

Beka's Buzz

Youth group has been busy this year and came back in January strong. We started the semester off by planning our devotions for the spring. We are using a book called *All the Best Questions, and Some Answers Too!* This book has a total of 29 questions, sorted into themes. These themes are faith, sin and suffering, history and bible, other religions and no religions, science and creation, and questions and life. They were each given a book and they went through and picked 8 of the 29 questions for us to read and discuss. At the end of our 8 weeks, they will get to take the book home. The idea being that we have faithfully wrestled with these questions, and now you can wrestle with the rest. The first question that we read about was *who created God?* We read the chapter about this question and by the end of the session we were left unsatisfied and challenged. What do we do when there aren't clear answers to our questions?



We talked about time, and how God lives outside of time, and no one created God, God has always been. Yet that answer, wasn't enough. So, I sent

Faithful Families Tip – Flower Power
Scatter a number of cut flowers around your table. Place a vase in the center with water. As you sit around the table, have everyone take turns saying a joy, a gratitude, or a concern while placing a flower into the vase. After the prayer is completed, admire your pretty vase of flowers and all the prayers that accompanied them.

Discipleship Academy

Students will learn the foundational basics about the Bible including how to navigate your Bible & how to read it and use it as a tool for deeper faith formation. Students will also become an expert on a book of the bible, and then meet with a Church leader to talk about what you read. This is a 2 credit, required class. Join us March 26th at 5pm.



them home thinking, well this might be a bust. They came back the next week ready for more. This week's question was *why did God put an option of sinning in our lives? Why didn't God make us so we wouldn't fall to temptation?* Great question. Our book gave us an incredibly faithful answer too. God wants us to choose God. Justin Koehler reflected beautifully on this answer, he said that God wants us to choose good and we aren't forced into doing the right thing. We dwelt on the idea of freewill and how it felt like permission to choose God. Elise Bansen continued the conversation about how it was comforting to know that when we mess up God still loves us and forgives us. Holy questions, holy wondering, and holy conversations are happening upstairs. What a gift it is to be able to gather and talk about God and how God works in our lives. It's a special place to gather in the youth room and listen to how young people live their faith and wrestle with our faith in God. Those conversations don't happen without giggles and tangents, and God is in that too.

Deacon Beka



March Newsletter

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.

Micah Kearney, Pastor
Email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office manager

Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Treasurer's Report for December 2022

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during January was \$7,901.01. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$20,654.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,902.58.

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:**

9:30 am - Sunday School
10:10 am - Church & Chamber Choir
10:30 am - Worship
5:00 pm - HCY
5:00 pm - Adult Handbells
6:00 pm - Church Choir

- **2nd & 4th Tuesdays:**

7:00 pm - Nar-Anon Meeting

- **Wednesdays:**

6:00 pm - Lenten Dinner
7:00 pm - Worship

Monthly Gatherings

- ♦ Church Council - March 12th, 12 pm
- ♦ Kids Club - March 12th, 4 pm
- ♦ Small Group 1 - March 12th, 4pm
- ♦ Small Group 2 - March 14th, 7pm
- ♦ Prime Timers - March 9th, 10:30 am
- ♦ Christian Education - March 21st, 7 pm
- ♦ Outreach Meeting - March 16th , 7 pm

Mission Trip at Dwelling



The Dwelling is a mission church located in Winston-Salem that provides an opportunity for our young people to better love our neighbors with compassion. This trip is for rising 7th-12th graders July 23rd-28th. Participants will spend time with people who are homeless, journey through the margins, and serve the community. If you feel inclined to support this mission, you can do so in the following ways. Financially: provide gas, or donations for the rental vehicle for the journey, snacks or a group meal, group shirts for identification. Donations: Ponchos, snacks, air mattress pump, or bracelet making supplies Prayer: Most importantly, please pray for traveling mercies, God's grace, and the ability to see Jesus in those along side us and who we serve.



All of our ensembles are busy with preparation for our Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services of worship. It is always a fulfilling time as we all are called to be busy about the work of the Christ's Kingdom. Of course during Lent we focus a bit more on simplicity and repetition, adopting a "less is more" approach. For example, the repeated refrain such as "Remember that you are dust...and to dust you shall return," is especially poignant during our recent imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. References to "Alleluia" are given up until the Glorious Easter Morning.

For the month of March we will be utilizing the service liturgy "Holden Evening Prayer." Composer Marty Haugen originally wrote this service of worship during the winter of 1986 while on retreat at Holden Village in the North Cascade mountains of Washington State. At Holy Comforter we have traditionally used this liturgy during the season of Lent, which is lead by clergy, choir, keyboard, and handbell instrumentation. The congregation and choir are seated together in the front half of the Nave. This brief service offers pilgrims the opportunity for contemplation and prayerful reflection for what Christ has done and continues to do for us.

Invite your family and friends to experience and participate with us each Wednesday @ 6:45 during the month of March. A meal is served at 6:00 before each service.

Greg Cline
Organist /Choirmaster



At our December council meeting, our council voted to grant me a six week sabbatical this summer. Traditionally sabbaticals are granted every seven years of ministry for a period of three months, and are meant to be for both rest (sabbath) and educational experience. This program is half of that time, and focuses on “rest.” The synod has observed a significant amount of burnout among clergy in the past few years, with many pastors leaving churches not for other job opportunities, but because they did not have the energy to keep going. To combat that burnout, they are developing a program that supports churches in granting sabbaticals by providing an experienced sabbatical interim pastor and paying the cost of this person. They’ve asked me to participate in this, and our council graciously approved. From mid-May to late-June, I will take a sabbatical and coincidentally my uncle, Tim Canniff-Kuhn, will step in to preach, lead worship, and provide some pastoral care. Our deacon, Beka will also be available for pastoral care and leadership. While these past few years have not been as hard for Holy Comforter as they have been for many other congregations, it has been a very stressful time as we have had to be in almost constant transition. Taking a sabbatical for some time of renewal is an incredible gift that our council agreed to give, and I am thankful to be called to a congregation that cares about my well-being. It is not lost on me that most of you probably feel like you could use a sabbatical as well, which only adds to my gratitude for this opportunity.

As for my plans during that time, I intend it to be a mixture of travel, reading, and intentional time with my family. My extended family has been planning a trip for Italy for years, which will be the last week of the sabbatical. I have applied for a grant that will allow Jenn and I to travel to Ireland the first week, something I have been dreaming of for almost 20 years now, getting to experience spiritual sites, the countryside, and culture of Ireland. I am building up a little library of books I want to read that aren’t directly related to upcoming church activities, which makes it hard to get to. I especially am looking at emotional intelligence and thinking through how it relates and adds to my pastoral care. And I look forward to being able to be present with my family both as school wraps up and summer begins. This is always a gift and intentionality with vacation time, and I am excited about doing so for an extended time.

Taking time of sabbath is actually dictated by God, both for rest as well as spiritual renewal and relationship with God. I am immensely grateful for the gift that you all are giving me by granting this time for me. My prayer, as is true with most self-care, is that it does not stop with benefiting just me. I hope that this time is a gift for my family (they may disagree once I am actually around more), my friends, and the wonderful congregation I serve. I hope that it allows me to be the best version of myself as I continue to serve Christ through Holy Comforter.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah

Easter Lilies

All are welcome and invited to purchase Easter Lilies this year that will be displayed on the altar during the Easter Services and then taken home to enjoy. If you would like to purchase one or more please sign up on the physical sign up sheet after a weekly service or online through the link in the weekly email. They are **\$17.50/ plant this year.**



**payments may be made online, or in person at the church office or by mail via check or cash.*

Altar Flowers

March 5 - Emilie Bruchon to the Glory of God

March 12 - Available for sign-up

March 19 - Available for sign-up

March 26 - Carole Jolley in memory of her

Sign up for Altar flowers on sign up genius – follow the button on the weekly email.

The price per vase is \$22.50, or \$45 for both.

Children’s Church

March 5 - Madison Kelly

March 12 - Beka Forst

March 19 - Available

March 26 - Available



Children's Church is available for pre-k-5th graders every Sunday during the readings, the Gospel, and the Sermon. Children's church takes place in the fellowship hall.

Lectors

March 5 - Emilie Bruchon

March 12 - Julia Gunter

March 18 - Jan Buell

March 26 - Carole Jolley

***Special thank you to all of our volunteers for their time dedication!**



Egg Hunt
Join us for our Easter egg hunt on April 8th for Pre-K through 5th grade age groups. We hope to see you there!



Lenten Meal & Service

We are looking for **volunteers to sign up to prepare or sponsor meals** during Wednesday evening Lent services, March 1st- March 29th. Those who are unable to prepare meals can also choose to *sponsor a meal*. *The church or Youth and Rec committee will be in touch with you if you choose this option.* Please plan to accommodate 50-60 people. We appreciate those who give their time and talents to serve our congregation during the Lenten season!

Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 am



For all Ages and Stages

March Sunday School Teachers

Pre-k Class:
Jill Cassel

Elementary Class:
Travis Rhyne

Middle/High School Class:
Deacon Beka

Adults:
Pastor Micah



Annual Beach Trip is BACK!
For 30 years Holy Comforter had reserved the South Carolina Lutheran Coastal Retreat Center until the Covid pandemic. Several years have passed during quarantine periods and various issues that prevented us from attending. We are reserved this year for the following:

Thursday, May 25 - Monday, May 29. (Memorial Day Weekend)
\$135.00 per night/per room (2 night minimum)
Deadline for reservations is **Easter Sunday, April 9.**
[Checks made to: Holy Comforter Lutheran](#) (memo: [Coastal retreat](#))

Because of a variety of time off, family heath, and other responsibilities our staff won't be present, but we encourage members to enjoy this time together. Worship opportunity at St. Marks on Sunday at 10am. Google: SCLRC and click coastal retreat for details.

March Birthdays

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays! 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.

March	4	Dean Halvorson
March	5	Robin Ratchford
March	6	Debbie Baker
		Jo Singleton
		Ashley Hyman
March	10	Dee Smith
March	12	Veronica Bryant
March	13	Raini Kimball
March	14	Tracey Nault
		Nancy Powell
March	17	Brittany Lewis
March	18	Jodi Nerret
March	20	Mike Wesson
March	24	Mollie Caldwell
March	25	Pat Koehler
March	26	Cheryl Grant
March	28	Callum Nance

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.



Blood Drive
Looking for a way to give back to your community? We are hosting our first annual blood drive this year in the Fellowship Hall partnered with the Red Cross! Tell your friends and family to stop by and join you on **March 14th from 3pm until 7:30pm** to donate blood. We are looking for people to help with check in, baking snacks, and helping with a child care area. Child care will be provided for those who need a helping hand while donating. No need to sign up to attend, but if you would like to help with greeting on the event date please contact Deacon Beka.

HOLY C BLOOD DRIVE

MARCH 14

