

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter



**GATHERING MUSIC:** *Easter Medley*

Catawba Valley Brass

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** *Sing and Praise His Wondrous Love*

Chamber Choir

\*see text on page p.18

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

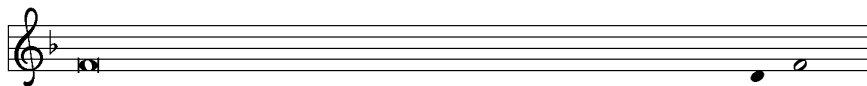
# KYRIE

*Leader*

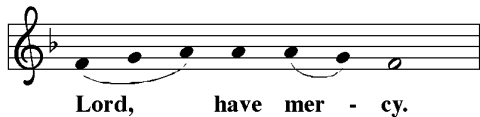
*Congregation*



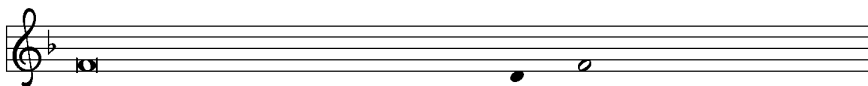
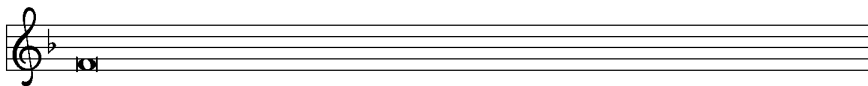
*L*



*C*



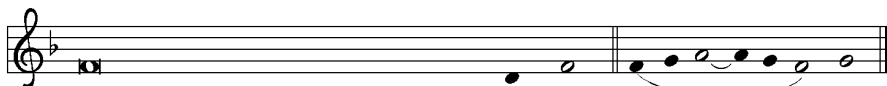
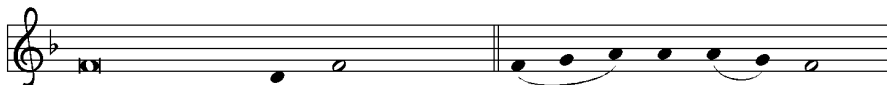
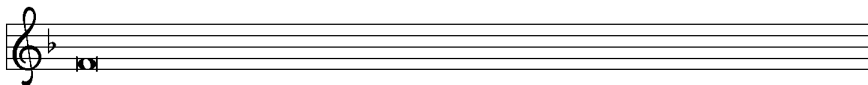
*L*



*C*

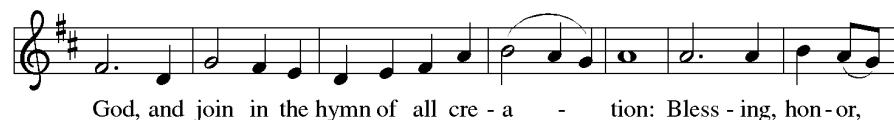
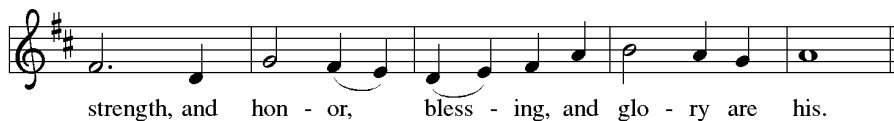
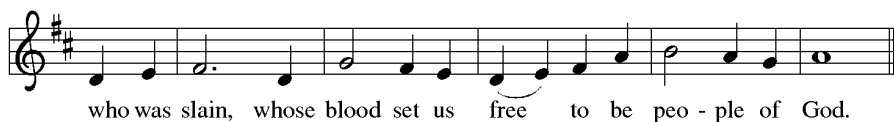


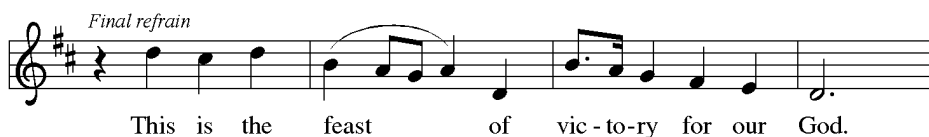
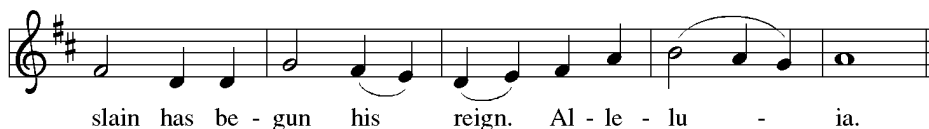
*L*



# THIS IS THE FEAST

*All Sing Refrain*  
*Women sing odd verses, Men sing even*





## SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

**Colossians 3:1-4**

A reading from the third chapter of Colossians.

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things

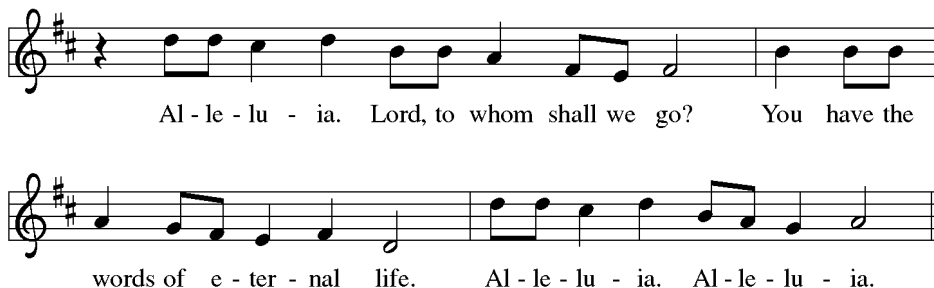
that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(The congregation stands and turns to face the processional cross.)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:1-10**

L The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<sup>1</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

## SERMON

Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lift High the Cross*

*All Stand & Sing*



*All:* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim Till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



*All:* 1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
*Men:* 2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
*Choir:* 3. All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
*Women:* 4. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
*All:* 5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



*All repeat Refrain*

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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## **NINCENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You call your church to witness to your salvation. We give thanks for all theologians, preachers, and teachers who proclaim your gospel. Equip all the baptized to share the joy of the resurrection in all we say and do. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You bring abundant life throughout creation. The green blade rises, and all creation greets the resurrection dawn. Preserve vineyards and orchards and those who tend to them. Feed us with the fruits of creation. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show your steadfast love without regard to borders, barriers, or human-made divisions. Infuse your justice in every nation of the world that all experience the peace that only you can give. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You anointed your Son with the Holy Spirit and with power. Encourage us by his example in our ministries of healing, care, and outreach. We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You have put gladness in our hearts. Inspire musicians and dancers to rejoice with songs of victory. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who foster our assembly's song. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news. Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

# OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Rejoice This Easter Day*

Church Choir  
And Congregation



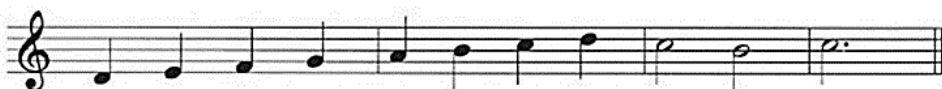
1. Re - joice this Eas - ter day! Christ con - quered  
2. God's pow - er can - not fail, Christ rules o'er  
3. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the



sin and death! Re - joice, give thanks, and praise  
earth and heav'n; The keys of death and hell  
Judge, shall come To glo - ri - fy the saints



God with your ev - 'ry breath. Lift up your heart, lift  
Are to our Sav - ior giv'n; Lift up your heart, lift  
For their e - ter - nal home: Lift up your heart, Lift



up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!  
up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!  
up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Stanza 1, Otis E. Young, 1931-2009, based on *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*,  
and written in 1981; Copyright 1981 by Otis E. Young. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, *alt.*, and written in 1746 (PD).  
Tune: 2685642, S. 1480, John Doreville, 1731-1789, and written in 1770 (PD).  
Arrangement: Newly arranged by Jeremy J. Banksen, and copyright © 2013 with this publication.  
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## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

*All Stand & Sing*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are aligned with the notes on each staff.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hiller, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

*Leader*

*Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*L*

*C*

## PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## 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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C Thanks be to God.

### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace.  
You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able.  
You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink.  
You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:** *Panis Angelicus*  
*Beautiful Savior*  
*Precious Lord Take My Hand*

Catawba Valley Brass  
Catawba Valley Brass  
Handbell Choir

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


**P** Let us pray.  
**C** **Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

## BLESSING


**P** The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.  
**C** **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: *Christ is Risen, Alleluia*


*All Stand & Sing*



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
 3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
 4 Christ is ris - en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turs to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now;  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE: *Royal Fireworks*

Catawba Valley Brass

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\*Special thank you to our Lector, Ashley Hyman

\*The altar flowers were given by The Howard Family to the glory of God and in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

For the joys of full salvation And the peace those joys afford: Let our souls, and all  
within us, Magnify and praise the Lord.

Praise him all ye floods of ocean; Praise him all ye stars above: Praise him every living  
creature, Praise and sing his wondrous love.

We were lost till Jesus found us, till his blood our ransom paid; Now the gate of life is  
open, Full atonement he has made.

Praise him all ye floods of ocean; Praise him all ye stars above: Praise him every living  
creature, Praise and sing his wondrous love.

Sound aloud the gospel trumpet, Shout aloud the sweet refrain: Blessed be the Lord  
forever, Blessed be his Holy Name.

Praise him all ye floods of ocean: Praise him all ye stars above: Praise him every living  
creature, Praise and sing his wondrous love.

**We welcome the members of Catawba Valley Brass:**

Joe Elliot – Trumpet  
Nickey Horner – Trumpet  
Ted Neely – Trombone  
Marlys Kiser– French Horn  
Patrick Haymore – Tuba

**Easter Lilies**

IN HONOR OF:

Greg Byrum in honor of Mrs. Olin S (Libby) Byrum Jr.  
Tim and Shelia Kelly in honor of Madison and Sam Harrington-Smith  
Greg Byrum in honor of Holy Comforter Family  
Julia Gunter in honor of all church musicians  
Greg Cline in honor of Faye and Warren Heller, & Shirley Causby  
John & Leslie Crist in honor of our grandchildren

IN MEMORY OF:

Greg Byrum in memory of Mrs. Amy Byrum McKay  
Greg Byrum in memory of Mr. Olin S Byrum McKay  
Jim & Jan Buell in memory of Carmen Buell and Bob Haubenreich  
John & Leslie Crist in memory of Ray and Rita Broome, Bill and Rosa Crist  
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Raul E. de la Vega  
Dr. Raul & JoAnne de la Vega in memory of Dr. & Mrs. William Kannapel  
Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice and Mark Lyerly  
Tim and Shelia Kelly in memory of Shelia's mom, Alma Hedrick  
Tim and Shelia Kelly in memory of Shelia's cousin, Janet Halstead  
Susan Nelson in memory of Allie Flusche's Mom, Adrielle



**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483  
[holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)  
Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager