# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 29, 2013

## The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** The Lord God, My Shepherd Is . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Anglican Tune

#### 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: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

## Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of overflowing grace,
- C we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

#### C Amen.



Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

#### **GREETING**

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

## C And also with you.







- 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
- 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





this ho - ly house, for all who we may live out . . . . truth and life and for love, . . . . for our nour-ish our souls . . . with your

wor-ship and praise, jus-tice and grace, work and our play, bod - y and blood,



3



Music: Peruvian traditional

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## P Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C Amen.

## Congregation is Seated

#### 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 Amos 6:1a, 4–7

A reading from the sixth chapter of Amos.

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

<sup>a</sup>Alas for those who are at ease in Zion.

and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, <sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,

and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock,

and calves from the stall:

<sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,

and like David improvise on instruments of music;

<sup>6</sup>who drink wine from bowls,

and anoint themselves with the finest oils,

but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul,

and forget not | all God's benefits?

³who forgives | all your sins

and heals all | your diseases;

4who redeems your life | from the grave

and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things

so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

<sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, you angels, you mighty ones who | do God's bidding, who obey the voice | of God's word.

<sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all you hosts of God, you servants who do God's will.

<sup>22</sup>Bless the LORD, all you works of God, in all places  $^{\mid}$  where God rules; bless the LORD,  $^{\mid}$  O my soul.

#### SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:6–19

A reading from the sixth chapter of 1 Timothy.

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

°Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the

presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia.

Al-lc-lu-ia, al-lc-lu-ia. Al-lc-lu-ia.

GOSPEL Luke 16:19–31

al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le-lu - ia,

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away

empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

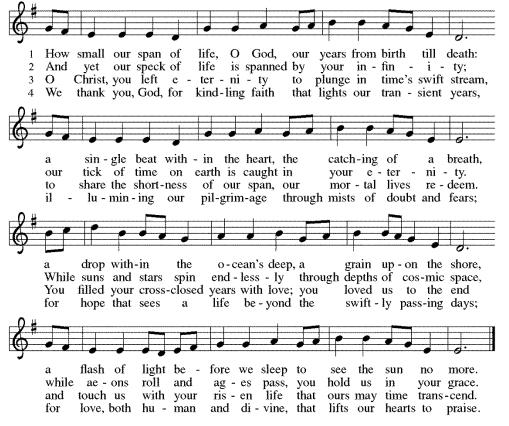
<sup>19</sup>There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup>He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

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

**SERMON: "Living Before We Die"** (Notes page 17) . . . . . . . . . . . Pastor John







Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **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 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

## A brief silence.



Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956 Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>\*</sup> catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

Holy and just God, awaken the people of your church from our self-serving behavior. Stir us to advocate for and to serve people who are most in need of your mercy. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

Work with food producers, textile workers, scientists, and others who harvest resources from creation to be made into usable products. Feed and clothe all people through their efforts. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Confound our ways of living that do not embrace the life that you have shown us in Christ. Execute justice on behalf of all people who are cast aside by the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

## (Sing Response)

Attend to those who experience neglect or scorn in their communities because of age, disease, or physical ability. Lift up people who feel less than whole in any way. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Establish and encourage partnerships among congregations, food banks, clothing closets, and other service ministries. Strengthen the work we do together for others. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Living God, giving thanks for all messengers who have made your salvation known, we pray you to shape our lives, that we may make you known to others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

## (Sing Response)

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.

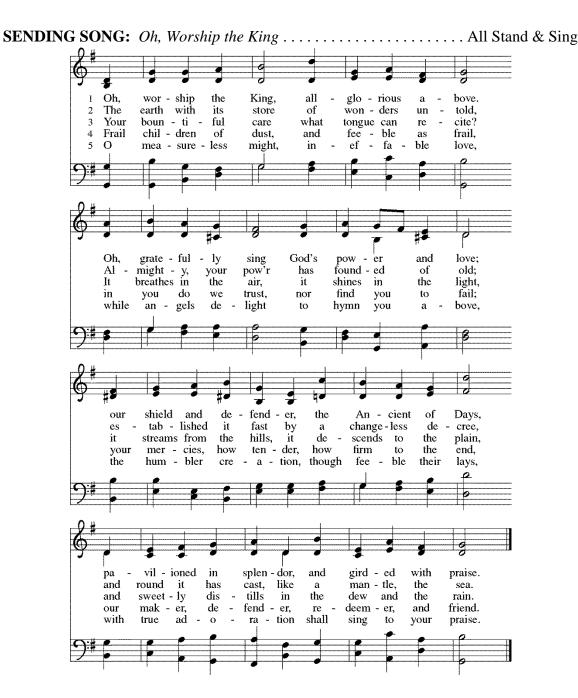
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

#### **BLESSING**

P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

#### C Amen.



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

#### DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this The Nineteenth 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.

<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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 Bob & Denise Wiegand in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 22, 2013:

Attendance: 120

#### **September 22, 2013 Budget Report**

Current Offering Received 9/8/13 \$ 1,885.05 Budget Expenses, Month to date \$16,112.15 Offering - Month to Date \$16.556.45

The Current Offering Received for the year through September 22, 2013 is \$17,430.45 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**GREETERS**: The Causbys **LECTOR:** Billy Jove, Jr. + Julia Gunter

**ACOLYTES:** Matthew Carr. Ashton Nault **CRUCIFERS:** Madison Carr

Nick Ashe

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2) Louise Day, Co-Captain Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Nancy Powell **Becky Richards**  **CANTOR:** Greg Byrum

**USHERS:** Bill Hollar + volunteers

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 29

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbell Choir 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

## Tuesday, October 1

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

## BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 29 - October 5

Today, September 29 Barbara Beale October 4 Mark Reese Claire Mitchell

September 30 Louise Austin October 1 Ellen Fleming Andre Mendez

# October 5 Larry Siglar

## "Inquiring Hearts" SS class October 6, 20 & 27 - 9:30 am!

Taught by Pastor John, we'll look at: discipleship; Lutheran beliefs (Small Catechism, baptism, communion AND much more); Church Year; Mission & Ministry at Holy Comforter: AND much more! This 5-week series is for ANYONE (new to the Church, already a member, pondering membership!) Call if you think you'll be attending some or all of the classes ... 704-825-2483 or e-mail ... JohnCPropst@gmail.com

#### Worship at Lutheridge + October 13 + 10:30 am + Whisnant Chapel

See the fall mountain colors + lunch after worship in the Lineberger Dining Hall (<u>DONATIONS</u> accepted for lunch!) + Vans available from HolyC! + a service WILL be held at HolyC for those not going to Lutheridge + BE SURE TO SIGN THE PAD, so we'll have an idea on how many to expect + Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

There will be NO Sunday School for the children on this Sunday. There WILL be worship service for those not attending at Lutheridge.

Contact Greg Cline or Pastor John if you have questions.



#### PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Sherry Alexander Louise Austin Virginia P. Crump Daniel Dowd Ferrie Hedrick Richard Holden Zac Hullander Lee Ireland Dianne Lail Chase Lineberger Liz Propst

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Gertrude Alexander Kathy Beam Dale Burris Aaron Cote Joyce Davis Rev. Rick Eckard Ronnie Hagy Brian Hedrick Ms. Frankie Hedrick Kathy Helton

Dot Hollar

Betty Fox
Brenda Jenkins
Betty Kannapel
Laura Lanuto & Family
Jeff Lail
Ruth Lail
Dan Martin
Sandra Nix
Paul Outlaw
Jean Peters
Taylor Propst & Family

Mara Rappleyea
Steve Sanford
Megan Sigler
Ramona J. Sinclair
Rose Strait
Jimmy Surratt
Buck Weatherford
Junior Westmorland
Beverly F. Wall
Gloria Ward



## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

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 and online at www.holyc.org.

## "Living Before We Die"

"take hold of the life that really is life...go after God, Who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous." (1 Timothy 6:17-19 from <u>NRSV</u> & <u>The Message</u>)

It's not the days in our life that matter, but rather the life in our days.

- 1) While on earth, what did you do with My Son, Jesus?
- 2) What did you do with what I gave you?

**Application** ... how can I enjoy even more the journey God has me on?

- Instead of starting the day with "Good Lord, it's morning!" Start it with, "Good morning, Lord! It's a new day!"
- o Make time each day for God and savor those moments
- Talk about yourself & your life in the positive rather than in the negative; focus on blessings rather than struggles
- o Give yourself fully & enthusiastically to everything
- o Focus on what you can do instead of what you can't
- o Enjoy all the beautiful things (and people) around you
- When things don't go as you'd like them to, view it as an unexpected adventure
- Count your blessings from God (repeat this one!)

## And a bit more application ...

## A Pencil Maker told his pencils 5 important lessons:

- 1. Everything you do will always leave a mark
- 2. You can usually correct the mistakes you make
- 3. What is important is what is inside you
- 4. In life, you will undergo sharpenings, which will hopefully make you better
- 5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the *Hand* that holds you

++++++

**Living before we die** just might mean being the most faithful "pencil" we were created to be if we allow God's Spirit to be the One who holds us & guides us!

And may the rest of your dash be joy-filled & Holy Spirit-led!!!





## Sunday School Attendance September 22, 2013

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	1	1
Pre-K	5	2
God's Eden	3	1
Youth	5	2
Seekers		6
Adult Bible Class		14
Totals:	14	26

**Share Your Recipes...**We are in the process of acquiring recipes to be published in a cookbook by the ladies of Holy Comforter. Please get a *recipe form/s* from **Deborah Bingham**, fill it in with your recipe/s and return to her or the church office by **October 6**.



**Next Sunday, World Communion Sunday, The Rev. Bill Trexler will be our guest pastor**. Rev. Trexler chairs the Southern Seminary Board of Trustees, was the past Bishop of the Florida Synod AND his dad served Holy Comforter as pastor from 1941-1943. Please plan to attend next Sunday and give Rev. Trexler a warm welcome.



Once again we are requesting Advent devotionals from members of the congregation. Beth Brittain has the forms you need to fill in for your article/devotional. Look for her today to get the form. All articles must be turned in to Julia Gunter at <a href="mailto:JBGunter41@gmail.com">JBGunter41@gmail.com</a> no later than October 31. (Advent begins on December 1.)



## A Stewardship Story from Pastor John's message last week:

You don't give for God's sake. You give for your sake. "The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives." (Deut. 14:23 TLB)

How does tithing teach you? Consider the simple act of writing a check for the offering. First you enter the date. Already you are reminded that you are a time-bound creature and every possession you have will rust or burn. Best to give it while you can.

Then you enter the name of the one to whom you are giving the money. If the bank would cash it, you'd write *God.* But they won't, so you write the name of the church or group that has earned your trust.

Next comes the amount. Ahhh, the moment of truth. You're more than a person with a checkbook. You're David, placing a stone in the sling. You're Peter, one foot on the boat, one foot on the lake. You're a little boy in a big crowd. A picnic lunch is all the Teacher needs, but it's all you have. What will you do?

Sling the stone?

Take the step?

Give the meal?

Careful now, don't move too quickly. You aren't just entering an amount ...you are making a confession. A confession that God owns it all anyway.

And then there is the line in the lower left-hand corner on which you write w¹hat the check if for. Hard to know what to put. It's for light bills and literature. A little bit of outreach. A little bit of salary.

Better yet, it's partial payment for what the church has done to help you raise your family. . . keep your priorities sorted out . . . . tune you into to his evernearness.

Or, perhaps, best yet, it's for you. For though the gift is to God, the benefit it for you. It's a moment for you to clip yet another strand from the rope of earth so that when Jesus returns you won't be all tied up.

(When God Whispers Your Name, Max Lucado)

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 <u>h</u> P.O. Box 666 holycomforter@gmail.com

John Propst, Interim Pastor – JohnCPropst@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

Website: www.holyc.org