

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 17, 2017

## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney  
Pastor

Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster

### GATHERING/WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *When He Cometh* ..... W. Held

### 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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Source of all life,

**C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High! . . . . All Stand & Sing*



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1997 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** ..... **All Sing Refrain; Pastor sings verses**

*Refrain*




Ky-ri-e 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

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.

# GLORY TO GOD ..... All Sing Refrain and Verses



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



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,



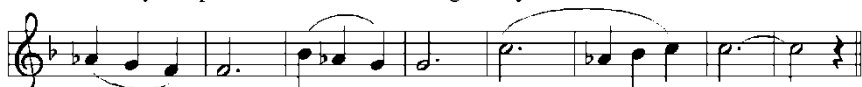
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



*Refrain*



*Final refrain*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Congregation is seated and 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

**Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from the fiftieth chapter of Genesis.

*After Jacob’s death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



**PSALM 103:8-13** .....All Sing

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**  
<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 2:1-12**

A reading from the second chapter of Romans.

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

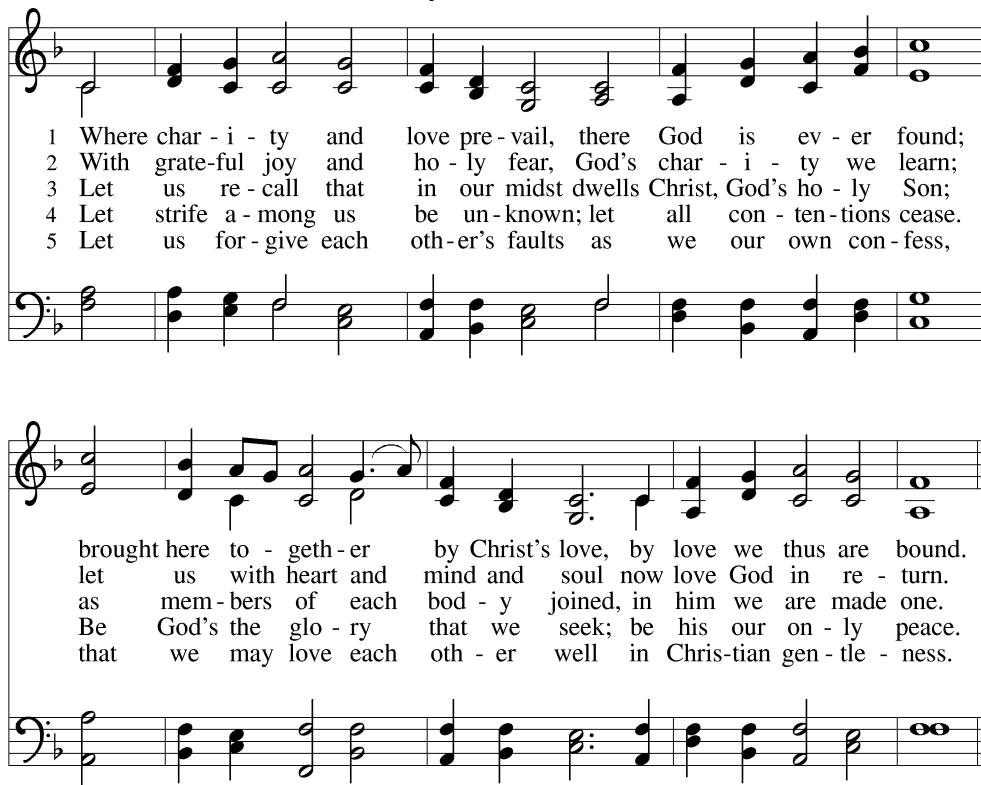


P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Where Charity and Love Prevail . . . . .* All Stand & Sing



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

## 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**

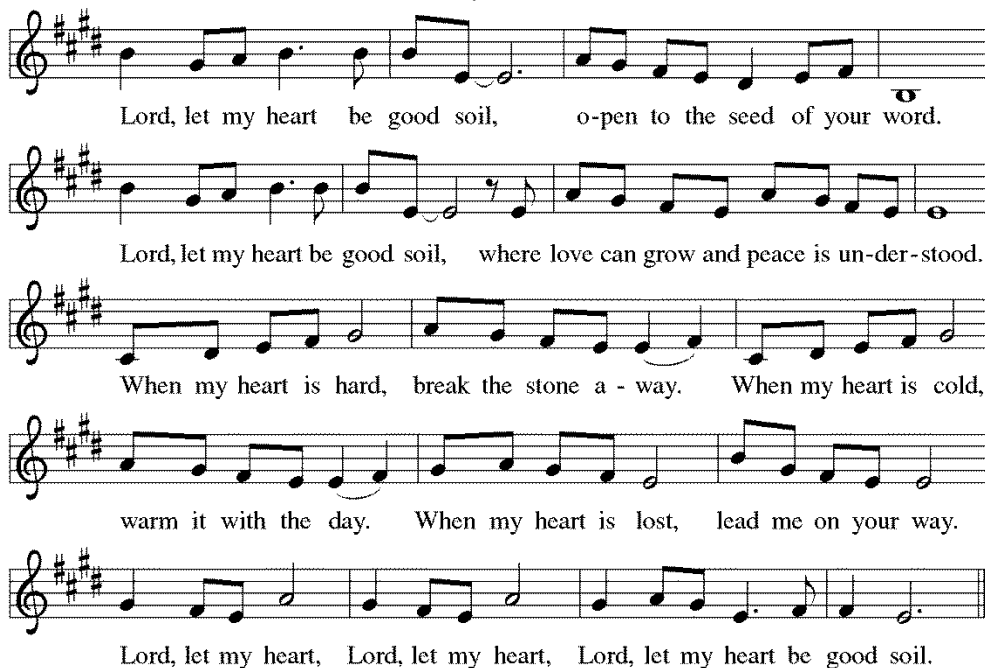
**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Long, Long Ago in Jerusalem . . . . .* Church Choir

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil. . . . .* All Stand & Sing



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray.

**C** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community. Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you. Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.  
**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** God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:  
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING SONG: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

## SENDING

**A** Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION** for those who desire it will be offered at the alter after church.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fifteenth 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](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Charles & Beverly Mauney in honor of their wedding anniversary.

**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 September 10, 2017:**

Attendance: 133

<b><u>Budget Report</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>
Offering	\$ 3,504.00	\$ 182,352.43
Expenses	\$ 5,656.42	\$ 198,945.13
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 2,152.42)</u>	<u>(\$ 16,592.70)</u>
Budgeted Expenses		<u>\$ 204,163.30</u>
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		<u>(\$ 21,810.87)</u>

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 17-23**

Today, September 17 Bill Hollar  
September 18 Winston Baker  
September 20 Lyn Miller  
Beverly Reynolds  
Dan Wallace



September 21 Horace Bean  
September 22 Dean Burwell  
September 23 Mary Page  
Anne Reese  
Rebeca Yount

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### **ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye

**GREETER:** Pat Long

### **ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

**TELLERS:** Amanda Kelly

Nathan Kelly

### **ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)**

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains  
Donna Bean

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Krystyna Sarrazin

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

*Infants:* Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**SOLOIST:** Greg Byrum

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## **THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:**

### **Sunday, September 17**

9:30 am Sunday School  
10:10 am Church Choir prep  
10:30 am The Service  
2:00 pm Confirmation class  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
**HCY** meet at church to carpool  
For *LazerTag*. (\$26 cost)  
5:00 pm Adult Handbells  
6:00 pm Church Choir



### **Tuesday, September 19**

7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
Christian Ed meeting  
Nar-Anon

### **Wednesday, September 20**

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

### **Thursday, September 21**

5:30 pm ***Battle of the Badges***  
Sims Park, Gastonia



# BCO September Items of the Month



Oatmeal



Dried Beans



Canned Beans



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen  
Brenda Dabrowski  
Shawn De Nicholas  
Ardean Ewing  
Becke Featherstone  
Ned Featherstone

Kay Holden  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander  
Chase Lineberger  
Holly Peche  
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive  
Denise Taylor  
Jack Tench  
Beverly Reynolds  
Jerri Wesson

## GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Marsha Barr  
Jeanne Bernhardt  
Barbara Bingham  
Karen de la Vega

Carol Fox  
Scott Frisk  
Larry "Poss" Garrett  
Brandi Hager

John McDermid  
Jennifer Lineberger  
Anne Murdy  
Karen Wayt

## OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer



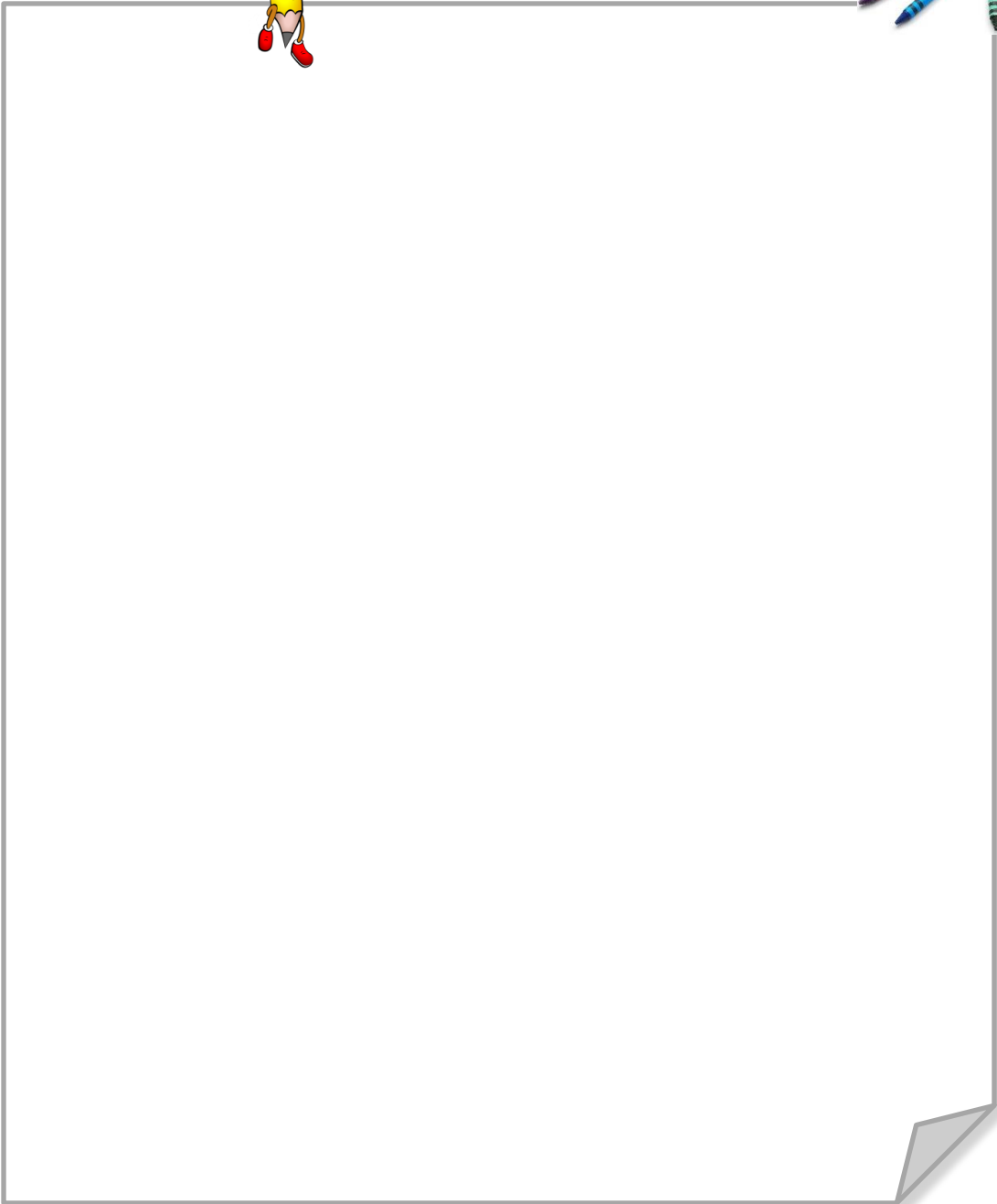
Leo Kasmer

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 in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).



# Holy Doodles





## **We need you!**

***Trunk or Treat*** is right around the corner  
and we are looking for *spook-tastic* volunteers  
to make this a success.

We are looking to make this year bigger and better!

To do this we need your help.

If you *dare* to be a part of this event,  
please see Tom Bocchino or Beka Forst.



### **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager