



# The Holy Comforter Comment



## *July Newsletter*

***Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.***

*Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on the website and transmitted to the parking lot over the radio and communion is served to those present.*

Church Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

**Micah Kearney, *Pastor***  
[mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

**Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship***  
[rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

**Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster***  
[gclinea440@gmail.com](mailto:gclinea440@gmail.com)



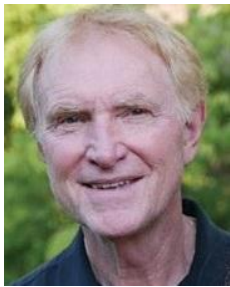
***Pastor  
Micah Kearney***





*Pastor Micah will share about his sabbatical on July 9th during the church Pentecost Potluck following service.*

**Happy 4th of July!**



**Thank You Pastor Tim!**

**For the last 6 weeks we have had the joy of walking along side each other. We are grateful for Pastor Tim's leadership in ministry through visitations, Primetimers Bible study, and worship leading. We are thankful for the ways we have shared joy and how Pastor Tim has shepherded us in this interim time! Thank you!**



### **July Birthdays**

*We recognize and celebrate these birthdays! We are thankful for the Life and Spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.*



### **Monthly Gatherings**

- “ Potluck after Church- July 9th
- “ Small Group 1- July 9th, 4:00pm
- “ Dwelling Prep Meeting - July 9th, 5:00pm
- “ Small Group 2- July 11th, 7:00pm
- “ Prime Timers- July 13th, 10:30am
- “ Church Council Meeting- July 16th,

**July 02** Ellie Holloway  
**July 03** Amanda Kelly  
**03** Rachel Bailey  
**July 04** Ann Miller  
**July 07** Cheryl Bansen  
**July 09** Eugenia Smith  
**09** Finn Nance  
**July 13** Don Robinson  
**July 14** Beka Forst  
**14** Beverley Mauney  
**July 15** Russell Fleming  
**July 16** Sierra Hullendar  
**July 18** Holly Peche  
**18** Matthew Piscatelli  
**July 19** Madeline Clark  
**19** Lynne Sudarich  
**19** JoAnne de la Vega  
**19** Winters Hogge  
**July 20** Tyler Cassel  
**20** Brian Mitchell  
**20** Dylan Porter  
**20** Garrett Fox  
**July 21** John Crist  
**July 22** Melissa Bocchino  
**July 24** Cathleen Allen  
**July 26** Gary Clark  
**July 28** Linda Cox  
**July 30** Madison Morton  
**July 31** Don Doctor  
**July 31** David Povinelli

12pm  
 " Christian Education Meeting- July 18th,  
 7:00pm  
 "Outreach Meeting- July 20th 7pm  
 " Dwelling Mission Trip- July 23rd,  
 1:00pm

**Sundays:**

"10:10 am- Church Choir  
 "10:30 am- Worship

**Mondays:**

7:00 pm- Book Club (except July 4th)

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays:**

" 7:00 pm- Nar-Anon Meeting

*The schedule above is our expected weekly programs and meetings.*

*When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.*

*Music Notes* 🎵

Years ago we went around the room during choir rehearsal and shared our religious heritage background. In other words, when I was growing up, it seemed like most families who joined our congregational family were simply "transferring" from another Lutheran Church. To my surprise many in our choir were from non-Lutheran traditions. I am sure that is more the case today throughout our entire church family, rather than from years past...



[Read More](#)

**Faithful Families Tip – Wind Prayers**

Many cultures



Beka's  
Buzz 

The Spirit is unexpected, isn't she? I remember when I started here in 2016 hearing people say to me that they didn't want to do....

[Read More](#)

and countries have the custom of hanging flags in the wind. The image is a reminder that as the wind blows, the prayers are carried away



with it and everyone who is touched by the wind benefits from the prayers. For Christians, a prayer flag is a way to talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit. To make a prayer flag, give the members of your family construction paper or fabric rectangles. Ask them *what are some things they hope for in our world?* Another option is *what or who is one thing your pray for?* Drawing, writing, or painting are a few ways to do it. Using yarn and in a good place in the yard, hang your wind prayers!

## Bountiful Blessings Ministry Highlight



On June 8th our Dwelling travelers went to volunteer at Bountiful Blessings. The reason we chose this ministry was because of the lack of barriers there are to get food. Last year, at the Dwelling we learned a lot of different reasons why people can't get food from community organizations. For example, needing a driver's license requires an address, a birth certificate, and social security card. If someone who is unhoused doesn't have that, they can't get a driver's license and therefore food from the community organization. We learned last summer that we wanted to feed everyone, regardless of their address and ID. So, after hearing about Bountiful Blessings and Deacon Beka doing a little research we showed up to a parking lot full of volunteers and food. The conversation we had about dignity before we left included looking people in the eye when speaking to them. To me it meant showing a little kindness to people I didn't know, which wasn't hard. I helped people I didn't know anything about. I didn't know their situations or what brought them to Bountiful Blessings. My job was to smile and treat everyone with respect and kindness. We are all equal in God's eyes. This form of faith formation reminded me that loving my neighbor is more than being nice. There are many different ways to show love and kindness and by handing out food to I was able to show love to people I didn't know. I wasn't the only person there showing up to love our neighbor. The amount of people fed and people feeding was so evident of the kingdom of God. This experience affirmed my faith by helping me love my neighbors and seeing others also love their neighbors. The kingdom of God is more than Lutherans, it's more than people who come to church, it's more than people who have enough. The kingdom of God includes the hungry. On June 8th a piece of the Kingdom of God was together in the parking lot of Restoration Church. - Leah Koehler





[View More Photos](#)

[Sign up](#)

Sign up for our next  
volunteer date

**Lectors**

- July 2 - William Charnock
- July 9 - Marcus Cox
- July 16 - Jodi Nerret
- July 23 - Jodi Nerret
- July 30 - William Charnock

[Lector Sign Up](#)



This months altar flowers were  
sponsored by:

**Children's Church**

**July 9** - Emilie Bruchon, Marcus Cox, Theo, and Susanna in thanks for God for Pastor Micah, Greg, Deacon Beka, all the children's leaders, and the entire family of Holy Comforter.

**July 23** - Jill Cassel for Tyler's Birthday from Mom and Erin.

July 2 - Deacon Beka  
 July 9 - Volunteer Needed  
 July 16 - Jennifer Kearney  
 July 23 - Jill Cassel  
 July 30 - Deacon Beka

*Children's Church is available for pre-k-5th graders every Sunday during the readings, the Gospel, and the Sermon. Children's church takes place in the fellowship hall.*

**Altar Flowers**

**Children's Church Sign up**

## Treasurer's Report for May 2023

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter Historical Financial Perspective - May 31, 2023

<u>Financial Category</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>\$Amount</u>	<u>% Increase from</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>from 2021</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>\$Amount</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>\$Amount</u>
Offerings for the Month	17,724	-11.8	-15.9	20,097	21,064
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	112,108	2.6	-18.4	109,263	137,424
Expenses for the Month	27,893	24.2	16.4	22,461	23,960
Expenses YTD	142,721	20.4	21.5	118,491	117,505
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	28,902	10.2	12.2	26,222	25,767
Budget, YTD	144,508			131,110	128,835
Annual Budget	346,819			314,664	309,204

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during May was \$10,168.92. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$17,724.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through May 31, was \$30,613.37. Year-to-date spending was \$1,786.55 below the amount planned in the 2023 budget. The following table provides additional perspective and comparisons with offering income, expenses and budgets in prior years.

-Warren Heller, *Treasurer*

**We continue to ask for your prayers as Leah Koehler, Elizabeth Carroll, Erin Cassel, Elise Bansen, Mason Morton, Susan and Gary Clark, Mallory Morton, and Deacon Beka prepare for our Dwelling mission trip.**



## **Pentecost Potluck Party**

*July 9th  
12pm*

We invite you to stay after worship for lunch on Sunday, July 9th for a church potluck party where Pastor Micah will share about his sabbatical.

We will provide meat and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share.

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# BASIC NEEDS DRIVE

Help provide **undershirts, underwear, and socks** for those in need.

**DWELLING MISSION TRIP COLLECTION**

Now through July 23rd



*We are collecting undershirts, underwear, and socks! Below is an Amazon wishlist to be able to purchase online and send to the church. This is a great way to support our mission and the mission of the Dwelling. We will be taking donations to the Dwelling on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. A bin will be located in the education building for you to drop off your donations. We hope you will support this growing mission.*

-Deacon Beka

[Amazon  
Wishlist](#)

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church | 216 N Main St, BELMONT, NC 28012

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## Music Notes


Years ago we went around the room during choir rehearsal and shared our religious heritage background. In other words, when I was growing up, it seemed like most families who joined our congregational family were simply "transferring" from another Lutheran Church. To my surprise many in our choir were from non-Lutheran traditions. I am sure that is more the case today throughout our entire church family, rather than from years past.

I say this in the context of music during our worship hour. We are probably considered to be more on the traditional style, rather than contemporary as many might define the word. With the medium of the weekly printed bulletin we have a vast wealth of choices between songs/hymns today than ever seemed to be possible in the past. For example, we are no longer bound to the "hymn book."

That being said, because we are such a diverse congregation, it is next to impossible to sing everyone's favorite hymn from the literal pool of thousands of hymns reflected in all the traditions. One thing seems to remain constant: Hymns cycle in and out of use. Many hymns have stood the test of time over the centuries certainly; and we all have our favorites that we have grown to love. As a church musician I can never assume that, "Well...everyone knows that one." One Sunday a parishioner mentioned how much she liked that hymn about "Jesus loving me." You mean, "Jesus Loves Me?" Yes...but we did not sing that in the Catholic Church.

Clayton Faulkner, editor for a Lutheran musician journal states that, "We gather to worship through song in a faith-filled manner, trusting that God has a purpose for us and that activity of the Holy Spirit is in our praises." That certainly takes place within our church walls here at Holy Comforter; as we close with the words of a wonderful hymn:

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved  
and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.  
All are welcome in this place.

Greg Cline M.D. (Music Director) 



Beka's  
Buzz 



The Spirit is unexpected, isn't she? I remember when I started here in 2016 hearing people say to me that they didn't want to do homework. They didn't want to do any kind of prep work before coming to church. This conversation was always a part of a larger conversation around Sunday school. People didn't want to do pre-reading, or devotions at home. So, for 6 years, we didn't do homework. I never asked anyone to read or write anything ahead of a Sunday school class.

Then we found ourselves in 2022 trying to find ways to offer faithful conversations and learning. We talked about moving Sunday school to nights and other days of the week. We talked about how to form and nurture small groups. We dreamed about dwelling in challenging materials. After doing some research into what other churches are doing, I suggested doing a book club. The idea would be that we meet seasonally with a limited level of commitment, where we would read a book and talk about it. This would give us the chance to sharpen each other and grow closer to God. Here's what I didn't expect. I didn't expect this to be a place of vulnerability and sharing. I didn't expect to glean so much from my peers. I did not expect people to do the reading and show up. Here is where God showed up. Book Club has done three books so far. Each different from one another, each with different leaders, and each with a different group of people. Book Club is holy space where people are eager to share, openly wrestle with God and big ideas, and support one another in the sharing of our stories. We have a good boundary about not sharing other's stories without permission and for that I'm thankful.

Here is what I can say about this book, this group, and bread. Turns out people can talk about food. We all have a relationship to food, more specifically bread. We all have an experience that can include, communion, baking bread, different kinds of bread, or restricting from bread. This book, *By Bread Alone*, talks about the tension of how holy bread is, our longing for daily bread, and how incredibly ordinary and mundane bread it. And yet, this book about ordinary bread has brought 7 people together to share their stories with communion, family meals, and what daily bread we long for in this world. So, like the spirit stirred in us, I share with you. What is daily bread to you? Do you long for it? Join us for Book Club now, or in the fall. We can't wait to see what the Spirit will stir up next!