

It has been almost 19 months since our young people have had regularly scheduled programming. It has been 19 months since kids were giggling in classrooms, learning through playing, and spending quality time with teachers and their friends. Our first day of in-person Sunday school felt good. There were a few new things to adjust to and new technology to practice using but all in all it felt good to be in the room safely with kids.

Our next feat is working on getting Children's church and Nursery back on their feet. This task will take some time, help, and patience. Right now, we are looking into making sure we have a paid nursery staff in there every week, with the potential of 8 kids in there each week we will need reliability. While we are looking for a reliable nursery attendant, these ministries won't continue without your help. We need leaders to serve in our nursery and with Children's church. These

ministries are two of the simplest and easiest ways to care for the faith and safety of our smallest members and visitors. Lastly, we ask your patience as we work towards these things being back to availability to our young members and families, but this may take some time as we work out logistics.

While church continues to be a work in progress, there is life in our buildings again and for that I give thanks. There are young people and adults learning, there are teachers using their gifts to love our young people and is God moving in this place. Church being a work in progress isn't new, we are always growing and changing. God continues to dwell in and among us, and programming being a work in progress is proof of that.

If you would like to get involved in our children or youth ministry, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Deacon Beka Forst

GROWING FAITHFUL FAMILIES



Faithful Families Tip- Mealtime Prayers

Keep photos of friends, family, church family, or favorite memories close by your mealtime table, at the beginning of the meal pull out pictures from the basket. Each family member gets a photo and talks about the people, events, or memories in their pictures. At the end of your sharing, say a prayer of thanksgiving for all that these photos hold for your family.



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



"¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

Volume 42 /No. 10

Worship Opportunities for October

- Worship is offered each Sunday at 10:30 am.
- Outside Worship will be offered at 8:30 am on Sunday, October 3rd and 17th.
- 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.
- October 31st is Reformation Sunday, and we celebrate the Confirmation of Winston Baker.

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

From Greg Cline

Looks like many of the ministries at Holy Comforter are in the process of restarting. Speaking exclusively with regard the music ministry I can't help but compare this to the automobile, or some similar type of mechanized machine. No matter how well built, this equipment is at it's best when running regularly and with recommended maintenance. If enclosed and not functioning for a year or two in a garage one would most likely notice a difference in performance, and probably be in need of attention; to be driven a little slower at first...before attempting to break the speed limit.

We are slowly easing the choir ministry duties back into service, doing our level best to try and not overwhelm folks who may not have taken vocal chords out for a test run, as in the good ole days. It has been wonderful to feature the choir, and even the entire congregation singing the hymns "with one voice," utilizing Tim Baker's skill at archiving worship services over the past eight years. We have a phenomenal group from our handbell, chamber and church choir ensembles who are returning to lead the congregation in song. Through these ministers we are truly blessed and grateful as a congregational family. Things are a bit different right now in the choral choirs, from masking to now rehearsing in the fellowship hall. We will continue to perfect our gifts and with the help of God to one day sing and hug unmasked. What a glorious day that will be!

We are in search for 6 - 10 youth (grade 4 and up) who would be willing to help lead our services of worship during the Advent season. "Unfailing Light" is the

service liturgy which we have used for several years in the past. Rehearsals would take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 during the month of November. The services of worship would take place on the first three Wednesday evenings in December. Please contact me directly if your child would be interested in participating. I can answer whatever questions or concerns you may have. We will make a decision in mid October regarding implementation of this group based on response.

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

Important Congregational Conversation!

We invite everyone to come and be a part of a congregational conversation on Sunday, October 24th. This is a continuation of some conversations started pre-pandemic, and has to do with naming Holy Comforter's core values, identity, and purpose. Danielle Denise, Director of Evangelical Mission for the NC Synod, will be here to guide the conversation.

This is an important meeting for our congregation, and will guide the work that we do moving forward and how we feel called to live into Christ's commandment to love one another, both within our Holy Comforter community and in the world beyond.

More information on exact time will follow as we coordinate with Danielle's schedule, but please plan on being in town on October 24th to join us.

We are working to have a Zoom option for folks who aren't able to be there in person.

Reformation Sunday- October 31st

Reformation Sunday is October 31st, when we give thanks for the work of reformers throughout the church's history who have helped recenter our worship and work around Christ, particularly for us we give thanks for the work of Martin Luther. We gather Sunday, October 31st to celebrate our ever reforming church with a meal following the service.

We hope to see y'all there.

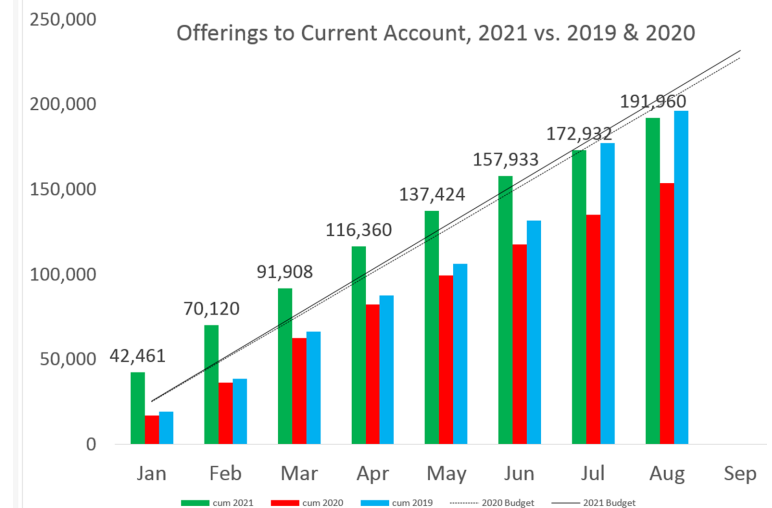


Treasurer's Report for August 2021

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during August was \$4,355.89. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$19,027.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2021 is \$25,767.00. Year-to-date spending, through August 31, was \$16,025.88 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, October 14th at 10:30am. We will meet under the tent in the courtyard, and will be looking at the gospel of Mark 10:35-45. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!



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

Discipleship Academy

Wholeness Wheel

Discipleship Academy is for anyone!!

October’s class will be on the Wholeness Wheel!

This credit will explore what it means to care for ourselves as creations in God’s images.

Join us on October 24th at 5 pm.

For more information please contact Beka Forst or Pastor Micah.

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!

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 (first three Sundays of the month)
5:00 pm– Discipleship Academy (last Sunday of the month)
5:00 pm-Handbells , HCY*
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, October 3rd and 17th – Outdoor Worship, 8:30am
 - Prime Timers– October 14th 10:30am (under the tent)
 - Kids club begins October 3rd (first Sundays of the month) at 4 pm.
 - Discipleship Academy meets on the 4th Sunday @ 6pm

HCY meets the first three Sundays*

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 October.

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.

October 1	Ellen Fleming
October 1	Andres Mendez
October 2	Garrett Buell
October 3	Lauren Shoemaker
October 4	Mark Reese
October 5	Larry Siglar
October 7	Catherine Carr
October 7	Tripp Hyman
October 8	John Lee
October 10	Tim Kelly
October 11	Evan Kelly
October 11	Pat Roberson
October 14	Jean Ferguson
October 14	Linda Grimsley
October 14	Jeff Howard
October 21	George Keller
October 22	Taylor Gross
October 23	Eva Kline
October 23	Carson Potter
October 23	Noah Rogers
October 24	Renee Carpenter
October 26	Carole Jolley
October 27	Kay Holden
October 28	Andrew Bryant
October 30	Micah Kearney
October 30	Shawn DeNicholas
October 31	Kurt Scholler
October 31	Gary Rogers



Grace and Peace,

Do you remember a couple of years ago when you would occasionally hear about this program we were participating in with the synod called “Planting Hope?” Perhaps not, it was a decently long time ago by now, or you may be one of our members who joined in the pandemic. The program is intended to help congregations think through their identity and purpose. Now, obviously our identity is as children of God, and our purpose is to follow Christ, but there are wide varieties of ways congregations are called to do that. The traditions of the congregation, the gifts of the members, the passions of the people, and the needs and context of the community around it might all dictate how a particular congregation is called in a particular time and place. Well in the spring of 2020 we were just making plans to have someone come and help us do that work as a congregation to put words to who we are as Holy Comforter, and what our particular purpose is in Belmont for the next number of years. And then the pandemic hit, and we hit the pause button.

For a while we were waiting for things to get back to something like normal. We were learning new skills, adjusting all the time, and trying to figure out how to worship and do ministry during a pandemic. Things still aren’t back to normal, and perhaps the normal we once knew will not be the normal that we will come to know. For a while “survival” seemed a decent enough goal in the midst of the chaos, and we would work on making progress when the chaos died down. Well, things are still chaotic, but after 18 months we are also tired of treading water.

On October 24th we will have Danielle Denise, the Director of Evangelical Mission for the NC Synod, leading us in a conversation about identity, what are the core things that make us who we are, as well as our purpose, how we do we feel uniquely called in this time and place. Are we family-centered? Are we a community of comfort for the broken? Is music an important part of our life together? It will be exciting to see how we identify ourselves, as well as how we discern that God is calling us to live out that identity for the sake of the gospel and the world around us.

This conversation will help us in many ways. Having good language for who we are and how we are called by God will help us in evangelism conversations, talking with others in our community about who we are and inviting them to be a part of our ministry and community. It will help us shape the ministry that we are a part of, being intentional to have programs that are in line with our identity and purpose. It will help in our service to our neighbors, extending the gospel that

we live out to those beyond the walls of our community. Holy Comforter is a special community of folks who care deeply for each other and such a heart of care, and I am excited about a conversation that will energize our ministry and untap our potential, helping us to faithfully and joyfully live into God’s call for us as individuals and as a congregation of the Body of Christ. I invite you, encourage you, and maybe even beg you a little bit, to come and be a part of this ministry-shaping conversation after church on October 24th.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

Celebrating a Confirmand

We give thanks for Winston Baker, as he will be confirmed on October 31st. Winston has completed his classes in Confirmation while doing so throughout a challenging year. His project included doing lighting and landscaping work around the front gate and sign at Lutheridge.



COVID PROTOCOL UPDATES

- 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.