



Have a Safe &
Wonderful
New School Year!

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: MicahKearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager

 Lutheran Church of the
Holy Comforter COMMENT
216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

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Dianne Lail, Communications



¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. **Luke 13:11-13**



Communion Opportunities for August
August 14: The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(and other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 37, No. 8

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace,



Some of you may remember that when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, the during the children sermon the kids take cans around to the congregation and take up a “noisy offering.” (We have a fifth Sunday this month, just so you’re aware). When we first started this practice we donated the money to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, through ELCA World Hunger. They have since reached their financial goal of \$15 million, and are working with partners in 13 countries in Africa, educating 2 million community members, distributing 50,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, tested 160,000 for malaria and treated when needed, and more.

This past month during our *Agape Day Camp*, one of the projects that the middle school group did was to make fleece blankets for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR works with communities around the world in areas like agriculture, climate change, and emergency relief, working with communities to provide self-sufficiency. The blankets the kids made will be sent to a community when requested by those working in the community.

The Lutheran service organizations do incredible work both here and abroad. ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, and Lutheran Disaster Response work around the world lifting up those who are in need. Closer to us, Lutheran Services of the Carolinas provides services for seniors, mental health services, transitional living, veteran support, foster care and adoption services for children, disaster response, and so much more. God’s work of reaching out to vulnerable and those in need is happening through the Lutheran Church and these

organizations it supports.

We are a part of this work. We engage it through our participation in its campaigns like the Malaria Campaign and projects like the fleece blankets for LWR. We support it through parts of our offering that is sent to the ELCA, and through direct gifts that we make to its work. This is work that we do as the church, as God’s hands of grace reaching out to those who need it most. It is work that we are called to do, and I hope to continue to grow the ways in which we respond to that call.

I wanted to lift up the work that these organizations do, and we as we engage them, this month as a counter narrative to the division and turmoil that is going on in our country and in the world. As we’ve seen mass-shootings, killings by police and targeted killing of police, racism that had existed implicitly to become explicit, as political divisions become even more polarized, it is easy for the narrative of hatred and division to seem like the only one. But that is simply not the case. All over the world organization like these are hard at work, in the name of Christ, spreading a different narrative; one of Christ’s love for all people, one where all people are valued, one where we give of our time, talents, and tithes, in order to lift up those who stand desperately in need of God’s grace in their lives. May we never forget that however bleak the narrative of the world seems, that we are called to proclaim a deeper narrative, where the Kingdom of God is breaking into this world, offering hope to the hopeless. And may we daily proclaim that narrative in word and deed.

***Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah***

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31)



**AGAPÉ
KURE
BEACH
MINISTRIES**



The Middle School kids completed several service projects throughout the week. They went to Courtland Terrace to visit with the residents, they made blankets for Lutheran World Relief, took breakfast to the Belmont Police officers, and stocked shelves at SOCKS.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with dinners, snacks, and lunches for the counselors and campers. Also, a big ***Thank You*** to **Tim and Shelia Kelly** for providing a comfortable retreat for the counselors after a busy day ministering to our kids. We had 25 campers this year and hope to grow even more next year. **Without your help, Agape Day Camp would not be possible.**

Misty Koehler, Camp Coordinator

Camp Agape

Snapshots



Agape Day Camp was a huge success again this year! The kids spent the week learning about the *Living Word*. They focused on ways to follow the *Living Word*, *Feed others*, *Forgive Others*, *Love your neighbor*, and *Serve Humbly*. They enjoyed songs, skits, nature activities, games, and team building activities.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, August 7 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, August 9
 12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study

Sunday, August 14 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
 Council meets after
 5:00 pm **HCY** meets ; details to follow

Thursday, August 18 Movie Night on the Lawn
 8:30 pm Movie starts

Saturday, August 20
 11:00 am **Kids' Club** Pool Party at Misty's house;
 Lunch Provided

Sunday, August 21 Fourteen Sunday after Pentecost
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:30 am The Service
 5:00 pm **Church Choir** meets
Staying Connected cooks dinner for the
 Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte

Sunday, August 28 Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost
 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
 10:30 am The Service
 5:00 pm **Church Choir**

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:
Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon



TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	June 2016	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$21,751.00	\$130,506.00
Actual Expenses:	\$18,496.09	\$125,899.63
Offerings Received:	\$20,367.00	\$133,606.27
Gain for the Period:	\$ 1,870.91	\$ 7,706.64

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
 August 7: Donna Bean
 August 21: Judy Caldwell
 August 28: Andrew Bryant

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
 Volunteers Needed

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
 Brad Milton, Co-Captain
 Brandy Milton, Co-Captain
 Donna Bean

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)
 Jo Singleton Jack Tench
 Shelia Kelly 1 volunteer

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
 August 14: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:
 August 7: Katie Kessen
 August 14: Becky Richards
 August 21: Debbie Bray
 August 28: Jo Singleton

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin + Volunteer

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:
 August 7: Faye & Warren Heller (both vases)
 August 14: Shelia & Tim Kelly (both vases)
 August 21: Both vases available (call office)
 August 28: Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter
 1 vase available (call office)

Cost of one vase is \$22.50, both are \$45. If you want to reserve any of the available dates, please call the church office.

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
 A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. Let an usher know if you need assistance in locating the correct nursery for your child/children.

Information for September newsletter is due to Dianne by August 20!



Hello Everyone,

As many of you know, I will be leaving to begin my year-long adventure with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) this month. As the time draws nearer, I have been asked to share a little about what I'll be doing and how I'm feeling.



The first question that people often ask me once they find out about YAGM is why? Why are you doing this? While my long answer would take days to explain, the short answer is that **I'm doing this because I want to learn and grow with God while also becoming a more globally informed citizen and friend.** I've always been interested in the idea of an extended service experience, and the model of YAGM was the perfect fit. Not only is it Lutheran based, which is extremely important to me, but this program also follows the accompaniment model of service. This means that we veer away from the historical view of mission work and simply walk with our brothers and sisters under Christ. There is more emphasis placed on building relationships and connecting with our new communities than simply "doing". As mentioned, I am also doing this to become a better global citizen. YAGM often places us in marginalized communities which allow us to first-hand view global inequalities and disparities.

Opening our eyes to these issues, and allowing us to spread the word back to friends, families, and others means that we may be able to help in some small way.

My placement for the next year will be in Manzini, Swaziland and I will have the wonderful opportunity to work in a local preschool as well as possibly doing some HIV/Aids awareness work. I am so excited for this opportunity, as I have always loved working with children as well as doing advocacy work, and I cannot wait to experience the amazing culture and people of Swaziland. This is not to say though, that I am not nervous...I am. There are ten volunteers in "Southern Africa," nine in South Africa and myself in Swaziland. This makes me a little on edge. Volunteers are still close to me, the closest about four hours away, but I know that my experience is going to be slightly different from the rest, not a lot to say in reality as all of our fears will be completely personal, but something I feel I need to be aware of. All of the *nerves* talk aside, I am so thrilled that this is the path God has guided me on. I am so excited to see what the next year will have in store for me on this faith journey and I can only pray that it is filled with love and personal growth.

Sincerely, Alyssa Buchanan

P.S. If you'd like to follow along with me on this journey through my online newsletters, give me your email and I'll add you to my list!

My email is: anbuchan@live.unc.edu.

MUSIC NEWS

Continued...

Our church choir will get a jump start on Sunday, August 21 and 28 at 5:00 pm. There will be no rehearsal on Labor Day weekend. All other ensembles will resume after Labor Day on our regular schedule.

A number of folks have shared interest in the church choir. Please reach out to me regarding your fall/winter schedule. We will begin in August preparing for weekly services of worship; but, we also have **upcoming centennial celebrations beginning in just 12-15 rehearsals.** So this is a wonderful time for choir "wannabes." You want honesty? We need your vocal gifts. How serious is the music director about this? So serious that I am publishing my cell number:

704-860-4460. Call me...don't delay!
Greg Cline

An anonymous gift in honor of Tom & Shirley Causby has been given to replace the pew cushions in our Sanctuary. The new fabric will reflect sound, rather than absorbing it. This should help to restore the worship space as it was originally designed by hired acousticians. Good congregational singing is encouraged in such environments. As we approach our centennial year we rejoice at the gifts that God gives us to update and enhance our worship. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

Do you own a pew? In some churches, usually old historic ones, there are names on the pews of members from centuries past.

In many congregations folks sit in "their" pew. **So now you can have your "pew cushion" as a memento.**



of HCLC home with you.

We will announce the week before installation of the new cushions and give you the opportunity of taking a piece (or two)



REPORT

The ELCA Church-wide Assembly will be held **August 8-13** in New Orleans with the theme "Freed & Renewed in Christ: 500 years of God's Grace in Action".

The Church-wide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the ELCA and gathers every three years. 980 voting members from 65 synods and more than 9,300 congregations will be serving on behalf of the more than 3.7 million baptized members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There will be 16 voting members representing the NC Synod including Bishop Tim Smith and Sandra Cline from Holy Comforter. When the ELCA Church-wide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Please pray for the assembly and the work that will be done there.

Sandra Cline

MUSIC NEWS

September 25 is our worship day at *Lutheridge* this fall. A number of folks like to make arrangements ahead of time, so **mark your calendar**.

Here are the reviews from our ambassadors to music week at *Lutheridge* last month:

Eva: *The counselors were the best, the music was great. Can't wait to go back for my 3rd trip next year.*

Lucy: *I liked everything.*

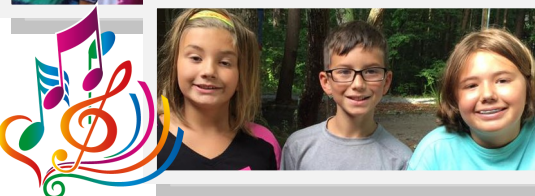
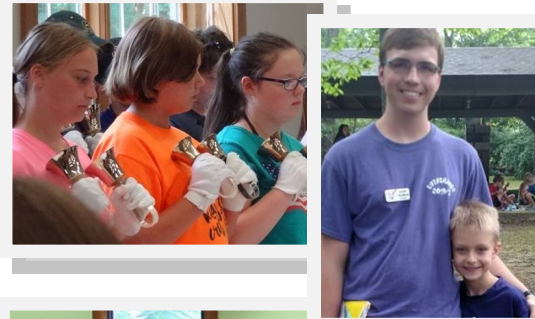
Leah: *I loved crafts and the pool. So much fun.*

Justin: *I made a bunch of new friends, who I can't wait to see next year. Learned to play new games like gaga ball and tether ball.*

Emily: *The music we learned was awesome. I liked learning more about ringing handbells.*

Jack: *Camp was awesome. My favorite part was singing. Ms. Karol taught us how to sing our "Rs" and how to pronounce vowels. I loved the food and pool. Morning watch was a favorite part of my day, where we read the Bible, and had morning huddle every morning.*

As you can tell from the smiling faces on the right, all the children had a wonderful time!



Support The ELCA YAGM

Our congregation member, **Alyssa Buchanan** has accepted a position as a **Young Adult in Global Mission** volunteer with the ELCA. She will serve the next year, beginning in August, in Manzini, Swaziland. She is asked to raise \$4000 to help support herself for the upcoming year.

One way she is raising money is by hosting a **yard sale at the Church on the morning of Saturday July 30th**. All are invited to stop by the yard sale! **We are also asking for any donations from the congregation for objects to put in the yard sale.** Any support would be welcomed and appreciated. Please contact Alyssa at anbuchan@live.unc.edu or 704-914-5383 with any questions.

You may bring your items for the yard sale to the church and put them in the fellowship hall beginning July 23. Alyssa will then set up tables with your donated items for the sale.

Saturday, July 30, come and shop... remember, *one man's junk is another man's treasure* AND your purchases contribute toward a mission for others by a young member of your congregation.



BCO Items of the month for August: School supplies for kids still needed!

Any school supplies are appreciated, but particular needs are binders, glue sticks and hand sanitizers.

BCO also request donations of Spaghetti & pasta.



Movie on the Lawn

Thursday, August 25th

Movie starts at 8:30 pm





AUGUST 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	3	4	5	6
7 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service	8	9 12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	10	11	12	13
14 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service With Holy Communion 5:00 pm HCY	15 St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord	16 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	17	18  8:30 pm Movie Night on the Lawn	19	20  Kids' Club Pool Party! 11:00 am Misty's House Lunch Provided
21 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Church Choir Staying Connected Group Will cook dinner at The Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte	22	23 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle	25	26	27
28 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Church Choir	29 The Beheading of St. John the Baptist 	30 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	31			

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



- August 2

Alyssa Buchanan
- August 4

Kathy Graves
Mark Yount
- August 6

Eric Carpenter
Justin Koehler
Stan Lahr
Blythe Thompson
- August 11

Cynthia Buchanan
Jill Leitner
Ginger MacDonald
- August 15

Brenda Dabrowski
- August 17

Theo Bruchon
Mark Dabrowski
- August 18

Katie Baker
Henry Bocchino
Alex Bocchino
Daphne Hansen
- August 21

Lynn Martin
Andrew Robinson
- August 22

Becke Featherstone
Allison Wallace
- August 25

Gage Gatlin
- August 27

Dillon Kasmer
- August 29

Matthew Bruchon
Tom Causby
- August 30

Eric Ange
Becca Gatlin

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