Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street
 Belmont, NC 28012
 November 24, 2019

Christ the King Sunday



Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, healer of our every ill, source of unending mercy.

C Amen.

P Embraced in enduring grace and good hope, let us turn again to God, confessing the truth about ourselves.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

we come before you, beloved but broken. We have not always treated others as we would want them to treat us. We have not always called out injustice and abuse. We have not always been kind to ourselves. We have not always taken care of the world we share with other living creatures. Remind us of who we are, beloved children bathed in your love. Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people, bringing healing to the brokenness around us. Amen.

P At every moment you are held in existence by the love of God, renewed by the Spirit within and among you, and made alive again in Christ. Receive this assurance in Jesus' name: you are + forgiven and freed to live for the healing of the world.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns...... All Stand & Sing



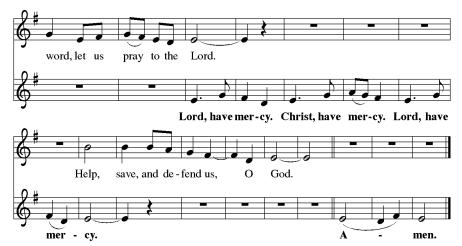
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA. George J. Elvev. 1816–1893

GREETING

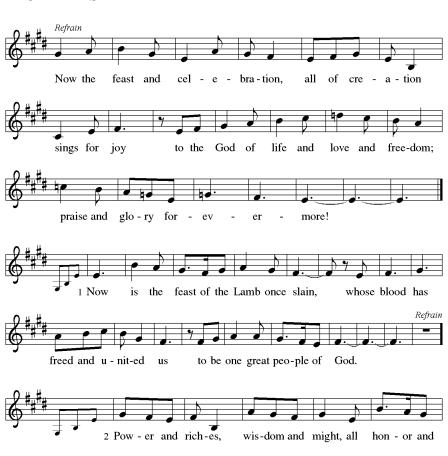
- P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

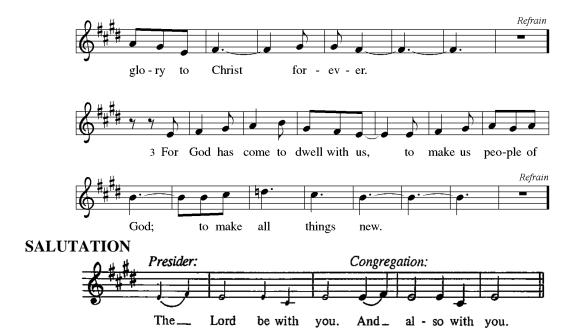
KYRIE





CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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 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.

A reading from the twenty-third chapter of Jeremiah.

Today's reading builds on the common ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, the Lord will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the first chapter of Colossians.

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all

things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

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

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The

soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

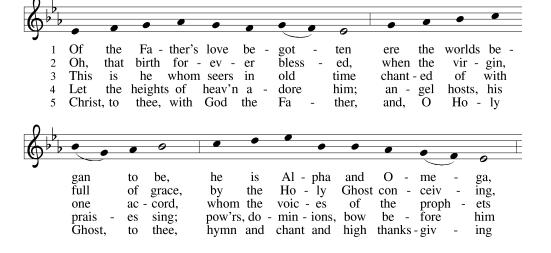
³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

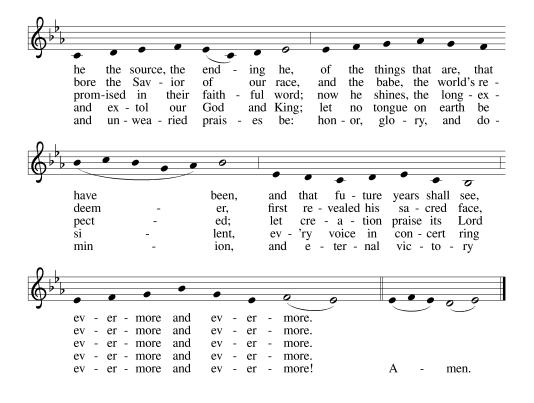
- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation is seated.

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Of the Father's Love Begotten All Stand & Sing





Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the saints of every time and place, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, you are our righteousness. Fill us with the hope of steadfast love and shine light on places that were invisible to us, so that we see your kingdom made visible on earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, your reign extends from the black holes of the universe to a single grain of sand. Guide us to sustain and restore all of your creation, and to live in peace with this planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, you are exalted among nations. Protect the people in countries ravaged by violence, warfare, and hatred, and raise up wise and generous leaders to find their strength in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, you are our help in times of trouble. Like a shepherd who guards the sheep, watch over your flock: those who are sick and hurting in body, mind, or spirit, those who are mocked, and those who are lonely (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, you call us forth from this place to lives of service. Equip the outreach ministries of this congregation. Use our hands and feet, sharing Christ's love with neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, the beginning and the end, we rejoice that one day we will share in the inheritance of the saints. In thanksgiving, we remember those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in hope, we lift our prayers to you, most gracious Lord, trusting that you have received them in your care.

Amen.

PEACE

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Come With a Thankful Heart

(Congregation stands and sings on verse 3 as offerings and elements are brought forward)



Text: Jayne Southwick Cool, based on Psalm 100; newly written, and copyright © 2019 Birnamwood with this publication.

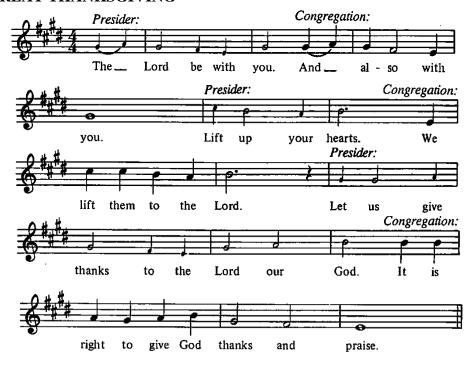
Tune: MUSKINGUM VALLEY, Jayne Southwick Cool, newly composed, and copyright © 2019 Birnamwood with this publication.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C God our creator, you give us all we are, all we have, all we bring, and all we need. Draw us together around your table with all your saints on earth and in your eternal home. Let us eat and drink your promise of new life, that we might be your promise to the world, spoken in Jesus' name. Amen.

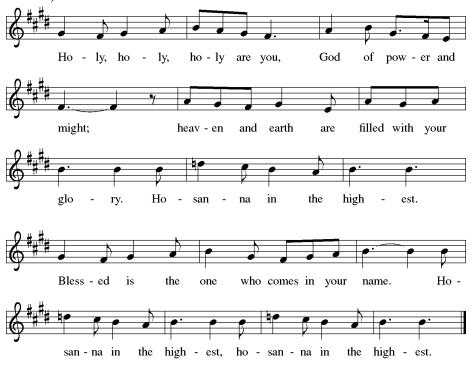
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P ... and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

THROUGH CHRIST





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 God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG





us

peace.

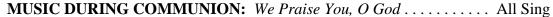
grant

COMMUNION

grant

us peace,

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.





Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963 Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C We thank you, God our host, for inviting us here to taste the future when you will feed all the hungry at your table. Keep this hope alive in us and in our communities, so that we might bring hope to a suffering world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

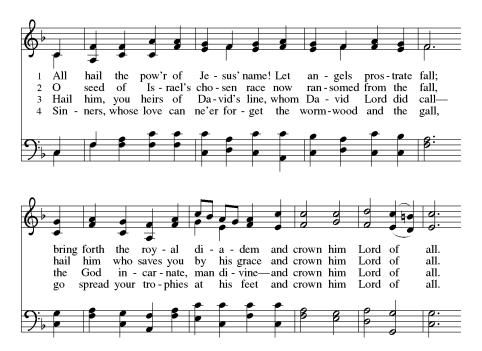
Amen.

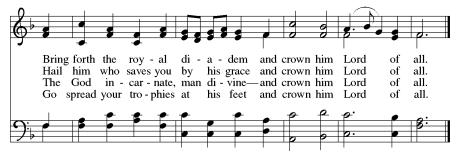
BLESSING

P Signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are Christ's message of love for this troubled world, written by the same Sender. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, + comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name............ All Stand & Sing





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

SENDING

- A Go in peace. Set your hope on Christ.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all 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 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 Julia Gunter

<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, November 17, 2019:

Attendance: 128

Budget Report	<u>This Week</u>	Year-to-Date	(Unfavorable)
Offering	\$ 4,685.00	\$253,230.77	(11,014.31)
Expenses	\$ 5,774.35	<u>\$261,949.15</u>	2,295.93
Offering less Expenses	\$ (1,089.35)	(\$ 8,718.38)	(8,718.38)

Sanctuary Roof and HVAC Status as Of: 10/13/19

Goal: \$225,000 Received to Date: 181,247 Additional Amounts Promised: 35,000 Remaining Needed: \$8,753

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Volunteers

ACOLYTE: Zenneta Sarrazin TELLERS: Janet and Brian Achor

CRUCIFER: Volunteer CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Krystyna Sarrazin

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams FLUTE & CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE

ASSISTANT: Julia Gunter

USHERS: Volunteers

NURSERY: (10:30-11:45 am) Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

Volunteers

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, November 24

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
Thanksgiving lunch, Advent
Decoration following service

5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church choir practice Tuesday, November 26

6:00 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Wednesday/Thursday, November 27-28

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: November 24-30

November 25 Arianna Ince Mallory Morton November 27 Sue Lahr

November 29 Rick Neagle Josh Nixon





Better Choices Faster Results Trying to diet? Need to shed a few pounds before the holidays so that turkey dinner doesn't put you "over the edge?" Spotting diet troublemakers is easy (pizza, hot dogs, etc.) but identifying foods that seem healthy but actually pack lots of fat/calories is trickier. Here are some examples:

- Fruit smoothie seems healthy but it's like having a milkshake. There often isn't any fresh fruit but instead they are flavored with sugary juices and syrups. Ask if your drink can be made with whole fruit, low-fat yogurt and no juice/syrup or buy elsewhere.
- Veggie chips seem like a good alternative to fatty potato chips but if you look, you'll see they often have as much in the way of fats/calories. Instead stir a packet of French onion soup mix into 16 ounces of Greek yogurt and use it as a dip for raw veggies. You'll get the benefit of the veggies while satisfying your salt craving.
- Spinach wrap sure seems healthy, but it's like having three slices of bread.
 Tortillas used for wraps are usually made from white flour and a typical 12-incher
 has more than 240 calories BEFORE the fillings. Instead opt for a 7- or 8-inch
 whole-wheat tortilla you'll save over 100 calories and can enjoy that spinach
 plus whatever filling!

So, best plan? Always read the nutrition fact labels on food, if available. If not – as in foods prepared in restaurants and kiosks - take along a carb/fat/calorie guide...they make them in pocket-size, so they are easy to carry with you! Keep the fats and calories down and you'll not have to diet your way out of increased pounds after the holidays!

NOTE: No PEP exercise class this week! Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday – we will see you Monday, December 2 at 6:00 pm!



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

Janice Barker
Amy Beale Blythe
Doug Brewer
Ron de la Vega
Nancy Dickson
Earl Gardner
Larry "Poss" Garrett
Mark Glaeser

Meredith Hovis

Mary Huggins
Family of
Mark Lineberger
Steve Leonard
Ruth Lyerly
Jane Marino
Al McCoy
Clarence McLain
Aaron Mintz

Family of Dawn Mitchell Ann Mundy Linda Nichols Robert Nichols Sarah Nichols Tommy Smith Brody Thornburg Jeff Wiles

OUR SERVICEMEN

Beau Carroll Tom Kasmer

Leo Kasmer

Colton Parker



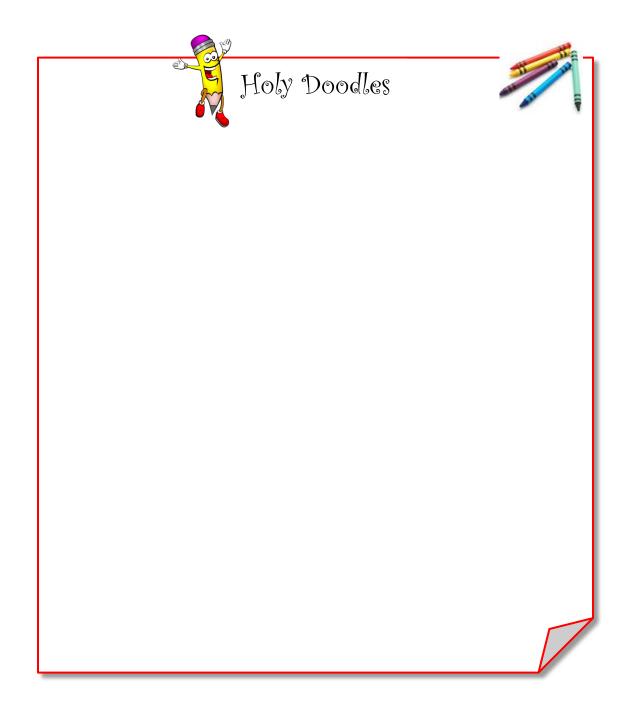
Please remember these people in your prayers.

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.

NOTE: To ensure inclusion in the bulletin all information is due to the office by 12

Noon on Wednesdays.



I want to thank everyone for being so generous with your clothing, blankets and monetary donations for the homeless shelter and the Hope House in Harlan, KY. We were able to give away so many warm clothes to those in need!! It was such a blessing! I was partnering with Venture Church in Dallas for this trip. We had a large trailer FULL of clothing and blankets that we towed to KY! What a miracle!! We had so much clothing, that we were able to take clothing to the Hope House, in Evarts, KY also. The Hope House is a rehabilitation facility for women. These women are in the Hope House because they are trying to better themselves from drug and alcohol abuse, physical and mental abuse and sex trafficking.

We took bibles and distributed them to the homeless and the ladies at Hope House. The bibles aided us in sharing God's word and pointing them to verses in the bible that would show God's love and forgiveness.

The mission team also went to a small church on Sunday. After the service which was lead by our mission team, we gave each child a treat bag that consisted of small blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, crayons, pencils, paper, toys, coloring sheets, puzzles, candy etc., similar to what our children get in children's church. Your monetary contributions allowed us to give these bags to the children. Their faces lit up when we gave out the bags. It was so heartwarming!

It broke my heart to see what the men, women and children of Harlan live with daily. It is so bitter cold there and winter has just begun. At least they will have warmth and God's word this winter, thanks to all of you. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart! Holy Comforter has a BIG heart and wonderful people. We are all so blessed!

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: MKearney@holyc.org
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse