



As I reflect on the last months and the ministry projects we have done and worked on, it reminds me how much I love my call. I love all the intentionality that goes into learning about pandemic ministry, all the excitement that comes with decorating classrooms and hallways, and all the creative preparation that made VBS a smashing success.

We spent 4 evenings learning about going beyond in faith through reading about Daniel, Esther, Jesus, and his friends. We talked about faith, hope, thankfulness, and boldness with puppets, miming, and games! It was a week packed of music, crafts, games, bible studies. Some of my favorite reflections of the week are from several youth and kids.

- Millie Kline said that VBS was her favorite thing.
- Erin Cassel said she was so glad to be back with her friends.
- Mason Morton said he has a lot of fun doing the crafts.
- Tripp Hyman loved getting to do music rotations with Mr. Greg.

Lucy Bocchino, Eva Kline, Jack Bryant, Leah Koehler, and Mallory Morton were fearless leaders in games, photographers each night, water balloon preppers, craft magicians and so much more, and each night they had time to catch up for a daily chat. Watching them transition to these leadership roles was incredible. I was amazed at their willingness to serve the church. I loved getting to sit front row to them being the body of Christ through servant leadership. Behind the scenes work isn't meant to be seen, but it is what makes ministry go forward. Allowing our young people to participate in VBS in this special way is building up leaders in the church and them living into their faith while being the body of Christ. The living God is present in this place and that is evident our young people, for this I am thankful.

If you are looking for a place to get plugged in as we prepare to gather in person, I pray that you will discern what your leadership could mean to our formation and outreach ministries. There is always a place for you here.

God's Peace,
Deacon Beka Forst



Lutheran Church of the

Holy Comforter COMMENT

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Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship



"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us"

Ephesians 5:1-2a

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Worship Opportunities for September

- Worship is offered each Sunday at 10:30 am.
- Outside Worship will be offered at 8:30 am on Sunday, September 5th and Sunday, September 19th.
- 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

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

**GROWING
FAITHFUL
FAMILIES**



Faithful Families Tip-

Seasons of the Church Year at Home

For each season of the Church year, there is a different color. Advent is blue, Christmas is white/gold, Epiphany is green, Lent is purple, Easter is white/ gold, the time after Epiphany and Pentecost (Ordinary Time) is green.

For each season, you can change your tablecloth or table decor to that season's color.

Hard to believe that the summer of 2021 actually ends this month. It has been a very different year, but for me and my immediate family it has certainly been a dramatic improvement from 2020. Many ways of progression in our worship hour are currently in place. While we continue to mask out of safety concern for all, we are singing again as a congregation. This one aspect alone is beyond words. Wonderful as our pipe organ is, and it is a blessing for me to be able to lead with such an instrument, it never sounds better than when engaged with the human voice.

I recently attended Lutheridge for music retreat. They went around the room and asked how many years folks had attended. This was my 55th year at camp. Yes, I started camp as an infant! They said they would have to mail me my personal "55" patch...not too many calls for that one. There were only about 50 participants this year, but the singing was just as inspiring as with 3 times the attendance. This years theme was, "All Creation Sings," from the latest new ELCA supplement publication which happens about every 20 years, or so. I was proud to share that our church choir had already recorded a dozen songs from this collection, and had been utilizing and introducing these chorales this summer during services of worship.

So what happens now...Our church choir will meet in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 29 @ 6:00 for a singing reunion. As always all ensembles will continue to mask while indoors.

Our chamber choir members will gather again on Tuesday, September 7 @ 7:00 in the fellowship hall. Adult Handbell Ensemble will resume in the balcony

on Sunday, September 12 @ 5:00.

One of the changes that may be more noticeable is that the church choir for the foreseeable future will not be gathering in the choir room, but will gather for worship preparation in the balcony @ 10:10 on Sunday morning beginning in September. This is not the most optimal situation due to noise and interruptions, but is temporarily necessary due to space challenges during the pandemic. So feel free to gather in the your pew as the choir makes a joyful noise. Please understand that this is actually a rehearsal moment before worship, and not gathering music.

Thanks to all of our church musicians who are able to participate in their traditional leadership roles this fall and winter. Soli Deo Gloria!

Parish Nurse News

After much discernment, Teresa Keller, our parish nurse, has decided it's time for her to transition out of her role on staff. Teresa has served as a parish nurse in churches for more than twenty years, the last few of which we were graced with having her serve here. She's ushered health ministry projects, assisted and advocated for many members with various health and life concerns. She has truly been an instrument of Christ in her work.

Teresa and George aren't going anywhere and will continue as members here, and she will continue to offer PEP Exercise class as such.

We give thanks for Teresa's work and care in her time on staff as parish nurse, and wish her all the best as she transitions out of it and into a normal membership role.



FREE

Yoga on the Lawn

With

David & Heather Povinelli

Saturday Mornings

From 8-9 am



All Are Welcome

PEP

People Exercising for a Purpose


Fun, Fellowship, & Conversation

NO HUFFING, NO PUFFING, NO BOUNCY MOVEMENTS

ALL EXERCISE CAN BE DONE SEATED, IF NEEDED

Join the Health Ministry and add exercise to your life!

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

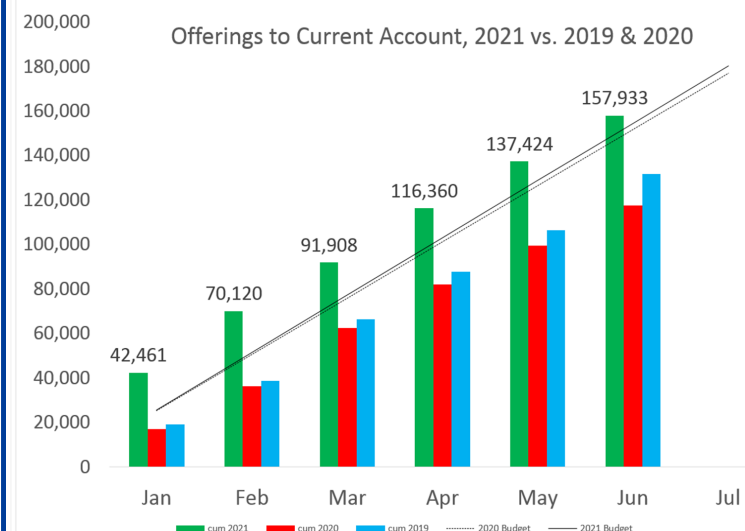


Treasurer's Report for July 2021

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during July was \$7,255.10. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$17,635.50. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2021 is \$25,767.00. Year-to-date spending, through July 31, was \$13,641.77 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, September 9th at 10:30am. We will meet under the tent in the courtyard, and will be looking at the gospel of Mark 8:27 -38. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

Sept. 12
2021

Join us Sunday, September 12th for God's Work Our Hands Sunday! This Sunday we will head out to different projects in Belmont to love our community. Project options are

Signs of Hope

Serving dinner at Salvation Army

Trash Pickup

Clean the vans at House of Mercy

Baked goods for first responders

Sign ups are available online and in the Narthex. For more information contact Beka Forst or Brittany Lewis. We hope to see you on Sunday, September 12 for lunch and service!

Discipleship Academy is for anyone!!

Our first class of the new year is a Bible 102 class!

Discipleship Academy is our new program to equip students for Confirmation. Learners will take a deep look at Jesus' teachings through parables and sermons to get a full scope understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Join us on September 28th at 7 pm

For more information please contact Beka Forst or Pastor Micah.

We are so excited for our Faith Formation year to begin on September 19th. 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 Sunday School teacher this year. For more information, contact Jill Cassel or Beka Forst.

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 (beginning Sept 19)

10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary

5:00 pm-HCY (beginning Sept. 19)

5:00 pm-Handbells (beginning Sept 19)

6:00 pm-Church Choir (beginning Sept 19)

*Service livestreamed on website and transmitted by radio to parking lot.
- Mondays:**

6:30pm PEP Exercise Classes via Zoom-Classes
- Tuesdays:**

7:00 pm- Nar-Anon

7:00 pm– Chamber Choir
- 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:

- Sundays, Sept. 5th/19th – Outdoor Worship, 8:30am
- Prime Timers– Sept. 9th, 10:30am (under the tent)
- Kids club begins October 3rd (first Sundays of the month)

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 September.

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.

September 2	Preston Baker
September 3	Bryn Bailey
	Jarin Schmaltz
September 7	Elizabeth Bruchon
September 9	Mary Doctor
September 10	Sherry Nelson
September 11	Maria Carr
	Madison Carr
September 14	Emily Koehler
September 17	Bill Hollar
September 18	Winston Baker
September 20	Lyn Miller
September 21	Horace Bean
	Heather Povinelli
September 23	Anne Reese
	Rebecca Yount
September 24	Becca Doctor
September 25	Harold Singleton
September 26	Warren Heller
	Jeremy Scharpenberg
September 28	James Milton
	Beth Passer
September 29	Barbara Beale
	Luca Piscatelli



Grace and Peace,

Schools have started back up, and with them we've returned to many of the routines we've been familiar with for years, among them things like music lessons, sports practices and games, tutoring sessions, and social engagements. Many people have started going into their offices again, and travel schedules have picked up. Here at the church our choir rehearsals are starting up, and we're looking forward to starting up Sunday School after Labor Day, along with Confirmation classes and youth and children's groups. It is a strange time, if I'm honest, because we are building back our busy schedules (try finding a time that 8+ active youth can gather for a confirmation class!), excitedly claiming a sense of normalcy, while also watching with some anxiety the continued spread and terrible effects of the pandemic. There is, at least I will name in myself, a seemingly conflicting desire to take the pandemic seriously by caring for our neighbors, our children, and the exhausted medical workers, while also wanting to do the things that have been life-giving for me, both within the church and in life in the world. It is a tension I wrestle with regularly both as we consider what ministry looks like at church, as well as what life looks like for my family.

It is a tension that should feel somewhat familiar to Christians, even if never entirely comfortable. We have long walked in the tension between the things that we want and need versus the needs of our neighbors and communities. Often this tension is between our own greed, fear, or selfishness, and the needs of the vulnerable around us, though sometimes it is figuring out how to care for ourselves and our neighbor as well. While it often feels like an "either/or," the faithful path might lie somewhere in between the extremes. We can't close our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, the way our actions affect them, or our ability to help them, as it is a clear call from God to work in this way, but we also need to care for ourselves so we are at our best to care for others.

The struggle is that when we try to live in this tension, it leaves us at odds with much of society which wants us to pick a side and stay there, ignoring the nuance. The world in which we live is messy, and I tend to think the black and white that we want the world to be is more a gray, that takes into account the contexts and subtleties of situations. It's no question that we should love, and what loving looks like changes with the circumstances. There are times when the right thing to do is to take care of yourself, to find the things that fill you and give you life. There are times when the right thing to do is to pour yourself out for others, to make sacrifices so that others can be well. A well-balanced and faithful life includes both. Jesus fed, healed, proclaimed, protested unhealthy systems, and found sabbath

rest.

As we build back our busy schedules, and rightfully rejoice at living into life-giving activities and relationships, let us consider the way we do these things, the effects of them on others, and work for a faithful balance that fills us so that we may pour ourselves out for the sake of others.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

Kid's Club

Kid's Club will meet the first Sunday of the month, so our first meeting will be Sunday, October 3rd. We're excited to gather with all of your wonderful kiddos, and look forward to seeing you all at Sunday School before then!



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.