Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 23, 2014

Christ The King Sunday



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

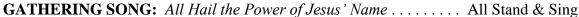
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins:

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Sovereign over all the earth, the Wisdom from on high, our merciful Judge and Savior.
- C Amen.
- P Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P Generous and faithful God,
- C we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy. Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others. Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.





- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6 Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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 All sing Refrain; Verses sung by Cantor



CANTICLE OF PRAISE All sing Refrain & Verses





SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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 Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

A reading from the thirty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel.

Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will

seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

A reading from the first chapter of 1Ephesians.

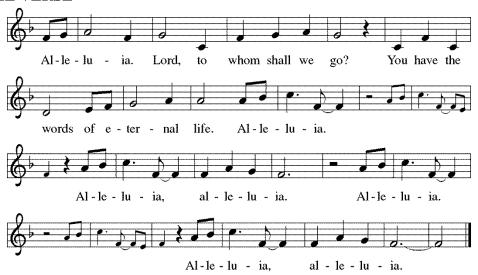
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to

come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 25:31–46

- P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of

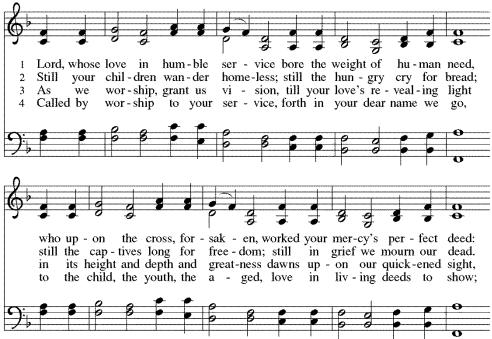
strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

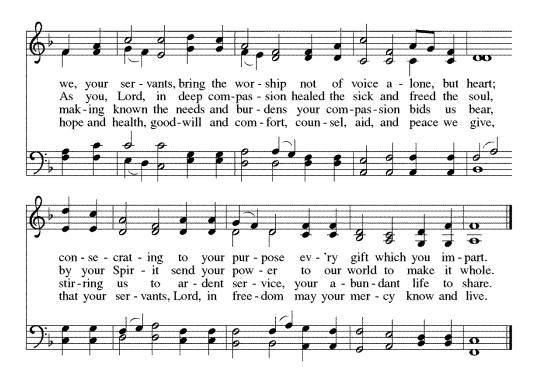
⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

SERMON Guest Pastor, David Coffman

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service All Stand & Sing





Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press. Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

THE 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.

* catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

A brief silence.

For your whole church, that it will continue to joyfully proclaim your love to the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our care of creation, that we resist the temptations to use it wastefully and seek more opportunities for restoration and wise use, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all nations of the world, that they will come to the knowledge that your peace brings plenty and your wisdom brings justice, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our brothers and sisters in any need, that we tend to their wounds and hurts, bringing healing, hope, and comfort in your name (*especially*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation, that we do everything possible to bring joy and peace into our neighborhoods and communities, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the blessed gifts of saintly lives, that they inspire the witness of all believers who live in your promises, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

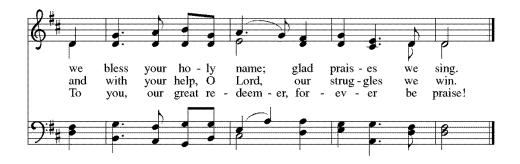
PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: A Scottish Blessing Church Choir **OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** We Praise You, O God All Stand & Sing 1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre a - tor; fa - thers and wor - ship you, God of our mo - thers; 3 With voic - es prais - es u - nit - ed our grate - ful de - vo in tion our trib - ute we bring. through tri - al and tem pest our guide you have been. glad - ly of thanks - giv - ing we our songs raise. be - fore you; we We lay it kneel and a - dore you; When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us, With you, Lord, be - side us, arm will guide us. your strong

Continued on next page...



Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

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

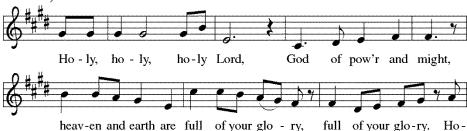
DIALOGUE

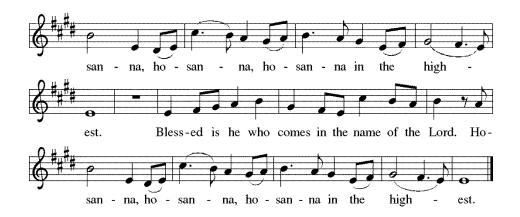
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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;

and lead us not into temptation,

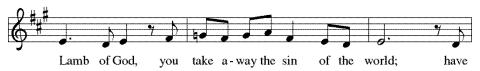
but deliver us from evil.

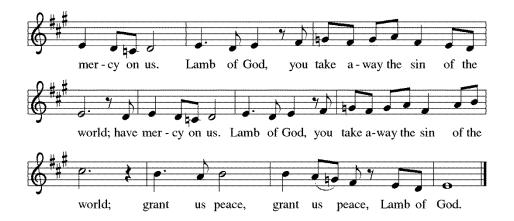
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of GodC Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG



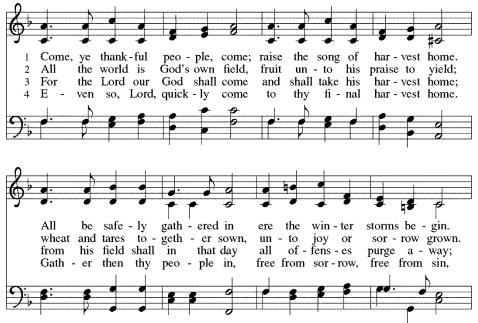


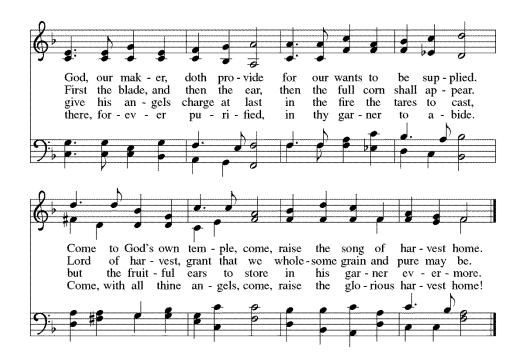
COMMUNION

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: Come, You Thankful People Come All Sing

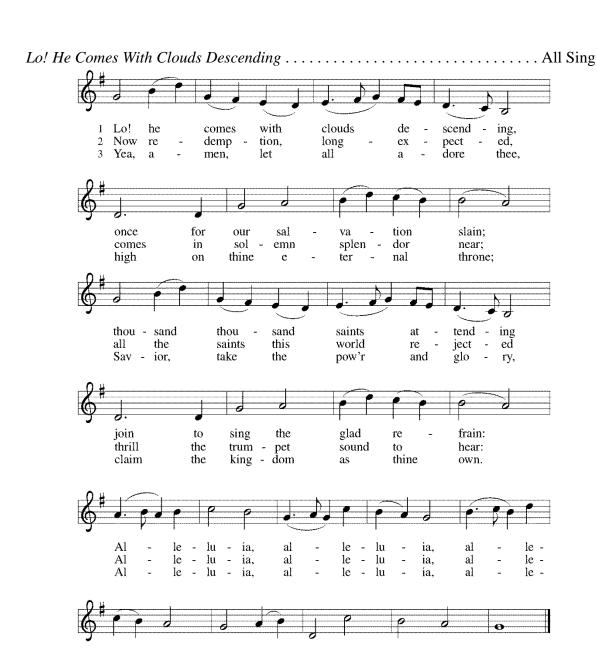




Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Parents, please send your "children's ensemble" child to the balcony after your family communes.

Communion Music continues on next page.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION & BLESSING OF THE MEAL

Children sing, then repeat with Congregation...

Ev'rybody give thanks to God...Ev'rybody give thanks to God... God is Great and God is Good...God is Great and God is Good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
- C O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

- P The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Christ The King 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 located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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 ARRANGEMENT ON OUR ALTAR TODAY was assembled by Shirley Causby and Myra Hollar.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, November 16, 2014:

Attendance: 163

Budget Report	November 16, 2014
Current Offering Received 11/16/14	\$ 4,440.30
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, YTD	\$188,726.81
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	(\$ 2,032.32)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 16,765.05)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr., Donna Bean

ACOLYTES: Garrett Carpenter

Maria Carr & Madison Carr Garrett Fox

CRUCIFERS: Cody Koehler, Gage Gatlin **GREETER:** Need Volunteer

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3) Fran Holland, Co-Captain Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain

Courtney Gatlin **Tracey Nault**

Stephanie Hinson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B) **USHERS:** Need Volunteers

Charles Mauney Fran Holland

Sherry Alexander Volunteer

CANTOR: Greg Byrum SOLO: Diann Halvorson

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: November 23-29

Today, November 23 Cheryl Fox November 25 Mallory Morton

November 27 Sue Lahr November 29 Rick Neagle

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, November 23

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Congregational meeting with voting

Advent/Christmas Luncheon Decorate the church for Christmas

Children's Ensemble after lunch 5:00 pm Handbell Choir

6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, November 25

NURSERY: (9:30 – 11:45 am) Melissa Bocchino & Mandi Kline

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

TELLERS: Sherry Alexander &

Tom Causby

PERCUSSION: Elizabeth Bruchon

Eric & Renee Carpenter

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Thursday, November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!



We welcome to the pulpit this morning guest pastor, David Coffman.



You are invited to the Annual Congregational Luncheon today We will decorate for Advent/Christmas after lunch Meat & drinks provided by the church.

Jenn § I would like to express our immense gratitude for the baby shower that the congregation hosted for us the other week.

We are continually comforted by the warmth and compassion of our new family in Christ, and this was certainly a vivid expression of it.

So thank you, for the gifts, for the food, and for the compassion you share.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

Need a gift for someone on your Christmas list? The *Holy Comforter Cookbooks* will be available for sale starting today, November 23, at a reduced cost of \$10.

Look for Deb Bingham & Kathy Graves as you enter the education building from the sanctuary.

Sunday School Attendance November 16, 2014



	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	2
Pre-K	1	2
God's Eden	7	1
Youth	1	1
Seekers		8
Adult Bible Class		10
Totals:	12	22



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Brian Achor & Family	Dot Holland	Carol Posey
Louise Austin	Zac Hullander	Mabel Ratchford
Daniel Dowd	Bill & Pauline Joye	George Roberson
Cher Grant	Eva Kline	Mark Reese
Ferrie Hedrick	Chase Lineberger	Marguerite Shive
Kay Holden	Virginia Neagle	-

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Harriett Ange	Dennis Jordan	Taylor Propst & Family
Paige Beaver	Betty Kannapel	David Prouty
Jenny Beer	Steven Keating	Joe Reynolds
Father Frank Cancro	Marshall Kinley	Anna Rudder
Tina Capwell	Lance Kirkland	Megan Sigler
Poss Garrett	Terry Mahaffey	E. Taylor & Family
Ronnie Garrison	Steve Mathis	Gloria Ward
Lewis Gilbert Family	Kenadee Nelson	Pastor Gary Weant
Brian Hedrick	Mark Outlaw	Olivia Wilcox

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek Jason Gardner Dillon Kasmer Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.



S.O.C.K.S. Angel Tree

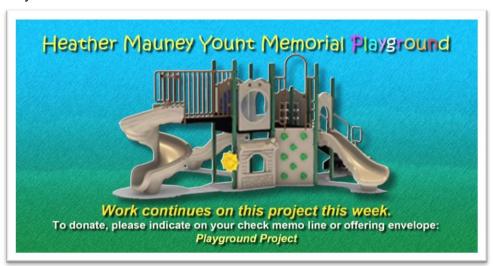


Again this year we will participate in the *Angel Tree* for S.O.C.K.S. (Serving Our Community With Kindness in Springwood). S.O.C.K.S. is located in North Belmont and serves needy families in our area.

30 name tags with the age, gender, and sizes for the child were claimed this past Sunday. We have added another 20 names to the tree. You may take as many tags as you like and provide Christmas for children in the community who would otherwise be without. There is a sign-up sheet this year for you to sign your name by the tag# that you take from the tree. (We need to keep up with the gifts as they come in and report to SOCKS when each child's gifts are received.)

After purchasing and wrapping the gifts, please attach the name tag to the gifts so SOCKS volunteers will know who the gifts are for. Bring your <u>wrapped & tagged</u> items to the church as soon as they are ready. The deadline date for returning your gifts to Holy Comforter is December 3. SOCKS does not have room to store the gifts so they will distribute to the families as soon as they are received at the SOCKS facility.

Last year this congregation provided gifts to over 35 children! With the 30 names taken last Sunday added to the 20 names this Sunday, you will be providing 50 local children with gifts for Christmas. Thank you in advance for helping the children of our community!





Poinsellia 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 <u>\$15.00 for each poinsettia</u> ordered.)

Payment must be attached to order form.

All orders **due** to Dianne in the office **by, December 7**th. You may give your form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 <u>holycomforter@gmail.com</u>

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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager