# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 4, 2016

# The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

#### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** Lord, You Have Searched Me and Known Me . . . . . . . . . Miller

#### 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 only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
  - Silence is kept for reflection.
- P God of overflowing grace,
- C we come to you with repentant hearts. Forgive us for shallow thankfulness. Forgive us for passing by the ones in need. Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures. Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness. Bring us home from the wilderness of sin, and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in  $\oplus$  Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us all, your sins are forgiven and you are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.
- C Amen.



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

#### 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**





Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



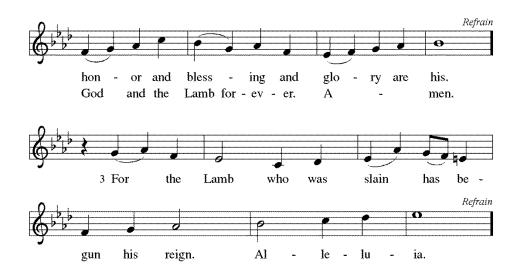












#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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 nurseries.

## FIRST READING

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** 

A reading from the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy.

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice

before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

#### SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old

man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL VERSE**



**GOSPEL** Luke 14:25–33

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

## The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



- 1 Let us ev er walk with Je sus, fol low his ex am ple pure,
- 2 Let us suf fer here with Je sus, and with pa-tience bear our cross.
- 3 Let us glad-ly die with Je-sus. Since by death he con-quered death,
- 4 Let us al so live with Je sus. He has ris en from the dead



through a world that would de-ceive us and to sin our spir-its lure.

Joy will fol - low all our sad-ness; where he is there is no loss.

he will free us from de-struc-tion, give to us im-mor-tal breath.

that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot-steps tread-ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove, Though to - day we sow no laugh-ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:

Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;

we are your own liv - ing mem-bers; where you live, there we shall be





Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt. Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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#### APOSTLES CREED

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 forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for all congregations gathered around the word and sacraments, that they be strengthened in their discipleship through these means of grace. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the creation, that it thrives and flourishes. Make us good stewards of the land with all its vegetation, mammals, birds, and creatures of all kinds. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who lead and direct us: for elected officials, school boards, pastors, bishops, trustees, councils, ministry teams, business owners, judges, and community organizers. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Let us pray for refugees, immigrants, prisoners, and all who seek new life. Show life and prosperity to those who struggle with injury or illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Let us pray for our congregation and community, that they be safe places for all, especially the young and mature. Revive and refresh our hearts as we receive the forgiveness of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Let us remember with thanksgiving the dearly departed who rest from their labors. Instruct us by their witness and bring us, with them, into the promised land. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### Amen.

#### **PEACE**

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

The assembly is seated.

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** *Take My Life That I May Be . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing* Refrain/Estribillo To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun-tad, y haz - la tuya, na con - se - crat - ed, Take my life, that 1 may be Lord, zón damás; to - ma, sí, mi coto thee: take my mo - ments and my days; To stanzas Last time tu tro-no en él ten - drás. ten - drás. let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise. da\_en - te Que mi vi ra\_es té Take my hands let them and move Take my and gold, sil ver my Take my sing voice and let me Take my will and make Ìŧ thine; con - sa - gra - da\_a Se ñor: ti. the im - pulse of love; thy not  $\mathbf{a}$ mite would I with hold; al - ways, on ly for King; шy shall be no lon ger mine; daguiar elque\_a mis manos рие im swift and take feet and let them be my take my in tel lect and 'ry use ev take my lips and let them be filled with

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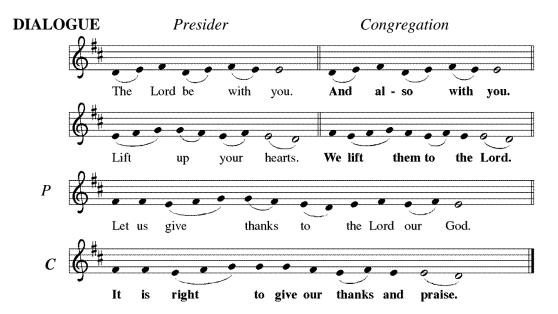


Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.: Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875–1955 Music: Toma mt voluntan, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956 Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

#### OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

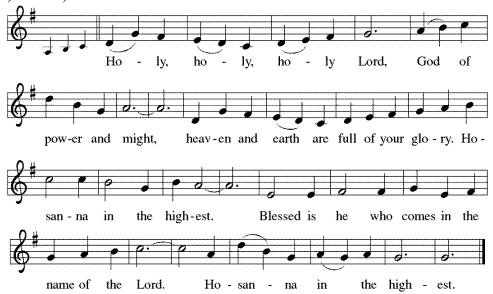


### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### **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 Take hold of the life that we have in Christ. Come, take your place at the table.

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.



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite Music: O JESU, ÄN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

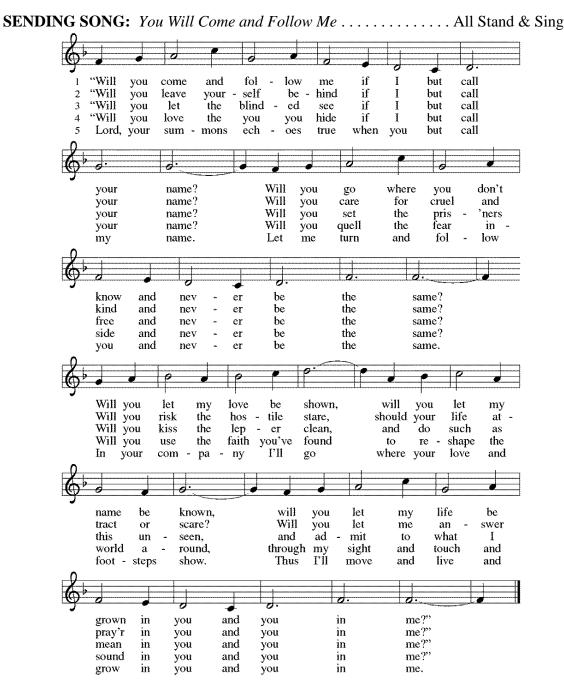
- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
- C We come again to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way. Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

- P God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the  $\oplus$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.
- C Amen.



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

Text: 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago. IL 60638. www.gianusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **DISMISSAL**

- A Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost.** We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. Nurseries for children (infants through 3 years old) are 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 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 Dianne Lail in honor of Ashleigh Nichols' birthday and in memory of A. O. Lail; and by the Koehlers & Carrs in honor of Danielle Ballard and Chase Bowman's wedding.

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 August 28, 2016:

Attendance: 151

Budget Report	August 28, 2016
Current Offering Received	\$ 3,916.00
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 5,019.46
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 175,977.39
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 8,955.77
Offering less Expenses Year-To-Date	\$ 3,656.30

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS: Volunteers

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4) CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains Trudy Whitener

Carmen Buell
Barbara Kasmer
USHERS: Need Volunteers

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Volunteers Infants: Staff

Toddlers: Volunteers

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: September 4-10** 

Today, Deborah Bingham September 6 Alex Buell September 7 Elizabeth Bruchon

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

## Today, September 4

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

10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

Due to Labor Day weekend there will be NO music afternoon sessions.

## Tuesday, September 6

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

**Property Committee** 

Nar-Anon



## PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Zac Hullander Marguerite Shive Brenda Dabrowski Tom Irwin Mark Reese Shawn De Nicholas Chase Lineberger Beverly Reynolds

Ardean Ewing Holly Peche Dot Holland Sherry Perry

### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Richard Abernethy Brian Hedrick Julio Quiros Paige Beaver Tim Reid Stacy Hunsucker Jenny Beer Dennis Jordan Dan Robinson & Daughters Breanna & Mikayla Barbara Bingham Steven Keating Anna Rudder Emma Davis Bremer Marshall Kinley **Tangle Shingler** Graham Brezler Laura Lanuto Megan Sigler Libby Byrum Jennifer Lineberger E. Taylor & Family Father Frank Cancro Terry Mahaffey **Carson Thomas** Tina Capwell Amy McGinnis Sally Vanhoy Clell Davis Gene McRorie Gloria Ward J. Don Devine Don Moore

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J. Don Devine Don Moore Gloria Ward
Zachary Evans Jean Peters Olivia Wilcox
Carol Baker Fox Jim Poag Jeff Wiles
Poss Garrett Taylor Propst & Bruce Zander

Ronnie Garrison Family

Tammy Gordon David Prouty

## **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Matt Cisek Dillon Kasmer Tom Kasmer Jason Gardner Leo Kasmer Mike Kelso



## **OUR MISSIONARY**

Alyssa Buchanan in Manzini, Swaziland Africa

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 <a href="https://www.holyc.org">www.holyc.org</a>.



Rally Day 2016! Christian Education would like to invite everyone to attend Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Come hear about the classes we will offer this year, meet your teachers, and enjoy some delicious breakfast and fellowship.

If you would like to contribute a dish to the breakfast meal, please email Melissa Bocchino at **melissa.bocchino@pwc.com** to let her know what you plan to bring so we can make sure we have everything covered for a good meal for all.

**Sunday School for ages 3 and up begins September 18**<sup>th</sup>. If you are unsure which class to attend, come explore our offerings on Rally Day or ask Pastor Micah or a Christian Education team member for assistance.

Christian Education Committee members should watch your email for additional information regarding Rally Day, next in person meeting and other items.

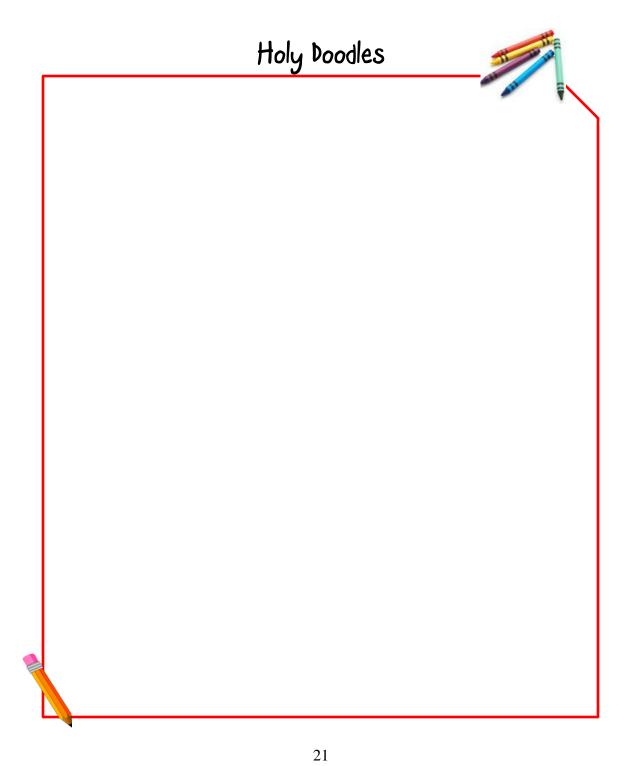
Yours in Christ, Your friendly Christian Education Committee

# **BCO September Items of the Month:**



Peanut Butter & Jelly

The Finance Committee is in need of 3 more tellers. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with counting the contributions collected on Sundays, please **contact Shelia Kelly at 704-718-6161**. Tellers typically count 1 or 2 months out of the year.



For any women interested in Bible Study, we will have our first gathering September 14. Last year's studies were such a good time of fellowship and studying God's Word. We will begin this year studying the book of Romans.

Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00. This is an intergenerational gathering, so please join us.

Please email Jenn Kearney if you are interested, jenniferhasskearney@gmail.com.

## **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 Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager