

Nursery News

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

In the 3 short years my family has been a member of Holy Comforter I have seen our church family grow and expand in many ways. As a mother of 3 small children we are excited to see a number of new families and new additions to current families join our membership. What is even more exciting is how many of our young families are stepping in and getting involved in leading Sunday School, Children's Church and taking on other active roles in our service. To allow for these individuals to lend their talents in these areas we have nurseries available to accommodate children ages 3 and under. But, we need YOUR help to successfully staff our nurseries each Sunday. This year we will have 2 nurseries to balance our growth. We will have an infant nursery which will be located upstairs for children up to 18 mos and our current downstairs nursery for toddlers ages 18 mo through 3 years old. Below is our current schedule through December. As you can see we need help and ask that if you felt led to do so, to please sign up for one Sunday. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or to volunteer for a Sunday.

Thank you  
Melissa Bocchino ([melissamencer@yahoo.com](mailto:melissamencer@yahoo.com))

Nursery Sign Up - 9:30-11:45			
Infants: Birth to 18 mos (2 volunteers)		Toddlers: 18mos to 3 yrs (1)	
4-Oct	Jill Cassel	NEED VOLUNTEER	4-Oct Makayla Brooks
11-Oct	Misty Koehler	Emily Koehler	11-Oct Katie Kessen
18-Oct	Nathan Kelly	Amanda Kelly	18-Oct Brandy Milton
25-Oct	Brandy Milton	NEED VOLUNTEER	25-Oct Jenn Kearney
1-Nov	Ginger MacDonald	NEED VOLUNTEER	1-Nov Jill Cassel
8-Nov	Misty Koehler	NEED VOLUNTEER	8-Nov Ashley Ange
15-Nov	Jane Howard	NEED VOLUNTEER	15-Nov Amanda & Nathan Kelly
22-Nov	Rebecca Yount	Veronica Bryant	22-Nov NEED VOLUNTEER
29-Nov	Rebecca Yount	NEED VOLUNTEER	29-Nov Makayla Brooks
6-Dec	Lorry Caldwell	Rebecca Yount	6-Dec Ashley Ange
13-Dec	Rebecca Yount	Ginger MacDonald	13-Dec Jill Leitner
20-Dec	NEED VOLUNTEER	NEED VOLUNTEER	20-Dec Sarrazin Family
27-Dec	NEED VOLUNTEER	NEED VOLUNTEER	27-Dec NEED VOLUNTEER

Social Ministry

- If you are willing to be on our contact list for making part of our bereavement meals, particularly for families after a funeral, please contact Kathy Graves at [kgraves2@live.com](mailto:kgraves2@live.com) . We have a short list now and would like a few more folks to be able to pull from. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Attention parents:** If you have a son or daughter in college or in the military, please send their mailing and email address to Kathy Graves at [kgraves2@live.com](mailto:kgraves2@live.com). Social Ministry wants to keep in touch with them as much as possible. Thanks!



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704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: [micahkearney@gmail.com](mailto:micahkearney@gmail.com)  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor  
Dianne Lail, Communications



*“Let the little children  
come to me.”*

*From Mark 10: 14*

Communion Opportunities for September

Oct 5 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Oct 25 Reformation Sunday  
(October 11 & 18 after the service)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volume 36, No. 12

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday  
8:30 am—3:00 pm



Grace and peace,

In 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly adopted resolutions on Ministry Policies that called upon our church, congregations within the ELCA, “to commit itself to bear one another’s burdens, love the neighbor and respect the conscience of all.” Moreover, the adopted resolutions called upon the church to “commit itself to find ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships.” These resolutions mean that congregations can elect to follow the course of blessing same-gender marriages, however such a course is the choice of each congregation.

In October of 2014, same-gender marriages became legal in North Carolina. This has since been upheld by the U.S Supreme Court.

This issue has become a necessary conversation for our Holy Comforter family since, in a letter dated October 24, 2014, (former) Bishop Bolick explained that “Neither ELCA nor NC Synod policies determine whom a pastor may marry. Rather, decisions about recognizing, supporting, and holding publicly accountable same-gender relationships are entrusted to congregations... Pastors are called to a local congregation to act on behalf of and in fulfillment of the pastoral role of Word and Sacrament. This means that all pastors and congregation councils will need to talk with one another about requests for the pastor to officiate at a marriage ceremony of a same-gender couple or in anticipation of such requests.”

All of these developments have led Holy Comforter’s Council to begin conversations about what Holy Comforter’s position should be concerning whether or not the pastor can officiate at a same-gender wedding. I have not yet received such a request, and one reason council wants to discuss this now is because we do not want any one person or couple to become the face of this conversation. If, after the prayerful and thoughtful conversation we will have, Holy Comforter decides to allow same-gendered weddings to take place here, our policies for such weddings would be as we have for others, i.e. a member of the congregation, pre-marital counseling, and subject to the approval of the pastor.

The Council and I approach this conversation recognizing that this topic is polarizing in today’s society, and indeed among many denominations and congregations. We are sure the members of Holy Comforter hold multiple points of view in this discussion. We also recognize that there are folks on both sides of this conversation who have arrived at their views through faithful, prayerful, and scriptural deliberations. However, our hope is to have this necessary conversation in such a way within the congregation as to allow our brothers and sisters to disagree with one another while also remaining in fellowship and Christ-centered community with one another throughout the conversation and after.

In order to have both a faithful and respectful discussion, the Council has approved the following process: First, we will work with the synod to identify someone with expertise to lead forums and facilitate conversation among our congregants. Members of Council will be present for these conversations in order to listen to and discern how the Spirit is calling us to respond. The timing of these forums will depend on who we find to help lead them, as well as their availability. Second, the council will then assess what the appropriate next steps might be.

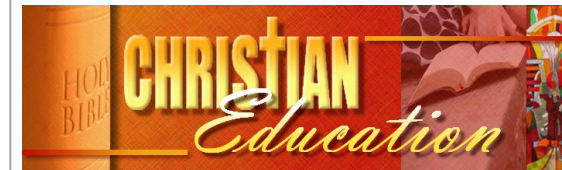
As we move through this process I ask you to be mindful of one particular aspect. There will be peo-

ple in this congregation who are on either end of the spectrum of this conversation, and many who fall in between. Please try to avoid speaking about individual people, but rather keep the conversation about the process as a whole. Specifically, what is the right path for Holy Comforter to follow? Whatever your personal feelings on this issue might be, the people on the other end of the spectrum are Children of God, loved no less or no more by God than you are, and God calls us to love them no less than those who share your views. Let this be a conversation concerning what is a faithful, prayerful, scriptural response to this topic.

Holy Comforter is a congregation of warmth and welcome for folks with very diverse political and social viewpoints, and I and the council very much want this spirit to continue. In my opinion, this is an important conversation for us to have together. As we do, let us remember at every point that we are all, through our baptisms, Children of God, redeemed and called righteous not by our own doing but by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and called into community with one another through Him. Our call is to live out Christ’s call to love our neighbor, to feed, to heal, and to proclaim Christ to the world. I believe whole-heartedly that, as we engage this conversation we will work to see each other as fellow members of the body of Christ working to faithfully live out this call. I also believe that despite whatever differences in opinion we have and despite whatever outcome of our discernment process comes to, we will remain a warm, united, Christ-centered community, proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



#### VBS will be back Summer 2016!!!!

After a summer off, we will be bringing back Vacation Bible School next year and will be pulling together a committee to start planning now! VBS is an amazing opportunity to grow our youth in the church as well as an outreach opportunity to the community. If you have an interest and a willingness to help plan please reach out to Jill Cassel ([jill.cassel@twcable.com](mailto:jill.cassel@twcable.com)) or Melissa Bocchino ([melissamencer@yahoo.com](mailto:melissamencer@yahoo.com)).

#### Women’s Bible Study

A Women’s Bible Study has begun meeting Wednesday nights at 6:45 in the fellowship hall. The next series will be on the Book of Hebrews. If interested, contact Jenn Kearney at [jenniferhasskearney@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhasskearney@gmail.com)

#### Evangelism

This past month we had a good showing for our Habitat work day. Now it is time to show up in another way. Part of our responsibility with the build is to raise roughly \$3000 to fund the build. This is a great project that is in line with our call to care for those in need. Please consider making a gift of any size for the project. You may make donations to the church and we will distribute the funds.

#### Staying Connected

Staying Connected will meet on Saturday, October 3 at 7:00 at the church. We will be making Prayer Bracelets. The cost is \$10 and supplies are limited. Email Misty at [mistykoehler@gmail.com](mailto:mistykoehler@gmail.com) if you want to attend.

## **Reformation Luncheon**

After church on Reformation Sunday, October 25, we will gather together for food and fellowship. The church will provide pork and chicken, and we ask everyone to bring one side or dessert.

## **Young Adults!**

The young adults of the congregation (this is a loose category, we let you decide if you are included here!) are invited to gather at Elliott and Kristen Williams' home the night of October 24th to smoke the meat for the Reformation Luncheon, as well as spend time in fellowship with one another. Their address is 322 Ferrell Ave. Belmont, NC 28012.

## **BCO ITEM OF THE MONTH**

The Belmont Community Organization (BCO) is an organization right around the corner from us that provides assistance to folks in need in the Belmont Community. The Evangelism Committee has been in conversation with them as to what might be some regular needs of theirs. We will begin lifting up a "BCO Item of the Month" in the newsletter and on the first Sunday of every month based on what they are most in need of, and will collect that item every Sunday of the month. We think this is a wonderful way to have a regular routine of generosity and care for our neighbors in need.

**The BCO Item of the Month for October is....GRITS!!**

Whenever you find yourself at the grocery store, we invite you to throw in an extra box or two of grits and bring them to church on Sunday to donate to the BCO. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



•Russ and Ellen Fleming will host a church choir fellowship dinner gathering on Saturday, October 3. Choir members and spouses are invited. Please RSVP to Ellen and let her know what side dish you can bring. We will begin gathering at 4 pm, but if you have afternoon plans, come whenever you can. The Flemings’ address is 15 Circle Drive, Belmont.

•The Children’s Ensemble began in September with 12 active participants of all elementary and younger ages. Thanks to all the drivers for getting them here at 4:00 on Sundays. We invite all children to join us in October. We will be working on bell ringing, and “Global Songs” from around the world, which we will be sharing this fall with the congregation. Contact Greg Cline for details. And by the way... you are welcome to invite friends you know to join us.

•On Wednesdays during Advent (in December) we will gather for fellowship and worship, much like we did during Lent. This year the church choir will be introducing a new vespers communion liturgy, “Unfailing Light.” There is much participation musically by the assembly, also incorporating strings, flute, guitar, and keyboard. There is also a simple handbell accompaniment for 2 octave handbells. We would like to involve 4 or 5 children/youth, who read music, to assist with this ensemble. If interested, contact Greg Cline (ASAP). Practices would be held several Wednesdays in November. Exact dates and times to be determined, depending on response. (Anytime after school for about 45 minutes).

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Thursday, Oct 1**  
6 pm Stewardship Committee  
**Saturday, Oct 3**  
4 pm Choir Gathering  
7 pm Staying Connected  
**Sunday, Oct 4 19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Holy Communion  
**Tuesday, Oct 6th**  
7 pm Property Committee  
**Saturday, Oct 10**  
9:30 am Lutheran Youth Day  
**Sunday, Oct 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost**  
12 Noon- Church Council  
12-3 HCY to Corn Maze!  
**Tuesday, Oct 13**  
12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**  
Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich  
**Saturday, Oct 17**  
9-12 Confirmation  
**Sunday, Oct 18 21st Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Tuesday, Oct 22**  
7 pm Christian Education  
**Saturday, October 24**  
4-6 Trunk or Treat  
**Sunday, Oct 25 Reformation Sunday**  
12 Noon- Reformation Luncheon  
**REGULAR TIMES:**  
**Sundays:** 9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
4 pm Children’s Ensemble  
5 pm Handbells  
6 pm Church Choir  
8 pm Nar-Anon  
**Tuesdays:** 7 pm Nar-Anon  
7 pm Chamber Choir  
**Wednesdays:** 6:45 pm Women’s Bible Study

TREASURER’S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	August 2015	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$19,925.83	\$159,406.67
Actual Expenses:	21,172.93	158,699.08
Offerings Received:	22,394.05	166,380.95
Gain for Period:	\$ 1,221.10	\$ 7,681.87

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector (4th & 25th)  
October 11: Judy Caldwell  
October 18: Donna Bean

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1)  
Bev Mauney, Co-Captain  
Charles Mauney, Co-Captain  
Carmen DeNicholas, Deb Williams

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team A)  
Shelia Kelly Donna Bean  
Jack Tench Jo Singleton

**EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:**  
October 4: Danny and Rochelle Potter  
October 25: Danny and Rochelle Potter

**GREETERS:**  
Sept 6: Barb Kasmer  
Sept 13: Danny and Rochelle Potter  
September 20: Melissa Bocchino  
September 27: Becky Richards

**TELLERS:** Rochelle and Danny Potter

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**FLOWERS:**  
Oct 4: Donna and Horace Bean  
Oct 11: Judy Caldwell, Minniejan Krenzer  
Oct 18: Debbie & Rickie Neagle,  
Richard and Kay Holden  
October 25: Danny, Rochelle, & Perri Potter

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am)  
(I)=Infant (T)=Toddler  
Oct 4: Jill Cassel I), Volunteer (I)/ Makayla Brooks (T)  
Oct 11: Misty & Emily Koehler (I)/ Katie Kessen (T)  
Oct 18: Nathan & Amanda Kelly (I)/ Brandy Milton (T)  
Oct 25: Brandy Milton (I), Need Volunteer(I)/Jenn Kearney (T)



## Trunk or Treat!

On October 24 from 4:00-6:00, we will have our annual **Trunk or Treat!**

- We will have a hotdog dinner, and friends and folks from the community are invited!
- We need as much church participation as possible, so please plan on coming and decorating your car as kids trick or treat in a safe community setting.
- If you cannot be present for the event, think about supporting by donating candy at the church beforehand.

## Holy Comforter Youth News

### CORN MAZE!

The HCY will meet on **Sunday October 11** right after church to go to the Historic Rural Hill Corn Maze. We will meet right after the 10:30 Service. Lunch will be provided. The cost of the maze is \$11 and we should be back at the church around 3pm.

Please RSVP to Kristen Williams, [Keclanton@gmail.com](mailto:Keclanton@gmail.com) or [704-678-0137](tel:704-678-0137), by October 7 so we can coordinate transportation.

Kristen Williams  
Holy Comforter Youth Advisor

### Lutheran Youth Day @ LR Lenoir-Rhyne tour and Football Game!


"Your 6th -12th grade youth will have the opportunity to tour campus, participate in exciting activities, and enjoy a pregame meal before cheering on the LR Bears as they take on the University of Faith at 2:00pm in Moretz Stadium."

The price is \$8 a person and that includes lunch and football ticket. Anyone interested please let Ashley Ange know by phone 704-868-6574 or email: [smiley11112000@yahoo.com](mailto:smiley11112000@yahoo.com).

### Saturday October 10th

Time: 10:30am check in with group tours  
11:30 check in without group tours

★ ★ Friday October 23 ★ ★  
**OUTDOOR MOVIE**  
Approximately 8:00 pm  
**Movies On The Lawn**  
Popcorn Provided  
Invite a Friend!



# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  6- Stewardship Comm. Meets	2	3  4 pm Choir Gathering 7 pm Staying Connected
4 <b>19th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am The Service w/ HC 4 pm Children's Ensemble 5 pm Handbells 6 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	5	6  7:00 pm Chamber Choir 7:00 pm Nar-Anon 7:00 pm Property Comm.	7  6:45 Women's Bible Study	8	9	10  Lutheran Youth Day @LR
11 <b>20th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am The Service 12 Church Council 12-3 pm HCY to Corn Maze 4 pm Children's Ensemble 5 pm Handbells 6 pm Church Choir 8 pm Nar-Anon	12	13 12 Noon <i>Agape Lunch Bunch</i> Bible Study  7:00 pm Chamber Choir 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	14  6:45 Women's Bible Study	15	16	17  9-12 Confirmation
18 <b>21st Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am The Service 4 pm Children's Ensemble 5 pm Handbells 6 pm Church Choir 8 pm Nar-Anon	19	20  7:00 Chamber Choir 7:00 pm Nar-Anon 7:00 Education Committee	21  6:45 Women's Bible Study	22 7-Evangelism Comm Meets	23  8-Movie on the Lawn!	24  4-6 pm Trunk or Treat!
25 <b>Reformation Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sun School 10:30 am The Service w/HC 11:45 Reformation Luncheon 4 pm Children's Ensemble 5 pm Handbells 6 pm Church Choir 8 pm Nar-Anon	26	27  7:00 Chamber Choir  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	28  6:45 Women's Bible Study	29	30	31

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of Sept. 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.

**10/1 Ellen Fleming**  
**Andres Mendez**  
**10/02 Garret Buell**  
**10/04 Mark Reese**  
**10/05 Larry Siglar**  
**10/07 Catherine Carr**  
**Jeremy Tucker**  
**10/08 Brenda Daly**  
**10/10 Tim Kelly**  
**10/11 Evan Howard**  
**Patricia Roberson**  
**10/12 Dee Tucker**  
**10/14 Jean Ferguson**  
**Linda Grimsley**  
**Stephanie Hinrichs**  
**Jeff Howard**  
**10/18 David Koehler**  
**10/19 Kelsey Thompson**  
**10/21 Elizabeth Atkinson**  
**10/22 Whitney Braddy**  
**Carmen Buell**  
**10/23 Eva Kline**  
**Noah Rogers**  
**10/24 Renee Carpenter**  
**10/27 Kay Holden**  
**10/28 Sarah Reese**  
**Rodger Walker**  
**10/30 Shawn DeNicholas**  
**Bill Joye**  
**Micah Kearney**  
**10/31 Cody Koehler**  
**Garry Rogers**  
**Kurt Scholler**  
**Donna Bean**



**NOTE:** If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call or email the church office.