

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 22, 2017

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING /WELCOME

PRELUDE: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Cherwien

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 stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.

Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *People Who Walk in Darkness* All Stand & Sing



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
 2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
 3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
 dwells in the dark of night? Morn-ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
 one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
 pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
 gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

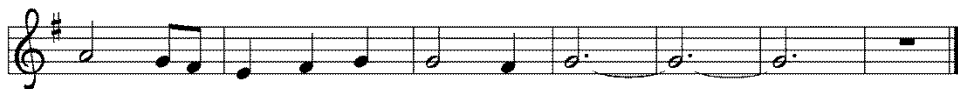
Refrain



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

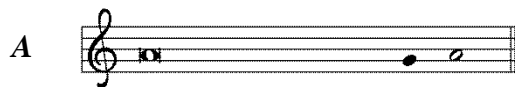
Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
 Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

GREETING

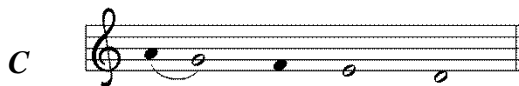
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

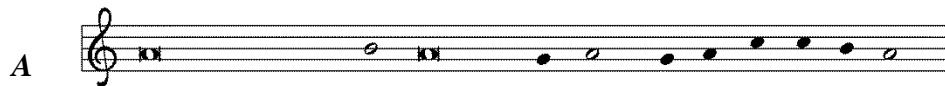
KYRIE



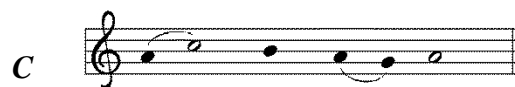
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



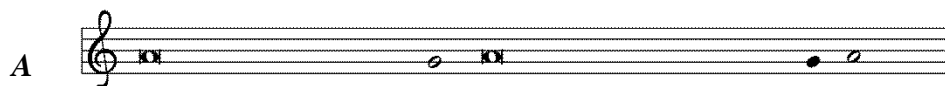
Lord, have mer - cy.



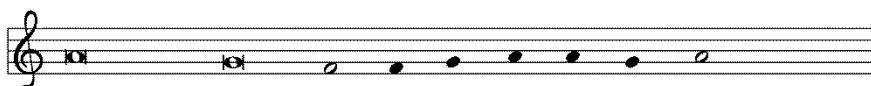
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



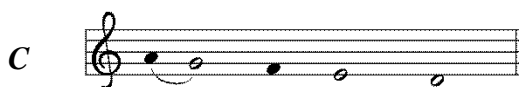
Lord, have mer - cy.



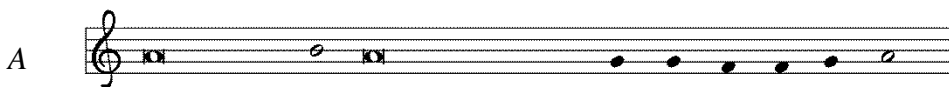
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



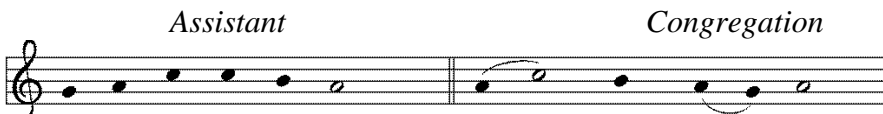
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

The musical notation for the Assisting Minister's part is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C#5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (half), F#4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), E4-F#4 (beamed eighth notes), D4-E4 (beamed eighth notes), C#4-D4 (beamed eighth notes), B3-C#4 (beamed eighth notes), A3-B3 (beamed eighth notes), G3 (half), and F#3 (half note).

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

[illegible]

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 9:1-4

A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced defeat, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them. The people in the northern parts of Israel have experienced “gloom” and “darkness” because of the destruction wrought by Assyrian military forces. To these people, the prophet announces the shining of a great light of salvation.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 27:1, 4-9 Read Responsively

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon
the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will
sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the first chapter.

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ who was crucified for us. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.



²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Congregation is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

HYMN OF THE DAY: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore All Stand & Sing*



1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry — a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind-ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a-ban-doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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.

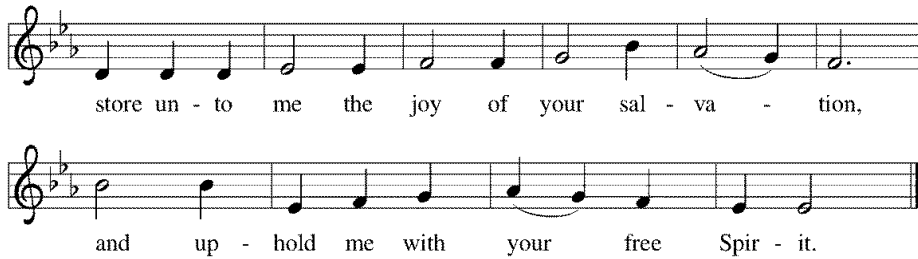
C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *They Cast Their Nets in Galilee* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you call us to fish for people. Tear down divisions and unite the church universal in your mission. Make us of the same mind and purpose in service and worship to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you call us to care for creation. Breathe into us the joy and beauty of stewardship. Teach us to care for the small seed and the expansive sky. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you call us to care for the stranger in our midst. Sustain refugees from every country and empower organizations that provide food and shelter for them, especially Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Redeeming God, you break the oppressor's rod. Bring an end to tyranny and poverty. Wipe out fear. Uphold all your children who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Heal us with your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Triune God, you call us into relationship with you. Raise up leaders in your church who risk looking foolish for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ever-living God, you call us to rest in you. Keep us faithful on earth and bring us to life everlasting with the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Thy Strong Word* All Stand & Sing



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**. 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 form on line at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Julia Gunter in memory of Patricia Booth; and to the glory of God in honor of Jane Howard's birthday.

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 Committee

Offering and Attendance Report for January 15, 2017:

Attendance: 149

Budget Report

Current Offering Received
Weekly Budgeted Expenses
Offering, Year-To-Date (YTD)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses Year-To-Date

January 15, 2017

\$ 10,586.00
\$ 5,656.42
\$ 11,825.39
\$ (776.54)



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 22-28

January 26 Matthew Carr

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Judy Caldwell

GREETER: Becky Richards

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Volunteers

TELLERS: Raini Kimball,
Dennis Tucker

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains
Donna Bean

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Maria Carr

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

Infants: Staff; *Toddlers:* Volunteers

SOLOIST: Ellen Fleming

USHERS: Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, January 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 Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, January 24

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Christian Ed meets
Nar-Anon

Wednesday, January 25

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

**Remember to pick up your 2017 offering envelopes
located in the narthex of the church.**





PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Shirley Causby
Tommy Causby
Brenda Dabrowski
Shawn De Nicholas &
Family

Ardean Ewing
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander
Chase Lineberger
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

Brian Jackson & Family
Terry Faulkner & Family
Parker Holland

Jennifer Lineberger
Capt. Basil Jeff Marett
Donnie Yavelak



OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek
Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer
Leo Kasmer

Tom 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.



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to Shawn De Nicholas & Family
on the death of Shawn's mother,
Terry Lynn Peacock Faulkner



Prayers of Sympathy & Hope
Are offered to Beth Passer & Family
on the death of her mother,
Daphne Ann Hansen

On Sunday, **February 5**, the youth of Holy Comforter will collect for the



More than 25 years ago, the *Souper Bowl of Caring* began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$125 million has been raised for local charities across the country through *Souper Bowl of Caring*. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to Belmont Community Organization (BCO).

Holy Doodles



Women's Bible Study: The ladies of Holy Comforter will be starting a new study beginning Wednesday, January 25th. We will be doing a 5-week Bible study on body image using a book that will address the topics of loving oneself and others through individual and group questions in response to daily Bible reading and dialogue. Our meetings will be in the **Fellowship Hall from 6:45-7:45 pm on Wednesdays**.

If you are interested in the study, please email Jenn Kearney at jenniferhasskearney@gmail.com or call/text her, [704-718-0927](tel:704-718-0927). We will order books for each participant, so please respond today.

Wrapping Neighbors in Warmth

Join us for our first service project of the year! **Saturday, January 28th** from 11-1 we will be making fleece tie blankets to distribute to the homeless. If you can't make the event, but would like to help, we would appreciate donations of fleece in the size of 54" x 65" roughly. A pizza lunch will be served.



Hello Holy Comforter Congregation,

I want to thank you for your support with my mission trip fundraiser!! Because of you and many others we reached **half** of our \$9000 goal!!!! That is wonderful!! I appreciate each of you for your continued support and prayers.

Our mission team is having one more fundraiser on January 28th. We are having a "Poor Man's" soup/chili dinner and cake auction. This is taking place in Albemarle, NC. I know!!! I wish it were closer but if you find it in your hearts to donate a cake, pie or crock pot of soup/chili, I'll be glad to collect them from you to take to Albemarle. We are praying that we reach our goal with this fundraiser. If you can help in any way please contact me at [704-718-6161](tel:704-718-6161) or email me at shelia.kelly9537@gmail.com



Our mission trip to Ecuador is February 16th-26th!! Thank you again Holy Comforter for your dedicated support for me with your prayers, contributions and words of encouragement.

In Christ,
Shelia Kelly



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