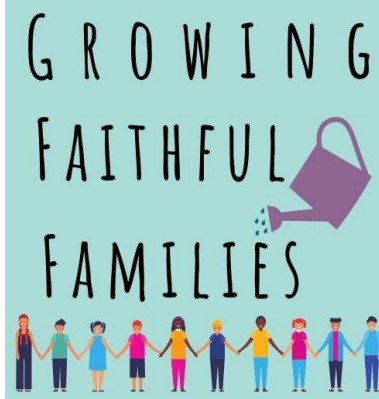


How is October over?! Where did the time go? How are we already looking towards advent and Christmas? HOW are we already talking about the Youth Gathering? In the month of October, we have continued with our in-person Sunday school classes, with new teachers, fun curriculum, and the best giggles. We have resumed children's church outside under the tent. We've seen the full circle faith walk in the baptism of Amelia and Raylan Lewis, the confirmation of Winston Baker, and our community continuing to gather in milestones. We gathered for visioning and lunch. Lastly, we gathered for Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. I think this is evident that life is happening around here.

Last week I was talking with someone who had recently spent some time upstairs in the education building and they said that there was so much to look at up there. They continued to say that it looks like so much life is happening, it looks

warm. We have decorated our hallway and rooms with posters, floor dots, and welcome signs, and affirmations. There is a hopscotch with all the books of the bible taped to the floor. The intention behind all the color and décor is to allow this space of learning to feel warm and inviting. It's safe to say that the last 19 months haven't been what we expected and while ministry looks different, this space is still a space where all belong. There is a sign on the doors that says, "Welcome to the Kid-dom, where everyone is a Child of God". This life that lives in these spaces isn't because of the color or the décor, it's God moving. Its God moving and being present in all these places of growth, curiosity, and fun. Sunday school is good. People teaching and learning is good. God in this place is good. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am to see what God is up to in this place.

Deacon Beka Forst



Faithful Families Tip— Teaching By Color

Before kids can even understand the story of lent, Pentecost, or advent, surround them with the colors of these festivals. Dress them in red on Pentecost or Reformation Day, eat red foods, find all the red blocks or balls, buy red balloons, and use red crayons. During the "green" growing season in the time after Pentecost, there are plenty of opportunities to find connections with green- grass, flowers, trees, clothes, even Oscar the grouch or other favorite tv characters. Point out when they match the decorations at church.



Lutheran Church of the

Holy Comforter COMMENT

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor *email: mkearney@holyc.org*
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship



"⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope."

Psalms 19:14

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Worship Opportunities for November

- Worship is offered each Sunday at 10:30 am.
- Outside Worship will be offered at 8:30 am on Sunday, November 7th and 21st.
- 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.
- November 3rd All Saints Sunday, when we remember those who have died and joined the church triumphant.

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

Music Notes

From Greg Cline

For several days during the second week in November, the crew that built our pipe organ will arrive from Indianapolis and take over our Sanctuary to do much needed maintenance on the instrument. We have postponed this mechanical overhaul for several years due to failure of the old HVAC system and then the lockdown of our worship space in 2020. We now celebrate the upcoming 30th year since the installation of the "new organ." What a time that was to watch the transformation of our worship space to accommodate a musical instrument that would contain 1883 pipes and weigh 22,000 pounds. There is a homemade video of the construction and installation which can be accessed on the church website. It is a personal joy to help lead worship with this "King of Instruments."

Several from our youth handbell ensemble this year are new ringers. They have been rehearsing at home for a number of weeks using CD's, musical scores, and practice bells in preparation for our upcoming Advent services of worship during the month of December. We will be rehearsing together on Wednesdays in November at 6:00. More details in coming weeks.

Our handbell ensemble, as well as members of our chamber choir, often sport 100% attendance. Many of these folk are in multiple ensembles within the church. Along with the adult church choir it has been beyond inspirational to be singing together again in worship. While our choir ranks have diminished, as has attendance in worship and full participation from ministries across the congregation, we rejoice in the opportunity that God has once again given us to come together in fellowship to worship and praise our Savior. It is interesting that the Bible mentions singing hundreds of times throughout the Old and New Testament. In an article by Tony Reinke, senior writer for DesiringGod.org, many of those passages

are contained within the book of Psalms. Did you know that Jesus sang? Both are short passages...Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26. We see that Jesus sang a hymn with the disciples at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper, just before he went out to pray on the Mount of Olives. Speculation has it that it was likely a portion of Psalm 114-118 sung antiphonally, meaning Jesus led the men by singing a line, and the disciples responding by singing a "Hallelujah." Back and forth they marched through a psalm in song, a customary finale to a Passover meal together.

Many visitors comment about the beauty of our Liturgy which requires so much participation from not only choir and clergy, but for those from the front to the back pew. As has been said, "Lutheran worship is not a spectator sport!" So, let us continue to lift our voice as Jesus did..."Till All the World Adore His Sacred Name."

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

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



Join us on Sunday, November 7th at 8:30 am or 10:30 am to remember those who have gone before us. The last 19 months have been like no other, and few people have been unaffected by it. This year for All Saints Sunday, we invite you to bring a photo or small memento of people you love that have joined the church triumphant, whether they were members of Holy Comforter or not. We will display these photos during worship on November 7th as we remember these saints.

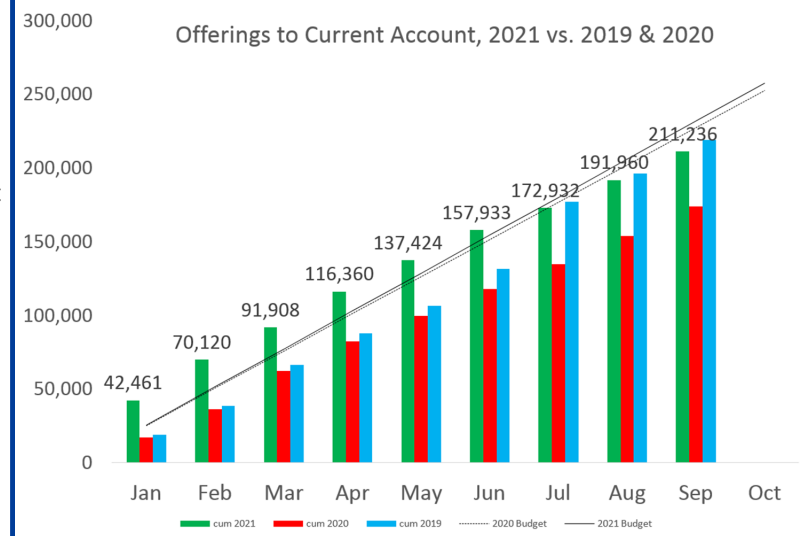


Treasurer's Report for September 2021

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during September was \$3,797.32. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$19,276.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2021 is \$25,767.00. Year-to-date spending, through September 30, was \$18,744.56 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, November 11 at 10:30am. We will meet under the tent in the courtyard, and will be looking at the gospel of Mark 13:1-8. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!

INTEREST MEETING

2022 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING


boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

NOVEMBER 3RD AT 7 PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOR ALL RISING 9TH-12TH
GRADERS.

Hey, it's me again.
Are you coming
to Kids Club? I
really hope so!

Kids Club meets
Sunday, Nov.
7th at 4 pm!



Sunday School

Rooted and Raising Disciples

Teachers 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 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!

Traditions

Why we do
what we do.

Discipleship
Academy

Discipleship Academy is for anyone!!

November’s class will be on the Traditions! This credit will explore why we do what we do in worship. Why it matters and where it comes from in Scripture.

Join us on November 28th at 5 pm.
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, November 7th and 23rd – Outdoor Worship, 8:30am
- Prime Timers– November 11th 10:30am (under the tent)
- Kids club begins November 7th (first Sundays of the month) at 4 pm.
- Discipleship Academy meets on the 4th Sunday @ 5 pm
- A Thanksgiving meal will take place after worship on November 21st, and we will decorate for Advent after.

**HCY meets the first three Sundays, Discipleship*

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.

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of November.
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.

November 1	Donna Bean
November 2	Beckham Bryant
November 3	Brad Milton
November 4	Declan Nance
November 5	Debbie Mendez
November 6	Jennifer Kearney
	Debbie Bray
	Tom Nance
November 8	Jim Buell
November 9	Amelia Hyman
November 11	Owen Shoemaker
November 12	Greg Byrum
	Judy Caldwell
	Libby Joye
	Collins Lugue
	Mary Yavelak
November 13	Stacy Kirby
November 15	Leslie Lugue
	Kodie Nelson
November 16	Dylan Fox
November 18	Brian Anchor
November 19	Nathaniel Kearney
	Danny Potter
November 20	Lucy Mitchell
November 21	Jordan Doctor
November 23	Cheryl Fox
November 25	Mallory Morton
November 27	Sue Lahr
November 29	Rickie Neagle
November 30	Sabrina Starnes



When I watch the covid numbers declining lately, both in terms of new cases and deaths, I honestly don't know whether to say I am excited, or relieved, or even still hesitant. A bit of all of them probably. Back in July I let myself believe the pandemic was almost over, only to have numbers skyrocket soon after with the Delta variant. I celebrate the decline in numbers and hope we're towards the end of this, but I've been fooled before. Our emotions have been all over the place during this time as we've wrestled with our fears, our hopes, our frustrations, our anger, our loneliness, and more. For many people, along with the highs and lows of emotions and the stress of an ever-changing dynamic in most parts of our lives, came anxiety and depression.

The CDC says that in February 2021 41.5% of adults were experiencing instances of recent symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, and many believe that number has and will rise as the pandemic drags on and the ramifications of it go on even longer. Mental health struggles are not only in adults, as children and youth are dealing with similar issues from the pandemic in an identity-defining time in their lives. Even if we may not fall into these statistics, few people would say they've been at their best in the past year and a half, and many are tired, physically and mentally.

I say all this as a reminder that mental health matters, and should not be something that we ignore and put on the back burner. It mattered to Jesus too. Some people interpret demon possession in the gospels as folks who struggled with mental health, and we still use that language when people deal with mental health issues like addiction. But even if that's not what was meant by the term, when Jesus talked about people being made whole, it was an all-encompassing term which meant not only physically, but also mentally, spiritually, and communally as well. Our mental health matters not only as our society works to recognize it, but it mattered to Jesus as well, even if he used different language for it.

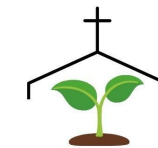
Our faith has a part to play in our mental health. In a world that inundates us with information and opinions, where bad news dominates social media and news media because it makes people money, connecting with our faith story can be quite healing for our mental health. When the narrative we read seems like a hopeless one, reconnecting with our faith can remind us that in Christ there is always hope. In a world where we can feel alone even when surrounded by

crowds of people, reconnecting with our faith reminds us that God is always with us as the Spirit moves in and around us. In a world that feels more and more out of our control, reconnecting with our faith reminds us that God is in control and moving the world to be a truer reflection of the kingdom. I believe reconnecting with our faith and with God in things like prayer, scripture, devotion, worship, time in nature, time in faith communities, time with in music that connects us to our faith, reminds us that there is a narrative that the world is not telling, and one that can reassure us in times when we struggle and the world feels like too much.

That is not to say that if we are strong in faith that we will not struggle with mental health. Living in a broken world can be hard, and sometimes the work of God to make us well looks like reaching out to friends we can trust, looks like healthy boundaries and asking for time off when you need it, looks like self-care, looks like finding a trained counselor or therapist who can help you understand yourself and what you're going through, taking medication that helps you function and be present for friends and family, and for yourself, in the ways you want and deserve. It is perfectly acceptable to love and believe in God and see a therapist. God wants you to be whole in body, mind, spirit, and community. You are worth it.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah



Planting Hope

After worship on October 21st, everyone was invited to attend a conversation around Holy Comforter's purpose, identity, and core values. The group that participated had a very fruitful conversation around our purpose, so much so that we didn't get to our core values. Danielle Denise, director of Evangelical Mission for the NC Synod led us in the discussion, and will return to talk about core values around the start of the year.

Concerning our purpose, folks lifted up things like: Welcoming, A love for serving others, Seeing everyone as a child of God and looking past bias, being inclusive, being a place to grow, and a place to be affirmed and encouraged. A group will take this input and the conversation we had and create a draft purpose statement for Holy Comforter, and we will have a time to try it out a bit.

The purpose statement, as well as the core values we name soon, will be used to shape the ministry of Holy Comforter for years to come. We are excited about these conversations, and for the ministry Christ has in store for us as a community of disciples.