Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, October 27, 2019

Reformation Sunday



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

Micah Kearney Pastor

WELCOME/GATHERING

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, humility; Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity. Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority. Words of power that can never fail, Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us. Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo through eternity. And by Grace we'll stand on Your promises, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, 'til Your church is built, And the Earth Is Filled With Your Glory.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

C Amen.

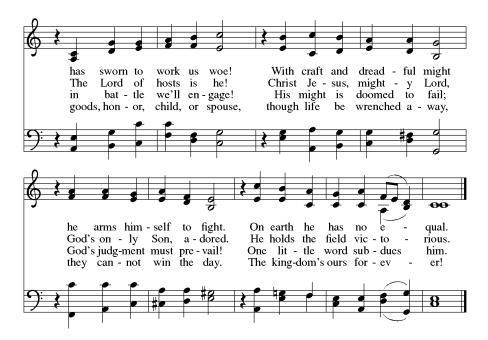
P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God our helper,
- C we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news. **C** Amen.

GATHERING SONG: A Mighty Fortress All Stand & Sing



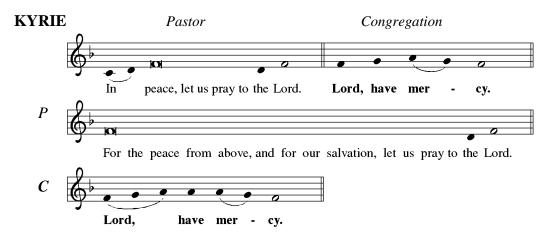


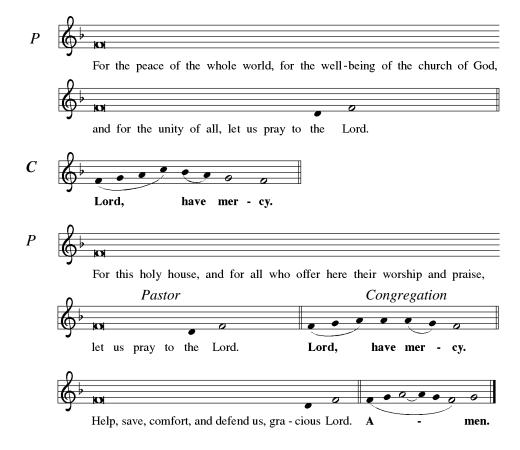
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

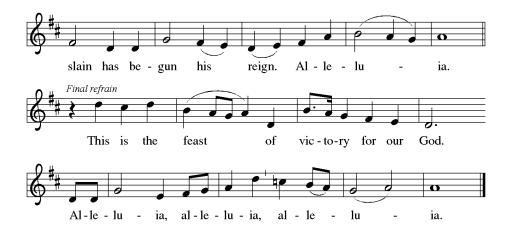
C And also with you.











SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nursery.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

A reading from the third chapter of Romans.

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short

of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 8:31-36

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

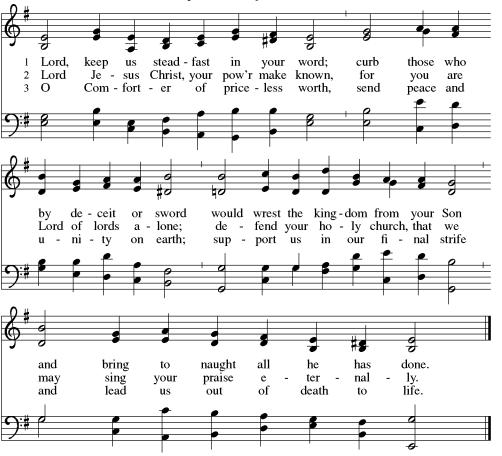
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

Silence is kept for Reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word All Stand & Sing



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these confirmands, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present ______who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Arden and Bella, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing. Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in ______ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Knowing the one in whom we trust, and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God, our refuge and strength, you make all things new. Reform your church so that our life together bears witness to your unmerited love. Free us from sin and write the law of love on our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Reform our relationships with you, with one another, and with all creation. Restore this good earth, the home you entrust to our care. Enrich soils, cleanse waters, and purify the air. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring an end to war and to the violence that shakes the nations and worries your people. When voices of fear threaten to overwhelm us, fill the earth with your peace and strength. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Be the present help of those suffering the tumult of illness, poverty, abandonment, and uncertainty. Bring your calm and healing to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this community, O Lord, we are all sinners and saints. In our dealings with one another and in our witness in the world, help us trust in your mercy, freely offering others what you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We remember before you those who have died in Christ and now live in the fullness of salvation. We trust your presence now even as we wait for your glory to be revealed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Trusting and delighting in you, we commend all our lives into your loving hands. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

fed with the bread of life.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of

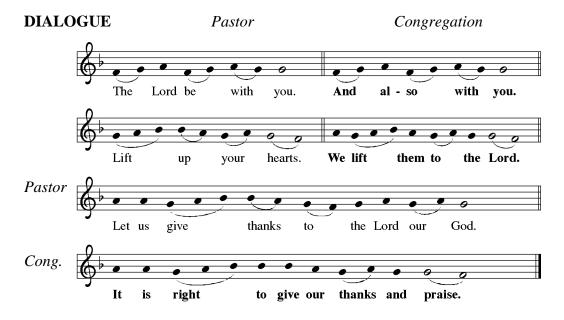
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OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray,

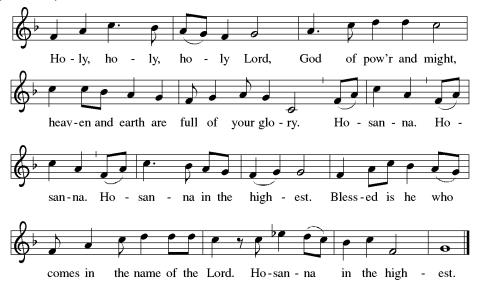
C God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

ot into tomptotion

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

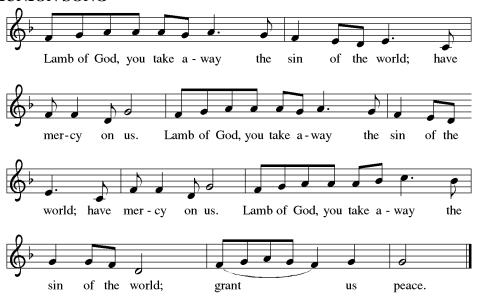
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.
- C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG

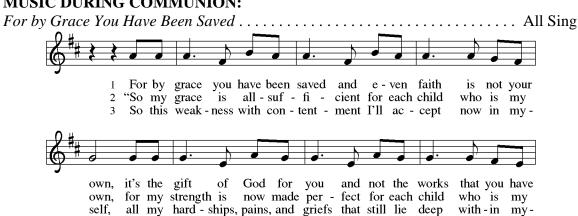


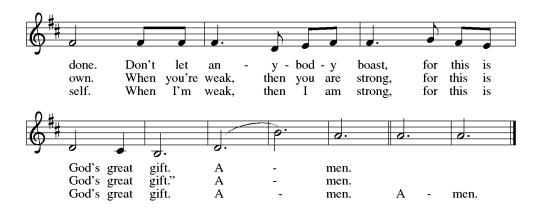


COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all baptized persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:





Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka Text and music © Fennica Gehrman, admin. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

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 God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

- P Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God + bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.
- C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Built on a Rock* All Stand & Sing



5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, many may come to hear your Word, who here this promise is bringing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

- P Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- C Thanks be to God.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all our visitors on this **Reformation Sunday.** We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (infants through 3 years old) is 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 Jim Buell in memory of Carmen Buell and in honor of the anniversary of her birth.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, October 20, 2019:

Attendance: 111

(Unfavorable) **Budget Report** This Week Year-to-Date Offering \$ 2,591.00 \$232,811.27 (8,886.36) \$ 5,774.35 \$239,929.56 1,768.07 Expenses Offering less Expenses (\$ 3,183.35) 7,118.29) 7,118.29)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 10/20/19

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 169,842 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 Remaining Needed: \$20,158

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye **GREETER:** Volunteer

ACOLYTE: Henrik Sarrazin TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

CRUCIFER: Bella Ince CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Rebecca Yount

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain

Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Rebecca Yount

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

USHERS: Volunteers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

Volunteers Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, October 27

8:45 am Children's Ensemble

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

& Confirmation

Lunch after the service

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir practice

Tuesday, October 29

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday, October 30

6:45 pm HCY Girls' Bible Study

(Upstairs)

Women's Bible Study

(Downstairs)

Monday, October 28

6:00 pm Pep Class in Fellowship Hall

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: October 27-November 2

October 27 Kay Holden

October 28 Andrew Bryant

Sarah Reese

October 30 Micah Kearney

October 31 Cody Koehler

Gary Rogers

Kurt Scholler

November 1 Donna Bean

November 2 Beckham Bryant



Mission Trip to Harlan, KY: Shelia Kelly will be participating in a mission trip from November 8-10, 2019. She is asking for the following donations that will be distributed to the needy residents of Harlan, KY:

- Winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, clothing for all ages
- Sample size toiletries, cosmetic bags
- Sanitary supplies for women
- Spiral notebooks, pens/pencils
- Blankets, sleeping bags
- Shoes

Please call Shelia at 704-718-6161 if you need her to pick up your items.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17. Council nomination forms must be given to a present council member or taken to the church office no later than Sunday, November 3. Ballots for council election will be handed out to the congregation at the annual meeting.



So...holidays are coming soon, and I thought I'd share a little "fun." We already know that wine is one of the greatest things in life, but did you know that it could actually keep you from getting sick? Yep, apparently wine is a fantastic disinfectant for bad mouth germs! Back in 1988 a study examined the antibacterial properties of carbonated drinks, wine, beer, skim milk, and water. Each beverage was infused with infectious bacteria like salmonella, E. coli, and shigella. After two days, the wine had the least number of live bacteria. Recently

researchers conducted another study to determine why and how wine has such antibacterial properties. In the study they discovered that the acidity and alcohol concentration in wine isn't what is responsible. Instead, it's due to a number of organic compounds – lactic, malic, succinic, and tartaric acids – and, after neutralizing their acidity, they found that they kill 99.9 percent of dental bacteria and germs that cause sore throats. And red wine was more effective than white wine, but not by much. Another study tested the effects of red wine on salmonella and compared it to a disinfecting solution containing the same alcohol concentration and acidity level and found that red wine is better at killing the bacteria than the solution. So, if you feel a little tickle in your throat, forget the saltwater gargle and pour yourself a glass of wine instead!





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Ellen Fleming Sarah Tench Helms Kay Holden Zac Hullander Ben Moose Sherry Perry Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jerri & Mike Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Mike Barbee
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Carol Fox
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett

Meredith Hovis
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Clarence McLain
Family of Dawn Mitchell
Ann Mundy
Linda Nichols

Robert Nichols
Sarah Nichols
Ann Peters
Tommy Smith
Brody Thornburg

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parke



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.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to Dianne in the office by **12 Noon on Wednesdays**.





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 Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse