

Beka's Buzz

Friendsgiving, a time where you gather together with family and friends and enjoy quality time together and give thanks for quality people. This year was our first annual Friendsgiving and it was a huge success. All of our Kids Club and Holy Comforter Youth people were invited to a fine dining experience with friends and family. We had ham, mac n' cheese, every dessert ever, and friends. All the friends. We took time talking about what our favorite things are, what we are thankful for, and chasing turkeys.



Beka, Youth & Family Ministry

Just a few things that people were thankful for:

- Yogurt
- Pants
- Mrs. Rebecca and Mr. Mark
- Pumpkins
- Ice Cream
- Oreos
- Ramen Noodles
- Family

Faithful Families Tip:

Reverse Advent Calendar- Each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or basket. At the end of the month (or soon after), box up your goodies and bring it to a local food bank. It's that easy!



Riddles, word scrambles, Bible searches, and eyes peeled! The GREAT ADVENTure is just that, GREAT! Each week 7 new clues will be given out. The envelope of Clues can stay in your car or wherever is easiest to remember. If you spot one of your clue discoveries, you can mark it off by taking a picture! Discoveries can be made anywhere (at home, at church, at the YMCA, or at your grocery store)! You and your family should be in the pictures as best you can! Your picture discoveries can be sent to holycomforter@gmail.com and be a part of our one big ADVENTure!



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Micah Kearney, Pastor email: mkearney@holyc.org
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse



Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:42

Communion Opportunities for December

Sundays, December 1, 8, and 22, as well as
Wednesdays and Christmas Eve services.



Volume 40 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



FROM THE PASTOR

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," or at least that's how the song goes. In many ways the song is right. People love this time of year with time with family, ugly sweaters, parties, tasty treats, fires in the fireplace, presents to give and receive, holiday music playing everywhere you go, and of course, Christmas with all the wonderful promises of Christ's presence that it proclaims. But for many folks this is also a difficult time of year. For some it is the logistical stress of getting everything done and being at all the things. For some it is the weight of wanting to give gifts to those they love and make this time of year special, but not having the resources to do it and feeling guilty and helpless about it. For some they are dealing with broken relationships and the conflict increases with the emotions of the holidays. For some they are dealing with the grief of a lost loved one or having to be away from those they love. First of all, take care of yourselves. If you need to let go of a holiday tradition that causes stress for this year, consider it. If you need to hide from a party for a few moments in the kitchen or bathroom, do it. Lean into the things that give you a sense of peace, be it holiday music or movies, time with friends and family, or time in prayer, devotion, or worship. And second, take care of others. Watch out for those who feel overwhelmed or weighed down, and make sure they know they are seen, valued, and do not walk alone.

And remember the promise of Christmas, that God comes near to us in Christ and walks with us

through all of the joys and sorrows of our lives. Even as we focus on waiting and anticipation throughout the season of Advent, we do that with full faith that Christ is with us in the waiting, in the suffering, and in the celebrating. It is because of that promise that this truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah

We plan to gather a group for caroling on Wednesday, December 18, at 4 pm. We do not have many homebound members nearby, so we're giving you an opportunity to nominate someone for us to carol to! As long as the person lives within 15 minutes of church, we would love to visit them! Sign ups in the sanctuary narthex.



We welcome our recently elected council members: Tim Baker, Leslie Crist, Julia Gunter, Matthew Hogge, and Mary Yavelak. We give thanks for their willingness to serve and look forward to their gifts being used for the glory of God through leadership at Holy Comforter.



From your Parish Nurse

The holiday season is meant to be a joyous time of celebration but, sometimes, it's not so joyous for you. Maybe you've experienced a loss, or your health isn't as good as you'd like it to be. Maybe you're struggling financially. There are many ways that our moods can be a little down but one way to lift yourself up is with volunteerism. Did you know that volunteering actually helps you live a longer, healthier life and you can achieve those benefits with as little as 2 hours of volunteering a week? What do you get from volunteering? Let's see (and these are proven through studies):

- Reduced risk for depression
- Lower mortality rates
- Increased longevity
- Greater functional ability later in life
- Increased sense of accomplishment and purpose
- Less incidence of heart disease

So why does the act of volunteering lift our spirits? Well, look at these ways in which volunteering is a benefit:

- Volunteering helps you make new friends and contacts – it brings people together with commitment to a shared activity and strengthens your ties to the community.
- Volunteering increases your social and relationship skills – it helps you practice and develop your social skills and to branch out and make more friends.
- Volunteering increases self-confidence – it can provide a healthy boost to your self-esteem and life satisfaction.
- Volunteering decreases your risk for depression – depression is often the result of social isolation, but volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others.
- Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy – and has been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.
- Volunteering can advance your career – it can provide career experience without necessitating that you make a long-term commitment and can teach you valuable job skills.

Consider adding YOUR name to the list of volunteers that make this community what it is. How do you do that? First, ask yourself if there is something specific you want to do – the best way is to match your personality and interests. Where do you find volunteer opportunities? Check out the theaters and museums, senior centers, community service organizations such as Lions Club or Rotary, youth organizations, sports team and after –school programs, or online databases such as VolunteerMatch or Idealist. OR you can just step up and volunteer here at church. Any of the committees would be PLEASED with your service! (Health Ministry only meets quarterly, hint hint!) So, go ahead, volunteer and get happy! We, the Health Ministry and your Parish Nurse, wish you a wonderful, blessed Christmas!

NOTE: The Health Ministry is planning a couple of wonderful things for you, so watch for further information. We are planning an Alzheimer's workshop, a Bike Safety Rodeo, will be bringing back Tai Chi, and ding Yoga! All good things, so watch for the info!

MUSIC NOTES



Our Youth Handbell Choir will accompany our Advent Services of Worship in December. "Unfailing Light" is a special Evening Prayer that includes Holy Communion. Invite family and friends to this unique worship experience. Special words of appreciation to Winston, Henrik, Preston, Lucy, Leah, Ginny, Emilie, Jack, Miss Beka, and Miss Julia for their time and talent.



The children's ensemble members have offered musical gifts shared during our services of worship this fall. We have three more opportunities to share...Sunday, December 15 (Hanging of the Green) Christmas Caroling to local community (Date: TBD) and Christmas Eve during the 4:00 Service.

All of our adult musical ensembles will be sharing leadership for our services throughout Advent and Christmas seasons. They always are working diligently in order to prepare the inspiring anthems that are delivered throughout the church year. This year the choir Christmas party will be held at the home of Greg Cline (17 Circle Dr, Belmont) on Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 P.M.



Our church choir will be in concert with regional choirs and the National Lutheran Choir on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 7:00. Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte will host the concert in their 1000+ seat sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the community. With perhaps as many as 300 voices this promises to be an unforgettable experience. We would love for everyone to be able to attend. Christ Lutheran is just beyond South Park mall in Charlotte. If you would be willing to help offer transportation, please let me

know. We will have a sign up sheet for folks who would like to car pool. We will start that process in January.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to my Congregational Family!

Greg Cline
gclinea440@aol.com
704-860-4460

Our **Christmas Play** will be Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m. It will be similar to last year where we invite families to sign up and act out parts of Jesus' birth narrative together. We will then have a visit from our very own **Santa** beginning at 5 pm in the sanctuary.

Special worship opportunities in December:

- **Advent Dinner and worship** (Dec 4, 11, and 18): We will be using Marty Haugen's "Unfailing Light" Liturgy that we used a few years ago. It is a beautiful, musical, communion liturgy. Advent week-day worship is a mid-week sabbath, offering time to rest, worship, and re-center in the midst of a busy season.
- **Christmas Eve** (4 pm and 11 pm)- We now have two Christmas Eve services with the 4 o'clock service being geared a bit more for families.

Guatemala Missions update:

Shelia Kelly, Mark Kline, and Pastor Micah will be traveling to **Guatemala** in late January to work at an orphanage called "**Casa Bernabe.**" If you'd like to support the trip we are collecting new shoes, from toddler sizes through men's size 10. You may also support the trip financially by donations through Holy Comforter.

Belmont Christmas Parade

Join us on **Tuesday, December 3rd** to walk in the parade with Holy Comforter! We will be decorating a few golf carts on Sunday and giving our walkers items to pass out to the crowd. We will be meeting on McLeod Ave. in Belmont for staging beginning at 2:30 pm. The parade begins at 3:30 pm. Please let us know if you will walk by emailing sar-razin1230@hotmail.com

Angel Tree

Stop by the Angel tree and pick up a name to help spread some Christmas cheer. Current tags on the tree are seniors from BCO (and their family members that live with them.) For these individuals/families, we ask you buy some food items to stock their shelves (think Christmas dinner with boxed and canned goods) and a gift valued at approximately \$20 (socks, scarves, etc.). If a child is part of the family unit, we ask you include a gift for them as well. These gifts can be delivered to the individual (addresses are included on tags) or brought back to Fellowship Hall by **December 15.**

In addition to BCO, we will have the five residents from House of Mercy wish lists and potentially some children from SOCKS ministries. For these Angle gifts, we recommend you buy a gifts (valuing approx. \$50.) These gifts should be wrapped, tagged and brought back to Fellowship Hall by Dec.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report for the month	December, 2019	Year-to-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$25,022.17	\$250,221.67
Actual Expenses:	24,634.34	247,925.74
Offerings Received:	19,313.00	238,395.77
(Loss) for Period:	\$(5,321.34)	(\$ 9,529.97)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector

December 8, 22, and 24: Billy Joye
December 1 and 15: Brian Achor
December 29: Jim Buell and Judy Caldwell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:

Acolyte: Jack Bryant
Crucifer: Volunteer

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Katie Howard-Captain,
Dean and Diann Halvorson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

December 1: Katie Howard December 8: Deb Williams
December 15: Pat Long December 22: Pat Koehler
December 24: Volunteers needed
December 29: Volunteers needed

TELLERS: Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener

USHERS: Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS:

December 1: Shelia and Tim Kelly, 1 vase available
December 8: Shelia and Tim Kelly, 1 vase available
December 15: Mark and Rebecca Yount and Luke and Alec Via, 1 vase available
December 22: Andrew and Beverly Robinson (both vases)
December 24: Julia Gunter (both vases)
December 29: Will Howard, Mark and Rebecca Yount and Alec Via.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

December 1: Jennifer Kearney
December 8: Volunteers
December 15: Volunteers
December 22: Jennifer Kearney

NURSERY: (10:30 am-11:45 am)

December 1: Brandy Milton
December 8: Rebecca Yount
December 15: Stacy Kirby
December 22: Stacy Kirby
December 29: Brandy Milton



December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday in Advent 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 2:00 pm Confirmation 5:00 pm Handbells, 6:00 pm Church Choir	2 6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class	3  3:30 pm Belmont Christmas Parade	4 5:00 pm Youth Handbells 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Advent Worship with Holy Communion 7:20 pm Chamber Choir	5	6	7
8 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Handbells, HCY Service Project 6:00 pm Church Choir	9 6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class	10	11 5:00 pm Youth Handbells 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Advent Worship with Holy Communion 7:20 pm Chamber Choir	12  11:00 am Prime Timers meet at Lyn and Ann Miller's home for Bible study, \$10 gift exchange, and meal.	13	14 5:30 pm Choir Party
15 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am Hanging of the Green 4:00 pm Christmas Play/Santa 5:00 pm Handbells, HCY Christmas Party 6:00 pm Church Choir	16 6:00 pm PEP Exercise Class	17	18 4:00 pm Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Advent Worship with Holy Communion 7:20 pm Chamber Choir	19 7:00 pm Council/Staff Christmas party	20	21
22 4th Sunday in Advent 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School Handbells 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 6:00 pm Church Choir	23	24 3:40 pm Adult Choirs (balcony) 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 10:40 pm Adult Choirs (balcony) 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service	25 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday	26	27	28
29 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service of Lessons and Carols	30	31				

We recognize and celebrate these birth-days in the month of October.

We are thankful for the life and Spirit of those we celebrate.

- December 1

Madison Kelly
- December 3

Travis Flemming
- December 4

Anne Lineberger
- December 5

Aaron Nault

Margaret Millard
- December 7

Jack Bryant
- December 8

Nathan Kelly

Brian Wallace
- December 9

Bob Koehler
- December 10

Caitlan Reese
- December 11

Beth Brittain
- December 12

Janet Achor

Elizabeth Smith
- December 13

Brody Alvarez
- December 15

Greg Cline
- December 17

Mason Morton
- December 22

Remi Ince
- December 24

Kurt Rogers
- December 26

Amy Alvarez
- December 27

Laura Dibiase
- December 28

Molly Koehler
- December 29

Trudy Whitener

Elizabeth Schmaltz
- December 30

Elizabeth Tench

Luke Via

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