

Beka's  
Buzz

It has been a busy time around here lately.

Our kids have accomplished lots of things...graduations, award ceremonies and acknowledgments. We had *confirmation* camp at *Lutheridge*. At VBS we learned so much about how God made us. I want to take the time to thank the following people for all their help to make

this week possible:

- ◆ Kyrstyna & Alex Sarrazin
- ◆ Ginger MacDonald
- ◆ Misty Koehler
- ◆ Mandi Kline
- ◆ Melissa Bocchino
- ◆ Tom Bocchino
- ◆ Debbie Mendez
- ◆ Jill Lietner
- ◆ Jill Cassel
- ◆ Mallory Morton
- ◆ Bella Ince
- ◆ Emily Koehler
- ◆ Catherine Carr
- ◆ Micah & Jenn Kearney
- ◆ Greg Cline
- ◆ Greg Byrum
- ◆ Shelia Kelly
- ◆ Angie Morton
- ◆ Rebecca Yount



Lutheran Church of the  
**Holy Comforter COMMENT**

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Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office



<sup>40</sup>"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Matthew 10:40-42

## Communion Opportunities for July

July 2: The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23: The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/  
Office Manager  
Volume 38, No. 7

**SUMMER 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,

One of the biggest challenges the church has faced across the millennia is that it is full of people. One church father posited that the church is a hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints, and that has been a helpful reminder for me as I talk with folks about difficulties they have with others. No one is perfect, not the person frustrated, nor the one they're frustrated with. Within all of us is the ability to empathize with one another, to see others and both the joys and challenges that they face, and reach out to them in love. That looks different depending on who is involved and their particular gifts, but we all have the ability to do it in some way. But we also all have bad days, whether because we are sick, or anxious with something weighing heavy on us, or just got out of the wrong side of the bed. Sometimes we're not at our best, and we can step on someone's toes or someone can step on ours and we're less gracious than we might otherwise be. It happens. And we don't look like the "good Christians" people expect us to be when it does.

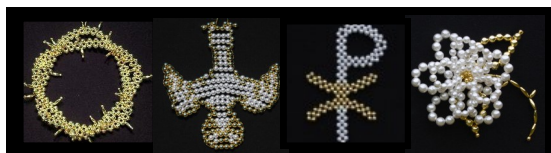
Just so you know, this is nothing new. Stories from the Book of Acts and a number of places throughout Paul's letters to early churches make it clear that from the time of the apostles the church has struggled with how being the church means we live together in community. In fact, one of Paul's most-quoted writings, 1 Corinthians 13 about love being patient, kind, not envious or boastful...is not about marriage, as it is often used, but in fact Paul was talking about what love looks like in Christian community. I think it is telling, for me, that Paul does not

talk about community in Christ as "perfect" in that we don't make mistakes. Paul doesn't say love is without err or misstep. Looking at it again, much of what Paul says about love could really apply most directly when someone has messed up, and what the reaction should be: patient, kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude...

Often the secular world calls Christians hypocrites, because our actions all too often do not reflect our beliefs. In some ways they're right, though that whole conversation is one for another day. But I think that Christianity, particularly when lived out in community, is as much about forgiveness as it is about not making mistakes. A more vivid image of a Christian life is how we respond to the errs and missteps of others. Do we hold them over them? Use them to think ourselves better of them? Or do we respond graciously, working to empathize with where they are? Being the Church together, living together in Christian community, is as much or more about reconciliation as it is about perfection. It is working to bring healing and wholeness to relationships, and individuals through them.

Just for the record, I love our community here, and frequently give thanks to God for you all.

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



You are invited to join with us as we work to repair the old and create new *Chrismons* for our Christmas tree. No experience necessary...learn as you go.

**Meet at the church on July 23 at 4:00 pm.**

## MUSIC NEWS

Holy Comforter is blest with talent. I am constantly amazed at the number of music majors, or at least musically trained members we have in our choir, and throughout the congregation. This is a true blessing, even though I can't get away with too much improvisation...but, I appreciate the church choir particularly keeping me on my toes.

Members of the choir continue to help lead worship through the summer. We always ask for folks who are willing to step forward and share specific musical gifts during this time of year. We are brainstorming during our *Centennial Year* as we plan for fall and winter festivities. I also understand that several folks in the pews have expressed an interest in our choir ministry. Please contact me directly. I would be delighted to chat with any who feel led to participate.

**July 9-15 is Music Week at Lutheridge**, our closest church camp and conference center. This year we again have a total of 6 ambassadors from Holy Comforter who

will be joining me on the mountain, along with hundreds of participants and clinicians from many parts of the United States. **Justin and Leah Koehler, Arden and Merritt De Nicholas**, as well as **Elizabeth Bruchon** will all represent us well. Each participant in music week receives a partial scholarship from our HCLC music fund. Thanks to all who make this possible through your gifts to the music ministry.

**Greg Cline**

**All information for the August newsletter is due to Dianne in the church office by July 20.**



### Camp Agape

Holy Comforter is hosting **Camp Agape July 17-21**.

**Agape** is a day camp for **rising 1st to rising 8th graders** and is sponsored by Agape

Kure Beach Ministries. During a day at camp the kids will participate in Bible study, crafts, games, skits, nature time and lots of other fun activities. The kids in the 6th to 8th grade group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off-site. **We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.**

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from **Misty Koehler**. The cost is **\$130 per camper and is due at the time of registration**. Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

## BCO July Items of the Month



Peanut butter   crackers   Tuna





The Centennial Committee kicked off our **Growing Together by Giving** campaign in January to honor Holy Comforter's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to sharing God's love to others in the community, we were blessed to extend our love and outreach to Wittenberg, Germany! **Holy Comforter was 1 of 500 worldwide churches** selected to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by participating in the *Luthergarten* landscaping project. Andreas Kipar, renowned landscape architect, designed *Luthergarten* with profound symbolism and reformation optimism. It has an overall oval shape containing 270 trees from all continents. Additionally, 230 trees will complete the surrounding areas so that there will be 500 trees altogether, symbolizing the 500 years of the Reformation. In the center of the garden the shape of a Luther Rose has been paved. In several areas the measurements of the grounds reflect the number 95, the number of Luther's theses.

On May 22, 2017, Pastor Hans Kauch of LWB project and his assistant, Annette Glaubig, greeted Tim and Debbie Baker at our tree site (#366). The ceremony included liturgical service, song and reflection of scripture, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5), which was selected by the Centennial Committee. During the ceremony it was disclosed the site was once occupied by Germany military. The Silver Linden tree was selected for its unique "turning over a new leaf" symbolism of previous oppressive grounds. The Silver Linden is a shade tree featuring dark, radiant green leaves on top with shimmering silver beneath. In the extreme heat, the canopy appears to shimmer as the dark leaves turn over to the silver side to reflect the sun and conserve evaporation. The ceremony concluded with prayer, which was delivered in unison with our native languages.

As part of our sponsorship agreement, Holy Comforter will be planting a tree this fall on our grounds to celebrate our connectedness to *Luthergarten*. Until then, please continue to partake in our monthly service projects, the 100 intentional acts of Kindness Tree located in the narthex, various special events and concluding with the banquet held December 10th, 2017 –100 years, nearly to the day, after we officially became The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter. Glory to God! (More information may be found on the website [www.luthergarten.de](http://www.luthergarten.de)) **Debbie Baker**



## ALARMED!

A new access system has been donated and installed. The system provides office staff a greater awareness of visitors during the week when they are often alone. This new system will impact all members with keys. **Keys will no longer work in August.** Both programming and a key fob are used for access.

Events must be scheduled with the office. The office will then issue a key fob to the sponsor of the event and program the doors to unlock so other attendees are able to get in. Additionally, members who need a permanent key fob must complete an *Access Request Form* available in the office.

Your patience and understanding are appreciated during this change.

**John Koehler**  
**Property Committee**

### CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Sunday, July 2 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

**Tuesday, July 4 Happy Independence Day!**

Office Closed

**Thursday, July 6**

6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

**Sunday, July 9 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service

Church Council after

**Tuesday, July 11**

7:00 pm Property Committee meeting

**Sunday, July 16 6th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service

**Monday, July 17 Camp Agape (all week)**

9:00 am—3:00 pm Camp Agape

**Tuesday, July 18**

7:00 pm Evangelism meeting

**Thursday, July 20**

7:00 pm Christian Education meeting

**Friday, July 21 Last day of Camp Agape**

9:00 am—3:00 pm Camp Agape

**Sunday, July 23 7th Sunday after Pentecost**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

**Sunday, July 30**

9:30 am Adult Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service

Collection of *Noisy Offering*

**SUMMER MEETING TIMES:**

**Sundays:** 9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am Worship Service

**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	May 2017	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$122,555.83
Actual Expenses:	\$24,471.22	\$121,015.28
Offerings Received:	<u>\$12,904.00</u>	<u>\$106,227.75</u>
Gain (Loss) for Period:	(\$ 11,567.22)	(\$ 14,787.53)

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector

July 9: Donna Bean

July 16: Jim Buell, July 30: Judy Caldwell

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:**

Need Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Brad & Brandy Milton, Co-Captains

Donna Bean

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

Need 4 volunteers

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

July 2 & 23: Volunteers

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:**

July 2: Pat Long

July 9: Carmen Buell

July 16: Lyn Miller

July 23: Pat Long

July 30: Misty Koehler

**TELLERS:** Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

**FLOWERS:**

July 2: Dianne Lail  
1 vase available

July 9: Donna Bean  
1 vase available

July 16: Marsh & Jill Cassel  
1 vase available

July 23: Both vases available  
July 30: Mark & Rebecca Yount, Via brothers

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

July 2: Brandy Milton

July 9: Volunteers

July 16: Veronica Bryant

July 23: Jill Cassel

July 30: Rebecca Yount

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am)

A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. We encourage you to use the nurseries if your children become restless and/or vocal. Let an usher know if you need assistance.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>4th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC	3	4 <b>July 4th Independence Day</b>   7:00 pm Nar-Anon	5	6	7	8
9 <b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service Church Council after <b>Music Week</b> begins Participants depart	10  <b>Music Week at Lutheridge</b>	11  7:00 pm Property Committee Nar-Anon	12	13  <i>Lutheridge Hymn Festival</i>	14  <i>Music Week Closing Concert Day</i>	15
16 <b>6th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service	17 <b>Agape Day Camp</b>  9 am-3 pm Daily	18  7:00 pm Christian Ed meets Nar-Anon	19	20	21	22 <b>St. Mary Magdalene</b>
23 <b>7th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm <i>Chrismon</i> workshop	24	25 <b>St. James the Elder, Apostle</b>  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	26	27  7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting	28	29
30 <b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/Noisy Offering	31					



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

**July 3** Amanda Kelly  
**July 4** Ann Miller  
 Jeffrey Thompson  
**July 8** Merritt De Nicholas  
**July 9** Chase Lineberger  
**July 10** Marcus Fleming  
 Hailey Ratchford  
 Laura Tench  
  
**July 13** Don Robinson  
**July 14** Beka Forst  
 Beverley Mauney  
**July 15** Russell Fleming  
**July 16** Sierra Hullander  
**July 18** Nick Ashe  
 Steven Bingham  
**July 19** Lynne Sudarich  
**July 20** Tyler Cassel  
 Garrett Fox  
 Brian Mitchell  
**July 21** John Crist  
 Caroline Nault  
 Ashton Nault  
 Alex Sarrazin  
**July 22** Melissa Bocchino  
**July 24** Cathleen Allen  
**July 25** Brayden Alvarez  
**July 26** Emilie Bruchon  
 Gary Clark  
 Bryant Deaton  
**July 29** Ardean Ewing  
 Pauline Joye  
**July 30** Madison Morton

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