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WET n' WILD DAY  
7/21/2021



Wet and Wild Water night was a soaking good time! Slip and Slide's were slipped on, water balloons were tossed, and popsicles were eaten! It was a great time getting some of our new families together with some of our long-time members and have kids on the lawn. When the night started to wind down the popsicles were pulled out and there was heated debate about the best popsicle flavor. Turns out the blue flavor is the perfect taste of sugar! I'm thankful for young people and their excitement to gather as community! Wet and Wild Wednesday was a good reminder that fun is faithful.

## faithful family tips

### Bible Stories

Keeping bible stories at the center of your family rituals can be tricky. A few easy ways to read them is in the car, and night, and at breakfast. If your family is headed out on a car trip, packing a story bible in the back seat can be easy for kids to grab and look through. Reading a bible story at bedtime from a story bible can be gentle way to work them into a night time routine. Or breakfast! While eating, it can be easy to read and look at pictures. If you're looking for a good story bible, reach out to Beka.



Lutheran Church of the  
**Holy Comforter COMMENT**

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704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor *email: mkearney@holyc.org*

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

Dona Martell, Office Manager



### Ephesians 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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### Worship Opportunities for August

- Worship is offered each Sunday at 10:30 am.
- Outside Worship will be offered at 8:30 am on Sunday, August 1st and Sunday, August 15th.
- Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on the website and transmitted to the parking lot over the radio and communion is served to those present.

### Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday  
8:30 am-2:00 pm

# MUSIC NOTES



Members of our church choir will gather together for our first rehearsal reunion in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 29 @ 6:00. Everyone is asked to bring their mask for indoor singing. We will get a brief foretaste of the musical feasts to come. While the choir met together last fall and spring to rehearse and record seasonal spiritual songs, this organization has been in Covid-hiatus for many months. It will be glorious to gather again for our specific calling in the service of worship. The chamber choir and handbell choir will resume after Labor Day.

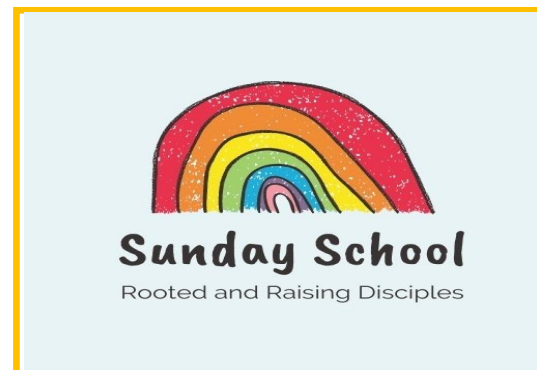
I shared with the choir recently in an e-mail that my prayer was that there was an emptiness in their hearts that could only be filled by collective voices lifting the rafters in praise. I assume that is not an overabundant selfish reaction from a choir director without a choir. And we have yet to hear any of our music ministers demand \$20.00 an hour + \$1000.00 sign up bonus. We have folks from Travis Rhyme, who just recently joined the tenor section, to Don Robinson who has now been a member of the choir family for 68 years. It truly is a special assembly of souls, and it is an

honor for me to work with such a gifted ensemble.

I always tell children and youth who are reluctant to sing, that they may need to consider mending their ways. I believe that many of us will be a part of the heavenly choir for all of eternity. Maybe there will be no need to rehearse...every note in perfect clarity, rhythm, and pitch. Until that day, with the help of God, we will continue to do the best that we can.

Blessings,

Greg Cline



We are so excited to start planning for our 2021-2022 Faith Formation year. Teachers/Guides are needed to help execute our plan for our growing faith in our kids and adults alike. This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with the young people that help make up our vibrant faith family. We hope that you will prayerfully consider serving as a Grace Space (Sunday School) teacher this year. For more information, contact Jill Cassel or Beka Forst.

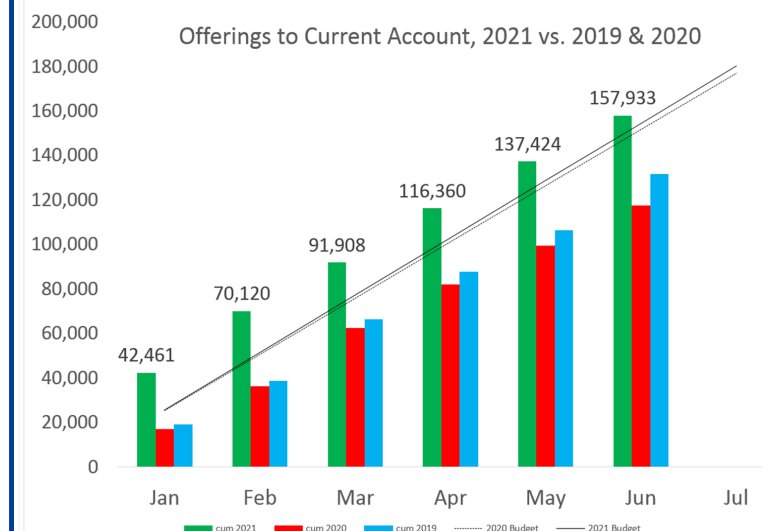


## Treasurer's Report for June 2021

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during June was \$3,822.14. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$20,509.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2021 is \$25,767.00.

Year-to-date spending, through June 30, was \$12,765.37 below the amount planned in the 2021 budget. 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.

## Holy Comforter Treasurer Report



## Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. We will meet under the tent in the courtyard, and will be looking at the gospel of St. John, 6:51-58. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!





Summertime Safety

In the summertime, it is easy to just “go with the flow” when we picnic or vacation. It is at those times when we let down our guard that accidents happen. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 3.7 million consumers have made unplanned trips to their hospitals’ emergency departments ... in just one summer!

We often hear safety tips and warnings in regard to swimming, biking, hiking, picnicking, swimming, etc., and it can be easy to tune them out, thinking, “Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I’ve heard this before! I’m careful!” So ... I’d like to devote this month’s article to safety issues you may not have heard before!

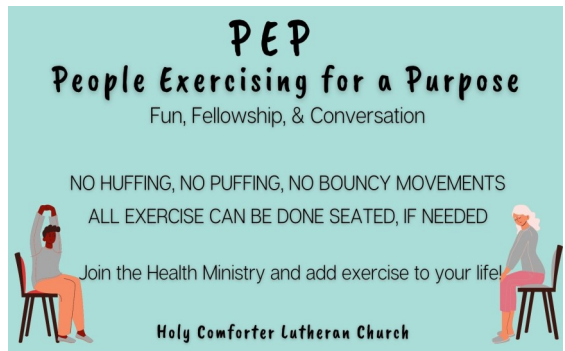
- If the outside temperature is 85° or higher, discard all food that has been sitting out for an hour. If the temperature is under 85°, throw it away after 2 hours.
- Never bring charcoal grills indoors [garage]. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- Create three safety layers around your swimming pool – a fence, an alarm, and an eagle-eyed adult!
- Children who are not licensed to drive a car should not be allowed to operate off-road vehicles. They are particularly dangerous for children younger than 16 years who may have immature judgment and less developed motor muscle skills.
- A cushion of at least 9” of wood chips should be distributed under playground

equipment to serve as a shock absorber for falls.

The *American Academy of Pediatrics* recommends, “communities continue to develop skateboard parks, which are more likely to be monitored for safety than ramps and jumps constructed by kids at home.”

Finally, I cringe whenever I drive by a home that has a trampoline in the yard! In fact AAP **does not** recommend the use of home trampolines. Children and adults are sustaining injuries, which range from sprains and strains to broken necks, head, and spinal cord injuries. Kids 15 and under account for two-thirds of all trampoline injuries, and almost 75% of all injuries involved more than one person being on the equipment at one time. According to the University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital even adult supervision is not always adequate. Spotters need to be big enough and strong enough to protect the jumper if he/she gets too close to the edge. Though it can be a lot of fun, perhaps this is a piece of equipment better left to professional gymnasts.

- No PEP Class on Mon. Aug. 8. (class will resume on Mon. Aug. 16)



This is the regular Schedule. When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.

- **Sundays:**
  - 10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary
  - \*Service livestreamed on website and transmitted by radio to parking lot.
- **Mondays:**
  - 6:30pm PEP Exercise Classes via Zoom-Classes
  - No PEP Class on Mon. Aug. 8. (class will resume on Mon. Aug. 16)
- **Tuesdays:**
  - 7:00 pm- Nar-Anon
- **Wednesdays:**
  - Adult Faith Formation afternoon video
- **Saturdays:**
  - 8:00am Outdoor Yoga on the Lawn (See the Yoga @ Holy C article on pg. 2)

- Events to Note:**
- Sunday, August 1st – Outdoor Worship, 8:30am
  - VBS – August 8-11, 6pm-8pm (under the tent)
  - \*No PEP Class on Mon. Aug. 8.
  - Prime Timers– Aug. 12, 10:30am (under the tent)
  - Sunday, August 15th – Outdoor Worship, 8:30am
  - Friday, August 27th– Movie on the Lawn, 8:00pm

If we have unintentionally left any member’s name off the birthday list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office. Thank you, Dona Martell

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 3	Joy Robinson
August 4	Kathy Graves
August 4	Mark Yount
August 6	Eric Carpenter
August 6	Justin Koehler
August 11	Cindy Buchanan
August 11	Jill Leitner
August 17	Mark Dabrowski
August 18	Katie Baker
August 18	Henry Bocchino
August 18	Alex Bocchino
August 18	Grayson Kelly
August 18	Dixie Spivey
August 21	Andrew Robinson
August 21	Kristen Bunney
August 25	Jeff Featherstone
August 29	Graham Kelly

Summer Outdoor Worship Service

Outdoor Worship Service will take place the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:30 am.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church



## FROM THE PASTOR

This past year has seen our worship opportunities on Sunday mornings jump from one to five, with a current ability to worship in the sanctuary, outdoors twice a month, in the fellowship hall, in the parking lot, and streaming online. We're posting children's sermons and adult faith formation videos online, we've held meetings, bible studies, and lunch fellowship over zoom. I am immensely thankful for all of the technology that has

allowed us to worship, fellowship, and study together during this chaotic and challenging time. The truth is that we're never going back to a pre-pandemic world, many folks within the church believe the pandemic just sped along a reality that was already happening in terms of church life happening in part online, and certainly streaming worship is here to stay for the long run.

But I am finding myself pretty traditional in that I still believe that as the church we are better when we're together. Online worship and involvement will continue to be a blessing and a wonderful option when folks are homebound, have health concerns, are distant and unable to be present, and again, I am thankful for them, but there is an intimacy in relationship, a connection to our sisters and brothers, and often a deeper faith experience, that happens when we are able to be present. We join together in communal prayer, join voices in song and praise, share with and support one another before and after, and sometimes during, worship in ways that are hard to recreate online.

I think the biblical story supports this as well. While there was no internet in biblical times, at times God chose to speak through prophets and angels, or through visions and dreams. God was certainly very involved in the lives of God's people, still sustaining all creation, but also sometimes viewed as distant. The time God felt closest to God's people, and in turn the time when God's love became most clear to us, was when Jesus Christ was born into the world, incarnated, bodily present in the world. Christ was able to touch and heal, feed the hungry, sit down for shared meals with followers and sinners alike, able to wash the feet of the disciples, and tragically though graciously crucified and raised. God has always been present with God's people, but the way in which we most intimately and clearly were made aware of that abiding presence, love, and grace was in the bodily presence of Jesus Christ. Even now, the two places where we are most clearly promised to encounter Christ have a physical element to them, in the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

Being able to worship from home is a wonderful gift, especially during this time, and as we continue to wrestle with health concerns and the anxieties of being in group settings, or whatever your rationale might be, I don't want to make anyone feel guilty for choosing to worship in this way. It is good, and I am thankful for it for so many reasons. However, I still believe we are better when we are together, better able to experience Christ in community worship, better able to be in good relationship with our sisters and

brothers, better able to work together for the sake of the world.

So please take care of yourselves, whatever that looks like for you in these times. And if you're able, as we relearn patterns and routines, find ways to join in community as we join in worship and mission in Christ's name, be that indoors, outdoors, or in the parking lot and able to roll down the window and wave and speak to others and visit around worship. We're better when we're together.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

### COVID PROTOCOL UPDATES

- As of July 25th we no longer require registration for Sunday worship services. Therefore Worship registration emails will no longer be sent out each week.
- We will continue to mask while indoors. Masks will not be required outdoors with a possible exception of activities that do not allow distance for a significant time.
- We will sing! Continuing to follow the protocols of masks and distance allows us to sing in worship, an important part of Lutheran tradition and faith.
- We will continue to offer weekly parking lot and streaming options for worship, as well as outdoor worship on the first and third Sundays of each month.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
August 8th-11th / 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Rising K- Rising 6th graders



Join us as we take off to Mars and beyond and explore where God's power can take you!

ONLINE REGISTRATION IN EMAIL  
HOLY COMFORTER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Back to School Supplies Drive**  
July 18 - August 15

General School Supplies,  
disinfectants wipes, underwear & shoes.

Supporting Catawba Heights &  
North Belmont Elementary Schools  
**(K- 5th GRADES)**

Supply Drop-Off  
Holy Comforter Education Building



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church  
5 • 4 = 9  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9