



Since 2020, we have welcomed so many babies, we have celebrated baptism after baptism, and it is proof

that life lives in this church. Recently, I was doing some research on different kid's bibles and comparing them for the different ages and stages our young people are at. Did you know that that there is as many as 50 translations of the bible? I didn't. There are also so many kinds of bibles. Story bibles, board book bibles, study bibles, and then there are bibles that are themed around promises or creation.

For our youngest members I ordered some board book bibles, and it was exciting to get to give them the bibles. Inside the bibles are some ideas for experiencing the bible as a family. For our pre-k aged kids, we gave them Spark story bibles, and on each page, there is a seek and find Squiggles the caterpillar. Along with the bibles there were some helpful board books to teach them about holy week/Easter, baptism, and communion. For the past few weeks, I have been handing them out. Two of the 8 kids we gave bibles to stand out.

When Collins Luge got her book about Easter, she was so excited that she had to jump up and down. The joy could not be contained! When Jack

Howard got his, he walked over to the bench in the courtyard and looked at it. His curiosity for the stories was evident as he turned the pages. The eagerness our young people have to look at and read scripture is inspiring.

By putting scripture in our young people's hands, we are giving them the experience of something new each time they read a story, either through the words of the story or the imaginative pictures. Grow in faith as a family as you imagine, talk about, wonder, and explore God's Word. Our young people are building a foundation of faith that will stay with them.

Deacon Beka



Faithful Families Tip— Experience the Bible!

Set aside a regular time to read the bible. Maybe bedtime, Sunday mornings, after dinner, or on car rides. These make the bible part of your family's rhythms and routines. You could let your child choose the story or have them point out people, children, and animals. At the end of each story share the simple faith message that connects your child to the story.



April Newsletter

*“¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.” ~Psalm 118:14*

Worship Opportunities for April

- Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.
- 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.
- Holden Evening Prayer Services / 6pm meal / 6:45pm worship.
-Wednesday April 6th
- Maundy Thursday Service April 14th— 7pm
- Good Friday Service April 15th—7pm
- Easter Sunrise Service April 17th— 7am
- Easter Service April 17th-10:30am

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

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

From Greg Cline

April is much about Easter, but we of course are still in the middle of the Lenten Season. I can't tell you how much time is involved from our volunteer music ministers to make the musical offerings here at Holy Comforter look and sound as seamless as they do. The youth handbell ensemble has been accompanying the Wednesday evening prayer services of worship. Although half of that group are first time ringers, they have done a wonderful job.

The church choir has full responsibility each week of leading the assembly in song. While 90% of our weekly hours together involve preparation of the offertory anthems, that is but a few moments of the worship hour. If the choir director is ever guilty of preaching to the choir, it is in attempting to instill the importance of each individual voice. Each one is equal in contribution to the quality of sound. Is that not similar to us as a church, the body of Christ? All individual members bringing together their unique gifts in order for the body to function.

Our handbell and chamber ensembles will also be contributing musical offerings in the coming weeks and into the Easter Season. We so appreciate the gifts of time and talent that all of our choir members give to the Glory of God. As you are given the opportunity, offer a "thank you" for their leadership.

Well, our "New" pipe organ in the back gallery is now in it's 30th year. While it is not the largest pipe organ in the state, or even in the town of Belmont, it has led us in song since the installation in 1992. The majority of our membership

may not be aware that we engaged in conversation for nearly 10 years before purchase. The biggest concern, "how do we pay for it." During the fund raising campaign we were cautioned that musical instruments, such as a pipe organ, were not without risk. Most people relate more to brick and steel, seeing dirt being moved, buildings rising from beneath the earth.

This church family rallied and payed off the loan note ahead of schedule. The pastor had to announce a plea to the congregation, "please do not give any more money to the organ fund, it's paid for." Today this same instrument is insured for nearly a million dollars. The original cost was roughly 25% of that amount. In the coming months you may hear more stats of interest on our King of Instruments.

Praise God with trumpet sound...Praise Him with strings and pipe! Psalm 150

~ Greg Cline



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 14- Maunday Thursday Worship at 7 pm.
April 15- Good Friday Worship at 7 pm.

He is risen, He is risen indeed!

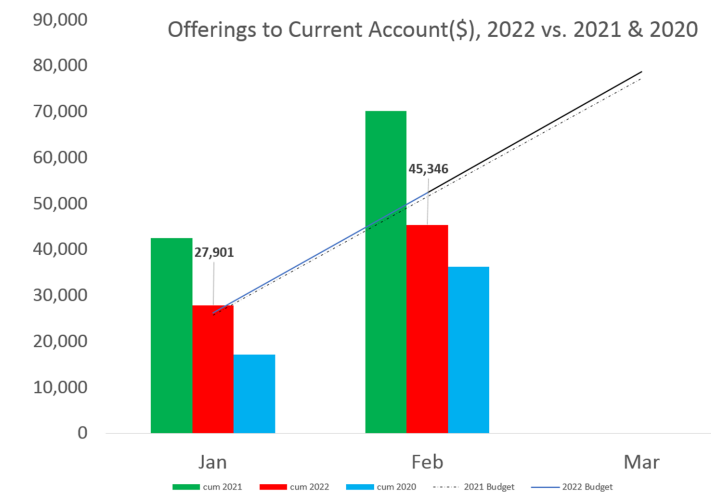
EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 17th at 7:00 am & 10:30 am

Spark & Dwell Mission Trip

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

For more Information, contact Beka

Treasurer's Report for February 2022

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during February was \$4,571.57. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$17,445.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date surplus, through February 28, was \$105.41. Year-to-date spending was \$7,203.41 below the amount planned in the 2022 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

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:

***Sunday School has been temporarily paused!
Check with Beka for more info!***

10:10 am– Church Choir

10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary

5:00 pm-HCY (*First three Sundays*)

5:00pm– Discipleship Academy (*Fourth Sunday*)

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

****April 6th****

Holden Evening Prayer Services

6pm– Meal

6:45pm Service

Events to Note:

- Kids Club—Sunday April 3rd 4pm

-Prime Timers– April 14th 10:30am.

-First Communion Class– April 9th– 9-11am

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

- NO HCY ON APRIL 17TH OR 24TH!



Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on **Thursday, April 14th at 10:30am**. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall. We will be looking at the gospel of **Luke**. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!

Outreach Committee Meeting



Join Outreach on April 21st at 7pm, in the fellowship hall.

For more information contact Brittany Lewis.



Discipleship Academy

For the Month of April we will be releasing a Podcast on Discipleship. This elective is worth one credit. Don't forget to do your reflection to get credit. There will be no in person class!



On Thursdays from **March 10 through April 7 from 7 to 8:15 pm**, Bishop Tim Smith will lead a Bible Study over Zoom on Gospel of Luke. We will send out the link in the weekly email so anyone can participate.

April Birthdays

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

April 1	Abby Featherstone
April 3	Garrett Carpenter
April 4	Sherry Alexander
	Susan Clark
	Sandra Cline
April 7	Teresa Keller
April 8	Shirley Causby
	Fran Holland
April 14	Rianna Nance
	Suzanne Fairbairn
April 16	Misty Koehler
	Debbie Neagle
April 23	Tim Baker
April 25	Julia Gunter
April 27	Heidi Scharpenberg
April 28	Rita Stewart
April 30	Debbie Williams

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.



FROM THE PASTOR

Do you know how the date for Easter is set? Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Simple, right? Easter can move a good bit and be as early as March 22nd and as late as April 25th. The church year shifts a bit, with longer or shorter seasons of Epiphany and the Season after Pentecost, depending on when Easter falls.

This will be my eighth Easter at Holy Comforter, and while I haven't started preparing a sermon for it yet, I can assume it will be like the last few where I try to figure out how to preach about resurrection in a way that doesn't sound like all my other Easter sermons. Easter is about resurrection, about new life, so each Easter we read about an empty tomb and God's victory over death in Jesus' resurrection.

But Easter isn't just about one resurrection. It is that in that one resurrection we learn that we have a God who works resurrections, who is about new life all the time. We believe that we will all experience resurrection like Christ's at some point down the line, a bodily resurrection that raises us to new life, but if we only look for resurrection in the future, something we will experience "one day" then we miss out on a lot of God's work. God is about resurrection now, bringing new life from death now. In some ways it is the way God has patterned the world. We look around in Spring and see blossoms and leaves budding on trees and plants that weeks ago looked dead. Some of us feel like death because of the pollen, but we will be resurrected on rainy days when it gets knocked down, or by Zyrtec, or the plants calm down a bit.

To be honest, most of us have been waiting for a resurrection of some kind or another. This pandemic has been hard, and even now when things are returning to a semblance of normalcy, it seems like there continues to be an exhaustion that keeps us from fully engaging. We're tired. We're tired of worrying, we're tired of adjusting, we're tired of fighting with each other. The pandemic has been far from the only thing happening over these past couple of years, but it has been the lens that we've seen most things through. We're ready for resurrection, for new life, not only in terms of schedules and logistics but also in terms of our energy levels, our willingness to commit to things, our anxiety of being around crowds again.

An important but often glossed over aspect of resurrection is that it is not simply a return to the old life. When Jesus was resurrected his body was changed. He walked through walls and locked doors, appeared over distances, was sometime recognizable but also able to be hidden,

and yet still had the scars of crucifixion. That is what we are working to claim ourselves, a life that has many of the characteristics of old ones, one that does not deny the hardships we've been through and may have scars, yet one that claims new life, has new patterns and characteristics that are life-giving and meet our needs now. Holy Comforter's schedule is a bit lighter at the moment in part because our members are still a bit tired and anxious from the past couple of years, but we are also hard at work behind the scenes, planning and strategizing for what this resurrection, new life, will look like. I give thanks that we have a God of resurrection, and I'm excited for what that will look like here.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



We're continuing to work through the process to craft our Purpose Statement, which has been adopted, our core values, which I will share a draft of here, and then strategic planning from there. This work will help to shape both the direction of our work in Christ, as well as provide the guard rails that keep us on the road.

Most recently we invited folks to gather before worship to offer up what they saw as the core values of Holy Comforter. From there, a group worked together to combine like values and find which ones came to the top. We'll workshop these a bit before adopting them as well and moving forward together. We're asking a similar question of folks as we did with our purpose statement: How do these feel true to you and your experience at Holy Comforter?

Core Values

- **Embrace:** God creates a diverse and beautiful creation. We are here to be a community in which all people are seen and affirmed.
- **Grow:** God calls us to journey in faith. We strive to build and strengthen the faith of all who are part of the Holy Comforter community.
- **Connect:** God calls us together as a community of faith and belonging. We seek to nurture relationships and fellowship within the Holy Comforter family.
- **Give:** God created a world of abundance. We give generously of ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure.