

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 8, 2019

God's work. Our hands. Day of Service

Micah Kearney
Pastor



Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Creator God, we praise you for the waters of baptism that draw us daily into greater relationship with you and with all that you have made. Your heart is open to us in our struggles, you listen to us in any need, and you name us all as your beloved children. In your grace open our hearts also to serve as Christ served, so that we may follow where you lead and see the face of Christ in our neighbors.

C Amen.

P Beloved children of God, in your baptism “you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God’s faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C “I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

P In these promises you have committed yourself to Christian vocation: to love and serve one another, share the good that God has done for you in word and deed, and follow in Jesus’ example of service to all people. May God who has claimed you as beloved and holy in baptism, guide your words, your steps, your work and your rest for all of your days.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* All Stand & Sing

The musical score is written for a choir in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn; 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame; 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace; 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain; 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn. as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim. re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place. stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain. and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy.

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

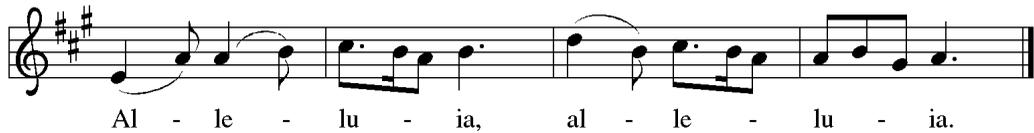
SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,



GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

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

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

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Are Called* All Stand & Sing



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas
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PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *God is Our Refuge and Strength* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me A Clean Heart* Church Choir



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Loving God, receive these gifts of our hands and with them our lives and the life of your church. Transform us in service to you and all you have made, and draw us always near to you through Jesus Christ, who leads us to new life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together to follow Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We give you thanks for this crowd of followers the whole world calls church. Guide us as your people on the way, transform our lives and our community to reflect you faithfully, even at cost to ourselves, and continue always to hold us in your love. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We ask your blessing on our work together today as we participate in community acts of service. Guide our hands and our hearts to live as you lived and lead us outward to serve the world you love, today and always. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors here in Belmont, NC, for the people whose homes, schools, and workplaces surround us. May our following of Jesus be a blessing to them, and may we all turn toward each other in service and love. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We intercede with wonder and pleading for the earth that you have made, its beauty and grief, and all its inhabitants. Lead us to love creation as you love it and show us what possessions we must give up that all your creatures may live. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We ask your mercy on all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially (*names*). Grant them your peace, turn their sorrow into laughter, and bring them to new wholeness. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We praise you for all the saints who have followed you faithfully and, through your grace, have been brought to eternal life. Comfort all who grieve for their companionship and grant us all wisdom as we remember the beauty of their lives with us. God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We place into your hands all that we pray for and all that we need, trusting in your generous compassion, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

For thine is the kingdom,

**and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING/ SENDING

P May God our Creator transform your work and your lives through grace,
May Jesus lead us, his church, to follow in his path of love and sacrifice,
May the Holy Spirit keep you ever joyful and humble in service,
May almighty God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-bless you now and always.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, and follow where Jesus leads.

C Thanks be to God.

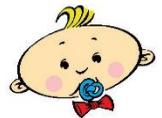
(All follow the recessional from the church)

POSTLUDE: *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus* Manz

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Thirteenth 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Emilie, Valerie, David & Matthew Bruchon in honor of Elizabeth Bremer Bruchon's 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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 1, 2019:

Attendance: 98

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 3,920.00	\$200,135.77	(866.47)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	\$200,704.10	(298.14)
Offering less Expenses	<u>(\$ 1,854.35)</u>	<u>(\$ 510.58)</u>	<u>(568.33)</u>

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 9/1/19

Goal: \$225,000
 Received to Date: 163,390
 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000
 Remaining Needed: \$ 26,610

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTE: Eva Kline

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Krystyna Sarrazin

CRUCIFER: Arden De Nicholas

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

Rebecca Yount

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean Beverly Robinson

TELLERS: Rochelle & Danny Potter

USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 8-14

September 10 Austin Kellogg
Sherry Nelson

September 14 Emily Koehler

September 11 Hannah Carnes
Madison Carr
Maria Carr



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 8

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:00 am **Rally Day** Breakfast
9:45 am Church Choir prep
10:00 am The Service
10:30 am **Depart for projects**
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, September 11

6:45 pm **HCY Girls' Bible Study**
(Upstairs)
Women 's Bible Study
(Downstairs)

Thursday, September 12

10:30 am **Prime Timers** Bible study in
fellowship hall; carpool to
McAdenville Market & Table for lunch

Saturday, September 14

10:00 am **Kid's Club** with space theme
Wear space costume; pancake
breakfast in fellowship hall



BCO September Items Needed

**Instant Grits • Canned Fruit
Instant Mashed Potatoes
& Instant Oatmeal**



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Shirley Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Merritt De Nicholas
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.



Spiritual Health When talking about issues of wellness it is easy to get stuck in the physical piece of the whole picture. In reality (as more and more studies are proving), our spiritual and emotional health actually tends to drive our physical and mental health. Experiences we consider to be purely emotional also involve our whole selves. Consider the relief that often follows crying. We take a deep breath, clear our thoughts, and get on with our lives, feeling a little more whole than before. We all know people who, despite handicapping conditions, lead very full and healthy lives. Their illness enabled them to wrestle with their faith, gain a deeper relationship with God and reach a stronger sense of wholeness in spite of a broken physical body. We also know people who look physically healthy and seem to have everything going for them, yet their lives appear to be empty. Rumer Godden's "A House with Four Rooms" includes an Indian proverb that goes something like this: "Everyone is a house with four rooms: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Most of us tend to live in one room most of the time, but unless we go into every room every day, even if only to keep it aired, we are not a complete person." To care for our spirit is not only important work, but holy work. It is what supports and enables the care we give our physical and mental selves. So, nurture your whole self! Attend church and give at least a few minutes a day to devotional time; provide yourself with a break from stress now and then, even if it's only 10 minutes of sitting still and being quiet. You'd be surprised how far that little bit of spiritual and mental pampering can get you in overall good health!

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

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager