# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 22, 2019

# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

#### **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,  $\pm$  one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

#### C Amen.

P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

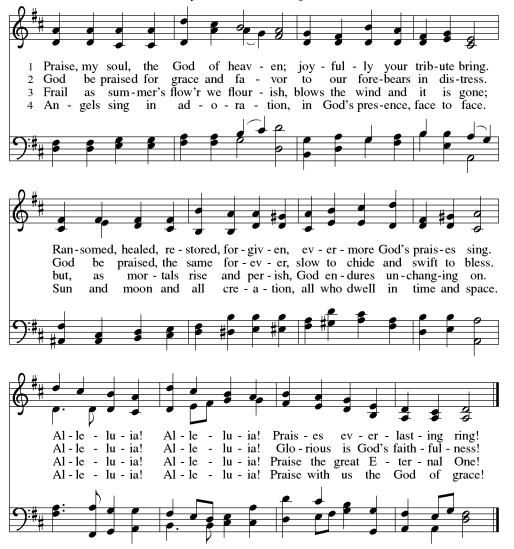
# Silence is kept for reflection.

# P God our helper,

C we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news. **C** Amen.

**GATHERING SONG:** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



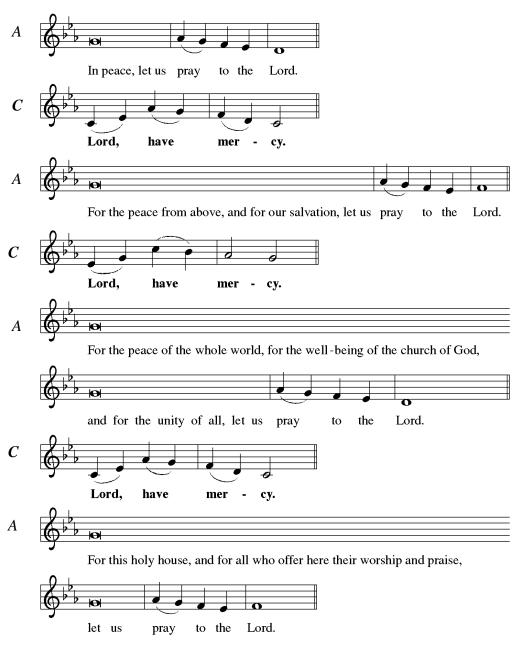
Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

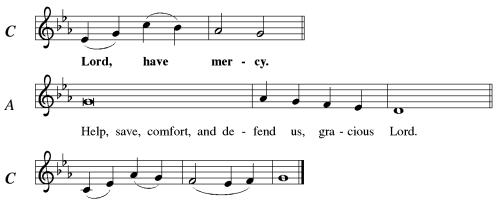
#### GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

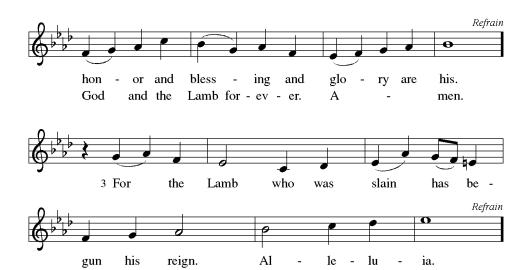
C And also with you.

# **KYRIE**









## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

#### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nursery.

FIRST READING Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the eighth chapter of Amos.

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,
<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Timothy.

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

#### GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

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

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

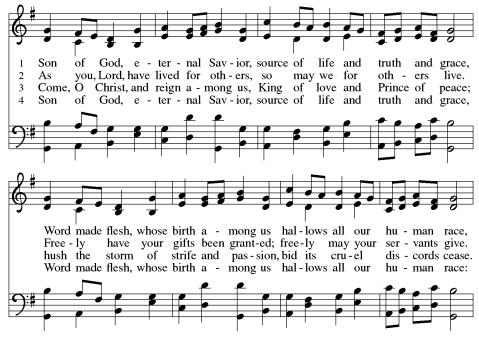
<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is

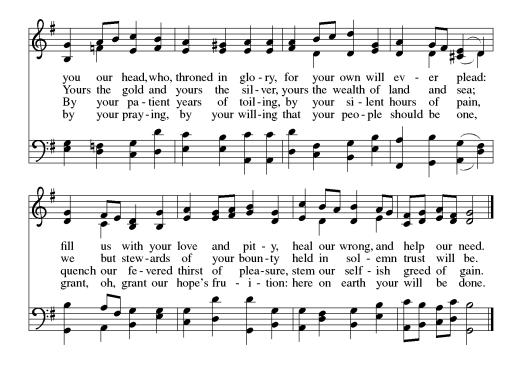
dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

The assembly is seated.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Son of God, Eternal Savior . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932 Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

#### APOSTLES CREED

the forgiveness of sins,

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,

# the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you call your church to serve you. Free your people from the deceptions of false masters so that we discover the true richness of serving in your name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you have made all kinds of creatures. Protect animals in the midst of seasonal migration, whether by water, through the air, or over land. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wise God, you rule the nations. When the powerful trample on the needy and take advantage of the poor, turn them from their selfish ways. Show us your ways of truth that lead to justice. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, you raise up those who have been brought low, and you remember the forgotten. We lift up to you all who are in need (*especially*). Grant them joy and comfort in your presence. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Mothering God, you give us life. Give strength to families experiencing infertility or challenging pregnancies, to foster parents, parents of adopted children, single parents, and families of all varieties. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you hold us close even in death. We lift to you our thanks for those who have recently died and are now at rest with you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

- The peace of Christ be with you always.
- $\mathbf{C}$ And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

#### **OFFERING**

(First verse is sung in the Hawaiian dialect)

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** We Give Thee but Thine Own . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



- May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re ceive.
- The cap - tive to re - lease. to God the lost to bring,
- And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

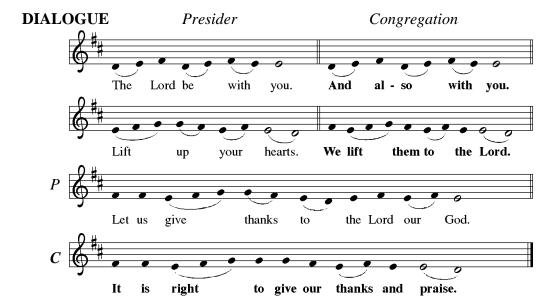
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Α

God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

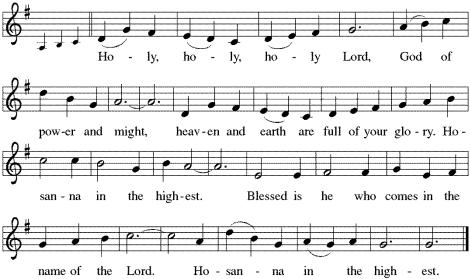
#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



#### **PREFACE**

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

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

# 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

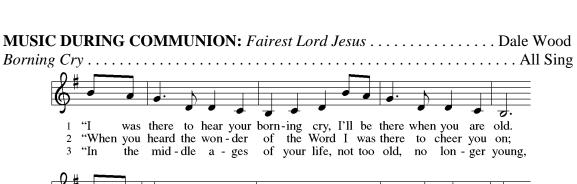
P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.

C Thanks be to 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.





I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold. you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long. I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one, When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you shut your wea-ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell." I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun." I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

- 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 of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

- P Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God  $\pm$  bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

#### **SENDING**

A Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

## C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **Fifteenth 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 online form at <a href="https://www.holyc.org">www.holyc.org</a>.

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Fran Holland in memory of Dot Holland and Willie Holland.

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

# Offering and Attendance Report for September 15, 2019:

Attendance: 111

Budget Report	This Week	Year-to-Date	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 5,469.00	\$209,950.77	( 2,600.16)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$212,252.79</u>	( 298.14)
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 305.35)	(\$ 2,302.02)	( 2,302.02)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 9/15/19

\$225,000 Goal: Received to Date: 164,530 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 \$ 25,470 Remaining Needed:

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 22-28** 

September 23 Mary Page

Anne Reese Rebecca Yount

September 25 Harold Singleton

Warren Heller September 26 Henrik Sarrazin

Leo Kasmer

James Milton

September 28 Jeremy Scharpenberg

Elizabeth Passer Barbara Beale

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye **GREETER:** Volunteer

**ACOLYTE:** Eva Kline **TELLERS:** Rochelle Potter

**Danny Potter** 

**CRUCIFER:** Arden De Nicholas

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2) CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Brad Milton, Co-Captain Jill Cassel

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain

Donna Bean **Beverly Robinson NURSERY:** (10:30-11:45 am)

Lucy Mitchell **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 

Volunteers **USHERS:** Volunteers

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers **SOLOIST:** Greg Byrum

**PERCUSSION:** Steve Bingham **ORGANIST ASSISTANT:** Suzanne

Fairbairn

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Sunday, September 22

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

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

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

(Sunday continued)

2:00 pm Confirmation at Holy C

5:00 pm Handbells

**HCY** 

6:00 pm Church Choir

#### Tuesday, September 24

6:00 pm Worship & Music meeting 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

#### Wednesday, September 25

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



**Little White Lies** Do you tell your doctor the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Not likely. According to a web-driven survey, nearly half of us fib to our doctors. For example, many patients claim to take their medications regularly but, in reality, most of us miss a dose or two each week. Others neglect to report all the meds and supplements they are taking, and people commonly fudge about not-so-healthy drinking, eating, smoking, and exercise habits. But these

omissions can have dire health effects. "Forgetting" to mention the medicines you are taking could put you at risk for dangerous drug interactions. Withholding information can thwart the doctor's ability to tailor the most effective treatment plan. The doctor may increase a dosage because you aren't getting the benefit from a drug that he'd expected but, in actuality, the benefit wasn't there because you weren't consistent in taking it regularly. So, don't short-change yourself and cause undue harm – be entirely honest with your doctor and you'll get the best care available!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Flu season is upon us and our children (remember those little virus incubators?) are back to school sharing. Don't forget to make sure all your immunizations and those of your children are up to date, and go get those flu and pneumonia vaccines!

**NOTE:** To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.



#### PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Shirley Causby Brenda Dabrowski 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
AI 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

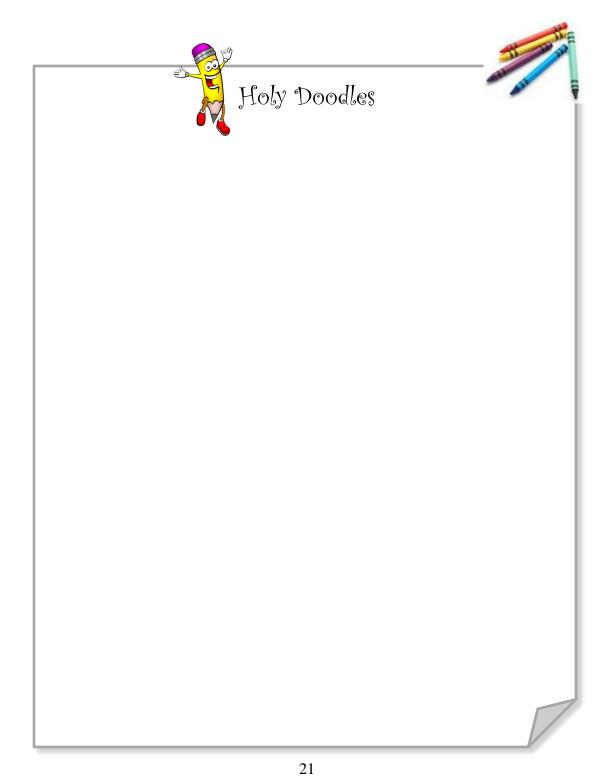
Colton Parker



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.





## **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 Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse