

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, August 25, 2013

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

INSTALLATION: Sunday Teachers & Children's Church Leaders

PRELUDE: *Immortal, Invisible*Welsh Folk Melody

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, abounding in steadfast love toward us,
healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Just and gracious God,

C we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we
confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show
us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

P The apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us
alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to you, +
"Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *How Firm A Foundation* All Stand & Sing

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply,
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;


What more can he say than to you he has said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

Refrain

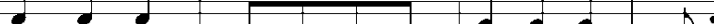


Ky-ri-c e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

GLORY TO GOD All Sing Refrain and Verses

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



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



2 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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

BACKPACK BLESSING

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 nursery**.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:9b–14

A reading from the fifth-eighth chapter of Isaiah.

The Lord promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

- ^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;

I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1–8 Read Responsively

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits?**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:18–29

A reading from the twelfth chapter of Hebrews.

Using images of Moses from the Old Testament, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who

are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:10–17

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the Sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding

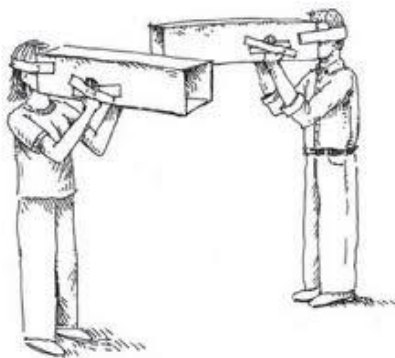
"sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

¹⁰Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Sayin' 'no' to Tunnel Vision" (Notes pages 18-19) Pastor John



HYMN OF THE DAY: *All People That On Earth Do Dwell All Stand & Sing*



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er - sure; his truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the

praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594
 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

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: *Long, Long Ago in Jerusalem.* Land and Seasons

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *We Plow the Fields* All Stand & Sing

We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
But what you most would treasure – our humble, thankful hearts.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Deliver your church from all that binds and limits. Free us to boldly proclaim the gospel and seek the truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bestow on your creation ample rain and an abundant harvest. Cultivate in us a fresh respect and a deep humility for the environment. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Uphold the oppressed, liberate those in bondage, and strengthen those who labor under the yoke of repressive government. Free us to work for justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rescue all in harm's way, sustain the poor and hungry, heal those who are ill or afflicted.
Free us to be your hands of love and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Save us from lives and schedules filled with too much activity. Free us to be a Sabbath people who take time for worship, rest, and renewal. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather us at the last with all your saints and bring us in awe and joy to your unshakeable kingdom, the heavenly Jerusalem. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

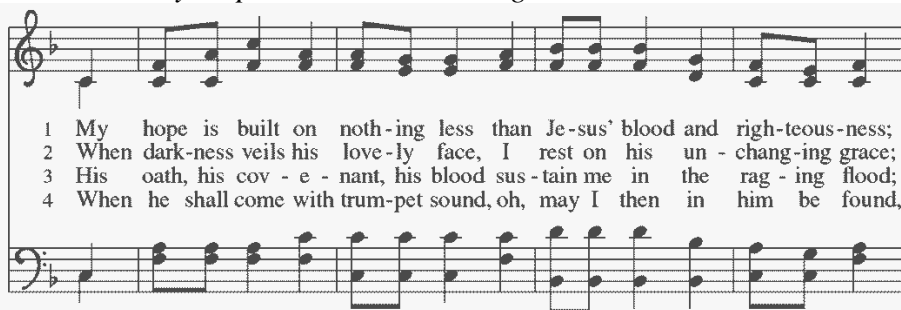
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

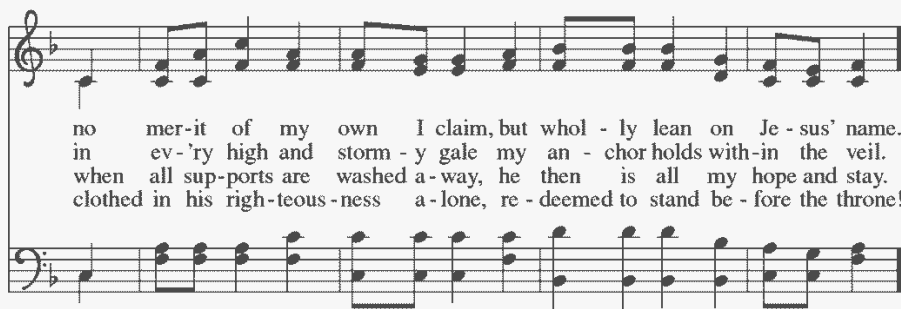
BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less* All Stand & Sing

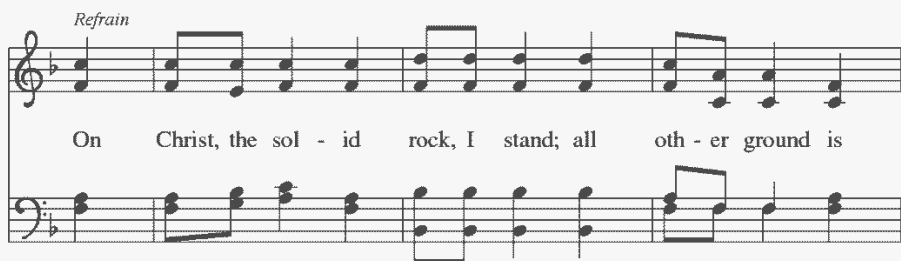


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

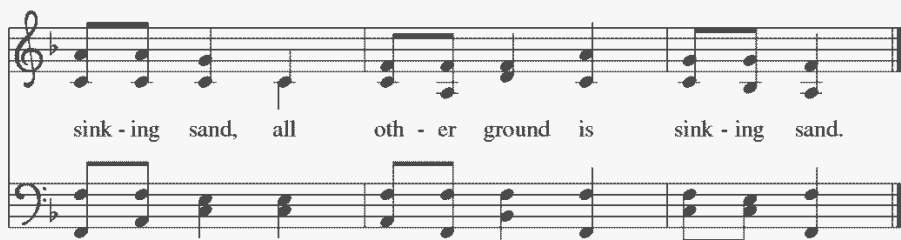


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fourteenth 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. 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 Beth Brittain in memory of Alvin "Bub" Brittain; and by Courtney Gatlin in memory of Shortie Alexander.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music Committee

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, August 18, 2013:

Attendance: 110

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 8/18/13
Total Current Offering, Y-T-D (1/1/13-8/18/13)
Expenses, Year-To-Date

August 18, 2013

\$ 3,253.75
\$149,283.07
\$132,876.87

The Current Offering Received for the year through August 18, 2013 is \$16,406.20 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Charles Mauney

CANTOR: Greg Byrum

ACOLYTES: Becca Gatlin
Gage Gatlin

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain
Barbara Kasmer
Gayla Foscue

CRUCIFERS: Wil Carpenter
Cody Koehler

GREETERS: Need Volunteers

USHERS: Courtney Gatlin
Denise Wiegand

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, August 25

9:30 am Sunday School Rally Day
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, August 27

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: August 25-31

Today, August 25 Gage Gatlin
Kim Wallace
August 27 Dillon Kasmer
August 29 Matthew Bruchon
Tommy Causby



August 30 Eric Ange
Becca Gatlin
Ron Starnes

The **Call Committee** is now in the process of receiving names for Pastoral Candidates. If anyone in the congregation has someone they would like to nominate for *consideration*, **the forms are available in the church office and should be returned to me.**

The Call Committee welcomes your suggestion of possible candidates. **Only a member of the clergy roster for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America may be nominated.** All ELCA pastors with the exception of our interim pastors, John Propst and Jack & Linda McHenry are eligible.

The Call Committee will take all nominations seriously and share appropriate names with the office of the Bishop. **If the nominee is from a synod other than NC, our bishop will obtain clearances from the nominee's synod.** It is *strongly suggested* that the first contact with the nominee be made by his or her bishop. Also, due to the call process and confidentiality, please know that there may be no direct response.

The Call Committee appreciates your input and if you have any questions, please let us know.

Faithfully yours, ***John Crist, Call Committee Chair***

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and made bishop of Hippo in 396.

Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow movement toward faith and includes the line "Late have I loved thee."

Wednesday, August 28

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 405

A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. Prior to his conversion he had been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers. The story of his conversion is unknown, but eventually he became a desert monk at Skete. The habit of his monastic community was white, though Moses is reported to have said, "God knows I am black within." The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Wesley Ashe
Louise Austin
Virginia P. Crump
Daniel Dowd

Gayla Foscue
Ferrie Hedrick
Richard Holden
Zac Hullander

Lee Ireland
Chase Lineberger
Liz Propst

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam
Dale Burris
Ceci Colbert
Joyce Davis
Brian Hedrick
Ms. Frankie Hedrick
Kathy Helton
Betty Fox

Brenda Jenkins
Betty Kannapel
Paul Outlaw
Jean Peters
Taylor Propst & Family
Steve Sanford
Ramona J. Sinclair
Rose Strait

Family of Ruth Surratt
Jimmy Surratt
Buck Weatherford
Junior Westmorland
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward



OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll (Honduras)

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer

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 let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex.

*Thank you to everyone for
All your support and prayers on the recent death
Of my friend Gisela Stone.*

Monique Estelle

“Sayin’ ‘no’ to Tunnel Vision”

Luke 13:10-17

Two acts/scenes in today Gospel play Tunnel Vision

1) Act of Compassion

“He (Jesus) was teaching in one of the meeting places on the Sabbath. There was a woman present, so twisted and bent over with arthritis that she couldn’t even look up. She had been afflicted with this for eighteen years. When Jesus saw her, He called her over. “Woman, you’re free!” He laid hands on her and suddenly she was standing straight and tall, giving glory to God.”
(Luke 13:10-13 from The Message)

Applying God’s Word - Are you in need of straightening today? Maybe physically, maybe emotionally, maybe Spiritually. Something or someone has you tied up that makes you unable to function? Are you in need of Someone who REALLY sees you, notices you, calls you out & heals you?

2) Response to this healing miracle

“The meeting-place president, furious because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, ‘Six days have been defined as work days. Come on one of the six if you want to be healed, but not on the seventh, the Sabbath.’” OMG!
(Luke 13:14 from The Message)

The leader of the synagogue saw a law, a rule; Jesus saw a person in need.

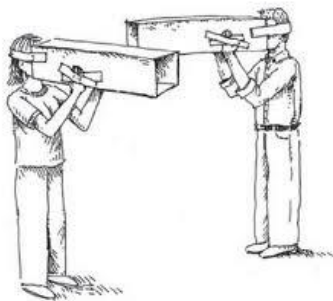
Applying God’s Word – more Spiritual application – Have you ever had “tunnel vision” regarding something or someone? Can a Church have “tunnel vision” in terms of its mission & ministry?

And the peoples’ response ...

“When He (Jesus) said this, all His opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that He was doing.” (Luke 13:17 from NRSV) or from The Message: *“When He (Jesus) put it that way, His critics were left looking quite silly and red-faced. The congregation was delighted and cheered Him on.”*

(let’s move to the next page!)

*How 'bout we covenant to cheer Jesus on with our words, our actions,
our peripheral vision for mission & ministry at Holy Comforter!*



“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.” ~ Helen Keller

“You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.”

~ Mark Twain



Congratulations to Elizabeth Bruchon on the birth of her first grandchild: Theodore Jesse Bruchon Cox was born August 17th to mom Emilie Bruchon and dad Marcus Cox. He weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. All are doing well.

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

John Propst, Interim Pastor; email: JohnCPropst@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager