



The Holy Comforter Comment



September 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

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

gclinea440@gmail.com



***Pastor
Micah Kearney***

When I was in college I participated in a program co-hosted through my college, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Lutheridge, one of our outdoor ministry sites in North Carolina. It was, essentially, a faith-based Outward Bounds program, and a group of 8-10 of us spent...

Read
More



September 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.*

September 2	Preston Baker
September 3	Bryn Bailey
September 7	Elizabeth Bruchon
September 9	Mary Doctor
September 10	Sherry Nelson
September 11	Maria Carr
September 11	Madison Carr
September 14	Emily Koehler
September 17	Bill Hollar
September 18	Winston Baker
September 20	Diann Halvorson
September 20	Lyn Miller
September 21	Horace Bean
September 21	Heather Povinelli
September 21	Isaac Bansen
September 23	Anne Reese
September 23	Rebecca Yount
September 24	Becca Doctor
September 25	Harold Singleton
September 26	Warren Heller
September 28	James Milton
September 28	Beth Passer
September 29	Barbara Beale
September 29	Luca Piscatelli

Monthly Gatherings

- “ Church Council Meeting- September 10th, 12pm
- “ Small Group 2- September 12th, 7:00pm
- “ Prime Timers- September 14th, 10:30am
- “ Community Concert - September 16th 7:00 pm
- “ Small Group 1- September 17th, 4:00pm
- “ Christian Education Meeting- September 19th, 7:00pm
- “ Outreach Meeting- September 21st 7:00pm

Sundays:

- “ Sunday School - 9:30 am
- “ Church Choir - 10:10 am
- “ Worship - 10:30 am
- “ HCY - 5:00 pm
- “ Adult Handbells - 5:00 pm
- Church Choir - 6:00 pm

Wednesdays:

- Chamber Choir - 7:00 pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- “ Nar-Anon Meeting - 7:00 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.*

Music Notes

Our music ministries are gearing up and preparing for all of our services of worship for the last quarter of 2023 and into 2024. I would like to share parts of an article from the Washington Post in tribute to our choral ministers of music here at Holy Comforter; for choir is so much more than...



[Read More](#)



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[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 Elementary- Aged Kid](#)

It's Not Easy

You can call her the Queen of Busy. Jill Cassell

is a single mother of two active children, a senior executive with a Charlotte based company, and active in about a half a dozen groups and projects at Holy Comforter. “I do have a lot going on, and it’s not easy”, claims Jill.



Nine years ago, Jill was struggling through a shaky marriage that only added to the stress in her already hectic life. Her husband quit attending worship and Jill realized that her current church no longer felt, well, right for her.

Jill visited a number of churches but struggled to find a new church home. Some were too “judgmental” and some, Jill felt, were too “cold”. Holy Comforter was different. “Everyone was friendly and accepting” says Jill. “Katie (Howard) was so sweet. When I brought Tyler into the nursery Katie made me feel at home. (During worship) I sat next to Warren and Fae. Everyone was so friendly and accepting. We visited (Holy Comforter) and never left.”

As Jill’s children, Erin and Tyler, grow and get involved in church themselves, Jill is busier than ever. Yet she finds strength and comfort through her participation at Holy Comforter. “Church is important to me. Worship balances me. Church helps ground me. If I’m not in church on Sunday, I’m a bit jacked up the following week.” That feeling flows into Jill’s busy week. “One of the best compliments I ever got from a boss was that no matter what is going on I walk into work with a smile on my face.” Your generosity and welcoming spirit provides Jill, her family and so many more of us a comfortable and friendly church home.

Small Groups



Small Groups are returning for the Fall!

Small Group 1 meets on the second Sunday of the month @ 4pm

Small Group 2 meets on the second Tuesdays of the month @ 6pm

NEW Small Group – Young Families are having their first meeting on September 26th @ 6pm at Nathan and Amanda Kelly's home.

Treasurer's Report for July 2023

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter Historical Financial Perspective - July 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	22,481	2.1	27.5	22,010	17,636
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	153,740	2.5	-12.4	150,024	175,568
Expenses for the Month	30,281	20.6	21.7	25,112	24,891
Expenses YTD	199,497	19.4	19.7	167,082	166,727
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	28,902	10.2	12.2	26,222	25,767
Budget, YTD	202,311			183,554	180,369
Annual Budget	346,819			314,664	309,204

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during July was \$7,799.77. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$22,480.74. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month

in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through July 31, was \$45757.26. Year-to-date spending was \$2,814.08 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*



Spark'Dwell Summer Mission

Thank you for always being faithful to support our youth in our summer mission trips.

Join us for a night of stories, photos, and dinner. We will share our lived experiences of our service projects and what we learned during the week!

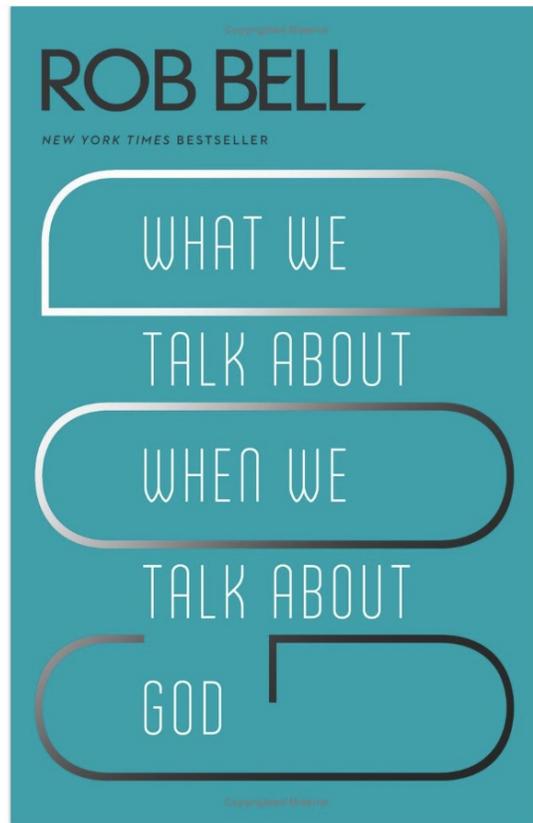


Gratitude Dinner

**September 17th at 5 pm.
Come Eat. Come Hear. Come Learn.**

Spark'Dwell Summer Mission Gratitude Dinner

September 17th at 5:00pm!
Come Eat. Come Hear. Come Learn.



Fall Book Club Hosted by Jan Buell

Who is God? Is your image of God different from my image of God? Let's talk about that.....

Come join us as we read and discuss "What we Talk About When we Talk About God," by Rob Bell.

Our discussion begins Monday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m., in the Parlor. We'll focus on Chapter 1. If you'd like to listen to the audio version of this chapter (read by the author), we will play it at 6:30 p.m.

Please come join us!



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 below.

[Altar](#)

Children's Church

September 6 - Volunteer Needed
September 13 - Volunteer Needed
September 20 - Volunteer Needed
September 24 - 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.

[Children's Church Sign up](#)

Flowers

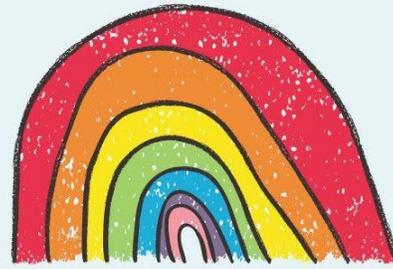
HYC & Kids Club Meal Provider

September 17 - Angie Morton

**HYC
Meals**

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 am



For all Ages and Stages

Lectors

September 3 - Lector Needed
September 10 - Jim Buell
September 17 - Jan Buell
September 24 - Jodi Nerret

**Lector Sign
Up**

Sunday School Volunteers

If you would like to get involved and teach Sunday School please contact Jill Cassel to sign up!
(Jill.Cassel@gmail.com)



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023

**“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is
Sunday, September 10, 2023**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Sign Up
Slots

Community Concert

Coming Up Brass - September 16th - 7:00pm

Church wide potluck starting at 5:00pm

Help us make a positive impact by bringing canned goods or a can opener as a donation for S.O.C.K.S!

We are excited to invite you to our first ever Community Concert that promises to be an evening filled with music, talent, and togetherness!

Coming Up Brass is a dance and variety band that has been entertaining the Southeast since 1991. *Feel free to bring your family, friends, and neighbors along; this concert is free and open to all!*

We are planning a potluck dinner for our congregation beginning at 5:00 pm before guests arrive for the concert.

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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Grace and peace,

When I was in college I participated in a program co-hosted through my college, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Lutheridge, one of our outdoor ministry sites in North Carolina. It was, essentially, a faith-based Outward Bounds program, and a group of 8-10 of us spent 18 days together engaging in activities including rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and a week of backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. I loved it. Outdoor activities were a big part of my identity at the time, and there is something about the kind of community that happens on the trail that I've always appreciated. You're pushing through hardship and overcoming challenges and celebrating together, you're tired at the end of a long day in a way that lets you put some general worries aside and can truly relax together. You're not always at your best when you're tired and hungry, so sometimes you hit a wall and the group helps you find your way through it, and you realize the gift of community.

We would pray together regularly, and at least once, though I think more, as someone ended the prayer, instead of saying "in your name we PRAY," in their exhaustion their tired mouth formed the words, "in your name we PLAY." And while it was a mistake, we loved it, and even put it on shirts we made after the trip.

I'm excited for the Community Concert that we're having on Saturday, September 16, with Mark Reese and his band Coming Up Brass playing (they're really good, if you haven't seen them before). It will be a great opportunity to invite the community at large to come and get to know us, to offer them a gift of a fun, carefree evening, and an opportunity to "Play in Christ's name" together. There is a lot of serious stuff that we deal with as disciples of Christ. Working together to faithfully support each other, care for our own folks in need as well as care for those in need in the community, advocating for the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, worshiping together, growing in faith together all take real work, aren't always focused with "fun," as the highest propriety, though they certainly can be. But we are also made for lives of joy, and being able to claim that joy is important both for ourselves and as a community. It can be lifegiving in the midst of a world that can often weigh heavily. It can be reconciling in a society that is quick to define us by our divisions. So I'm looking forward to this event, to an opportunity to relax and play together, to claim joy with you.

In Christ's name we PLAY,
Pastor Micah



Music Notes

Our music ministries are gearing up and preparing for all of our services of worship for the last quarter of 2023 and into 2024. I would like to share parts of an article from the Washington Post in tribute to our choral ministers of music here at Holy Comforter; for choir is so much more than just singing and getting the notes right.

"The choir met on Wednesdays in a London church, and if the subway was on strike it took Hazel Hardy two buses across the city to get there---but no matter. By the time she entered the hall, she says, she'd escaped whatever was outside, including her cancer. The choir members, who met from 2016 to 2018, were all familiar with cancer. They were patients, caregivers and oncologists; but they didn't discuss it. They were there to sing; To have a bit of fun and meet people. For Hardy, who had been diagnosed with breast cancer, it was a new kind of family."

192 from this group enrolled in a "Sing With Us" study which points to the many physical and mental benefits of singing with others such as lessened anxiety, stimulated memory for those with dementia, increased lung capacity, and an easing of postpartum depression.

In the United States, choir singing has not fully regained its pre-pandemic popularity. But in 2019, 54 million Americans sang in choirs. So today we are not exactly certain how many are singing in all of our churches across the USA...but I can tell you of the 7 Soprano, 4 Alto, 4 Tenor, 6 Bass, which make up the 21 members from our congregation who have committed to lead our congregational family in song for another year. On behalf of a grateful assembly...THANK YOU!

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Alone Be the Glory)

Greg Cline ,MD (Music Director) 



Beka's
Buzz 



Some things happen every year whether we are ready for it or not. Back to school is one of those milestones. Every August students meet their teachers, pick new backpacks, get school supplies, and find the perfect first day of school outfit. Back to school can be so exciting, the feeling of new markers and class schedules can create a feeling of confidence, pride, and curiosity. Back to school for some isn't always those feelings though, for some it is filled with anxiety, uncertainty, and being overwhelmed. Making new friends can be scary. Finding your class route can feel confusing. Finding the right people to sit with at lunch can be terrifying. For some kids back to school means regular meals, regular hugs, and more time with friends to play in a safe place. Back to school is such a big milestone in a year.

One of the ways Holy C supports their students returning to school is by blessing their supplies and their beings. We send them with encouragement to be bold in curiosity, gentle in welcoming to new students and friends, and brave in learning new things. To remind them of how immensely loved they are we send them with backpack tags. We have given these out for the last 7 years! They've said things like "blessed to be a blessing", "be loved. Be kind. Be you.", "peace be with you", "you got this!", "you are loved", and this year is "you matter!". These are messages for our young people to be reminded of. These same affirmations are for students that walk past them in the hall, hang their book bag beside a new friend, and those waiting in the carpool line. The start of a new school year is filled with newness and excitement, and even worry. But in the newness of the year, God goes with them. God promises to never leave them! Being a beloved child of God means, you matter.

Deacon Beka

21 QUESTIONS

TO GET TO KNOW YOUR ELEMENTARY-AGE KID (AGES 6-11)

1. Who do you like to spend time with the most?
2. What are your favorite things to do with your free time?
3. What's something that makes you nervous?
4. What is something I do that makes you feel loved?
5. What is one of your favorite memories?
6. Where do you want to live when you grow up?
7. What makes you a good friend?
8. If you could be good at anything, what would you be good at?
9. If you could change one of our family rules, which one would it be?
10. Who is your favorite teacher? Why?
11. If you had to eat the same thing for the rest of your life, what would you eat?
12. What is something you're really good at?
13. What would you change about the world today if you could?
14. What is something that cheers you up when you are sad?
15. If you could keep only one thing out of everything you owned, what would it be?
16. What is the best gift you've ever received?
17. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
18. What do you like daydreaming about?
19. What's the most fun place you've ever been?
20. If you had \$100 and couldn't spend it on yourself, what would you do with it?
21. What's your favorite thing we do as a family?

