give Me Jesus* All Stand & Sing

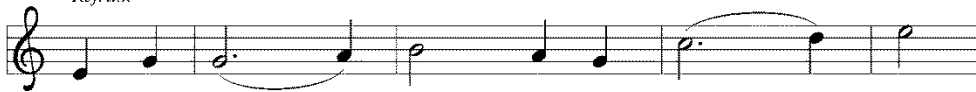


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

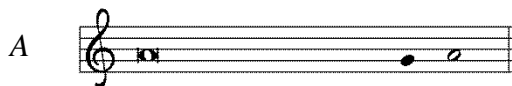
Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

GREETING

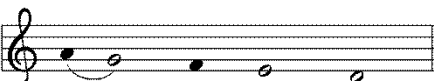
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

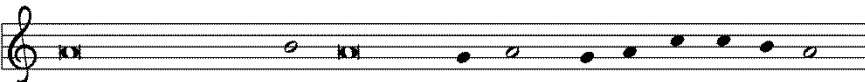
C And also with you.

KYRIE

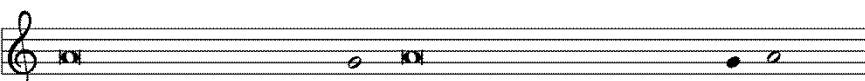


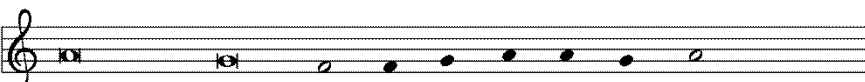
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

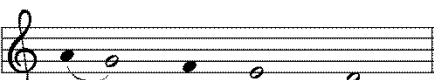
C 
 Lord, have mer - cy.

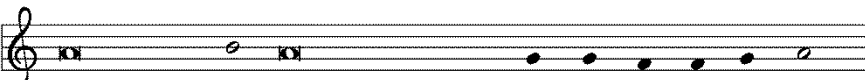
A 
 For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C 
 Lord, have mer - cy.

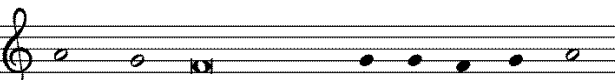
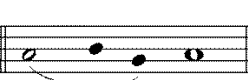
A 
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,


 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,

<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
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



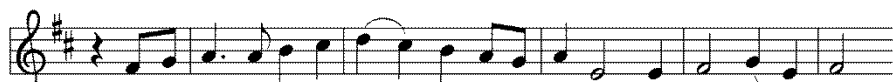
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through 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

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah, the ninth chapter.

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity.
Because of God’s covenant with Israel, they are designated as “prisoners of hope.”*

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:8-14. Read Responsively

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout
all ages.**

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans, the seventh chapter.

*Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it
and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a
futile existence.*

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing
I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no
longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells
within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do
the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want,
it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at
hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members
another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that

dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give

you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

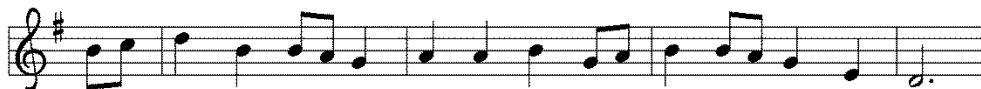
HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* All Stand & Sing



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this dark world’s light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast.”
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live.”
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav - ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

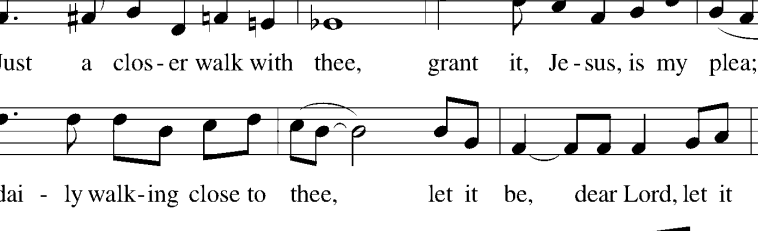
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

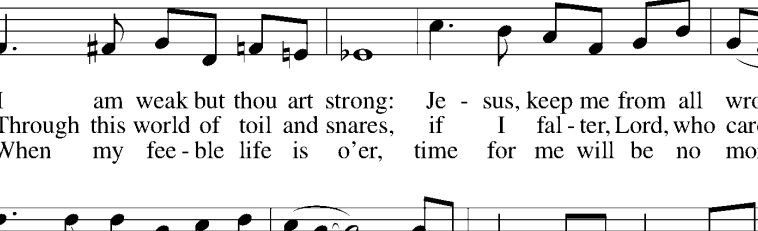
OFFERTORY: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee . . .* All Sing (Repeat Refrain after last verse)

Refrain



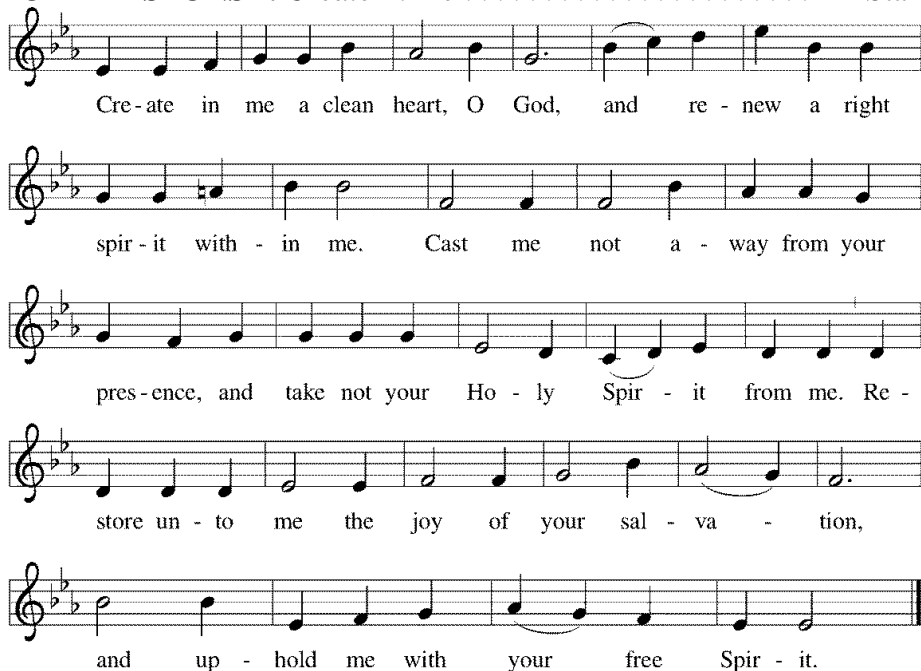
Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;
dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat-is-fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur-den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent-ly, safe-ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

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, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

A brief silence.

Humble God, lead your church in the way of service. Prosper the work of campus ministries and Young Adults in Global Mission as they raise up leaders to serve the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Cultivating God, bless and encourage all who work the land to feed your people. Give them joy in their vocation. Shower rain on crops and health on livestock. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy One, you command peace to the nations. Give peaceful hearts and discerning minds to world leaders and citizens alike, that all who suffer violence and hunger come to know the fullness of life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you bid the weary come to you for rest. Renew energy for bone-tired people. Support our brothers and sisters who are burdened by grief, loneliness, and illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of everything, you have compassion for all that you have made. Show our congregation what mercy looks like in our own community, that we become faithful partners in your ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, we give you thanks and praise for all the people who have blessed our lives, for saints among us whose steadfast faith has strengthened ours. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *This Is My Song* All Stand & Sing

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

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DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Fifth 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. We encourage you to use the nurseries if your children become restless and/or vocal. 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: 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 Donna Bean in memory of Hattie Ellese Stowe.

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 July 2, 2017:

Attendance: 96

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 7,027.00	\$ 135,689.25
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 145,204.31
Offering less Expenses	\$ 1,370.58	(\$ 9,515.06)
Budgeted Expenses		\$ 148,678.69
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		(\$ 12,989.44)

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: July 9-15

Today, July 9 Chase Lineberger
July 10 Marcus Fleming
Hailey Ratchford
Laura Tench

July 13 Don Robinson
July 14 Beka Forst
Beverley Mauney
July 15 Russell Fleming



ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Donna Bean

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Fran Holland
Trudy Whitener

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains
Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Volunteer

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, July 9

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

Music Week at Lutheridge

Tuesday, July 11

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Thursday, July 13

Hymn Festival at Lutheridge

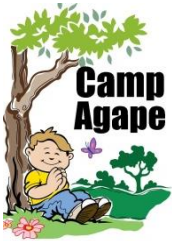
Friday, July 14

Music Week
Closing Concert Day



Wednesday, July 12

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



Holy Comforter is hosting **Camp Agape July 17-21.**

Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Agape Kure Beach Ministries.

During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade 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 at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler.**

The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration.** There is only room for 25 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. **Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.**

BCO July Items of the Month



Peanut butter



Saltines



Tuna



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing
Ned Featherstone
Kay Holden

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tim Kelly
Stan Lahr
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Marsha Barr
Jeanne Bernhardt
Barbara Bingham
Midge Cunningham
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox
Scott Frisk
Bill Hinkle
Glenda Hinkle
John McDermid

Jennifer Lineberger
Anne Murdy
Karen Wayt
Donnie Yavelak



OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer

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



Holy Doodles



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