

Beka's
Buzz

I recently went on vacation to New Bern North Carolina. I went to a family reunion, which is always exciting because there is plenty of people to hang out with. My family is quite big, I am one of 26 grandkids on my Mom's side. My mom's family has lots of people who work in ministry. So naturally that is what we talk about. It is an incredible blessing that growing up I never knew I would be grateful for. I love to get to share what my ministry looks like and hear what their ministry looks like. I like to hear what their favorite part of their job is, I also like to be asked that question because those are the best stories.

When people ask me what my favorite thing about my job is, I usually will say a story about a children's sermon. I love to do a children's sermon with a prop. I feel like a kid and connect or remember the point better if there is a point of reference. I also love to hear those sweet voices tell me about Jesus. One of my favorite stories is when we were talking about prayer and how easy it is to go to prayer no matter where are, like our toys. I asked them about what their favorite toy was. One of the kids said their X-box. So, I tied the loyalty of their X-box and how it is always there for them to how Jesus is always there for us. You never know what kids are going to say or do. As much as you can prepare for a children's sermon, they will always keep you on your toes. I love to do children's sermons because it more often than not will meet me where I am. Sometimes I need Jesus simply put. Doing a children's sermon is taking the Gospel and trying to communicate it in a way that kids will take away that they are a loved child of God and that they should live and love like Jesus. That is the most important thing we can teach our kids and

ourselves, especially in such a broken world.

My prayers are with the kids, parents, teachers and other support systems that are getting back into the routine of school. I pray that they love our kids and teach them how to be responsible citizens and kind humans.

With all the hustle and bustle of going back to school, here are some important dates to add to your calendar:

- **Rally Day** is **September 10**
- **Kids' Club** has their annual *lock-in* on **September 15-16**
- **HCY** starts **September 10** and meets again on the 17
- **Christian Ed** meets **September 19**
- **Sunday School Classes** are learning about the Creation story and the Seekers will continue with Jill Cassel's class on the Bible
- **Women's Bible Study** will start back with Genesis on **September 20th**.

Join us in any of those places!

Beka Forst



Battle of the Badges



5:30 pm on September 21 at Sims Park

BCO September Items of the Month



Oatmeal



Dried Beans



Canned Beans



Lutheran Church of the

Holy Comforter COMMENT

216 N. Main Street , Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

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



¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:19-20

Communion Opportunities for September

September 3: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24: 16th Sunday after Pentecost



(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 38, No. 9

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,

It took some convincing, but I joined in the excitement and anticipation and with my family drove to the middle of nowhere in SC in order to see the solar eclipse “in totality.” It did not disappoint. I had only read a small amount about what the experience of a total solar eclipse would be like, so experiencing it as a surprise left me in awe. It was cloudy when the partial eclipse started, so we only got glimpses at first. As it was only a few minutes from totality the clouds parted and we were able to see it clearly. It was impressive, but even more interesting to me were the effects that it caused. In the shadows of the leaves we saw the light of the sliver of sun shining through, casting hundred if not thousands of tiny crescents of light on the ground. Then, on either side of totality we were able to “see wind” as the air turbulence made the light dance on the ground. And then the moon completely covered the sun and it was surreal and awe inspiring.

Going to see the full eclipse meant I had to put down my to-do list for a while in order to go and experience it, and while it meant making up for the time later in the week, I’m glad I did it. Because it gave me an opportunity to stand in awe of God’s creativity in creation, something I do not

allow myself to do enough of, and I would assume many of us don’t do as much as we ought. It was an opportunity to be amazed, to be surprised by the wonders of God’s creation in a way that I haven’t done in a long time, likely since seeing the Northern Lights from a canoe in the middle of a lake in Minnesota. It was wonderful and life-giving. I don’t often jump up and down with excitement, but realized at one point that my feet were indeed not touching the ground.

The thing is, it shouldn’t take something that happens once a decade or so for me to allow myself this opportunity. The wonders of God’s creativity in creation and in God’s grace working are all around us, but too often our *to-do list*, all of the things pulling on us that we are so anxious to get done, blind us to those things that surround us. And so I am going to work hard to recognize these moments of grace and amazement with God’s Creation, including God’s people. I will work to be amazed at Gabriel’s curious mind as he starts kindergarten, and truly listen when he tells me about what he is learning. I will work to be amazed at moments of bravery and trusting faith as people face life-changing situations. I will work to be amazed at the beauty of relationships as I watch people greet both friends and visitors on Sunday mornings. The beauty of God’s grace and action are surrounding us in every moment, and I invite you to join me as I work to put down the anxiety of my to-do lists and be amazed.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

All information for the October newsletter is due to Dianne in the office by September 19.

MUSIC NEWS

Our adult ensembles, handbells, church and chamber choirs resumed in August. We are such a blest congregation with talented musicians willing to give of themselves and their time. While already working hard on new music from fall through the new year, the choir will take one final rehearsal respite on Labor Day weekend.

On Rally Day, September 10, our children’s ensemble will begin their regular meeting time Sundays at 4:00 pm. We have many faithful parents who bring their children regularly to practice. We will begin that day reviewing several of their favorite songs that they sang during VBS this summer. We will be sharing these songs during our upcoming services of worship. We also will begin working on special anthems that will involve all of our ensembles for the upcoming Centennial celebration service on December 10. One of our gathering songs on that date is, “Carry the Light,” which will feature all of our choirs, as well as string quartet.

We invite all children ages 4-grade 5 to participate in this active ministry. Questions, contact Greg Cline.

The church choir welcomes our newest member, Scott Schaumburg. Scott is seated with the tenors, and we know that he will be anything but bored. Scott, we are delighted to have you in our choir family.

Greg Cline

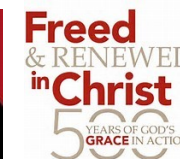
You are invited to a Service in commemoration of the

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1000 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC



A Sacred Concert featuring choirs from both Newberry College and Lenoir-Rhyne University will begin at 1:30 pm. The service will begin at 2:00 pm with a Processional of Ecumenical Guests and Rostered Ministers. Rostered ministers of both North and South Carolina Synods are invited to vest and process; the color of the day is red. Special music will be provided by Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir, Newberry College Singers, Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus, Instrumentalists and a Massed Choir of members from congregations in both the Carolinas. The organists are Florence Jowers, Professor Emeritus, Lenoir-Rhyne University and Les Ackerman, Organist and Music Director, St. Mark’s, Charlotte. A special anthem: “*The Righteous Shall Live By Faith*” by the Rev. Dr. Paul Weber was commissioned by the Reformation 500 Task Force of the North Carolina Synod especially for this service. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be preaching. If you are unable to come to the service in person, come and worship with Lutherans from both Carolinas through the live stream. Go to: <http://media.Covenantpresby.org/>.

September 10th

We are excited to welcome you to **Rally Day** at **9:00 am on September 10th** in the fellowship hall. We will begin the morning with breakfast.

After breakfast, you can meet your Sunday School teachers and hear about the coming year.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Lifetouch **Directory Update**



For those who disclosed their e-mail address to *Lifetouch*, you may be receiving weekly e-mails. These e-mails may be misleading, but they are intended to offer you additional opportunities to purchase more family portraits, or for purchase for the first time. Please note, if you sat for photos, you will be guaranteed a FREE hard copy of the directory! No one should have to purchase a directory from these e-mails. We will be distributing the hard copy directory later this year to celebrate the centennial celebration!

Any questions, please let me know!
Katie Kessen



Many of you are aware that our expenses are running approximately \$14,000 above current offering. The expenses have paralleled the anticipated expenditures approved by the congregation in the budget. This is a monthly shortage of roughly \$1800. Historically, the trend during summer months is offerings are reduced, that trend has continued this summer, and has led to greater deficit than usually seen at this time.

Looking over the budget it is apparent that we are a church that continues to be diligent with the dollars with which we have been entrusted. Most of the budget is appropriated to maintain Holy Comforter's premises and support the various ministries to our congregation. Over the past few years there has been a steady increase in the budget, the largest portion of which is dedicated to helping our children grow in Christ. Other, smaller increases reflect steadily rising costs for maintenance of the property, utilities, insurance and operation of the Church's office. A modest amount is also dedicated to outreach to those in the community, and a greater commitment to the ELCA.

All of the items in Holy Comforter's budget represent our efforts as members of the Body of Christ to do His work as best we can. To this end, as we move through the second half of the centennial year, we ask that you be intentional about your commitment to financial giving to support the budget and if you might be able to help close the gap.

Yours in Christ,
Will Howard, President of Council
Pastor Micah

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, September 3 13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday, September 5

7:00 pm Property Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 10 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am **RALLY DAY!**
Breakfast, then meet the teachers

10:30 am The Service
4:00 pm **Children's Ensemble** resumes
5:00 pm **HCY** dinner & activities

Thursday, September 14

7:00 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

Friday, September 15

6:00 pm **Kids' Club** Lock-in drop off

Saturday, September 16

8:15 am **Kids' Club** Lock-in pickup
Staying Connected ...details later

Sunday, September 17 15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
2:00 pm **Confirmation** at Holy Comforter
5:00 pm **HCY** Laser Tag

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 pm Christian Ed Committee meets

Thursday, September 21 Battle of the Badges

5:30 pm Sims Park, Gastonia

Sunday, September 24

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
4:00 pm **Chrismon** Workshop

Thursday, September 28

7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meeting

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir, Nar-Anon

Wednesdays: 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

TREASURER'S REPORT:

<u>Report for the month</u>	<u>July, 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$171,578.17
Actual Expenses:	24,969.59	168,562.21
Offerings Received:	27,120.68	154,273.93
Gain (Loss) for Period:	\$ 2,151.09	(\$ 14,288.28)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
September 10: Judy Caldwell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
Brad & Brand Milton, Co-captains
Donna Bean

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
September 3 & 24: Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
September 3 & 24: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:
September 3: Katie Kessen
September 10: Carmen Buell
September 17: Pat Long
September 24: Debbie Mendez

TELLERS: Amanda & Nathan Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS:
Sept. 3: Dianne Lail
1 vase available
Sept. 10: Warren & Faye Heller (both vases)
Sept. 17: Charles & Bev Mauney (both vases)
Sept. 24: Kathy Graves (both vases)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:
September 3: Volunteers
September 10: Krystyna Sarrazin
September 17: Krystyna Sarrazin
September 24: Jenn Kearney

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.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC	4 LABOR DAY	5 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Property Committee Nar-Anon	6 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	7	8	9
 10 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Rally Day with Breakfast 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells, HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	11	12 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	13 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	14 HOLY CROSS DAY	15  6:00 pm Kids' Club Lock-In drop off	16 8:15 am Kids' Club Lock-In pickup  Staying Connected Group Time & details later
17 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 2:00 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells, HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	18	19 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Christian Ed meeting Nar-Anon	20 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	21 St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist	22 5:30 pm Battle of the Badges Sims Park, Gastonia	23
24 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	25	26 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	27 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	28	29 St. Michael And All Angels	30

We recognize and celebrate these
 birthdays in the month of September.
 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 4	Deborah Bingham
September 6	Alex Buell
September 7	Elizabeth Bruchon
September 11	Hannah Carnes Madison Carr Maria Carr
September 14	Emily Koehler
September 16	Leslie Payne
September 17	Bill Hollar
September 18	Winston Baker
September 20	Lyn Miller Beverly Reynolds Dan Wallace
September 21	Horace Bean
September 22	Dean Burwell
September 23	Mary Page Anne Reese
September 24	Rebecca Yount
September 25	Harold Singleton
September 26	Warren Heller Henrik Sarrazin
September 28	Leo Kasmer James Milton Elizabeth Passer George Roberson
September 29	Barbara Beale Claire Mitchell

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

