

Beka's Buzz

June and July feel like a blur! It's been pretty busy around here. Allie Flouche went to campfirmation, there was sickness, the fourth of July, and we had been ramping for a mission trip and VBS. There was also so unplanned sickness and needing to help and support one another. Pastor Micah needing to quarantine and keep the staff and our congregation came at a wild time.

Some of you may or may not know this story but we found out of their need to quarantine on a Sunday morning at 8:30 am. After we hung up the phone, I went to church read through Micah's sermon, met with Greg and we punted. We adapted and worshipped faithfully that Sunday. The unsung heroes of that Sunday were in fact the choir. I'm sure some have noticed, but I choose not to sing the liturgy. I'm not confident in my musical skills to do that well and so when I lead worship, I need the help of the choir. Right before I walked up to the altar, I decided to run up to the balcony to make sure Greg and I were on

the same page which is where I was met by the choir who had warm and confident words of encouragement of my leadership in this situation. But that is where I realized I can't do it without them. I can't do it without you. That Sunday was a beautiful representation of Ephesians 4:11-12.

He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ.

Whether you are a part of the choir, the altar guild, children's church leaders, nursery supporters, or lectors, you are building the body of Christ, serving one another and I'm immensely thankful to be on the receiving end. I'm thankful for the gifts God has given you and that you show God's love by using them. If you are looking for a place to get plugged in, please reach out. We would love to find a home for you and your gifts in our ministry.

Deacon Beka, rforst@holyc.org

The Holy Comforter Comment



August 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

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship

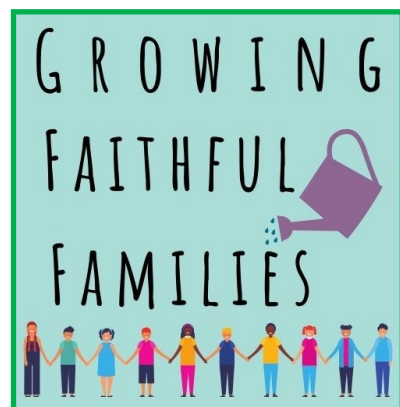
Sandra Askey, Office Manager

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

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

Phone: 704-825-2483

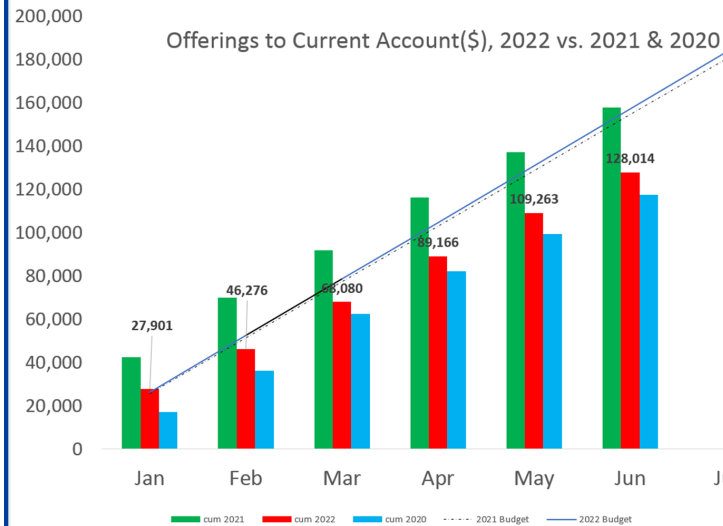
Email: holyccomforter@gmail.com



Faithful Families Tip– Bath Time Blessing!

Bath time, when parents and children are both (hopefully) relaxed and having fun together, can be a delightful opportunity to connect the pleasurable experience of bathing with God's warm, supporting love poured out in baptism. Pouring clear warm water on your child's head say, "this is just like Pastor did when you were baptized so you'll always know God loves you!" Water is the physical reminder of God's love for us. Remember your baptism when you wash your hands or in the shower.

Treasurer's Report for May 2022



Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during June was \$4,660.15.

Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$18,751.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2022 is \$26,222.00. The year-to-date deficit, through June 30, was \$14,195.12. Year-to-date

spending was \$15,122.88 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:

10:10 am– Church & Chamber Choir

10:30 am-Worship in Sanctuary

**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

Events to Note:

- Movie on the Lawn– 8pm– August 12th

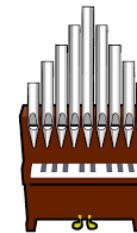
-Prime Timers– August 11th 10:30am.

-VBS-August 7th-10th @6pm

Music Notes

From Greg Cline

July for many of us serves as a time of respite and renewal. I know many who have been up and down this summer; up in the mountains or down at the beach, and everywhere in between. This year was one of the most relaxing times at Lutheridge (music week) that I have ever experienced. One, the weather was beyond awesome. Cool breezes at night and tolerable highs during the day. Two, the clinicians were great, they always are. But just being a tenor in the choir helped to remind me



what choral folk deal with in rehearsal and offering presentation. It is a very positive reminder for any director. There was some lament that the choir that I participat-

ed in was only 65 voices; some years are double that number. If we had such a crowd at Holy C it would not be, "we only have 65 voices." After all, our balcony can only accommodate 40 chairs.

I know that Tyler and Erin Cassell had a wonderful time at music week. They always had a smile on their faces and I got to hear their wonderful programs at the end of the week. So I will let them speak for themselves. Be sure and corner them about their

mountain top experience.

In keeping with tradition we will hold two church choir reunions in the fellowship hall on Sunday, August 21 and 28 at 6:00. At that time we will rekindle our voices with a sight reading session. We have a wonderful collection of new compositions as well as several time honored favorites. We will also have several new choir voices this fall. You gotta be present to find out who they are. Our handbell and chamber ensembles will resume after Labor Day!

One favorite new composition that we performed at Lutheridge during closing worship reminded me of not only our choir, but all of us who are actually in God's choir collectively, and what we have all been dealing with for the past several years:

To Sing Once More: by Craig Courtney

Awake our souls to sing once more the songs that long have silent been. From troubled nights and fearful days, our notes of praise and joy begin. Inspired by hope, compelled by grace, we sing Your everlasting praise. Most Holy God, Your song we seek and trust Your unchanging ways.

With comfort Your eternal voice is music to our fainting soul. It speaks in times of hurt and wrong, it whispers peace, it makes us whole. Arise, His children, rise again, your God and maker now adore. No longer silent, lift your voice, awake your souls to sing once more. Amen.

Greg Cline



Prime Timers Bible Study

Our Prime Timers group, those of retirement age and up, will gather again for Bible Study in person on **Thursday, August 11th at 10:30am**. We will meet at the church in the fellowship hall. We will be looking at **Luke 12:49-56**. We look forward to a time of Bible Study and fellowship together!

August 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.

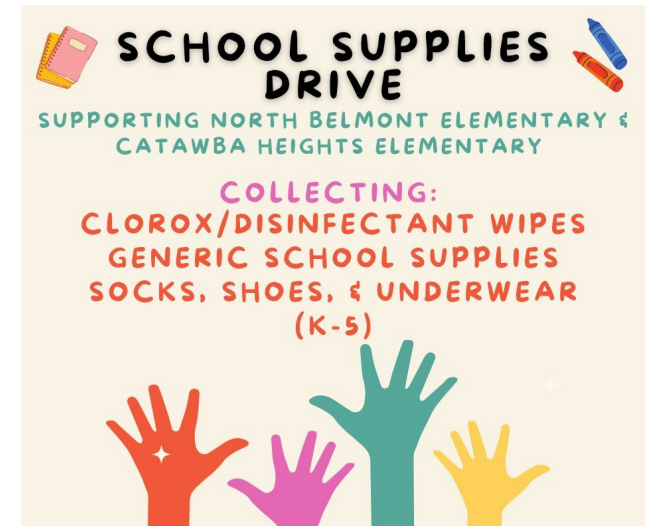
August 2	Alyssa Buchanan
August 4	Kathy Graves
	Mark Yount
August 6	Eric Carpenter
	Justin Koehler
August 11	Cindy Buchanan
	Jill Leitner
	Darrell Drum
August 17	Theo Cox
	Mark Dabrowski
August 18	Henry Bocchino
	Alex Bocchino
	Grayson Kelly
August 21	Andrew Robinson
	Kristen Bunney
August 25	Jeff Featherstone
August 29	Graham Kelly

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.



Worship Volunteers Needed!

Consider signing up to be apart of our worship experience on Sunday mornings! You can sign up using the ipad located in the Narthex or by contacting the church office.



Outreach Committee Meeting



Join Outreach on August 18th at 7 pm in the fellowship hall

For more information contact Brittany Lewis.



Grace and Peace,

As we work to shape the faith formation programs this fall, one of the things that you'll notice that is new is the small group program we are working to develop. Some folks have been involved with small groups in previous congregations, but for many folks this will be a new experience, and I want to name some of our hopes and goals for this new ministry and invite you into it.

Our congregation has often been complimented for our friendliness on a Sunday morning. It is a legacy that certain folks have carried passionately, in my time I think of Trudy Whitener and Billy Joye, though I have heard plenty of names of folks before them and apart from them who have helped folks feel welcomed and wanted here at Holy Comforter. It can be hard, however, to move from friendly conversations on Sundays, authentic as they may be, to deep relationships where folks really know what is going on in your life and walk with you in it. It is those deeper relationships that we hope to foster in small groups. Small groups will include some brief time of devotion or bible study, will include praying with and for each other (we will set you up for success for this, so don't be nervous), but primarily these times will be about sharing with each other the joys and struggles of life. Through this sharing folks will know that not only do folks know their names, but know their stories as well. They will know that people are praying for them and walking with them in their lives. They will know that they aren't alone, but are cared for by Christ in part through the people in their group.

My goal for programming at church is ultimately not for people to be at church as much as possible. My goal is for folks to be involved here enough that they are formed as disciples. This happens in worship, as we hear the word of God, participate in confession and forgiveness, receive God's grace in sacraments, sing hymns of praise, and join in prayer together. It also happens through relationships, through community, through the Holy Spirit at work in our sisters and brothers in Christ who accompany us in our walks of faith and life. One of the primary ways that God is at work in the world is through the Holy Spirit alive in the church, in the body of Christ, in us, and God forms us in part through our relationships with each other.

And then, even as we're being formed, we are Christ's disciples in the world. Which is why my goal is not to have you here as much as possible, but to have you involved to continue being formed so that we can be the light of Christ in the world, vessels of God's love and grace in all the other commitments and communities in which we are a part.

So I invite you to join in our faith formation work that we will be doing this fall and beyond, be it Sunday mornings classes, Bible Studies, or small groups, along with wor-

ship, so that Christ can continue to support you, strength you, and form you, to shape your perspective on the world, to see others with Christ's eyes no matter where you are.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Micah

Fall Faith Formation

STARTING SEPTEMBER 18TH

JOIN US FOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BOOK STUDIES

SMALL GROUPS

KIDS CLUB & HCY

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

Sept. 11
2022

Purpose Statement and Core Values

Purpose Statement:

Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and Beyond.

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.