

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 22, 2018 •

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Praise God in the Holy Temple* Psalm 150

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* All Stand & Sing



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymus Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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GREETING

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

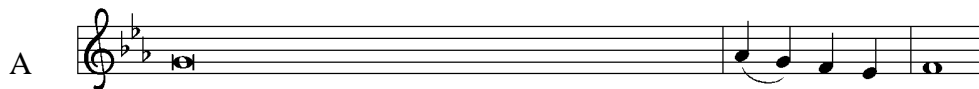
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



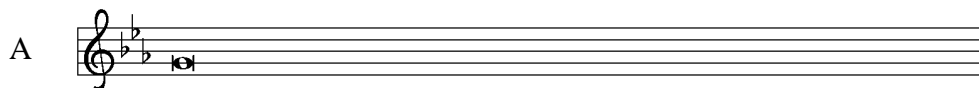
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



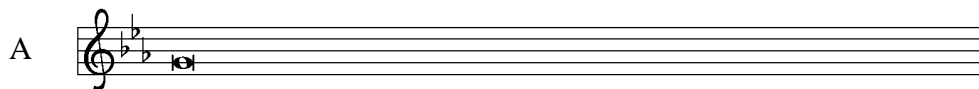
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

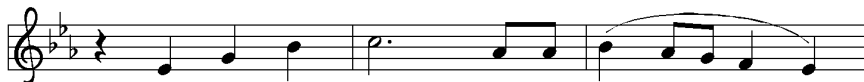


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.

Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father 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 4:5-12

A reading from the fourth chapter of Acts.

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today’s reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN: *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* All Sing



1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;



In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.
 oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;
 Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.
 no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

A reading from the third chapter of 1 John.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the

world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing



GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand



does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* All Stand & Sing



1	Sav - ior	like a shep - herd	lead us;	much we need your	ten - der care.
2	We are	yours; in love	be - friend us,	be the guard - ian	of our way;
3	You have	prom - ised to	re - ceive us,	poor and sin - ful	though we be;
4	Ear - ly	let us seek	your fa - vor,	ear - ly let us	do your will;



In your	pleas - ant	pas - tures	feed us,	for our use	your fold	pre - pare.
keep your	flock, from	sin de -	fend us,	seek us when	we go	a - stray.
you have	mer - cy	to re -	lieve us,	grace to	cleanse,	and pow'r to free.
bles - ed	Lord and	on - ly	Sav - ior,	with your	love	our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	you have	bought us;	we are	yours.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	hear us	chil - dren	when we	pray.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	ear - ly	let us	turn to	you.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	you have	loved us,	love us	still.



Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	you have	bought us;	we are	yours.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	hear us	chil - dren	when we	pray.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	ear - ly	let us	turn to	you.
Bless - ed	Je - sus,	bles - ed	Je - sus,	you have	loved us,	love us	still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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: *Shepherd Me, O God* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *The Lord's My Shepherd*. All Stand & Sing



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for church custodians, office managers, Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, baptismal sponsors, deacons, pastors, youth workers, and bishops. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore natural environments damaged by our hands. We pray for river valleys and grassy plains, coral reefs and arctic ice, mountains, deserts, and marshlands. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give to all who are restless, reckless, or uncertain the peace you promise that is deeper and richer than anything we can imagine. We pray for all who live with chronic pain, who live with anxiety, and who are ill or hospitalized (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nourish us with the testimony of all the disciples who have gone before us. We give thanks for the faithful departed and their witness in every age. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus 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 May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen* All Stand & Sing

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;

1 from this meal of love and grace;
2 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
3 God has called us to re - ceive;
4 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;

1 may we through such love en - vi - sion
2 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
3 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
4 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion

1 whose we are, and whose, our praise.
2 to re - lease and to con - sole.
3 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
4 from this day and un - to death.

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
2 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 God, the won - der of our days.
2 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
3 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
4 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Fourth 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.

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 in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Nurseries
Available

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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Harold & Jo Singleton in memory of Jo's mother Lillie Surret.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, April 15, 2018:

Attendance: 131

Budget Report

Offering
Expenses
Offering less Expenses
Expected Expenses
Offering less Expected Expenses

April 15, 2018

\$ 4,854.00
\$ 5,551.17
(\$ 697.17)

Year-to-Date

\$ 83,231.03
\$ 78,626.59
\$ 4,604.44
\$ 84,060.62
(\$ 829.59)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:**LECTOR:** Billy Joye**GREETER:** Pat Long**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Volunteers

TELLERS: Fran Holland
John Koehler**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain
Carmen De Nicholas
Deb Williams

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Jill Leitner

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am)

Volunteer

SOLOIST: Leslie Crist**USHERS:** Volunteers**THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:****Today, Sunday, April 22**

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir
10:30 am The Service
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

Tuesday, April 24

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, April 25

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, April 26

7:00 pm Evangelism meets

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: April 22-28

April 23 Tim Baker
April 24 Mark Kline
April 25 Julia Gunter
April 27 Claire Heilig
April 28 Joseph Mitchell
Rita Stewart





Agape Day Camp will be held July 16th-20th For grades entering 1st - 8th



Registration forms are available from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. There is only room for 32 campers, so register soon. The spaces will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.



VBS Registration Coming Soon... Dates of VBS are July 29-August 2

Volunteers needed to teach, set up, cleanup, and collect supplies.
Contact Beka at rforst@holyc.org to volunteer.

BCO April Items of the Month

Jelly



Saltines



Pasta Noodles



The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Ministry



Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are now available in the church office or via email at holycomforter@gmail.com. Include *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. The office manager will send you an application that you can complete. **The deadline for your *completed* application, transcript, and typed essay is April 30.** Any applications received after that date will not be considered.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve their lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others. Modest scholarships will be awarded to students of the congregation from the fund.

Authorized by the Holy Comforter Church Council, the Scholarship Ministry accepts applications from candidates who have been communing and contributing members of the church for at least one year. The annual deadline is the last Sunday in April and the awards are announced in May or early June.

The amount of the award depends on the following:

- Number of students applying for, and receiving, an award
- Total amount in the fund
- Recent fund performance

Other donations to this fund can be made as memorials or tributes to friends and family on their special occasions. Please make checks payable to *Holy Comforter* and write *Lineberger Scholarship Ministry* on the memo line to ensure your gift is credited appropriately.

As the fund grows, we will be able to give more help to students.

Thank You,
The Scholarship Ministry

RETIRED MEMBER LUNCHEON will be on **Wednesday, April 25th at noon** in the church fellowship hall. The luncheon, with food provided, will be a time of fellowship and brainstorming to determine what the group will be in the coming year **Please RSVP** to the church office or Pat Koehler at apkoeh@gmail.com.





The **National Youth Gathering, June 27-July 1**, is exactly what it sounds like, 30,000 + youth will gather in Houston.

We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.

There are 66 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.



In the coming months you will be introduced to one of our seven travelers to Houston. Below, meet Bella Ince.

Hi, my name is Bella Ince and I am 14 years old. I am in 8th grade at Mt. Holly middle school. My hobbies include singing, playing volleyball, and baking. I am excited to go to Houston to serve God in as many ways as possible. I am also eager to make lifelong friendships with people who have the same belief. I am currently an active participant in *HCY* and in confirmation and I am excited to see how Houston will help us grow in faith.





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Carmen Buell
Brenda Dabrowski
Ardean Ewing Family
Becke Featherstone
Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive

Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Bobbie Bingham
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Karen de la Vega
Carol Fox

Larry "Poss" Garrett
Brandi Hager
Beverly Lineberger
Jennifer Lineberger
John McDermid

Clarence McLain
Anne Murdy
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 Doodles

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