



The Holy Comforter Comment



November Newsletter

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on YouTube for those that are unable to join us in person.

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor

mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

gclinea440@aol.com



**Pastor
Micah Kearney**

Grace and Peace,
It almost feels like I am writing this article a month early, but I don't think I am. The holidays are coming, believe it or not, which is a bit of a mixed bag, if we're honest. There is so much...



November 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

- “ Prime Timers- November 9th, 10:30am
- “ Church Council Meeting- November 12th, 12pm
 - “ Kid's Club - November 12th, 4pm
 - “ Small Group 1- November 12th, 4pm
 - “ Small Group 2- November 14th, 7pm
- “ Christian Education Meeting- November 14th, 7pm
- “ Outreach Meeting- November 16th, 7pm
- “ Congregational Meeting- November 19th, during worship
- “ Dinner Church - November 29th, 6:30pm
- “ Discipleship Academy - November 26th, 5:00pm

Sundays:

- “ Sunday School - 9:30 am
- “ Church Choir - 10:10 am
 - “ Worship - 10:30 am
 - “ HCY - 5 pm
- “ Adult Handbells - 5 pm
- Church Choir - 6 pm

Wednesdays:

- Youth Handbells - 6pm
- Chamber Choir - 7 pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- “ Nar-Anon Meeting - 7 pm

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.

Donna Bean	November 01
Declan Nance	November 04
Beckham Bryant	November 02
Brad Milton	November 03
Debbie Mendez	November 05
Jennifer Kearney	November 06
Debbie Bray	November 06
Tom Nance	November 06
Jim Buell	November 08
Amelia Hyman	November 09
Greg Byrum	November 12
Judy Caldwell	November 12
Collins Lugue	November 12
Mary Yavelak	November 12
Leslie Lugue	November 15
Emily Nelson	November 15
Brian Achor	November 18
Nathaniel Kearney	November 19
Danny Potter	November 19
Lucy Mitchell	November 20
Jordan Doctor	November 21
Mallory Morton	November 25
Sue Lahr	November 27
Rickie Neagle	November 29



**Congregational Meeting at the beginning of worship on Sunday,
November 19th.**

Music Notes

Sunday worship can take on special meaning to each individual for a variety of reasons. Sometimes just knowing the background or history of a particular biblical passage, liturgical phrase, or even hymn being sung can bring the story more to light...



**Read
More**



Beka's
Buzz 

Y'all it's finally here, you can feel it in the air, hear it when you walk down the street. Fall has finally come to our front doors with a kiss on the cheek with cool air as you leave the house. I love...

**Read
More**

**Faithful Families Tip - Get to know
Kids**



"As important as it is to show up, you can be where you should be and still miss what is right in front of you. To influence a kid's life, you need to know who they are right now. Because it's just a phase, and you don't want to miss it." - Parent Cue

**Interview your High
Schooler**

UNCONVENTIONAL SAINTS

DISCIPLESHIP ACADEMY



This elective credit will explore the troublemakers who have contributed to building the kingdom on earth. **Confirmation will be November 26th at 5 pm.** If you have any questions, Deacon Beka or Pastor Micah would be happy to answer them for you.



All Saints Sunday-Nov. 5th

Join us on Sunday, November 5th at 10:30 am to remember those who have gone before us. This year for All Saints Sunday, we invite you to bring a photo (framed or not) or small memento of people you love that have joined the church triumphant, whether they were members of Holy Comforter or elsewhere. We will display these photos during worship on November 5th as we remember these saints.

Faith Story - My Tribe

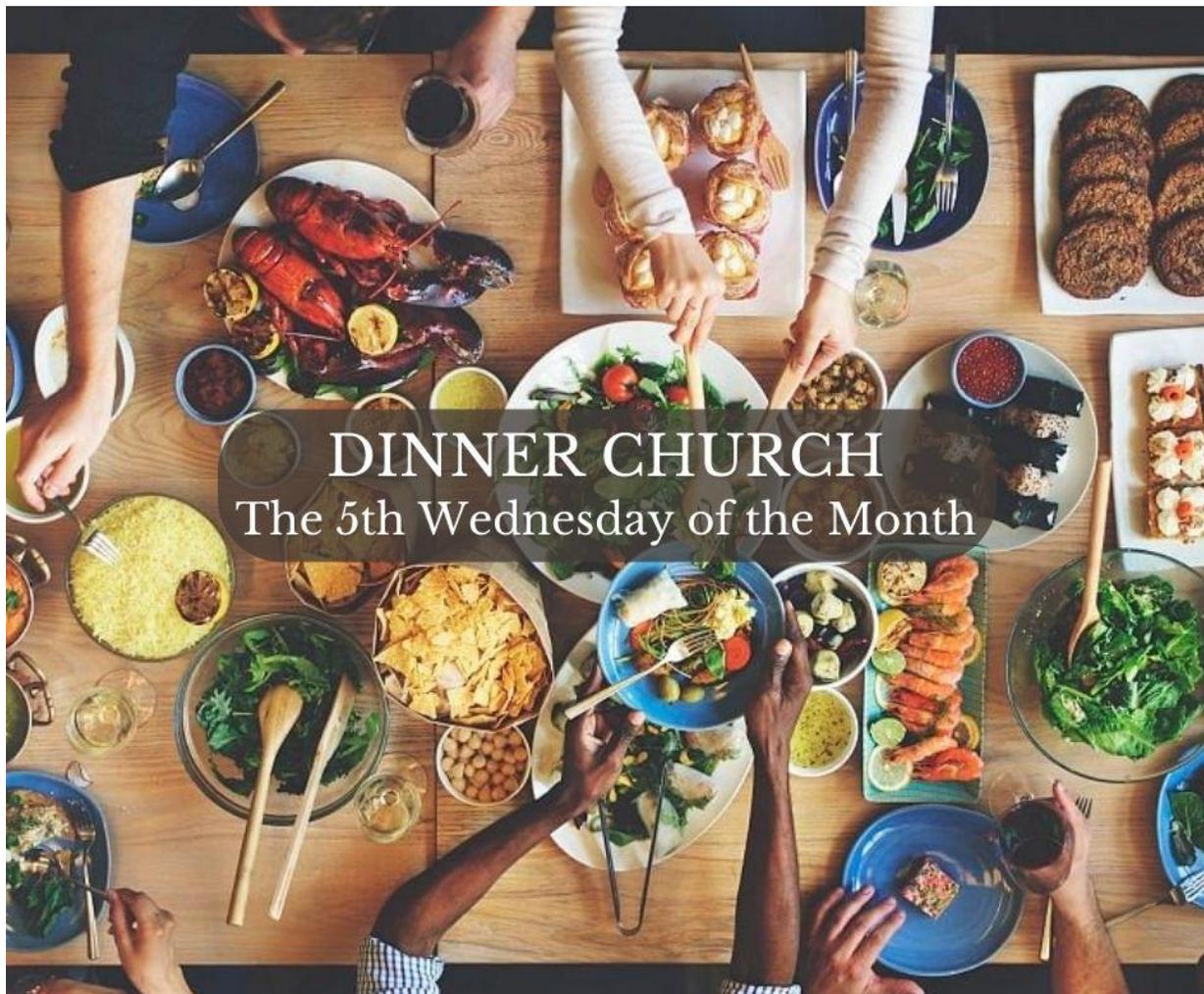
Rebecca Yount works full time, often travels for work and is married to Mark and they have raised her two boys at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church. She remembers being a single mother with two boys and looking for a congregation that would welcome her and her two active children. She was looking for a deeper relationship with



God. Rebecca wanted, “kindness, caring and support”, and “I wanted the boys to develop relationships in the church, people they could go to if they needed help or support.”

At Holy Comforter Lutheran church found what she needed and more. From Trudy Whitener’s warm greeting to meeting a parent who remembered her father when he was a teacher at Belmont Middle school, this was what she needed. Rebecca watched as a child in a wheelchair was given a high five from the choir members coming back from Communion. When he wheeled back to share the peace with her, she knew she was home. “When I read Luther’s Small Catechism, I thought this is my tribe!” She found the armor for spiritual questions she was fielding.

Rebecca’s story goes on, meeting her wonderful husband Mark here and being welcomed into his family. She loves children and “loves to kick off my heels and get on the floor to play.” She has been a Sunday School Teacher, holds babies during services, and will help out when families need a helping hand with their children’s activity pick up or drop off. Rebecca remembers church dinners, Easter egg hunts and all the things that “weave together the fabric of memories and the church’s love.”



You're invited to a meal and THE meal!

Wednesday, November 29th @ 6:30pm

Dinner Church is a worship experience that is unique in that it is around an actual meal. No, really! We'll eat an entire meal in worship where prayers, proclamation, and communion will take place.

We know a lot of Jesus' ministry is done around and with food, so we know it's holy. It's a way that we come together.

Food brings us together, everyone needs to eat, and dinner will be provided.

Be filled and be nourished!

Treasurer's Report for September 2023

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter Historical Financial Perspective - September 30, 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	15,808	-21.2	-18.0	20,056	19,276
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	190,439	0.5	-11.0	189,511	213,871
Expenses for the Month	29,694	20.2	27.1	24,714	23,358
Expenses YTD	259,244	18.9	36.4	217,984	190,085
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	28,902	10.2	12.2	26,222	23,073
Budget, YTD	260,114			235,998	231,903
Annual Budget	346,819			314,664	309,204

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during September was \$13,885.86. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$15,808.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through September 30, was \$68,804.52. Year-to-date spending was \$807.48 below the amount planned in the 2023 budget. The foregoing table provides additional perspective and comparisons with offering income, expenses and budgets in prior years.

-Warren Heller, *Treasurer*

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Trunk or Treat event and those who volunteered to decorate their trunks!



**Altar
Flowers**

Altar flowers are available to be sponsored. If you would like to do so in honor or memory of a loved one or to celebrate a milestone please click the button above.

November 5 - Rianna Nance for Declan's and Tom's birthday from Rianna and Callum.

November 19 - Rochelle Potter in celebration of Danny Potter's Birthday

HYC & Kids Club Meal Provider

November 5- Amanda Kelly
November 12- Misty Koehler

**HCY
Meals**

November Sunday School Teachers

Pre-K/K - Volunteer Needed
Elementary- Jill Cassel
Youth - Travis Rhyne
Adult - Pastor Micah



Children's Church

November 5 - Volunteer Needed
November 12 - Jennifer Kearney
November 19 - Deacon Beka
November 26 -Volunteer Needed

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.

Children's Church Sign up



Lectors

November 5 - Jodi Nerret
November 12 - Ashley Hyman
November 19 - Jim Buell
November 26 -William Charnock

**Lector Sign
Up**

**What a pawsitively amazing day at our Blessing of the Animals event!
Thank you to everyone who joined us to share in this experience.**



Church Calendar

The church calendar is updated weekly for any events and can always be found on the church website under the events tab. Take a look!

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

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 FROM THE
PASTOR

 The
Holy Comforter
Comment

Grace and peace,

It almost feels like I am writing this article a month early, but I don't think I am. The holidays are coming, believe it or not, which is a bit of a mixed bag, if we're honest. There is so much good in them. Halloween is a fun time to be goofy, imaginative, and play together. Thanksgiving is a time spent with family, whether the one we were born into or the ones we choose, around a table and in gratitude for God's provision in so many areas of our lives. By the time our dishes are clean that day we are leaning forward into celebrating Christmas, even though at church we work hard not to bypass Advent, with parties, sweet treats, gifts given and received, and for people of faith a reminder that God is intimately with us. The holidays are celebrated for a reason, because in them is so much good, both in what they overtly proclaim as well as the ways we choose to celebrate them.

And the holidays are challenging. Parents scramble to get Halloween costumes together and make sure they're ready for school parties, Trunk or Treats, and Halloween. Families and friends try to find that magic time when everyone is available to gather together for Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. There are parties to throw and attend, gifts to buy, decorations to put up, meals to cook. It can be exhausting. But it isn't just that. There are families that are far from healthy support systems for each other, and people who struggle with wanting to gather but feeling torn down when they do. There are folks who see other people celebrating and feel like they are on the outside looking in. There are people who grieve and cannot help but focus more on the people who aren't there than the ones who are. There are parents whose love overflows for their children and want to buy gifts but don't have the money to do so, and kids who feel ashamed when they don't have the kinds of gifts their classmates do.

I say all of this because whether it is because of logistics and busy schedules or because of grief or the weight of relationships, the holidays can be challenging, even if enjoyable at the same time. Give yourself some grace. You are not infinite, only God is. You are not perfect, only God is. It is sometimes said that pastors write the sermons that they themselves need to hear, and perhaps that is what I am doing here as well. As your schedules begin to fill, as your obligations mount, as you wrestle with challenging relationships, give yourself some grace. We have a tendency to only count the things we are not doing, not the things that we are, and we can be our own harshest critic. Give yourself some grace, and also remember that self-care, taking time for our own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, ultimately isn't selfish, as it enables us to be the best versions of ourselves for our loved ones and in service to others. The holidays are wonderful times when we get to live into the love that God gives that we share with each other, and we should be intentional about how we can show up for friends, family, and strangers alike. And also, take care of yourselves, give yourselves grace, and remember that whatever grace you can muster for yourself is nowhere near the love and grace given us in Christ that we celebrate in the upcoming holidays.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



Music Notes

Musical Notes...

Sunday worship can take on special meaning to each individual for a variety of reasons. Sometimes just knowing the background or history of a particular biblical passage, liturgical phrase, or even hymn being sung can bring the story more to light. Our printed worship bulletins, for example, provide wonderful explanation and commentary for all the weekly lesson and Gospel readings. The following hymn sung by the Holy Comforter family is a prime example:

When Peace Like A River...

On the advice of the family physician, Horatio Spafford planned a European trip for his family, for his wife's health. At the last minute he had to remain in Chicago, but sent his wife and four daughters ahead aboard ship, intending to follow them in a few days. The ship, Ville du Havre, however, was struck by an English vessel on November 22, 1873, and sank within twelve minutes, taking the lives of his four daughters. Mrs. Spafford and other survivors landed in Wales on December 1, and Spafford wrote this hymn text aboard ship as he sailed to meet her.

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, It is well with my soul!*

Greg Cline, MD (Music Director)



Beka's
Buzz 

Y'all it's finally here, you can feel it in the air, hear it when you walk down the street. Fall has finally come to our front doors with a kiss on the cheek with cool air as you leave the house. I love fall. I love the clothes I get to wear, the activities there are to do, and the rhythm of programming.

We are in full swing over here, with youth group, Kids Club, Sunday school, outreach projects and small groups, new and old. This year we are excited to have a young families small group that meets monthly. You may be wondering how we created this group, and we basically thought of all the families with kids ages 5 and under. That is a flexible filter because kids get older. This group is exciting, it's fun to talk about kids and their milestones, its hard transitioning from 1 kid to 2, and growing a family doesn't come easily. Why not find families and couples in like places in life and create a safe space to talk about it. Our first meeting was in September, and it included an icebreaker question, which was "what is your biggest pet peeve?". It was a great way to break into conversation and get to know each other. Our conversation continued on to share our highs and lows from the week and then we ended in prayer!

Small groups are unique because they can be with new people and old friends gathering together to support one another in authentic community through prayer and listening. These groups gather to pray, listen to devotions, and check in with one another. There are small groups you can always join on Sundays and Tuesdays for everyone. Maybe there is an age or stage of life that you would like support in, and we find a new group. Small groups were created to let your friends and faith community to come along side you while you walk in life. Let us be there for one another.

Deacon Beka
rforst@holyc.org

21 QUESTIONS

TO GET TO KNOW YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER (AGES 14-18)

1. What tradition of ours do you hope to keep throughout your life?
2. Who do you like spending time with and why?
3. What new foods have you tried and loved?
4. What podcasts, books, or TV shows are you into right now?
5. Where do you hope to travel or live one day?
6. What is something God is teaching you right now?
7. Is there something about our world today that makes you angry?
8. Tell me about a recent news story or article that gave you hope in the world today.
9. What kind of friend do you want to be?
10. If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?
11. What is one habit you wish you could start or stop?
12. What are some small things that make your day better?
13. How would you describe yourself in three words?
14. If you could choose one thing for me to get into (sport, a book you're loving, a documentary you saw, etc.), what would it be?
15. What is your favorite way to relax?
16. What is one thing you wish you knew how to do?
17. What are some of the most important things to you in a relationship?
18. Would you rather be the best player on a losing team or the worst player on a winning team?
19. What is the most annoying question that people ask you?
20. If all jobs paid the same, what job would you like to have?
21. What's your favorite memory?