

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 27, 2016

The First Sunday in Advent



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* Ferguson

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, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of all time,

C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

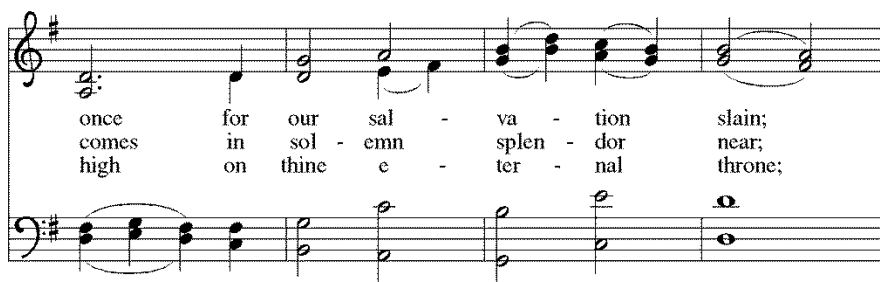
P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

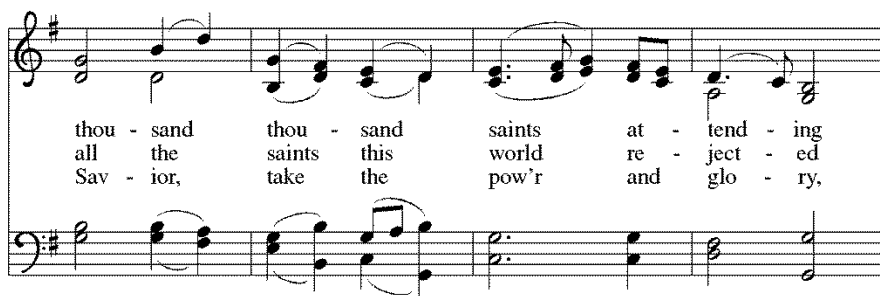
GATHERING SONG: *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending All Stand & Sing*



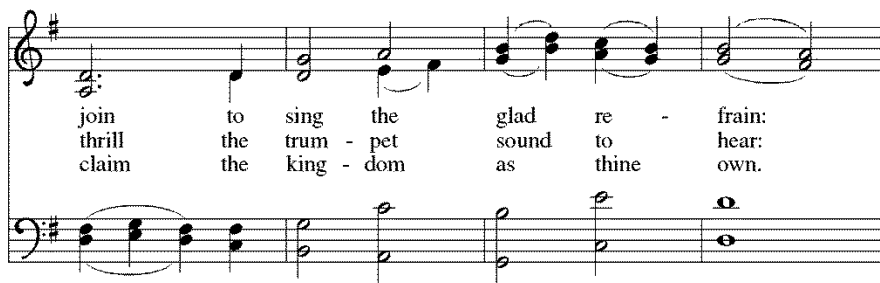
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

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

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

A

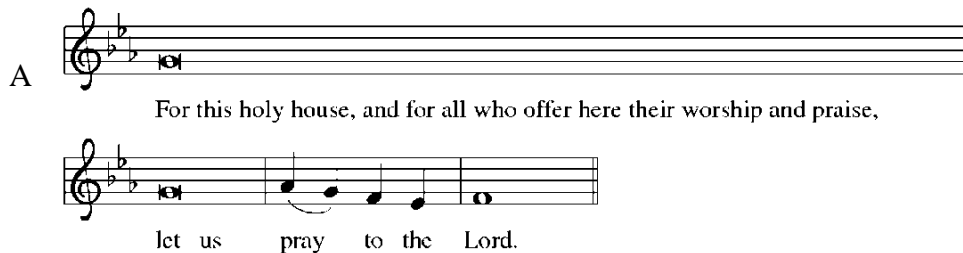
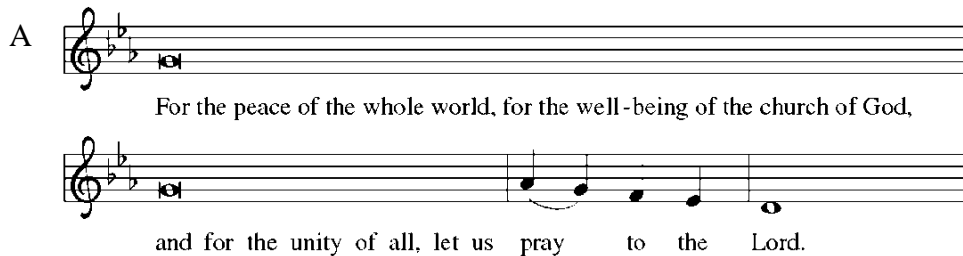
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C

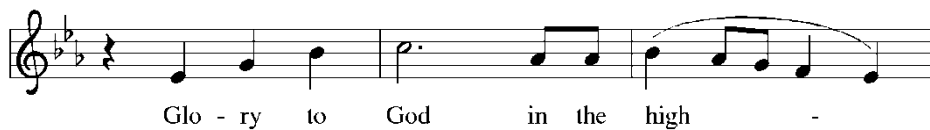
Lord, have mer - cy.

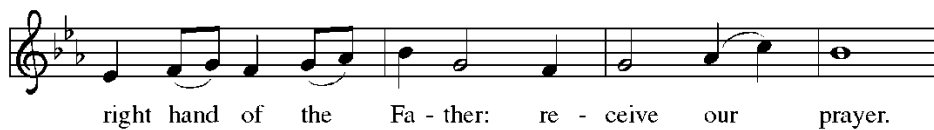
A

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



GLORY TO GOD





lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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

Isaiah 2:1–5

A reading from the second chapter of Isaiah.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!



A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH: *Light One Candle* All Sing
The first candle represents HOPE. Long ago, peoples' hearts were sustained by hope as they waited for a Savior. We hope, too, for the Savior and his love to fill and cover the world.



SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the thirteenth chapter of Romans.

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

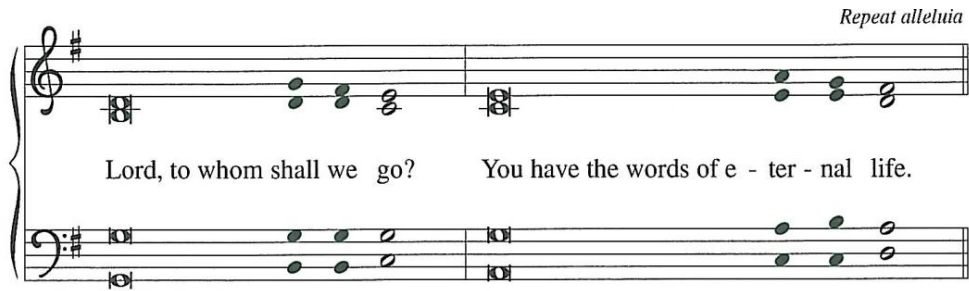
¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE All Stand & Sing





GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.


[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

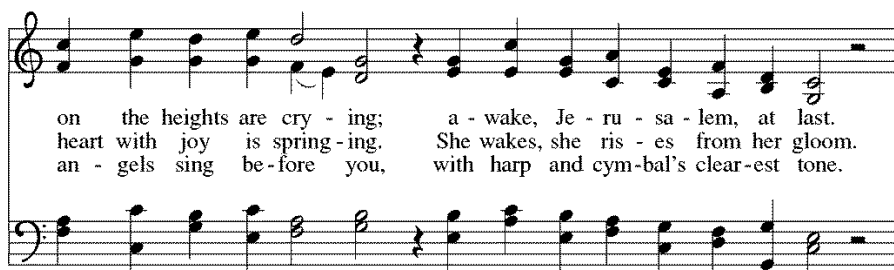
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying All Stand & Sing*



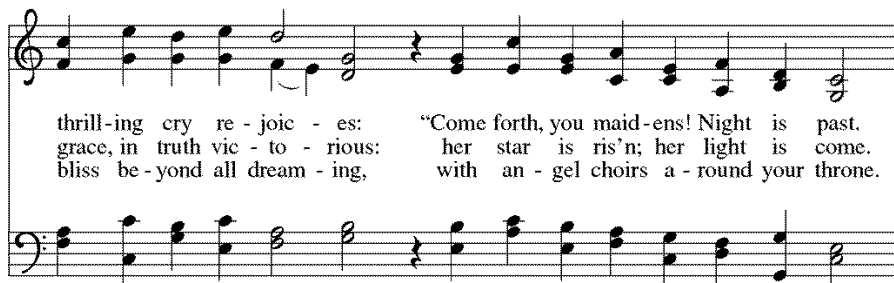
1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past,
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

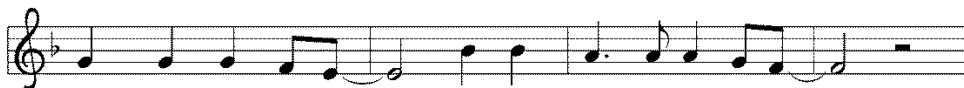
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *My God Is An Awesome God* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Soon and Very Soon* All Stand & Sing



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
 Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the well-being of creation, for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For peace among nations, for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all are treated with equity and fairness, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those in any need (*especially*); that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who gather for word and sacrament, for those who travel, and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

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 Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *People, Look East* All Stand & Sing

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim. shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.
 Arr. © 1999 Novello & Company Ltd., London, United Kingdom. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure* Burkhardt

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **First Sunday in Advent**. 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 Sylvia Miller in memory of Adam Kijewski; and by Kathy Graves in honor of all choirs of Holy Comforter.

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 November 20, 2016:

Attendance: 112

Budget Report

November 20, 2016

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Current Offering Received | \$ 6,491.00 |
| Weekly Budgeted Expenses | \$ 5,019.46 |
| Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD) | \$ 234,351.52 |
| Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD | \$ 11,516.89 |
| Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD | \$ 2,511.99 |

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Andrew Bryant

GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: John Koehler,
Plus volunteer

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains
Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Volunteers

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

USHERS: Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: November 27-December 3

Today, November 27 Sue Lahr

November 29 Rick Neagle

December 1 Madison Kelly

December 3 Brenda Jenkins



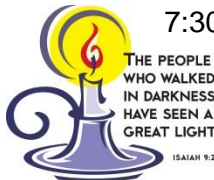
THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, November 27

9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church Choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
7:00 pm Advent Worship *Rehearsal*

Wednesday, November 30

6:00 pm Advent Meal
6:45 pm Advent Worship
7:30 pm Chamber Choir



Tuesday, November 29

7:00 pm Christian Education meets
Nar-Anon

Saturday, December 3

7:00 pm ***Staying Connected***
Meet at the Sarrazin home
Bring gift for ***White Elephant*** Exchange

THE CRECHE is set up this morning with only a manger and a blue vigil candle. The empty crèche suggests that lowliness and poverty surrounding our infant Savior who for humanity's sake became poor that through His poverty, people might become rich. (II Corinthians 8:9)

THE BLUE CANDLE in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.



Thank you to all who took an “angel” from the tree in the education building. All wrapped and tagged gifts for the **foster children are due to Holy Comforter by December 8**. All wrapped & tagged gifts for the **SOCKS children are due to Holy Comforter by December 12**.

Be sure you include the family # as well as the child's name on the gift tags. Please tag each gift in case the packages get separated. Instead of a family number for the foster children, write “Foster” where the family name would be listed.

Thank you again for unselfishly providing Christmas cheer to the truly less fortunate children in our area.

Holy Doodles





Prayers FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Elizabeth Bruchon
Shirley Causby
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas
Ardean Ewing

Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Tom Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Ann Outlaw
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry

Marguerite Shive
Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Mark Reese
Beverly Reynolds

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Father Frank Cancro
Scott Frisk
Carol Fox

Parker Holland
Jeff Lail
Jennifer Lineberger

Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
Tim Reid
Bruce Zander



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Leo Kasmer

Jason Gardner
Tom Kasmer

Dillon Kasmer
Mike Kelso

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 located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

BCO DECEMBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH:

Ingredients for a Christmas meal

One or more of the following:

Frozen turkey or canned ham

Dressing mix

Instant Potatoes

Canned beans

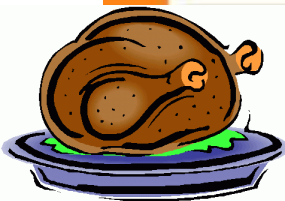
Sweet potatoes in can

Canned corn

Pumpkin pie mix

Cranberry sauce

Monetary donations





Poinsettia Order Form

YOUR NAME _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

TO THE GLORY OF GOD: _____

PAID CHECK _____ PAID CASH _____

(Remember to add \$15.00 for each poinsettia ordered.)

Payment must be attached to order form.

All orders due to Dianne in the office by, December 4th.
You may give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

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

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager