Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 10, 2016 •

The Third Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

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, \oplus one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

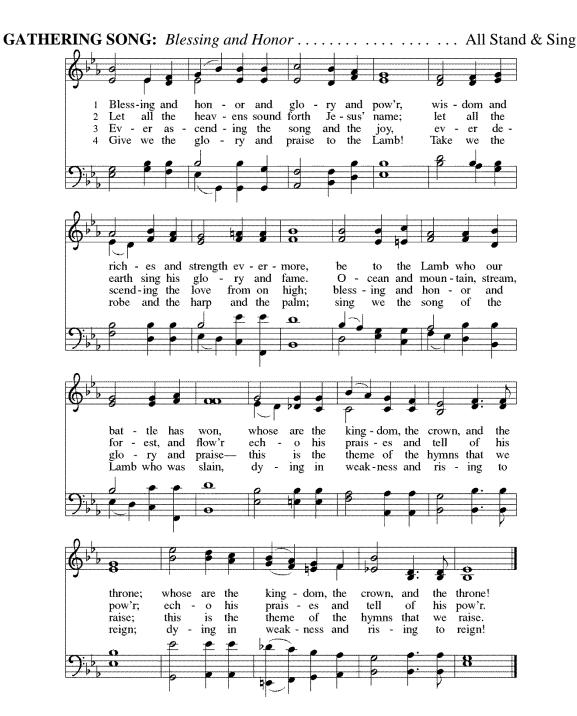
C Amen.

P Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of grace and glory,
- C you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.
- P Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and \oplus frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

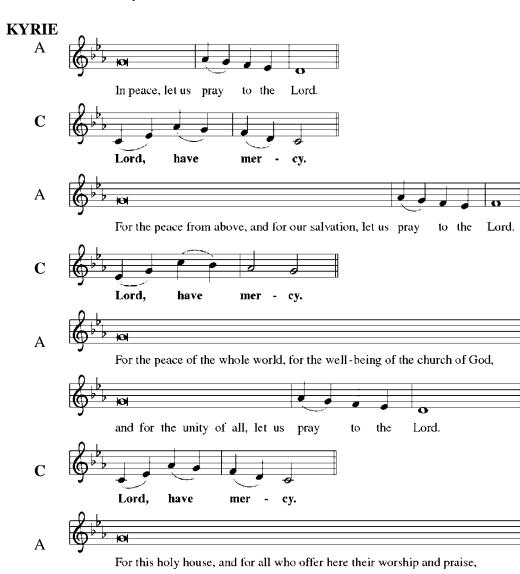
C Amen.



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt. Music: AMERICAN HYMN, Matthias Keller, 1813–1875

GREETING

- P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

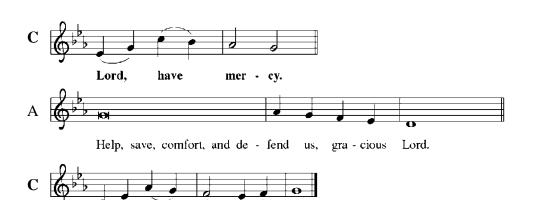


Lord.

let us

pray

to the



men.

GLORY TO GOD

men,







SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 nurseries**.

FIRST READING Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

A reading from the ninth chapter of Acts.

Each of us has a story of meeting God's grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30 All Read Responsively

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

³You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶While I felt secure, I said,

"I shall never be disturbed.

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸I cried to you, O LORD;

I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

O LORD, | be my helper."

¹¹You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹²Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the fifth chapter of Revelation.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

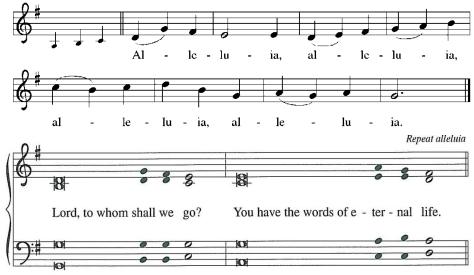
be blessing and honor and glory and might

forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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





GOSPEL John 21:1-19

- P The holy gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for

they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright All Stand & Sing





Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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.

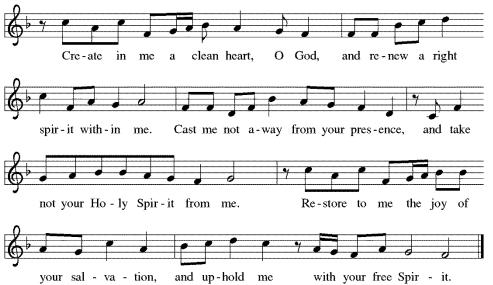
PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: We Eat the Bread of Teaching Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Create in Me All Stand & Sing



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you supply everything we need, and more. Equip us to do the work you intend with the confidence that you will multiply the outcome. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open our eyes to the promise of new life all around us. Make sprouting plants, awakening animals, and swimming fish all bear witness to your glorious abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve the lives of those who are persecuted for their devotion to you. Use the faithfulness and insight you have given them to transform their persecutors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore the well-being of people who cry out to you in suffering and in want (*especially*). Pour out your mercy upon them, and turn their wailing into dancing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire the work of translators, authors, and composers who bring your word to others. Reveal your life through their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Remembering the saints who praised you in life and in death, bring us also to the day when you will gather all people to sing hymns of praise in your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

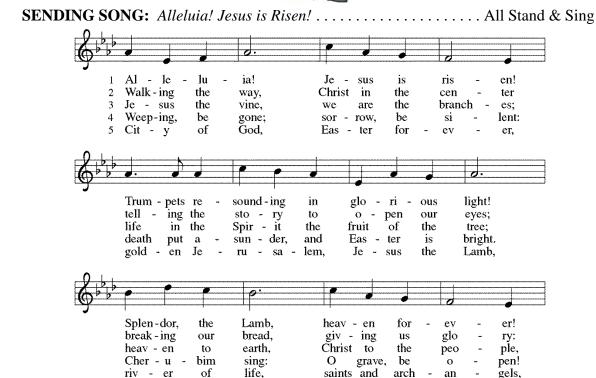
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;

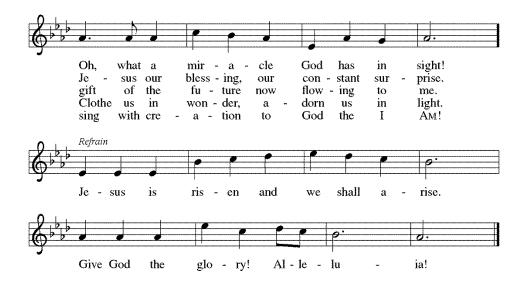
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

P The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of \oplus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

C Amen.





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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DISMISSAL

A Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all of our visitors on this **Third Sunday of Easter.** 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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.

<u>KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:</u> 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 list, please fill out a form from the prayer book.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Dean Burwell in honor of Elizabeth Burwell' birthday; and by Angie Morton in memory of Mary Page.

<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.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music Committee

USHERS: Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 10-16

Today, April 10 Bryan Fleming April 11 Matthew Mitchell April 12 Elizabeth Burwell Kristen Williams



April 15 Nick Alvarez
April 16 Misty Koehler
Debbie Neagle

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. **GREETER:** Trudy Whitener

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers TELLERS:

Rochelle & Danny Potter ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Infants: Volunteers; Toddlers: Ashley Ange

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, April 10

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Church Council after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

6:00 pm Church Choir

HCY at Good Shepherd in

Mt. Holly

Wednesday, April 13

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study "Spiritual Gifts"

Saturday, April 16

11:00 am Kids' Club meets in

Davis Park in Belmont for picnic lunch (bring your own).

Tuesday, April 12

12:00 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 3, 2016:

Attendance: 92

<u> 16</u>
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46
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70
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The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship applications are due April 24th. Any qualifying church member may apply. Forms are available via email. Just email holycomforter@gmail.com and request an application form. You may fill in the form on-line, but must print it out so it can be signed by both student and parent/guardian.

Only those applications including the required transcript and essay received by the April 24th deadline will be considered.

Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Committee



Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School 2016

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: June 26-29th 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our Vacation Bible School program will allow children to submerge themselves in God's Word. They will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth!



A quick meal will be provided, then the children rotate through activities of play, studying scripture, singing, and art. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. Information about registering will be coming soon. If you are interested in helping with the program, you would be welcomed, whether it's providing a meal or assisting with one of the activity stations. **More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.** Contact Melissa Bocchino at Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.



Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape* the week of July 18-22. Agape is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders and is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again include 6th-rising 8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. **We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.**

Registration forms are available in the narthex or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis. Contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator



BCO items for the month: Crackers & Rice





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Zack Hullander Mark Reese Brenda Dabrowski Beverley Reynolds Tom Irwin Shawn De Nicholas Chase Lineberger Anna Spikes David Dowd Kevin Washle Holly Peche Sherry Perry Ardean Ewing Marguerite Shive Dot Holland

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Richard Abernethy Brian Hedrick Julio Quiros Harriett Ange Sam Holloway Anna Rudder Paige Beaver Stacy Hunsucker **Tangie Shingler** Dennis Jordan Megan Sigler Jenny Beer Barbara Bingham Steven Keating E. Taylor & Family Libby Byrum Carson Thomas Marshall Kinley Father Frank Cancro Terry Mahaffey Sally Vanhoy Al McCoy Tina Capwell Pat Via Clell Davis Clav McCov Gloria Ward J. Don Devine Gene McRorie Pastor Gary Weant Zachary Evans Don Moore Olivia Wilcox Jamey Gardner Jean Peters Jeff Wiles Poss Garrett Jim Poag Bruce Zander **Taylor Propst & Family**

OUR SERVICEMEN

David Prouty

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

Ronnie Garrison Tammy Gordon

Jeremy Shaver



Please remember these people in your prayers.

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

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

Holy Comforter Youth (HCY) meets TODAY at

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 110 S. Main Street, Mt. Holly

6-7:30 pm for a light dinner, followed by Bible study and a few fun activities!

Join us and bring a friend.

Sunday, April 24 HCY will be going to Sky High Sports (Trampoline Place)

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm and return by 8:00 pm
Cost is \$19.50 per child and includes 90 minutes of play time!

Please RSVP to Kristen Williams (keclanton@gmail.com or 704-678-0137)

By April 17th if you plan to attend.

HELP NEEDED IN THE NURSERIES



Do you enjoy being around children? Would you be willing to spend a morning on Sundays from 9:30 am-11:45 am helping in one of our church nurseries? If so, please add your name to the "nursery sign-up sheet" located in the narthex. Two volunteers are needed each Sunday for the 'Infants," ages Birth-18 months. One volunteer is needed for the "Toddler" nursery, ages 18-months-3 years.

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