Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent



GATHERING/WELCOME Holy Comforter Carillon

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

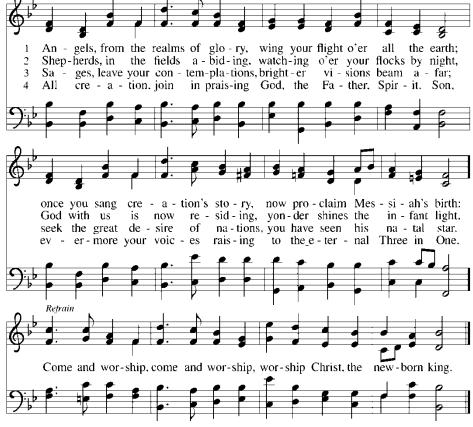
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ± one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.
- C Amen.
- P Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P To you, O God,
- C we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
- P Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of \oplus Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.
- C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Angels, from the Realms of Glory All Stand & Sing



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

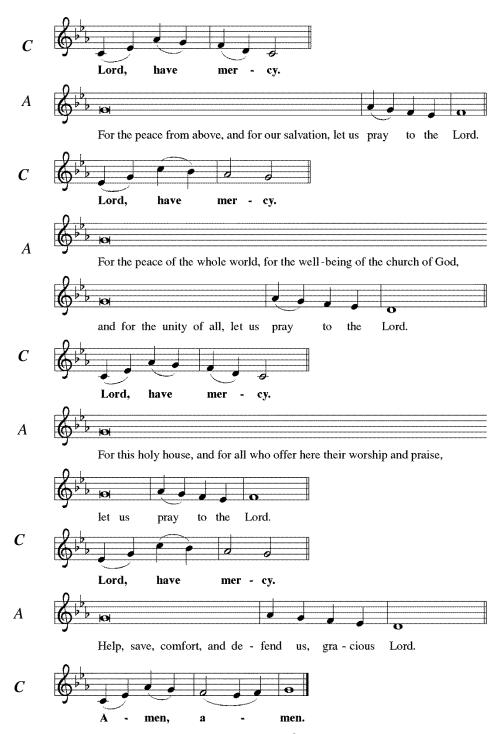
GREETING

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





CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the fifth chapter of Micah.

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

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

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 Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the tenth chapter of Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

but a body you have prepared for me;

you have taken no pleasure.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

[&]quot;Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.



CHILDREN'S PLAY

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem All Remain Seated & Sing

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

(Play continues...)

HYMN: Away in a Manger All Remain Seated & Sing

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(Play continues...)

HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing All Remain Seated & Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king: Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

(Play continues...) **HYMN:** Silent Night All Remain Seated & Sing Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round von virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace. (Play continues...) **HYMN:** O Come, All Ye Faithful All Remain Seated & Sing O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels; Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. (Play continues...) **HYMN:** We Three Kings All Remain Seated & Sing We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light! (Play continues...)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

A brief silence.

O God our Wisdom, give to all the baptized knowledge of your truth and the power of your presence. Inspire worship leaders and church musicians toward ever-deepening praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, Lord of might, hold the cosmos in your care. Give the earth both darkness and light, cold and warmth. Protect the mountains from exploitation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to all the countries of the world. Guide all leaders toward honest and merciful rule. Raise up those who are poor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, Key of David, look from your throne upon all in need. Mend the broken and the brokenhearted. Free those imprisoned by anxiety or illness. We pray especially for Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, Tree of Jesse, nurture our community. Give us joy in one another, and make us servants of all in need. Bless our holy day celebrations with your Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, Dayspring, we remember all who have died and now live in your light. Gather us to yourself and teach us to sing together Mary's song of praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

Congregation is Seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: All My Heart This Night Rejoices Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful All Stand & Sing

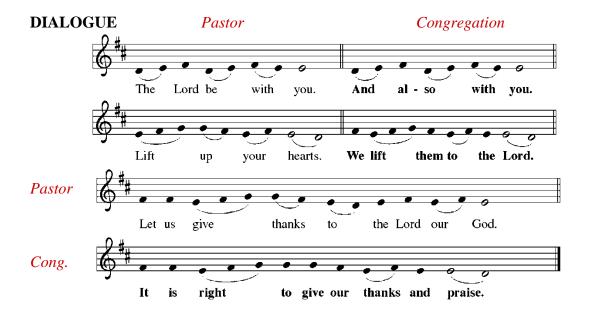


OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God of abundance,

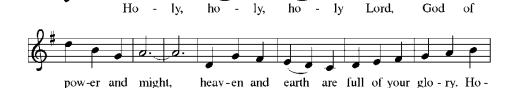
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

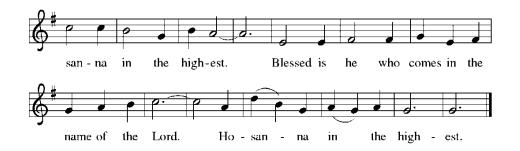


PREFACE

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.

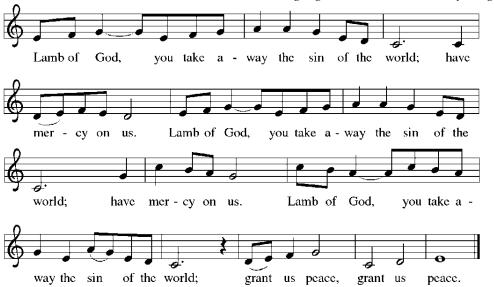
For thine is the kingdom,

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C Thanks be to God.





COMMUNION

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:



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

 Ding Dong Merrily on High
 Handbell Choir

 Candlelight Carol
 Chamber Choir

- 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 Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

P May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. 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 came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled, be - neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing 3 And you, low, 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by prophets seen of old. from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told, "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king." and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing, A - bove its sad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; look now, for glad when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



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

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- 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 one.



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 online form 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 M. Yount.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 13, 2015:

Attendance: 182

Budget ReportDecember 13, 2015Current Offering Received 12/13/15\$ 5,170.00Weekly Budgeted Expenses\$ 4,598.27Offering, YTD\$ 243,730.40Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD\$ 11,518.44Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD\$ 16,017.39

ASSISTING MINISTERS: LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr.

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains

Barbara Kasmer Carmen Buell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C) Sherry Alexander Courtney Gatlin

+ 2 Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Paul & Tracey Nault

GREETER: Shirley Causby

TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

USHERS: Need Volunteers

FLUTE: Julia Gunter

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 20-26

December 21 Denise Jenkins December 26 Amy Alvarez

December 24 Kurt Rogers Beverly Robinson

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, December 20

9:30 am Sunday Church School 10:10 am Church Choir Prep

10:30 am Children's Christmas Program

with Holy Communion

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

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Thursday, December 24

1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve

Worship

10:10 pm Choir meets

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with

Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27

No Children's Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

w/Christmas Carols

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 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 2016 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

Please *print your name* 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 2016

If you are willing to serve as a *Greeter*, *Lector* or *Usher* for the **2016** 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.

Thank you for volunteering to help serve each Sunday.

2016 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.



SCHEDULE FOR REMAINING DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES:

December 24: 1:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

10:40 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 27: 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols



Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Kathy Graves.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Holly Peche Mark Reese
Brenda Dabrowski Zac Hullander Beverly Reynolds
Shawn De Nicholas Chase Lineberger Anna Spikes
David Dowd Marquerite Shive Kevin Washle
Dot Holland

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Beverly Howe Poag Richard Abernethy Stacv Hunsucker Harriett Ange Dennis Jordan Jim Poag Paige Beaver Steven Keating Taylor Propst & Family **Buddy Kircus** David Prouty Jenny Beer Mike Butler Marshall Kinley Julio Quiros Libby Byrum Karin Larsen Anna Rudder Tangie Shingler Father Frank Cancro Terry Mahaffey Tina Capwell Lynn McFarland Megan Sigler Chris Stowe Family Clell Davis Al McCoy Clay McCoy J. Don Devine E. Taylor & Family Zachary Evans Gene McRorie Carson Thomas Susan Nichols Jamey Gardner Sally Vanhoy Poss Garrett Mark Outlaw Gloria Ward Ronnie Garrison Alicia Overton Pastor Gary Weant Ramesh Patel Olivia Wilcox Lewis Gilbert Family Brian Hedrick Jean Peters Jeff Wiles

OUR SERVICEMEN & SERVICWOMEN



Hannah Carnes Matt Cisek Leo Kasmer Jason Gardner Tom Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

Dillon Kasmer Alex Norris



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2015

GLORY TO GOD:

Pastor Micah & Jenn Kearney (2 poinsettias) Kurt & Cynthia Scholler (2 poinsettias)

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Mrs. Olin S. (Libby) Byrum, Jr.
Dean Burwell in honor of Elizabeth Burwell
Dean Burwell in honor of Cooper Burwell
Tommy & Shirley Causby in honor of Greg Cline
Tommy & Shirley Causby in honor of Margaret Sparks
Greg Cline in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby and Faye & Warren Heller
Greg Cline in honor of all Church Musicians
Greg Garrison in honor of Ronnie & Barbara Garrison, parents
Dianne Lail in honor of Family & Friends, living and deceased
Lynn Martin in honor of Sylvia Miller

Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of Al McCoy; Ginger, Chuck & Jake MacDonald; Jimmy, Katie, Henry & Anna Spikes; Laurel; and Mark & Rebecca Yount Luke & Alec Via and Noah Rawlins in honor of Fran Holland

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Bean & Horace Bean in memory of Faye Bean and the Hamilton Family
Donna Bean & Horace Bean in memory of HA & Lucille Bean
Greg Byrum in memory of Olin S. Byrum, Jr.
Jill Cassell in memory of Dick Michael

Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William L. Kannapel Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Ken Hedrick

Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly Vivian Lane in memory of John Lane, husband Lynn Martin in memory of Jack Miller

Lynn Martin in memory of Adam Kijewski

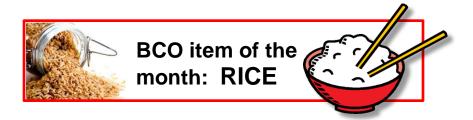
Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Pam & Heather Mauney, Betsy & Ray Mauney, Harold & Virginia Lawber, and Mary McCoy

Sylvia Miller in memory of Adam Kijewski Sylvia Miller in memory of Jack Miller

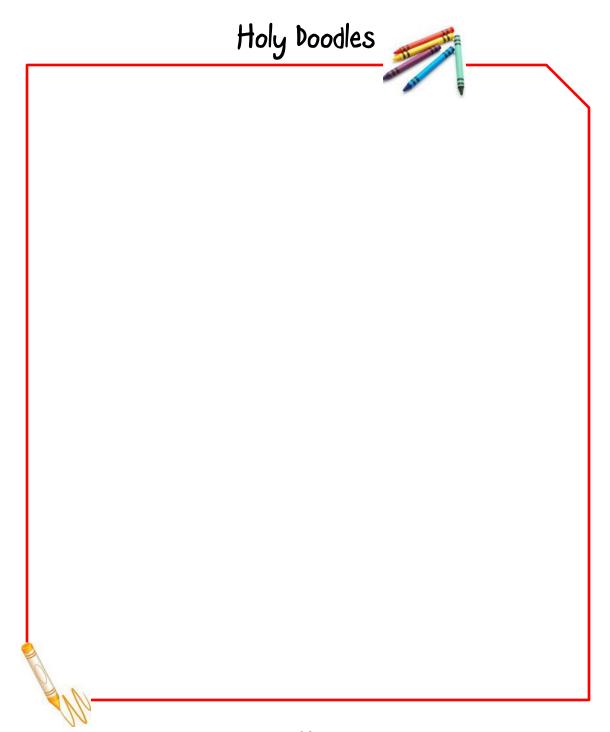
Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Judy H. Summey Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Isabel D. Nault Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Robert L. Nault

Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Melvin D. Costner
Carol & Phil Posey in memory of Norris Pruitt
Carol & Phil Posey in memory of William Posey
Gary & Karen Rogers in memory of Harry & Helen Laver
Jo & Harold Singleton in loving memory of parents: Joseph & Lillie Surrett
Jo & Harold Singleton in loving memory of parents: John & Ruby Singleton
Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Len & Marie Sudarich
Deb Williams in memory of husband, Bob Williams
Mark & Rebecca Yount and Luke & Alec Via in memory of Heather Mauney Yount

This is the list that the church office received. We apologize if there were any names omitted.



All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are due to Dianne in the church office by January 1st.





PARTICIPANTS IN OUR CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Narrator: Catherine Carr

Angel #1: Eva KlineMary: Lucy BocchinoJoseph: Jack Bryant

• Caesar Augustus: Reid Passer

• Innkeeper: Justin Koehler

Animals: Henry and Alex Bocchino

Angel #2: Olivia Sarrazin

Angel #3: Arden De Nicholas

Angel #4: Merritt De Nicholas

Shepherd #1: Zaneta Sarrazin

Shepherd #2: Leah KoehlerShepherd #3: Kaylin Leitner

• Sheep: Will Kline, Gabriel Kearney, Beckham Bryant

• Wiseman #1: Hailey Ange

Wiseman #2: Jake MacDonald

Wiseman #3: Erin Cassel

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager