



And just like that we are prepping for Advent and Christmas. Don't blink or you'll miss that too! I can't even believe that the joyful chaos is in full swing.

We are prepping for advent themed Sunday school, family devotions, midweek worship, and youth group. We have hung Christmas trees our Sunday school classrooms, decorated our youth room, and started youth handbells.

Each Wednesday in November the youth handbells practiced for the midweek worships in December.

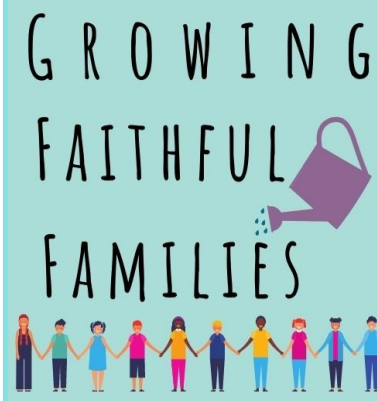
Our recent handbell practice was full of sweet chatter that I wanted to sit in for a while. Our kids brought up so many good comments and questions. It's eye-opening to hear our kids talk about how the last few years has affected them, mostly it's heartwarming to hear them encourage one another and care for their friends and neighbors.

Recently I was in a training where the leader said that kids are ready to process their feelings and to follow the rabbit hole because they feel safe to share.

I think that is true, our kids have been forming thoughts about what's going on and need a safe place to share them. What was powerful is the way they do that with one another, it gives me hope. Gabriel and Alex's conversation about school and checking in on one another during handbells gives me hope.

Our young people have experienced a world like no other in the last two years and they still care. Their encouragement of one other is what the early church needed to keep growing. I love getting to see the body of Christ care for one another even in the smallest of humans. As we move into advent, I pray that we will be encouraged to imitate that love and care.

Deacon Beka Forst



### Faithful Families Tip— An Advent Intention

Advent is a time of connection, family time, spiritual practices; and that can be hard. It's not easy to create a new routine in a routine. Before the hustle and bustle of this season takes off, take a few moments to set a family intention. For example, this Advent we will focus on the Advent values of hope, peace, joy, and love. Or, Every Sunday evening during advent, we will do a spiritual practice together like gathering around the advent wreath for highs and lows.



## December Newsletter

*“<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all  
that is therein. ~Psalm 96:11*

### Worship Opportunities for December

- Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.
- Outside Worship will be offered at 8:30 am on Sunday, December 6th and 20th.
- Advent Wednesday Worship will be offered December 1st, 8th, & 15th.  
Dinner at 6pm followed by worship at 6:45pm.
- 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.



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Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*  
Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*  
Sandra Askey, *Office Manager*



Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: 8:30 am-2:00 pm

# Music Notes

From Greg Cline

During the season of Advent we will be worshipping mid week using the Liturgy from "Unfailing Light." This communion service of worship is led by our church choir and members of our youth handbell ensemble. Choir members are seated up front and accompanied by keyboard. We invite everyone to join us for a congregational light dinner at 6:00 followed by worship at 6:45.

Our adult choral choirs and handbell ensemble have been hard at work preparing for our Advent and Christmas services of worship. When I think back on where we were a year ago at this time; not singing together as a congregation and choir, with very few meeting times that were not "Zoomed," I marvel at how far we have come. So while things are still not exactly where we wish them to be, we rejoice that God has brought us this far by faith in the word of His Son Jesus. Our choirs lead worship each week at our Sunday morning services of worship at 10:30. This year the choirs will offer special anthem compositions during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 P.M. The Prelude will begin at 10:45 P.M. Invite your family and friends to this service which we have offered to our congregational family and community for more than 100 years.

Greg Cline MD (Music Director)  
(704-860-4460)

## ADVENT MEAL & WORSHIP

Join us for advent dinner &  
worship on December 1st, 8th, 15th.

All Are Welcome

Dinner starts 6pm  
Worship starts 6:45pm

HOLY COMFORTER LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Nursery Attendant Search

After not hearing back from our previous attendant, we are now in search of a nursery attendant for Sunday mornings during Sunday School and Worship. If you know of someone who would serve well, please let the staff know.

### Outdoor Worship Services

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

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4pm Family Friendly  
11pm Candle light

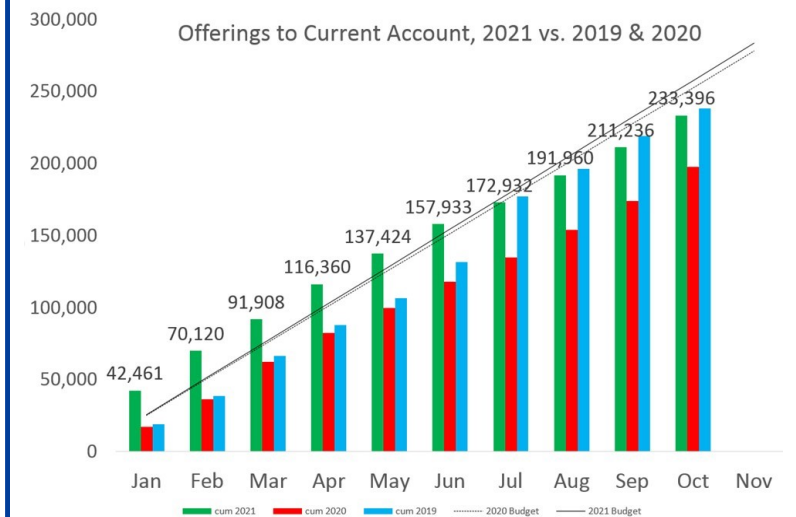
HOLY COMFORTER LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Treasurer's Report for October 2021

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during October was \$1,417.03. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$22,160.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2021 is \$25,767.00. Year-to-date spending, through October 31, was \$20,934.53 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.

Warren Heller

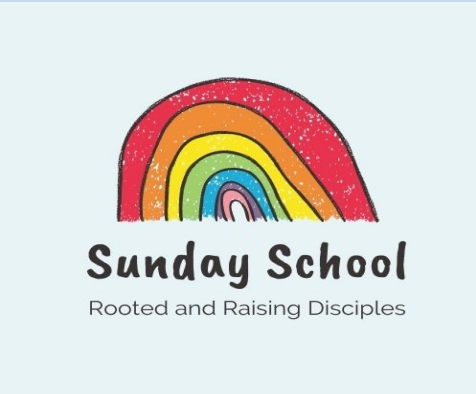
### Holy Comforter Treasurer Report



### Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on Thursday, December 9th at 10:30am. We will meet at Lynn and Ann Miller's home for the Christmas Party. *Contact the office for the address.* We will be looking at the gospel of Luke 3: 7-18. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!





Teachers are needed to help execute our plan for 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 Sunday School teacher this year. **For more information, contact Jill Cassel or Beka Forst.**

**Shout out to our new teachers this year, Katie Piscatelli, Rianna Nance, and Brittany Lewis! We are so thankful for your willingness to serve and share your gifts!**

**Discipleship Academy is for anyone!!**

Decembers class is a podcast about how doubt and questions are vital for a deep faith, and we'll explore some of the common topics that people have doubts and questions about. Reflection required.

For more information please contact Beka Forst or Pastor Micah.

The schedule below is our expected weekly programs and meetings. When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.

• **Sundays:**

9:30 am– Sunday School

10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary

5:00 pm-HCY/Discipleship Academy\*

5:00 pm-Handbells

6:00 pm-Church Choir

\*Service livestreamed on website and transmitted by radio to parking lot.

• **Tuesdays:**

7:00 pm- Nar-Anon

• **Wednesdays:**

4:00 pm- Adult Faith Formation afternoon video

7:00 pm– Chamber Choir

**Events to Note:**

- Sundays, December 6th, & 20th Outdoor Worship– 8:30am
- Prime Timers– December 9th 10:30am. Lynn & Ann Miller's Home.
- December 12th– Advent Exhibits 4pm
- Kids club begins December 5th (first Sundays of the month) at 4 pm.
- Discipleship Academy meets on the 4th Sunday @ 5 pm
- Wednesdays, December 1st, 8th, & 15th, Advent dinner and worship. 6p & 6:45pm
- December 19th—Christmas Caroling 3:30pm
- December 24th—Christmas Eve Services:
- 4pm– Family friendly
- 11pm- Candle Light.

*\*HCY meets the first three Sundays, Discipleship Academy meets the last Sunday of the month.*

**We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of December.**

**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.**

December 1	Madison Kelly
December 4	Anna Lineberger
December 5	Aaron Nault
December 7	Jackson Bryant
December 8	Nathan Kelly
December 9	Bob Koehler
December 11	Beth Brittain
December 12	Janet Achor
	Elizabeth Smith
December 15	Greg Cline
December 17	Mason Morton
December 24	Kurt Rogers
December 26	Beverly Robinson
December 27	Laura DiBiase
December 29	Trudy Whitener
	Lauren Schmaltz
	Elizabeth Schmaltz
December 30	Luke Via

**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.**



Grace and Peace,

Time has always operated in strange ways, moving more quickly than seemingly possible at times, and standing almost completely still at others. I'm pretty sure places like the DMV gave CS Lewis the idea for Narnia, because you enter inside and feel like you've spent a lifetime there, but you leave only moments later. The pandemic has seemed to exacerbate the oddities of time for me, seeming to have been going on forever at this point, while also time speeding by. For instance, if it weren't for the planning and preparation we've had to do, I wouldn't believe you if you told me Advent was upon us.

Even more than most years, Advent seems like the season of the church year we need right now. Advent itself seems to exist in two different times. All it is is a season that looks back and remembers a time while also looking forward in anticipation of another. For most folks, Advent is a season that is a countdown to Christmas, to a celebration of Christ's birth into the world. That is one appropriate view of Advent. We remember stories of anticipation of the messiah's birth and ministry as we, ourselves, anticipate the joyful celebration of the Incarnation, of God being born among us and with us. Along with remembering, however, is the anticipation in our own times, waiting for the time when Christ comes again to bring the kingdom to fruition in our world. Advent is a season existing in two times because all at once we look back and look forward.

Advent is perhaps the season we most need right now because in challenging times, with divisions at a boiling point and relationships strained, with our nation's resiliency put to the test, with environmental news seeming dire, it is a reminder to us that the best is still ahead for us.

That does not mean that challenging times aren't part of our future as well, but with the promise that Christ will bring God's kingdom to fruition on earth, and knowing that we have not fully experienced that yet, we know that the best, the kingdom, is ahead for us. Advent is a season of hope because it is a reminder that God is with us in Emmanuel as we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ which made that true for us, and it is a reminder that the best is yet to come.

For Christians, it is perfectly faithful to remember good times when we experience the love and grace of God through times of peace or joy, through relationships that were life-giving and Christ-revealing, but I don't know that it is faithful to want to go back to any point in our history, because the best, the kingdom, is ahead of us. Advent is a season of hope, and hope is a wonderful gift to give these days.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



Planting Hope

We have a small group of folks working on a draft of a purpose statement based on the conversation we had over lunch last month. That statement will come out soon, and we invite folks to take a look at it and think how it feels true for both who we are, and how we hope to grow forward. Early in 2022 we will work together to name our core values.

Together, these will shape our ministry and our evangelism as a congregation moving forward.