



outweighs the things I was excited about. 2020 wasn't all bad though, Taylor Swift released two albums in the year. Okay, okay... we got a lot of quality family time. We got to really connect with our relationships. We got to stretch our baking skills, home gyms, found new hobbies, had babies, and had plenty of opportunities to experience God's grace.

I can tell you firsthand I experienced the God's grace part all year long. Some of you may remember that I was on internship this year and what a year to do it?! I had all of these goals, all of these ideas and fun ways for us to connect and then March hit. I was looking forward to exploring new faith formation and worship opportunities together and then March hit. I looked forward to trying new things when I preached and maybe even trying to preach out of the pulpit, walking around, without a script then March hit. Now I know I keep saying March hit but between March and the New Year I can't even begin to list all of the things that I got to experience. I got to really practice my

There are a lot of reasons I am glad that 2020 is over. Honestly? The list of things I'm glad are over

preaching, I learned that I love creating faithful curriculum for our families to do together, I got to learn a lot about the world around me and share in learning together. I got to take time and learn from our young people, I got to send cards to folks I love and miss, I got to call people I hadn't talk to in a long time. 2020 was hard, no doubt about it. We can't forget 2020 though, too much good has happened too, like babies, hobbies, family time, and God's unmerited grace. March hit and we got time we will likely never have again. Now that we are moving into 2021, we can take all that we learned from 2020 and put it into play. We can acknowledge priorities, we can have harder and more faithful conversations, and we can continue to love the people around us. We can't forget 2020, too much good happened.

Beka Forst, Youth and Family Ministries

Faithful Families Tip

New Year, New Opportunities.

-As a family, pick one book of the bible and try to read through it this year. Talk about the story that is unfolding in the book before you. Maybe you do it little by little, maybe you read it multiple times this year but let this book be the grounding of your family devotion time.



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



“moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.”

-Ecclesiastes 3:13

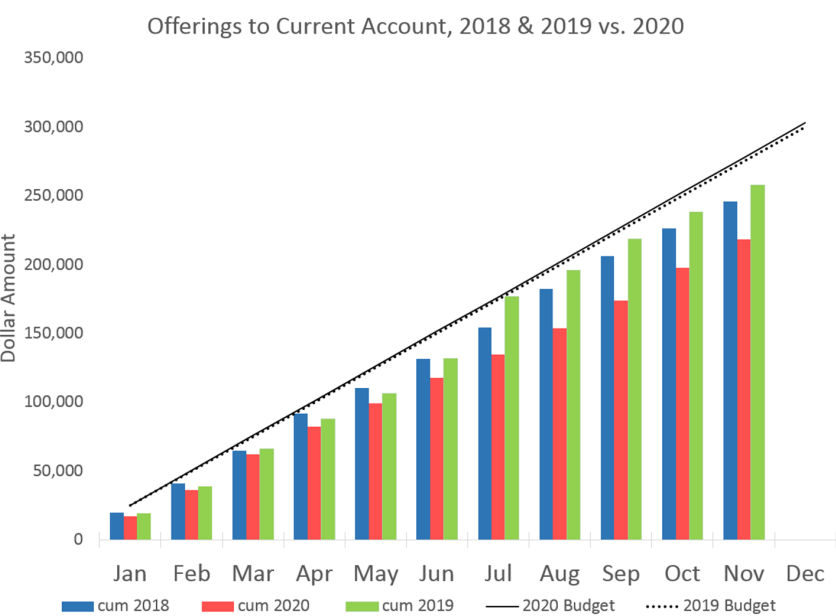
Worship Opportunities for January

- Worship is offered each Sunday at 10:30 am. If you'd like to attend in person, please register ahead of time either through your email or with the church office.
- Each service is livestreamed on the website and transmitted to the parking lot over the radio and communion is served to those present.

Holy Comforter Treasurer Report

Holy Comforter’s operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during November was \$1,641.41. The year-to-date deficit, through November 30, was \$12,268.20. Year-to-date spending, curtailed because of the pandemic, was \$47,043.22 below the amount planned in the 2020 budget. Total giving to support Holy Comforter’s routine expenses during November was \$21,107.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month is \$25,281.08. 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



From Your Parish Nurse...



Happy New Year to you all! We’ve waited, we’ve been good, we’ve followed the “new normal” rules, and we’ve gone through trials, loneliness, and losses as we anticipated the coming of a new – and better – year. As we carried that hope, God brought us safely into 2021, a year that promises to be full of blessings. But we have to do our part, too, which means caring for our bodies. You know how to do that... don’t smoke, eat your fruits and veggies, cut back on salt, get plenty of exercise, limit the fat in your diet, get regular annual checkups, reduce the amount of soda you drink, work at keeping your blood pressure down, protect your skin from the sun, and so on. You’ve heard these before, so I’ll not dwell on them. Let’s, instead start 2021 off with a little health humor...laughter IS the best medicine, after all:

Twass the week after Christmas and all through the house,
nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The cookies I’d nibbled, the eggnog I’d taste.
All the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).
I’d remember the marvelous meals I’d prepared:
the gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I’d never said, “No thank you, please.”
So—away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruitcake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won’t have a cookie—not even a lick.
I’ll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won’t have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,
I’ll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I’m hungry, I’m lonesome, and life is a bore—
But isn’t that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

(Author Unknown)

Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse

MUSIC NOTES

December 2020 Musical Notes...



Out with the old...In with the new! Amen to that! I have proclaimed that I shall not be ringing in the new year, but rather "wringing out the old." For comparison sake, at this time last year the choirs of Holy Comforter were just going into recovery from the Advent/Christmas season. We also were preparing for our regional choir concert with the National Lutheran Choir. We did manage to participate in that event, then days later were silenced by the virus of the century.

This year certainly starts out on a different latitude: Our music ministries will observe the following:



Church Choir: January 10 @ 6:00 Choir Zoom Reunion
Handbell Choir: January 24 @ 5:00 will resume rehearsals through the season of Epiphany and into Lent.

As you know worship looks very different at the moment. All of our ministries operate currently in various modes of creativity. I pray that we continue to look to God as our hope to be delivered from the plague that grips us. The vaccine manufacturers can certainly be a vehicle to be used as a hoped for end to our isolation, but ultimately the childhood hymn still prevails..."He's got the Whole World in His Hands."Greg Cline

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 24th we will have our congregational meeting to accept the 2020 report. It will take place immediately following the 10:30 worship service, and will take place in the parking lot with an ability to listen on your radio. If you need a link to participate via Zoom, let us know. These meetings are generally fairly brief, but we need you to be a part of it!

Daily Devotionals

Daily Devotionals from Augsburg Fortress called "Christ in Our Homes" are available at the church. You may pick one up during worship, in the metal box outside the office doors, or upon request from the office.

Weekly Schedule-

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
 - 4:00 pm- Kid's Club Zoom Faith Formation
 - 5:00 pm- HCY Zoom Faith Formation
- **Mondays:**
 - 6:30 pm- PEP Exercise Class over Zoom
- **Tuesdays:**
 - Noon-Zoom lunch together. A time to check in and be in fellowship with one another
 - 7:00-Nar-Anon
- **Wednesdays:**
 - 7:00 pm-Adult Faith Formation
- **Thursdays:**
 - 7:45 am-Morning Prayer Gathering

Events of Note:

- On January 24th we will have a congregational meeting in the parking lot immediately following the service. It will be conducted similar to our November meeting.

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of

January.

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

January 1	Jake Ewing
	Marybeth Kokanovich
January 4	Jason Shoemaker
January 5	Joan Irwin
January 7	Mary Lee
January 9	Chuck Kimball
January 10	Charles Mauney
	Brandy Milton
	Becky Richards
January 15	Zaneta Sarrazin
January 18	Jerri Wesson
	Carmen De Nicholas
January 19	Faye Heller
January 21	Jane Howard
	Paul Nault
	Travis Rhyne
January 24	Jill Cassel
January 25	Ryan Nelson
January 26	Matthew Carr
January 29	Gina Rhyne



Grace and peace,

2020 was a difficult one for a whole host of reasons, but one of them includes when it came to our routines. For many of us our normal routines, whether created intention-

ally or the ones that came about organically, were thrown entirely out the window. Work patterns, travel plans, work out routines, social patterns, even grocery shopping, were among many other routines that changed dramatically as we adjusted to life in a pandemic. Certainly our faith routines changed dramatically as well, with worship happening online, then in parking lots, and even when offered again in the sanctuary looking much different than normal, and fellowship and faith formation happening almost entirely online. Some people deliberately created new routines as they figured out how to adjust and care for themselves and others during this time, while others simply let things fall to the side.

I say all this because as we move into 2021 and we at least are seeing some hope of retaking a sense of normalcy as vaccines begin to get distributed, I'm thinking, and if I'm honest worrying a bit, about our routines. Every New Years gets treated a bit like a restart, as we make resolutions about what we want our lives to look like in the new year. While it won't all happen at once, 2021 will offer a natural point to be introspective about where we are, and where we want to be, and provide an opportunity for us to be very intentional about our routines, about the patterns our lives take on. We have a chance to take up routines that are life-giving for us, things like worship, devotions, time in community, exercise, acts of mercy and generosity, and also a chance to let go of or let die things that were never very life-giving to begin with.

Routines matter. The things that we choose to participate in, the people we surround ourselves with, the information we take in, all shape the way we see the world, see others around us, and see ourselves. It will still be a while before things feel "normal" again, whatever that means, and we can gather in large groups without actual risk to our health or our neighbors and also without the anxiety that comes with it right now. Some of the routines and patterns that we want to be a part of might need to wait. But we can still be intentional about them, making plans for what routines we want to be a part of, what things are life-giving for us and our neighbors, as well as what routines have been unhealthy and need to die. We will likely find some of those things are possible now, without waiting. Also, remember that "fake it 'til you make it" is a biblical principle," when Jesus, in Matthew's gospel, tells us

that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Shape your routines around the things that will help you become the person you want to be, or rather, the person God has called and created you to be.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



This January, our congregational council is getting the book *Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity* by Pastor Mike Ward to read. We will be using this book, as well as a program Pastor Ward has shaped, to talk about stewardship with the congregation. This program will talk about money, but it will also include important conversations about mission and how we communicate that mission with the congregation and beyond. We are looking forward to this conversation as a council and congregation.