

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 9, 2018

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: *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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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.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4–7a

A reading from the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 2:1–10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from the second chapter of James.

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Mark 7: 24-37

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

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

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *To Be Your Presence* All Stand & Sing

1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com -
 2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the
 3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy
 poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,
 all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
 peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the

ev-er near,
 right up-hold, al-le-lu-ia!
 love ex-pressed,
 church, re-joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM & RESPONSE: *The Son of God, Our Christ*

Church Choir sings vs 1. **All begin singing on vs. 2. Stand on vs. 4-5**

1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
 2 In ev-'ry test, in tri-als man-i-fold,
 3 To-day, as then, Christ sum-mons us to dare
 4 In cit-y street, in town, or on the soil,
 5 Wher-e'er we find our wit-ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.

Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971

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Music © 1941 Historic Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, NJ, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Generous God, we thank you for your openness to our needs and your abundance in blessing us with these gifts. Receive what we now offer that it may glorify you and sustain our neighbors in need. Bless these gifts, our hands and our hearts to your service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world and all in any need.

We thank you for this faith community and the many ways your work through Jesus Christ brings us healing, freedom and renewal. Bless all who worship here that we may

be for each other and the world signs of your justice and peace.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

Open us to the unexpected ways we meet you in our neighbors. We thank you for their gifts and for the ways they invite us into community. You who sent your son not to be served but to serve, teach us to follow in his footsteps of service and love.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

Protect your creation and teach us to cherish it. We praise you for our local rivers, lakes, and streams, that give life to plants and animals. Thank you for the ways they sustain us and for our place among them to tend and watch over what you have made.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

For all that we ask in the silence of our hearts and all that you see we need,

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

Into your hands, Gracious God, we give all that we pray for, trusting in your compassion, 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/ SENDING

P May God who has created you in rich community, to love, to learn, to share and to serve, be with you as you go out.

May God who meets you, in grace, in challenge, in beauty and in patience, greet you outside these walls.

And may God who walks with you, in water and wine, in friend and stranger, watch over you and bring you joy.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless and guide you today and always.

C Amen.

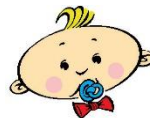
(All follow the recessional from the church)

POSTLUDE: *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus* Manz

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Sixteenth 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 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 Jerri Wesson in thanksgiving for healing.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 2, 2018:

Attendance: 98

| <u>Budget Report</u> | <u>September 2, 2018</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Offering | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 187,896.03 |
| Expenses | \$ 5,551.17 | \$ 188,257.01 |
| Offering less Expenses | <u>(\$ 1,551.17)</u> | <u>(\$ 360.98)</u> |
| Expected (Budgeted) Expenses | | <u>194,026.72</u> |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses | | <u>(\$ 6,130.69)</u> |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Tim & Shelia Kelly

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland & Tracey Nault, Co-Captains

Katie Kessen

Rebecca Yount

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jenn Kearney

USHERS: Volunteers

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

Rebecca Yount

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 9-15

September 11 Hannah Carnes

Madison Carr

Maria Carr

September 14 Emily Koehler



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, September 9

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

Tuesday, September 11

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, September 12

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, September 13

11:30 am *Prime Timers* lunch
Meet at Amber Jack
Restaurant

Friday & Saturday, September 14-15

6:00 pm ***Kids' Club Lock-In*** drop off

8:00 am **Saturday is *pick up***



**Children's Church &
Nursery Volunteers Needed!**

**Contact Beka at
rforst@holyc.org.**



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Marsha Kinley &
Family

Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Pat Roberson
Krystyna Sarrazin &
Family
Kathie Schaumburg
Scott Schaumburg

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox
Larry "Poss" Garrett

Brandi Hager
Ruth Lail
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy
George Rogers
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.



Holy Doodles

BCO September Items



Saltine
Crackers



Rice



Pasta
Sauce



Cookies

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