

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 15, 2019

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

PRELUDE: Fanfare on *Jesus Shall Reign* Dixon

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

C Amen.

P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our helper,

C we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Oh, Worship the King* All Stand & Sing

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

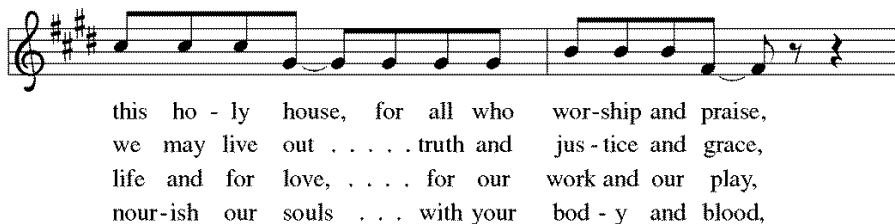
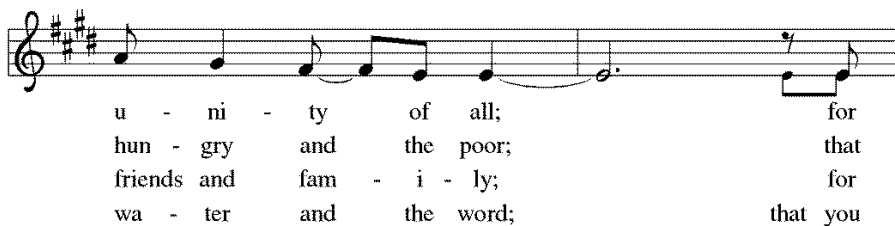
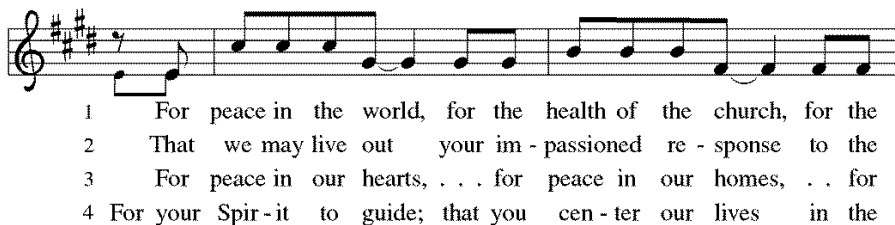
Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE Pastor verses, Congregation Refrain



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



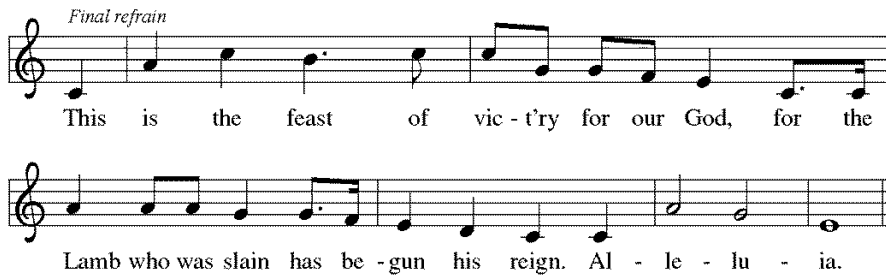
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in 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 nursery**.

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from the thirty-second chapter of Exodus.

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today’s reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God’s own people and boldly asks mercy for them.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first chapter of 1 Timothy.

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

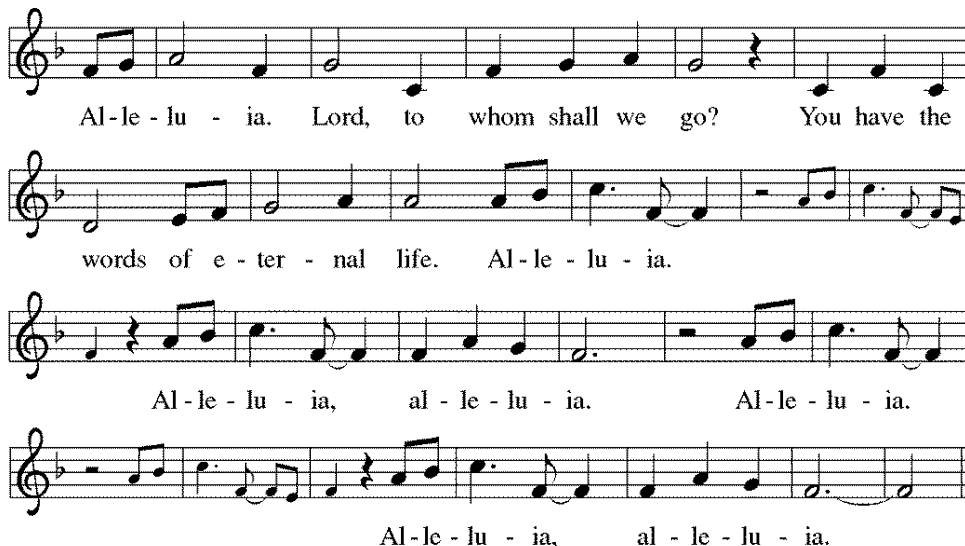
¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal

life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



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 15:1–10

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous

persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* All Stand & Sing

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Bless pastors, deacons, and all church leaders in their ministries, so that your gospel is shared through their faithful leadership and living. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect and preserve habitats and biospheres, especially in places damaged by natural disaster or human alteration. Restore balance to deserts, oceans, polar regions, and temperate areas. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Instruct all the world's people, nations, and governments in ways of justice, mercy, and peace. Lead us away from the idols of power, war, self-centeredness, and fear. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Show mercy to the lost, welcome to the outsiders, and comfort to the suffering and dying. We pray for all who need your healing and constant presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen those who work with people in crisis: firefighters, police officers, hospital staff, chaplains, nurses, doctors, emergency responders, staff and counselors in rehab centers and women's shelters. Give them wisdom and compassion, so that those in need are well-supported and cared for. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the beloved sheep of your fold who have died and who now find life in your eternal glory. Embrace us as we hope and rejoice in your unfailing redemption. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Psalm 150* Church Choir

Assembly
Refrain

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal-le-lu - jah.

Choir or Cantor

- 1 Praise God in the holy temple,
praise God in the firmament.
praise God for exceeding greatness;
praise for God's almighty acts. *Refrain*
- 2 Praise God with the trumpet sounding,
praise God with the lyre and harp.
praise God with the drum and dancing,
praise to God with string and pipe. *Refrain*
- 3 Praise God with resounding cymbals,
praise God with loud clanging cymbals,
oh, let everything that has breath
praise the Lord, hallelujah! *Refrain (2 times)*

Text: Psalm 150

Music: Nathan Jensen © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Augsburg Easy Choirbook, Volume 3: Music for the Church Year, ISBN 978-1-5064-1404-1

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OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *We Celebrate the Gift You Bring* All Stand & Sing

Our God extends an invitation to the table of this feast,
Where there is wine and light and bread, all people gather and are fed.
We bring you all our offerings, and give you thanks for all good things.
We celebrate the gift you bring.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* All Sing



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.
Almighty God ✠ bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* All Stand & Sing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

SENDING

A Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all 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 in the Education building. 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.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 8, 2019:

Attendance: 50

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 4,346.00	\$204,481.77	(2,294.82)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$206,478.44	298.14
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 582.04)</u>	<u>(\$ 23,724.93)</u>	<u>(1,996.67)</u>

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 9/8/19

Goal: \$225,000
Received to Date: 163,755
Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000
Remaining Needed: \$ 26,245

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Volunteer**GREETER:** Volunteer**ACOLYTE:** Eva Kline**TELLERS:** Rochelle Potter
Danny Potter**CRUCIFER:** Arden De Nicholas**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean Beverly Robinson

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Rebecca Yount

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Volunteer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Volunteers

USHERS: Volunteers**EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Myra Hollar in honor of Bill's 90th birthday.

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

Julia Gunter, Worship & Music Committee

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 15-21

September 16 Rick Whitener

September 17 Bill Hollar

Tony Leitner

September 18 Winston Baker

September 20 Lyn Miller

Beverly Reynolds

Dan Wallace

September 21 Horace Bean

**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, September 15**

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

5:00 pm Handbells

HCY Pool Party at the Buell's home

6:00 pm Church Choir practice

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

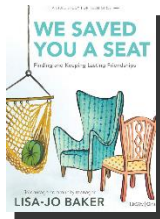
Christian Ed Meeting

Nar-Anon

Wednesday, September 18

6:45-8:00 pm Women's Bible Study
(Downstairs)

6:45-8:00 pm *HCY Girls' Bible Study*
(Upstairs)



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Shirley Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone

Ellen Fleming
Sarah Tench Helms
Kay Holden
Zac Hullander
Ben Moose

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Margaret Barbee
Mike Barbee
Sue Barbee
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Meredith Hovis
Danny Huss
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain
Lyle McNamara

Pat Mullen
Anne Murdy
Linda Nichols
Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg
Dennis Yates

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list,
please inform the church office.**

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



Nutritious School Lunches Children see one food ad for every 5 minutes of cartoons they watch and, since children watch an average of 20 hours of TV per week AND very few of the ads are for fruits and vegetables, few children get good information about proper nutrition. As a result, only about 1% of all children have eating patterns consistent with dietary recommendations. Over the last several years a more sedentary lifestyle (due to video games and increased hours of watching TV) and obesity have caused high cholesterol and Type 2 diabetes to emerge as rising epidemics in our pediatric population. These, in turn put our children at higher risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, stroke, and osteoporosis. The effects of unhealthy eating also may include iron deficiency anemia, eating disorders, and tooth decay. Let's make it a point to help our children develop good, lifelong eating habits by packing good, nutritious school lunches for them now. Here are some tips: 1) Include your children in planning the lunch; they tend to eat healthier if they have a say. 2) Create a weekly school menu – being organized helps avoid morning panics in packing a lunch. 3) Make a game out of choosing a lunch menu – let your smaller children decorate food group index cards and then pick a card from each group when it's time to pack. 4) Allow your children to choose a fun snack or dessert to go along with their lunch. 5) Pack a surprise in each lunch, such as stickers or an encouraging note - this adds an element of fun to a traditional lunch. Most of all, 6) Be a good role model and choose YOUR lunches wisely!

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.





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: MKearney@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse