LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER.

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 18, 2016

The Fourth Sunday of Advent The Baptism of Benjamin Andrew McGinnis



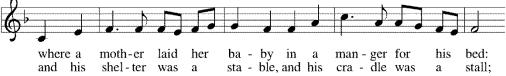
Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: Once In Royal David's City All Stand & Sing



- 1 Once in roy al Da vid's cit y stood a low-ly cat tle shed,
- 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;
- 4 Not in that poor low ly sta ble, with the ox en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Christ, her lit - tle child. Mar - y that moth-er mild, Je - sus was and meek and low-ly, lived on with the poor earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. his chil - dren on and he leads to the place where he is gone. there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo-ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

CHRISTMAS PLAY

The children of Holy Comforter



PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The presiding minister addresses parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Benjamin Andrew McGinnis baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

As you bring Benjamin to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Benjamin may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Benjamin grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Benjamin by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

- C I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

- P Benjamin Andrew McGinnis, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.
- P Sustain Benjamin with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
- C Amen.

P Benjamin Andrew McGinnis, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

WELCOME

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the seventh chapter of Isaiah.

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary

mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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



THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The fourth candle represents **LOVE**. Because of his love, all people are saved. Since God's love for us is perfect, may we perfect our answering love by loving one another.



SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the first chapter of Romans.

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake

of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

- P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he

will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of

the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For the church universal and all servants of the gospel, for Benjamin and all newly baptized, for poets and artists, for musicians and preachers, and for theologians and teachers; that all proclaim that God is with us in Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all plants and animals, seas and skies, snow and rain, and all of God's marvels; that all of creation grow and thrive as we bless, protect, and use with care what God has made, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations and those in authority, for peace and justice throughout the whole world, and for those who advocate on behalf of others; that all in positions of leadership choose what is good for the community, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the thirsty and hungry, the weak and fearful, those in childbirth, those who mourn, and the sick (*especially*); that they know Christ the Anointed One who dries up every tear and comforts those who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who travel near and far, for those who prepare our congregation for worship and celebration, and for those who gather around word and sacrament; that all experience welcome and refreshment, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the saints who have died and are now at rest; that the witness of their faith point us to the promises of grace and resurrection in Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

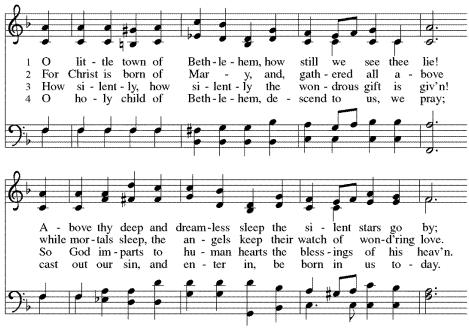
The assembly is seated.



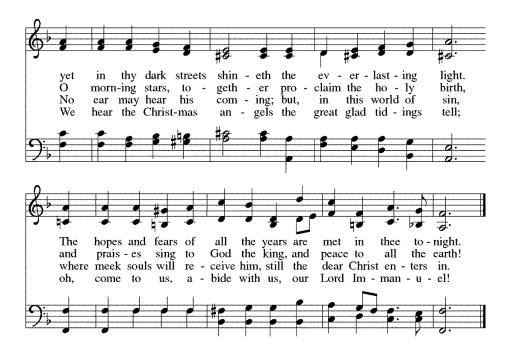
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord Church Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE: O Little Town of Bethlehem All Stand & Sing



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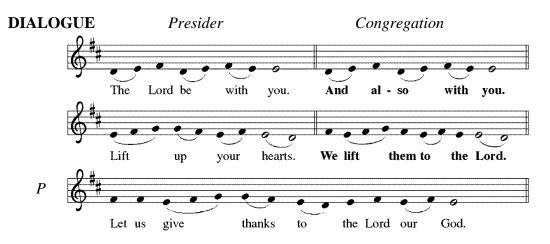


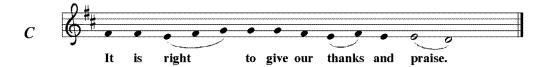
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

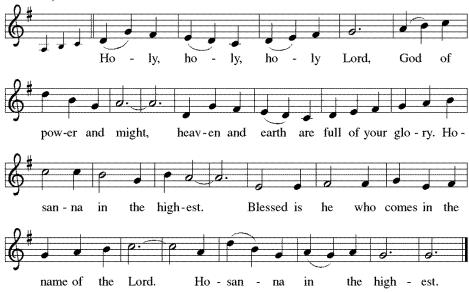




THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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,

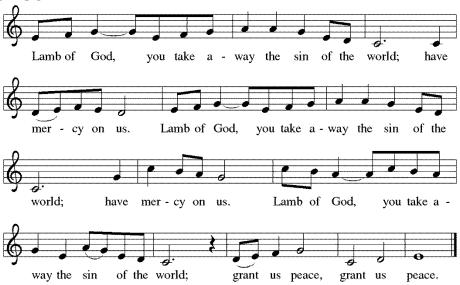
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.
- C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

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

 MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.
 Handbell Choir

 Gallery Carol
 Chamber Choir

 In the Bleak Midwinter
 All Sing





Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

- 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 for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

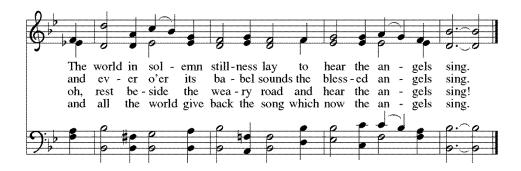
BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ± Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.....* All Stand & Sing





Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

SENDING

- A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. 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. 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount; and by Melissa & Timothy McGinnis in honor of the baptism of their son Benjamin.

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

(None due to children's program)

Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 11, 2016:

December 11, 2016
\$ 3,784.00
\$ 5,019.46
\$ 248,019.02
\$ 12,174.65
\$ 878.15

ASSISTING MINISTERS: NURSERY: (9:30 – 11:45 am)

LECTOR: Billy Joye

Infants: Volunteers
Toddlers: Staff

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams USHERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: GREETER: Becky Richards

Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 18-24

December 19 Dennis Tucker December 21 Denise Jenkins December 24 Kurt Rogers



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, December 18

9:30 am Adult S.S/children's play practice

10:10 am Church Choir Prep

10:30 am Children's Christmas Play

Holy Communion

4:00 pm Handbells

5:00 pm Church Choir

6:00 pm Church Choir party

Tuesday, December 20

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 pm Meal

6:45 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 24

1:00 pm Children's Service

10:10 pm Choir prep

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

w/Holy Communion

THE FIGURES OF A SHEPHERD & SHEEP ARE ADDED TO OUR CRECHE. This morning we are reminded that on a hillside overlooking Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep when a bright light appeared in the sky. The shepherds were very afraid. The light was angels sent by God. An angel told them not to be afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son of God had been born and they would find him in Bethlehem. The shepherds went to find the baby.

THE BLUE CANDLE in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.

The 2017 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

Please <u>print your name</u> at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 vase or both). **If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.**Cost of both vases = \$45, One vase = \$22.50.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2017

If you are willing to serve as a *Greeter*, *Lector* or *Usher* for the **2017** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are located in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month then sign your name at each date for that month.

The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays.



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES:

December 18: 10:30 am Children's Christmas Program

With Holy Communion

December 21: 6:00 pm Meal; **6:45 pm Advent Worship**

December 24: 1:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

10:45 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 25: 10:30 am Regular Service with Holy Communion

All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office by January 2nd.



Thank you for your participation in helping to provide Christmas gifts for the children whose name you chose from the **Angel Tree!**



You provided a special Christmas for **52 children** from our community.



We welcome to Holy Comforter
via Infant Baptism
Benjamin Andrew McGinnis
Son of Melissa Anne & Timothy Alan McGinnis
Born July 17, 2016



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Shirley Causby Tommy Causby Brenda Dabrowski Shawn De Nicholas Ardean Ewing Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Ann Outlaw
Holly Peche

Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro Terry Faulkner Scott Frisk

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Carol Fox Parker Holland Jeff Lail Jennifer Lineberger Capt. Basil Jeff Marett

Tim Reid



OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer Leo Kasmer Tom Kasmer Mike Kelso

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 located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

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Letters to the Congregation:

Hello All,

Many of you from the congregation, may or may not know about the issues we have had in the past with our Heating and Air systems in our two buildings. There are extensive heating and air controls, condensers, air handlers and a boiler that provide HVAC to our buildings. Many parts of this elaborate system have been updated or repaired over the years, some of which go some back almost 58 years. It is now obvious that all this complication and significant maintenance cost could be avoided by biting the bullet and hiring an Mechanical Engineering firm to design and build a new system to completely or partially replace this antiquated HVAC system. This could lead to reduced maintenance, increased efficiency, lower energy cost and less headaches for the Church Property Committee. While we don't have a cost, as of yet, we think this endeavor could cost us in excess of 100 thousand dollars.

Even though the system is partly functioning right now, we think it is prudent to start a drive to collect monies for this project. So starting immediately we are asking for your help to fund this project. We will call it the "**Heating and Air Fund**". As we get closer to getting estimates, we will inform the congregation of estimated costs and details about the proposed system to be installed. The property committee will drive this project, but we will contract a Mechanical Engineering firm for the design and installation.

Thank you for your help with this worthwhile endeavor.

Tim Baker Council President







Condition of Pipes



Pneumatic Valve

Dear Holy Comforter Church Family,

I have been given the wonderful opportunity to go on a mission trip to Ecuador. I am so excited!! This will be my first mission trip. I will be leaving on February 16th for 10 days to witness, spread God's word and provide much needed supplies to underprivileged families.

Our mission team is desperately trying to raise \$9000 to purchase the following:

- 1) 150 backpacks filled with school supplies
- 2) 100 plus Discipleship books and Bibles in their language (we would love to buy more, money permitting)
- 3) Food for the "Bags of Love" we will be distributing
- 4) Balls and candy for the children

We are having our first fundraiser now! We are selling fully cooked Boston butts and/or turkeys just in time for Christmas. They will be cooked by a master chief and both are mouthwatering! The cost for either is \$30. If you would like to help us reach our goal you can contact me or pick up an order form in the narthex. I will need your order and money by December 19th. I will pick up the turkeys and Boston butts and have them for you Friday night, December 23rd, just in time for your Christmas dinner. I will be glad to work out arrangements to get them to you.

If you have any questions please contact me at <u>704-718-6161</u> OR email <u>Shelia.Kelly9537@gmail.com</u>. Thank you Holy Comforter for supporting me with this mission, as I feel lead to witness to those who don't have the opportunities to know God's word as we do.

Mark 16:15, Jesus said: "And He told them, GO into all the world and preach the good news to everyone."

In Christ, Shelia Kelly

BCO DECEMBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH:

Ingredients for a Christmas meal

One or more of the following:

Frozen turkey or canned ham

Dressing mix Instant Potatoes

Canned beans Sweet potatoes in can Canned corn Pumpkin pie mix **Monetary donations**















Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 216 N. Main Street 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 Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager