# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

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

## The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

## **GATHERING/WELCOME**

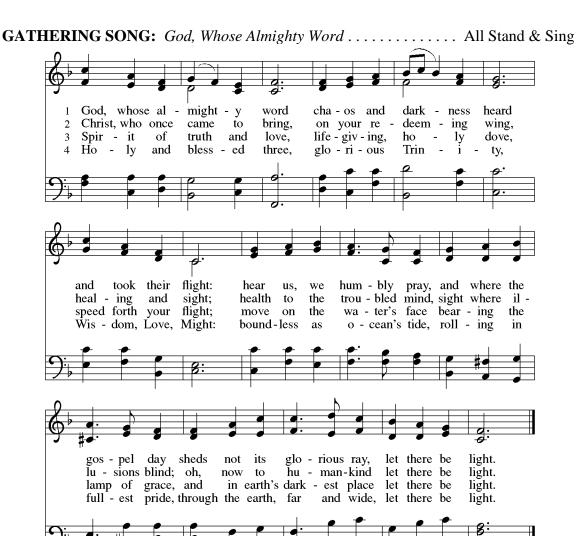
#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.
- C Amen.
- P Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Mighty and loving God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.
- P Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.
- C Amen.



Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt. Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

#### **GREETING**

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

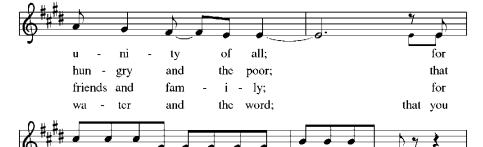
C And also with you.







- For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im passioned re sponse to the
- For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise, we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace, life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play, nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



GLORY TO GOD . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Sing Refrain and Verses







#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### C Amen.

Congregation is seated and 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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from the eighth chapter of Nehemiah.

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

PSALM 19 . . . . . . . . . . . . All Read: Men read odd verses,

Women read even

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another,

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard.

<sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,

## where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

## nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?

## Cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

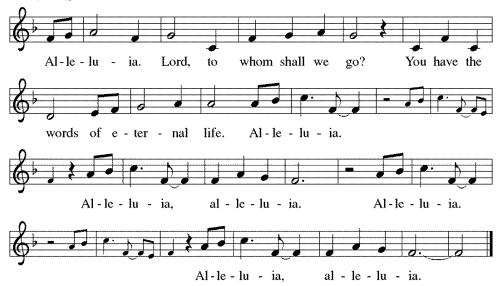
<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

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

#### **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21

- P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and



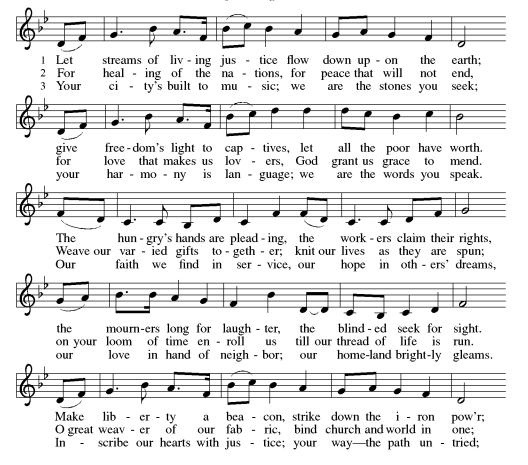
sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

SERMON . . . . . . Pastor Micah

Silence is Kept for Reflection.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Let Streams of Living Justice Flow . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

#### 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**



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

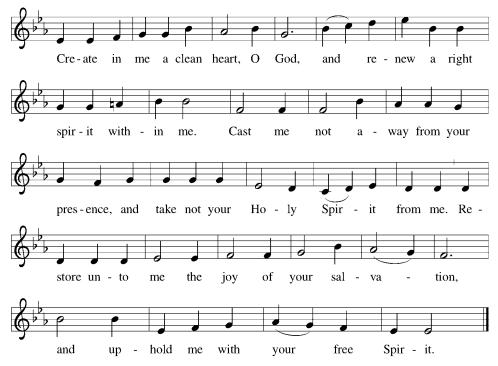
We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984 Music: Siyahamba, South African traditional Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Create In Me A Clean Heart . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



#### OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Empower bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, evangelists, and all members of Christ's body with your Spirit. Open our hearts to hear your word of life and respond in lives of service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the earth. For all creatures of the land, air, and water. Heal environments damaged by disaster or pollution. Make us wise stewards of all you have entrusted into our care. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

For the nations. Liberate us from our captivity to fear and ways of violence. Free those who are unjustly imprisoned and those who are imprisoned for working for freedom. Give us vision to seek the pathways of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

For those in need. Rescue those who suffer abuse or neglect. Bring an end to hunger and greed. Accompany those who are alone or vulnerable. Comfort those who grieve and all who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless those who proclaim your word and those who teach. Bless those whose talents are not recognized, and teach us to honor the gifts of all your people. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have gone before us in the faith. Wipe away all tears and bring us with them into the joy of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* . . . . . . All Stand & Sing



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **SENDING**

- A Go in peace. Christ is your light.
- C Thanks be to God.

**COMMUNION** for those who desire it will be offered at the altar after worship.

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<u>A CORDIAL WELCOME</u> is extended to all 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.

<u>CHILDREN</u> 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. We encourage you to use the nursery if your children become restless and/or vocal. 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.

## Offering and Attendance Report for January 20, 2019:

Attendance: 155

Budget Report	<u>January 20, 2019</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Offering	\$ 4,018.00	\$ 12,209.01
Expenses	<u>\$ 5,774.35</u>	\$ 16,498.13
Offering less Expenses	(\$ 1,756.35)	(\$ 4,289.12)

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Judy, Carly & Mollie Caldwell in memory of Scott Caldwell.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

## Worship & Music Committee

## **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK:** January 27 - February 2

February 1 Teddy Scharpenberg



**ASSISTING MINISTERS:** 

LECTOR: Jim Buell GREETER: Volunteer

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS: Fran Holland, John Koehler

Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am) **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)

Misty Koehler

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain
CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Carmen De Nicholas Carmen De Nicholas

Carmen De Nicholas Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

PERCUSSION: Diann Halvorson CANTOR: Greg Byrum

**USHERS:** Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

10:30 am The Service

Sunday, January 27 Tuesday, January 29

8:45 am Children's Ensemble 7:00 pm Chamber Choir 9:30 am Sunday School Nar-Anon

10:10 am Church Choir prep

5:00 pm Handbells <u>Wednesday, January 23</u>

6:00 pm Church Choir 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study



## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen
Cynthia Buchanan
Brenda Dabrowski
Becke Featherstone
Sarah Tench Helms
Zac Hullander

Sue Lahr
Ann Miller & Family
Ben Moose
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Kathie Schaumburg

Scott Schaumburg	
Marguerite Shive	
Denise Taylor	
Beverly Reynolds	
Jo Singleton	
Jerri & Mike Wesso	n

## **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Amy Beale Blythe
Wayne Bradshaw
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Dallas Foscue
Carol Fox

Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Steve Leonard
Jennifer Lineberger
Ronnie Lunsford
Jane Marino

Clarence McLain Anne Murdy Paul Outlaw Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates

#### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Beau Carroll

Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



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.





January is Thyroid Awareness Month. What do YOU know about your thyroid? The thyroid gland is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located in the base of the neck just below the Adam's apple. It influences the function of many of the body's most important organs, including the heart, brain, liver, kidneys and skin. Having a healthy thyroid gland is vitally important to the body's overall wellbeing.

Think of your thyroid as a car engine that sets the pace at which your body operates. An engine produces the energy needed for a car to move at a certain speed. In the same way, your thyroid gland manufactures enough thyroid hormone to prompt your cells to perform a function at a certain rate. When outside influences such as disease, damage to the thyroid, or certain medicines break down communication, your thyroid might not produce enough hormone. This would slow down all of your body's functions – a condition known as **hypothyroidism**, or underactive thyroid. Your thyroid could also produce too much hormone sending your systems into overdrive – a condition known as **hyperthyroidism**, or overactive thyroid. These two conditions are most often features of an underlying thyroid disease.

Thyroid disease is more common than diabetes or heart disease. Thyroid disease is a fact of life for as many as 30 million Americans – and more than half of those people remain undiagnosed. Women are 5 times more likely than men to suffer from hypothyroidism. Aging is one risk factor for hypothyroidism, but there are many others.

Could YOU have thyroid disease? The best way to know for sure is to ask your doctor for a TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone) test, a simple blood test to verify your thyroid gland's condition. And if you DO have thyroid disease, you need to learn all you can about it – it is something you will live with for the rest of your life and you need to understand how to manage it. Come to your Parish Nurse for help with the education!

Contac Save a		ller,	Parish	Nurse,	at '	717-32	29-850	7 or	paris	shnuı	rse04	<u>107@</u>	<u>@</u> g	mail.cor	<u>n</u> .



## **Social Ministry Information:**

Are you looking for ways to get involved and share your time and talents with Holy Comforter? Please join us for a volunteer information luncheon on **February 24** after the service. **Following the meal, we will have presentations from each of the committees of the church and sign-up sheets for those who are interested in joining a group**. Whether you have been a member for 20 years, or are just joining the Holy Comforter family, there is a place for you to serve!





A sign up sheet for the *Isle of Palms Retreat* is floating around the church. The dates for the retreat are Thursday, May 23 — Monday, May 27. Checks for reservations are due and deposited on Easter Sunday.

Details to follow in the March newsletter.



Mandi Kline is offering her *Spiritual Gifts* class to any adult who would like to be a part of it. This engaging class will be offered starting *February 3*<sup>rd.</sup> The 8-week course will be offered during the Sunday school hour. Are you looking to deepen and grow in your relationship with God? Have you ever thought about what God is calling you to do in life and in ministry? We want to celebrate the spiritual gifts God has given you? Join us to discover how we as God's people will grow closer to God and in ministry as we uncover our Godgiven talents and gifts. We invite you to join us starting February 3<sup>rd</sup> in the fellowship hall. If you are concerned

about missing sessions, Mandi assures us that she is happy to send lecture notes and missed class info to those who were unable to be with us in that class.

If you are interested in participating in this class, please fill in the form below, tear off and place in the offering plate, take to the church office, give to Beka, or email Beka at rforst@holyc.org.

I am interested begins Februar	in participating in the <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> class that y 3.
Name:	
Contact Info: En	nail
Telephone:	



We will be utilizing the Liturgy from *Holden Evening Prayer* during the upcoming Lenten season. The handbell ensemble is open to all youth (grades 4-12); with limited ringing positions as we accompany this service of worship. So, let me know ASAP is your child is willing to participate. I will be glad to sign them up.

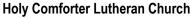
# Accompany Lenten Services of Worship Wednesdays at 6:45 pm March 13 — April 10

Meal is served at 6:00 pm prior to worship.

#### **Rehearsal Times:**

Wednesday, February 13 at 5:00 pm February 27 at 5:00 pm March 15 at 5:00 pm

Greg Cline <a href="mailto:gclinea440@aol.com">gclinea440@aol.com</a> 704-860-4460



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