Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, September 21, 2014

St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist Sunday

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

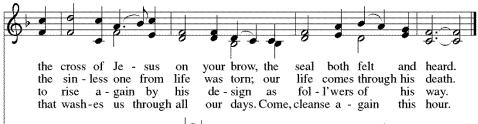
GATHERING/WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: This Is the Spirit's Entry Now All Stand & Sing



- 3 Let wa ter be the sa cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re new ing Spir it, hear our praise for your bap tis mal pow'







Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933 Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 Brayden Charles Alvarez for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

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

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister continues:

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

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

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

Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

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.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

- 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 Brayden Charles Alvarez, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

^{*} catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Brayden 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.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Brayden, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

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

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from the third and fourth chapters of Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

Chapter 3

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Chapter 4

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

SECOND READING:

Philippians 1:21–30

A reading from the first chapter of Philippians.

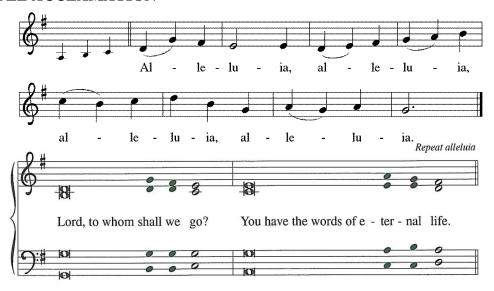
Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 20:1–16
The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he

went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the

usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant Stand & Sing Chamber Choir vs. 1, **Congregation vs. 2-5**



Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928 Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you claim us as your own and your church declares your greatness. Make all who serve you, especially our bishops, pastors, missionaries, diaconal ministers, and chaplains serving institutions and the military, firm in one spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The goodness of your creation is a celebration of your mighty acts. Enable us to appreciate the smallest to the largest of wonders and to be worthy stewards of all your gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

People of all nations sing aloud of your righteousness. Incite us to commit acts of peace, break down barriers, crush complacency, and stand up to intolerance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen those who suffer. Transform pain into purpose, sorrow into courage, fear into generosity, and loneliness into compassion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Form the desire of our congregation to live as the body of Christ in the world. Place among us overflowing fonts and tables set as a feast for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The lives of your saints (*especially Matthew*, *apostle and evangelist*) are evidence of your salvation. Give meaning to all our days, then grant us peaceful deaths and unite us with those we love in praising your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM: Take My Life, That I May Be Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* All Stand & Sing Bring to this sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,

the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.

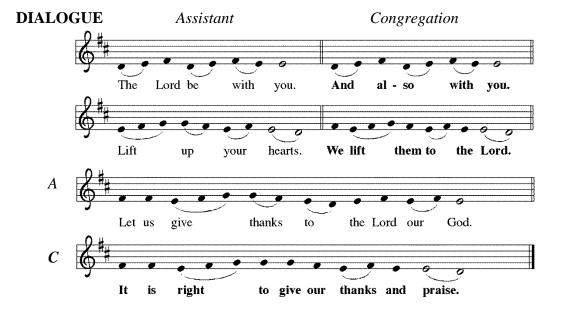
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall, and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

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.

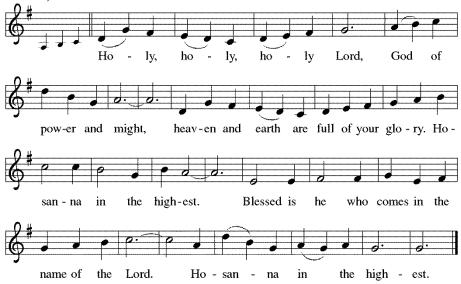


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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,

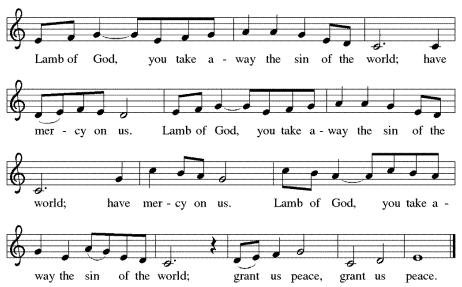
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P The reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.
- C Thanks be to God.



COMMUNION SONG



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: Your Borning Cry All Sing



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a ges of your life, not too old, no lon ger young,



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.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: When Morning Gilds the Skies All Stand & Sing Verse 3: Women; Verse 4: Men



Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: LAUDES DOMENI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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 St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist Sunday. 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Charles & Beverley Mauney in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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

Greg Byrum, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, September 14, 2014:

Attendance: 30 at Holy Comforter, 80 at Lutheridge = **Total of 110**

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| Budget Report | September 14, 2014 |
| Current Offering Received 9/14/14 | \$ 1,450.00 |
| Weekly Budgeted Expenses | \$ 4,504.60 |
| Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD) | \$147,067.78 |
| Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD | (\$ 5,888.44) |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD | (\$ 18,068.40) |
| | |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

Tom Bocchino

ACOLYTES: Claire Mitchell, Nathan Baakko

CRUCIFERS: Aaron Nault, Ashton Nault

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell, Barbara Kasmer, Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS:

Today: Tracey Nault + Helper

Next Sunday: Carol & Phil Posey

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

Today: Makayla Brooks

Next Sunday: Jill Leitner

GREETER: Brenda Daly, Louise Day

USHERS: Need Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Brad & Brandy Milton

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin,

Bill Hollar

SOLOIST: Greg Byrum

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, September 21

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Choir meets in choir room

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, September 23

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Saturday, September 27

8:30 am Confirmands meet at

Holy Comforter to carpool to Lutheran Chapel in Gastonia

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: September 21-27

Today, Sept. 21 Horace Bean

Dot Holland

September 22 Dean Burwell

September 23 Mary Page

Anne Reese Rebecca Yount September 26 Warren Heller

September 25 Harold Singleton



We welcome via Infant Baptism Brayden Charles Alvarez Son of Amy & Nick Alvarez



If you would like to help with the

Church Picnic

Please contact

Tom Bocchino

(for details) at tbocchino@hotmail.com Or 704-461-8208

Congregation is asked to bring side dishes, i.e. baked beans, potato salad, chips, pickles, etc.



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise AustinFerrie HedrickMabel RatchfordScott CaldwellKay HoldenMark ReeseDaniel DowdZac HullanderMarguerite ShiveCher GrantChase Lineberger

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange Judy Jackson Scott Phillips Janice Barker Steve Pletsas Dennis Jordan Kathy Beam Wesley Jordan & Family Taylor Propst & Family Helen Brasfield Betty Kannapel David Prouty Dale Burris Steven Keating Mara Rapplevea Steve Sanford Father Frank Cancro Marshall Kinley Ken Capps Becky Knick Megan Sigler Wesley Coleman Alice Langley Ramona J. Sinclair Laura Lanuto & Family Ronnie Hagy Jimmy Surratt Brian Hedrick Pierce Lee E. Taylor & Family Kathy Helton Steve Mathis Beverly F. Wall Peggy McKenney & Family Gloria Ward Betty Fox Claudia Frazier Sandra Nix Bryan Wayburn Donald Freeman Mark Outlaw Pastor Gary Weant Ronnie Garrison Jean Peters Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Leland "Lee" Peterson

Ronnie Hersey

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shavel

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

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

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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager