

Some of you may have heard or seen the name **Summerama**, but I am here to dish on all of the fun that is to come. I've have been working with a fantastic group of youth directors to write a program that is fun, educational, and faithful! We will be spending a week outside, learning outside, and caring for the outside! **Summerama** is a week

to talk about different ways we can care for God's beautiful Creation, each day is a different opportunity.

Each day has a Discover Time (Bible Study), a Radical Recreation Activity, and a Showing Creation component. Our Discovery time includes stories about caring for Creation, where in the Bible it talks about caring for Creation, and conversation starters for families when talking about God in Creation. In the Radical Recreation activities there will be food creations, science creations, and recycling creations and more! All of our creations will be made with as little store-bought supplies as possible, as our hope is that you will have a lot of the supplies already. Lastly, our Showing Creation portion will be brought to you by different people from all over NC to teach us about each daily theme. Mir Youngquist-Thurrow, Agape's camp Naturalist, Jen Bacher from Lutherock, Doug Kearney and his beehives, and more! Stay tuned to find out who the rest of our Showing Creation guests will be.

This week will be FILLED with fun! Each day has an opportunity to learn more, dig into the earth and our faith, and care for the incredible Creation around us. All this is coming to a mailbox near you.

*Beka Forst,*  
*Director of Youth and Family Ministry (rforst@holyc.org)*

**SUNDAY!**  
KIDS CLUB (K-5) ZOOM  
GATHERING- SUNDAYS AT 4 PM  
HOLY COMFORTER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**ZOOM**  
INVITES SENT THROUGH EMAIL  
HCY (6TH-12) ZOOM/FACETIME  
GATHERING- SUNDAYS AT 5 PM

Coming Soon...  
**SUMMERAMA!**  
Discover Faith In Your Backyard!

 Lutheran Church of the  
**Holy Comforter** **COMMENT**  
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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



**“<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**  
Matthew 11:28-30



### **Worship Opportunities for July**

Online worship is available through our website or posted on Facebook. We will have Drive-In worship at 10:30 am Sunday mornings until determined we can responsibly resume worship in the sanctuary.

Volume 41 No. 8

Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday

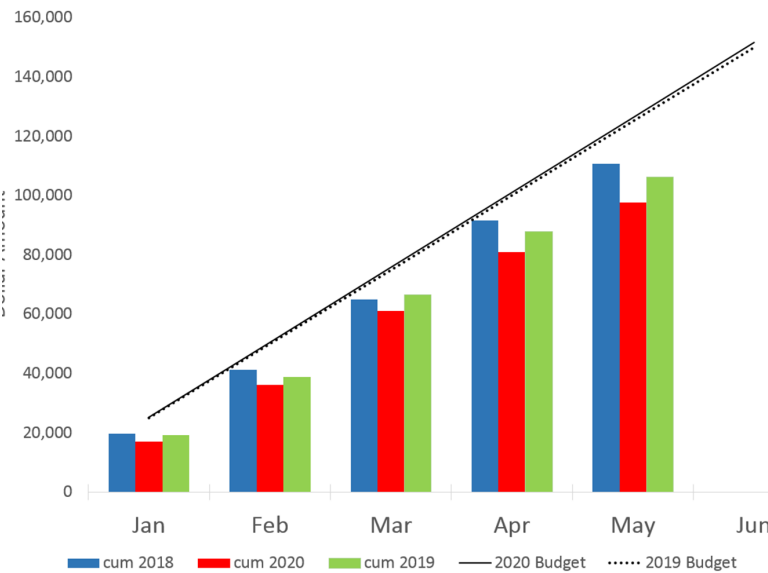
8:30 am—3:00 pm

## Special Treasurer's Report for May

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during May was \$3,822.86. The year-to-date deficit, through May 31, was \$8,694.33. Year-to-date spending, curtailed because of the pandemic, is \$19,886.59 below the amount planned in the 2020 budget. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses during May was \$16,897.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month is \$25,201.08. The adjacent chart compares this year's offering income, by month, with that of the two previous years. This and last year's budget tracks are also presented in the graph.

Warren Heller

Offerings to Current Account, 2018 & 2019 vs. 2020



### Regathering for Worship

As with every other person and organization these days, we continue to wrestle with the constantly changing and adjusting landscape of society with Covid-19. Our current plan is to regather in the sanctuary, with significant changes in flow and protocol, when North Carolina moves to Phase 3. The Synod Council recommends waiting until numbers get to the original Phase 3 targets, so we are watching many places to try and determine when to gather in the sanctuary for worship. In the meantime, we will continue to offer online worship as well as our Drive-In worship on Sundays at 10:30 am. Know that council and staff is anxious to worship with you all in the sanctuary again, but want to do it well and in way that cares for our members and our community.

### Donations for SOCKS Crisis Ministries

This month we will be collecting donations for SOCKS Crisis Ministries. Currently SOCKS is in need of:

- Rice
- Jelly
- Instant Potatoes
- Cereal

You may drop off these items in the metal bin at the bottom of the stairs between the Sanctuary and the Education Building.



### From your Parish Nurse...

Ok...so this pandemic isn't improving...at least not here in North Carolina, and now we've got a "mandated mask" order in effect for at least the next three weeks. But it's not all bad, and remember when I talked about "counting our blessings?" Well, they are still out there – neighbor helping neighbor, parishioners connecting with parishioners via the Caring Tree callers and checking in on one another, children still playing outdoors and enjoying the fresh air, parents being able to spend more time with children, most of us remaining healthy...so many ways to count our blessings. But along with counting our blessings comes gratitude – they kind of go hand-in-hand, don't you think? You all know the verse "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His kindness endures forever!" However, there are times when we don't feel thankful or simply forget to say thank you to God.

To be grateful, regardless of life's circumstances, you can...

- ♦ Count your blessings of family, friends, health, food, shelter, electricity, sunsets, and all the "ordinary" things!
- ♦ Talk about the bright side. Ok, you had a bad day, or the news once again got you down. It's good to "vent" your feelings to a friend or loved one, but when you are finished, share one good thing that happened that day.
- ♦ Create your own prayer/blessing poster. Post a sign on your fridge or bulletin board with the phrase, "Today I am grateful for..." Each day fill in the blank with one positive aspect of your life and then add that to your prayers.

- ♦ Thank God even when you don't feel grateful. By telling God, "I'm angry, tired, and hurt. I don't understand this, God, but I'm grateful for the good that you will bring out of it," you will probably feel more grateful.
- ♦ Give thanks to God by thanking others. Reverend Billy Graham once said, "God has given us two hands, one with which to receive and the other with which to give. When both our hands are busy, we are more balanced and serene." So true! When you take the time to thank someone else for their actions or presence, you bring God's love to others...and it feels good and costs nothing.
- ♦ Lift your heart to God. Despite grave concerns, you can be calm, lighthearted, and joyful by becoming more aware of the blessings in your life and trusting in the goodness of God.
- ♦ Allow yourself to enjoy the "little things" – the silly joke your 5-year-old told you this morning, a splash in the rain puddle with your toddler, sitting on a bench outside and hearing birdsong as you read your favorite book, the beauty of your favorite flowering plants as they thrive in this ideal weather, a few extra moments to work on your favorite hobby...and be grateful.

I pray that as we continue to learn to deal with this new world into which this pandemic has placed us, you will take time to enjoy your blessings and remember to give thanks to God for them all. He is good and is walking this journey with us – in that you can trust!

# MUSIC NOTES



During Lent 2020 we shuttered the Sanctuary doors as did churches around the world who suspended liturgies, as a pandemic spread its way around the entire globe, sending many into isolation. We never had to consider faith-life apart from regular assemblies for worship. Our church choir at Holy Comforter had spent much time planning for seasonal worship festivals, and efforts to "bring together" to develop, nurture, and encourage a powerful instrument: the assembly in song.

As the world arrived at Easter we were somewhat in a state of shock that we would be going through Holy Week without these gatherings. We have had to adapt new methods of encouraging worship to continue - aided by technology, but, due to isolation, without the ability to accomplish corporate singing.

This pandemic season has changed my life just as it has for all of you. Throughout these past months I have relied on Pastor Micah; or in my case, "Psychiatrist" Micah to walk with me through the challenges of planning, and rethinking countless services of worship which none of us would have comprehended just a few short months ago. Just for public record, Pastor...Thank You!

Thanks to all of you for your prayers of support to all of our church family...for those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, in ways that may be known only to God. With God's help we will emerge a church stronger than ever.

Blessings!

Greg



The North Carolina Synod of ELCA is beginning a project called the "Racial Justice Network," described as "A network of Jesus followers learning to be anti-racist." It begins with a Town Hall Conversation on June 30th at 7:30 pm, and the first course begins on July 13th. To learn more, visit "NCLutheran.org."

## Moments with Matthew

The NC Synod will take part in a state-wide Bible study, working through the Gospel of Matthew, beginning Sunday, July 5. You can join in through email subscription, the synod's webpage, or the synod's Facebook page.

Learn more at "NCLutheran.org."

## CHURCH SCHEDULE:

### Weekly Schedule-

Throughout this time of social isolation we have worked to create some new patterns for worship, faith formation, and community. Currently each week we have:

- **Sundays:**
  - Sunday morning- Virtual Worship posted during the morning to watch at your leisure
  - 10:30 am-Drive-In Worship in the parking lot
  - 4:00 pm- Kid's Club Zoom gathering
  - 5:00 pm- HCY Zoom gathering
  - 6:00 pm- Church Choir Zoom meeting
- **Tuesdays:**
  - Noon-Zoom lunch together. A time to check in and be in fellowship with one another
- **Wednesdays:**
  - 6:45 pm- Zoom Bible Study

Beka periodically sends out faith formation resources for families during this time, and Teresa sends out a weekly Parish Nurse article.

## Reminder!

If you are planning to come to the weekly Zoom meetings, the Zoom invites will be sent out through email, 30 minutes in advance of meetings!

**We hope you will join us!**

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of June. 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 2	Elaine Moose
July 3	Rachel Bailey
	Amanda Kelly
July 4	Ann Miller
July 8	Merritt De Nicholas
July 9	Eugenia Smith
	Chase Lineberger
July 10	Hailey Ratchford
July 13	Don Robinson
July 14	Beka Forst
	Beverley Mauney
July 15	Russell Fleming
July 16	Sierra Hullander
July 17	Benjamin McGinnis
July 18	Matt Piscatelli
July 19	Lynne Sudarich
	Winters Hogge
July 20	Tyler Cassel
	Garrett Fox
	Brian Mitchell
July 21	John Crist
	Ashton Nault
	Caroline Nault
	Alex Sarrazin
July 22	Melissa Bocchino
July 24	Cathleen Allen
July 25	Brayden Alvarez
July 26	Gary Clark
July 28	Linda Cox
July 31	David Povinelli

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





### **Bound Together in a Polarized World**

The church has pretty much never been of one mind. The disciples bickered about who was the greatest and included people who worked with occupying Rome and those working to rebel against it. The Book of Acts includes Peter and Paul debating about how to include Gentiles in the church. Paul's letters were largely written because churches were having trouble getting along. Councils after councils were held within the church to debate theology, and while theology often feels theoretical, the way we view and experience God has very real implications for how we view and value people and Creation. Our own Lutheran tradition was birthed from Martin Luther's attempt to reform the Roman Catholic Church which became a schism when he was excommunicated. The state of the church today, with countless denominations, is a manifestation of our inability to be of one mind.

Looking around we continue to see the Church as far from one mind, even just in our congregation. The polarization of the United States largely along political lines has manifested in the Church as well, and in many cases political parties have been more effective at making our identity with them a core identity. Scripture gets interpreted to support political ideologies instead of having scripture shape our ideologies, and our schisms happen largely along political lines. Recently pastors have said the question isn't if what they say or preach will anger people, rather which people, and how many, and this tension manifests in a variety of ways because the church is certainly not of one mind. Even with the best of intentions, as we work to discern how Christ is calling us to make God's kingdom known in the world, there is much about which we will disagree with one another.

And yet we are still one. In our Creeds we confess our faith in the "one holy catholic and apostolic church," with catholic meaning something like "one" or "united." Through our baptism our identities are, first and foremost, Children of God and members of the Body of Christ in the world. And our call, our purpose, is to love God and love our neighbor. We are bound to one another not because we agree on everything, but because we have

been claimed by God through Christ and the presence of the Spirit in and with us. And we are drawn to one another through our call to live in loving service to our neighbors, to live our lives not for our own sake but for our neighbor's, no matter whether we check the same boxes on a ballot or not.

We are not a community of one mind, we never have been, even though it is Paul's prayer for us in his letter to the Corinthians, but rather we are a group of people following Christ. And that is enough, because as Christ as the tie that binds us, we are bound by the very one who gives us life and worth. We will continue to disagree and debate, even bicker with one another. We will continue to be swayed by ideologies outside of the church. This side of Christ's coming again, when we will no longer see through a mirror dimly, it is hard for me believe otherwise. But we will also continue to be bound by the healing and reconciling love of God which can overcome all of that so that Christ's light can shine and break through the darkness of this world.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

### **BYOL WITH BEKA** (BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH)

**JOIN BEKA ON TUESDAYS  
AT NOON FOR A TIME TO  
CHECK IN, AND EAT LUNCH  
TOGETHER ON ZOOM!**

**ZOOM INVITATIONS WILL  
BE SENT OUT THROUGH  
EMAIL 30 MINUTES PRIOR.**

### **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Join Pastor Micah and Beka for  
virtual Bible study at 6:45 pm  
on Zoom.**

**Zoom invitations will be sent  
out through email 30 mins  
prior.**