Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 25, 2016

The Birth of Our Lord, Christmas Day

Baptism of Seaton Lee Atkinson



GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE:	Sweet Littl	e Jesus B	<i>Boy</i>	lo
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GATHERING SONG: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice LBW 55

(All verses)

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.

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.

Sponsors present the candidate.

I present Seaton Lee Atkinson for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Seaton Lee Atkinson baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

As you bring Seaton 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 Seaton 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 Seaton grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Seaton 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 Seaton Lee Atkinson, 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 Seaton 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 Seaton Lee Atkinson, 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.

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 62:6-12

A reading from the sixty-second chapter of Isaiah.

⁶Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels: all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD. take no rest, ⁷and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him. and his recompense before him."

¹²They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

CAROL: Once in Royal David's City..... All Sing roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood low - ly cat - tle Once in a shed, He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all. eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing And our love; that poor low - ly Not in sta-ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by, moth-er laid her man - ger for where a ba - by in a bed: sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a and his shel-ter was a stall: that child so dear and bove: heav - en, set at God's right hand shall see him; but in that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle Mar - y was child. with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. and he leads his chil-dren on 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

SECOND READING Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the fifth chapter of Micah.

² But 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.

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

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴ And 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;

and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land

and tread upon our soil,

we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Α The word of the Lord.

 \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God.

CAROL: What Child Is This LBW 40 (Sing all verses)

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

²Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,

righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

³Fire goes before the LORD,

burning up enemies on every side.

⁴Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,

and all the peoples see your glory.

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,

because of your judgments, O LORD.

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil!

God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

CAROL: Prepare the Royal Highway LBW 26 (Verses 1, 4)

THIRD READING Luke 1:26-35, 38

A reading from the first chapter of Luke.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Of the Father's Love Begotten LBW 42 (verses 1, 2)

FOURTH READING Luke 2:1-7

A reading from the second chapter of Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Away in A Manger LBW 67

FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-16

(Sing all verses)

A reading from the second chapter of Luke.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



CAROL: Angels From the Realms of Glory LBW 50 (Sing verses 1, 2, & 3)

SIXTH READING John 1:1-14

A reading from the first chapter of John.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving (*especially*), so that all people experience healing and consolation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Before the Marvel of this Night Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: When Christmas Morn is Dawning LBW 59 (All Stand & Sing)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

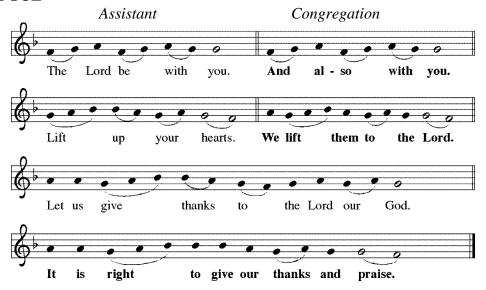
P God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

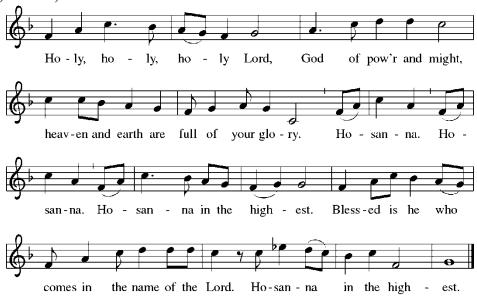
DIALOGUE



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,

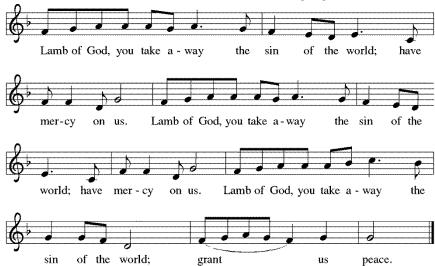
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.
- C Thanks be to God



COMMUNION SONG Congregation is seated as they sing:



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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

P On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

CAROL: Go Tell It on the Mountain LBW 70

BENEDICTION

- P Glory to God in the highest!
- C Peace to God's people on earth!
- P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Christmas Day. 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 to find 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 celebrating God's blessing of Luke Via; and by Jim & Carmen Buell in honor of Holy Comforter.

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

Offering and Attendance Report for Sunday, December 18, 2015:

Attendance: 205

Budget ReportDecember 20, 2016Current Offering Received 12/18/16\$ 5,165.00Weekly Budgeted Expenses\$ 5,019.46Offering, YTD\$ 253,184.02Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD\$ 12,320.19Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD\$ 1,023.69

ASSISTING MINISTERS: LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr.

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers GREETER: Kathy Graves

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1) TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains

Carmen De Nicholas USHERS: Need Volunteers
Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: No Children's Church

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: December 25-31

December 26 Amy Alvarez

Beverly Robinson

December 28 Molly Koehler

December 29 Trudy Whitener December 30 Elizabeth Tench

Luke Via



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, December 25

10:30 am Worship Service

Saturday, December 31
New Year's Eve

SOLOIST: Don Robinson

Tuesday, December 27

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

All music activities & Sunday School will resume on January 8th.

2017 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.



Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Dot Holland	Sherry Perry
Zac Hullander	Marguerite Shive
Tom Irwin	Denise Taylor
Chase Lineberger	Jack Tench
Ann Outlaw	Mark Reese
Holly Peche	Beverly Reynolds
	Zac Hullander Tom Irwin Chase Lineberger Ann Outlaw

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro	Brian Jackson & Family	Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
Terry Faulkner	Parker Holland	Tim Reid
Scott Frisk	Jeff Lail	Donnie Yavelak
Carol Fox	Jennifer Lineberger	



OUR SERVICEMEN

Dillon Kasmer Tom Kasmer Leo 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.



We welcome to Holy Comforter
via Infant Baptism
Seaton Lee Atkinson
Son of Clizabeth & Steve Atkinson
Born June 21, 2016

The 2017 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.

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

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.**



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS 2016

GLORY TO GOD:

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

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Cline in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby
Greg Cline in honor of Faye & Warren Heller
Carmen, Arden & Merritt De Nicholas in honor of Dianne Lail (Grandma)
Greg Garrison in honor of Ronnie & Barbara Garrison, parents
Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of Al McCoy, Ginger & Chuck, Jimmy & Katie,
Laurel, and all grandchildren

IN MEMORY OF:

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 Greg Garrison in memory or Grandmother & Grandfather Blanche & James Garrison Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Herbert & Pauline Christenbury Tim & Shelia Kelly in memory of Robert & Mary Kelly, Ken Hedrick Dianne Lail in memory of A. O. Lail, father

Jill Leitner in memory of Hazel Turtts and Warren Bernhardt Charles & Beverley Mauney in memory of Heather,

Betsy & Ray Mauney, and Mary McCoy Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly

Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Melvin D. Costner & Bill Larsen

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

Paul, Tracey, Caroline, Aaron & Ashton Nault in memory of Judy H. Summey Lynne Sudarich in memory of her parents Len & Marie Sudarich 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.



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: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager