



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.

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

Micah Kearney, Pastor
mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship
rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
gclinea440@gmail.com



***Pastor
Micah Kearney***

Grace and Peace,
In late June I got back from a six week sabbatical, time away from my work at Holy Comforter to rest. To be clear, I am not the only person that deserves this kind of time to rest, but I



appreciate the gift the congregation gave to allow me to have it. The sabbatical started with...

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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
August 4	Mark Yount
August 6	Eric Carpenter
August 6	Justin Koehler
August 11	Cynthia Buchanan
August 11	Darrell Drum
August 17	Theo Cox
August 18	Henry Bocchino
August 18	Alex Bocchino
August 20	Regan Porter
August 21	Andrew Robinson
August 21	Kristen Bunney
August 25	Jeff Featherstone
August 29	Graham Kelly



Monthly Gatherings

- “ VBS - August 6-9, 6:00 pm
- “ Small Group 2- August 8th, 7:00pm
- “ Prime Timers- August 10th, 10:30am
- “ Church Council Meeting- August 13th, 12pm
- “ Small Group 1- August 13th, 4:00pm
- “ Christian Education Meeting- August 15th, 7:00pm
- “ Outreach Meeting- August 17th 7:00pm

Sundays:

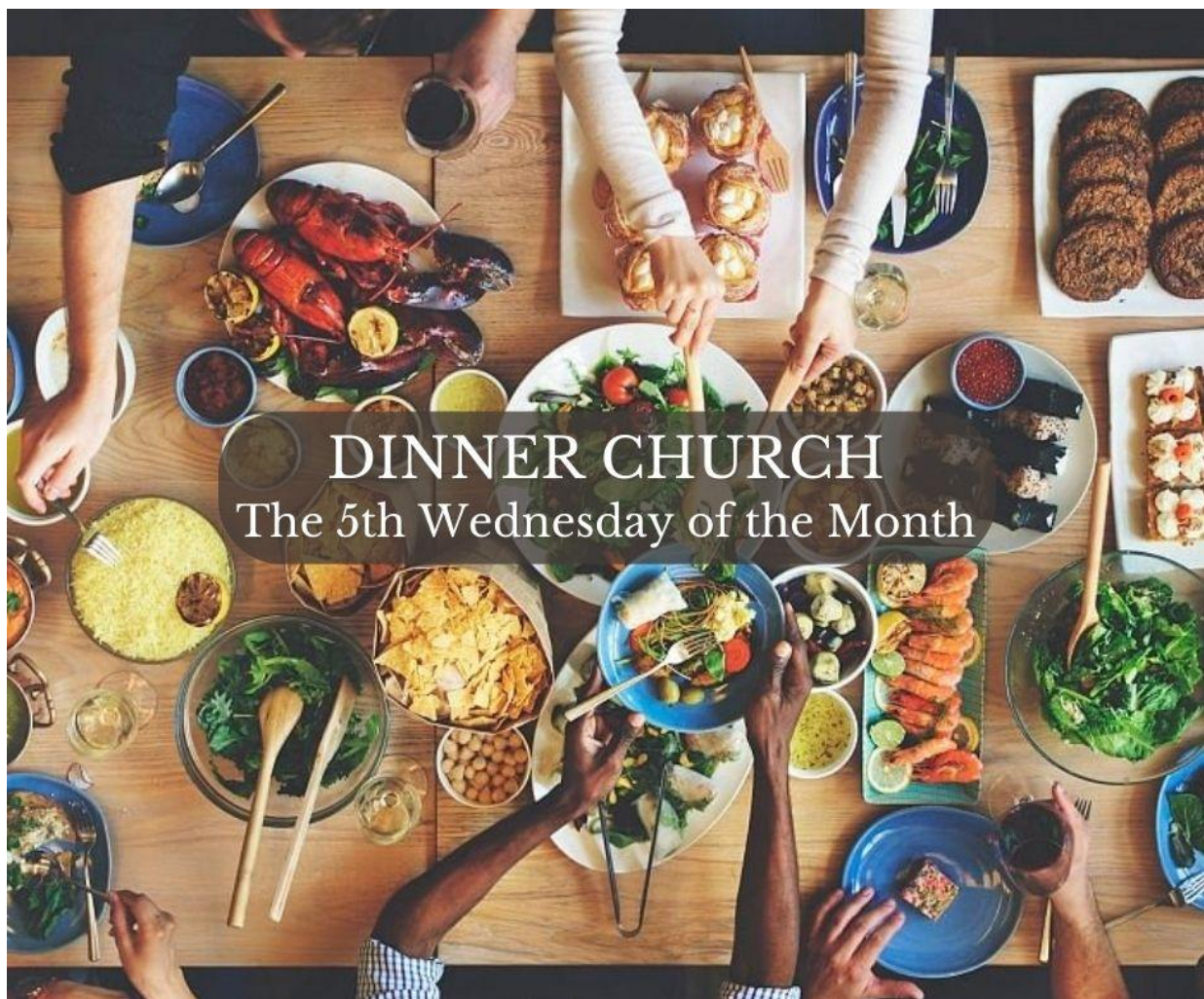
- “ Church Choir - 10:10 am
- “ Worship - 10:30 am

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- “ Nar-Anon Meeting - 7:00 pm

The schedule above is our expected weekly programs and meetings.

When exceptions happen they will be posted on the website calendar and in weekly emails.



DINNER CHURCH

The 5th Wednesday of the Month

Dinner Church

The 5th Wednesday of August @ 6:30pm

So much of Jesus' ministry happened around the table and with food. Food brings people together, a Holy Comforter Potluck is no different. Cue Dinner Church... Dinner Church is a worship service with a meal at the center of it. Dinner Church is a gathering where powerful things happen. God's Kingdom is described as a banquet and a feast, so why not imitate Christ's ministry and a holy banquet with a holy potluck!

Join us on 5th Wednesday evenings for a unique and powerful worship experience.

Our first Dinner Church will be August 30th at 6:30 pm.

The next ones will be: November 29th, January 31st and May 29th.

LILLIAN E. LINEBERGER SCHOLARSHIP

Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship Recipients

Catherine Carr
Garrett Carpenter
Emily Koehler
Mallory Morton
Ashton Nault

Congratulations to our 2023 recipients of the Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship through Holy Comforter! We're happy to be able to facilitate this generosity from Mrs. Lineberger to their continued education.

Music Notes

This was the 70th year of music week at Lutheridge, which began in 1952. It is the longest running program in the history of the camp. Gena Albert also attended from our choir, and I am certain she would be happy to share her experience with any of you. The program has had a significant impact on worship and music within Lutheran congregations over the years, not the least of which is Holy Comforter. Many of the anthems sung by our choirs have...



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One of my favorite things about my job is getting to have fun! Its wild that my job is filled with so many opportunities to play. Between Kids Club, HCY, Sunday School, and summer activities, fun drips from our ministry. Here's the thing about....

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Faithful Families Tip - Get to know your Preschooler



"As important as it is to show up, you can be where you should be and still miss what is right in front of you.

To influence a kid's life, you need to know who they are right now. Because it's just a phase, and you don't want to miss it."- Parent Cue

[Interview your Preschooler](#)

Ministry Highlight

Children's Church

Have you ever wondered where our children go when they leave worship after the children's sermon? They file down the aisle and follow a wonderful volunteer to the fellowship hall where they engage one of the lessons we are hearing in the sanctuary but in a developmentally appropriate way for them. Not only that, but they get a chance to read the lesson from a Children's Bible, gaining experience in helping to lead worship. They work together, often older kids helping younger kids follow along with the stories and activities. At times it can be chaotic, at times it can be serene and peaceful. We have a great group of kids, and it is a wonderful experience to watch them engage stories of faith and grow with each other. Just as the largest group of gathered adults at the church is in worship, so too is this true for our kids, and we've been intentional to focus this time on scriptural learning and engagement. We appreciate all the ways you support this ministry, from volunteering to teach, to financial support that allows us to organize and equip folks for this ministry to and with our children.



Supporting our young disciples can look like providing a meal on Sundays at 5 pm.

HCY & Kid's Club Meals



Community Concert

Coming Up Brass - September 16th - 7:00pm

Church wide potluck starting at 5:00pm

We are excited to invite you to our first ever Community Concert that promises to be an evening filled with music, talent, and togetherness!

Coming Up Brass is a dance and variety band that has been entertaining the Southeast since 1991. *Feel free to bring your family, friends, and neighbors along; this concert is free and open to all!*

We are planning a potluck dinner for our congregation beginning at 5:00 pm before guests arrive for the concert.

Lectors

August 6 - Jan Buell
August 13 - Jodi Nerret
August 20 - Jan Buell
August 27 - Lector Needed

**Lector Sign
Up**



Children's Church

August 6 - Volunteer Needed
August 13 - Volunteer Needed
August 20 - Jennifer Kearney
August 27 - Deacon Beka

This months altar flowers were sponsored by:

August 13th - Shelia Kelly in honor of Grayson Kelly's birthday

August 27th - Shelia Kelly in honor of Graham's birthday and Nathan and Amanda's Anniversary.

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.

Children's Church Sign up

**Altar
Flowers**

Treasurer's Report for June 2023

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter Historical Financial Perspective - June 30, 2023

<u>Financial Category</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>\$Amount</u>	<u>% Increase from</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>from 2021</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>\$Amount</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>\$Amount</u>
Offerings for the Month	19,151	2.1	-6.6	18,751	20,509
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	131,259	2.5	-16.9	128,014	157,933
Expenses for the Month	26,656	18.7	9.6	22,461	24,331
Expenses YTD	142,721	20.4	0.6	118,491	141,837
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	28,902	10.2	12.2	26,222	25,767
Budget, YTD	173,410			157,332	154,602
Annual Budget	346,819			314,664	309,204

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during June was \$7505.11. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$19,151.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through June 30, was \$38,088.49. Year-to-date spending was \$4,062.01 below the amount planned in the 2023 budget. The foregoing table provides additional perspective and comparisons with offering income, expenses and budgets in prior years.

-Warren Heller, *Treasurer*



The church calendar is updated weekly for any events and can always be found on the church website under the events tab. Take a look!

**Church
Calendar**

Join Us
August 6th - 9th
6pm - 8pm daily

Vacation
Bible School



Vacation Bible School

Sunday-Wednesday, August 6-9, 6pm-8pm daily
Kindergarten –Rising 6th Grade

Changemakers Lab is an interactive Vacation Bible School where children learn that everyone can make a difference in the world. The five Bible stories in this curriculum explore examples of people who experienced and brought about change in the world around them. These people provide a model for asking hard questions, working together to solve problems, reaching across differences, caring for all people, and imagining a new world.

Through worship and drama, Bible study, STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, art, math), and active games, children are invited to see and experience the transforming love of God. Grounded in God's love, children can use their unique gifts to make a difference wherever they go!

VBS participants are encouraged to join us for worship on August 13th to sing some of their favorite songs from the week.

We hope you will join us!

Sign up on the link below or contact Deacon Beka (rforst@holyc.org)

**VBS Sign
Up**

[Unsubscribe hollycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe@hollycomforter@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent byhollycomforter@gmail.compowered by



Try email marketing for free today!



Grace and Peace,

In late June I got back from a six week sabbatical, time away from my work at Holy Comforter to rest. To be clear, I am not the only person that deserves this kind of time to rest, but I appreciate the gift the congregation gave to allow me to have it.

The sabbatical started with Jenn and I spending a week in Ireland, focusing on cultural experiences, environmental sight-seeing, and spiritual experiences. It did not disappoint. My favorite region was Connemara, particularly the national park in which we hiked (I still owe Jenn for making her hike on top of a mountain in the wind and rain). My favorite city was Dingle, a seaside city rich in culture, music, food, and charm. My favorite place all-together was likely Inis Mor, an island not far from Galway that was a hub for Celtic Monasticism. It was a “thin place,” a place where it seems the veil of between our awareness of this world and the divine seems to grow thin. It was beautiful in its barrenness, and the spirituality that existed there for centuries still lends a mystique to the place that I felt engaging. I quickly fell in love with Ireland, with the beauty of the land, with the hospitality of the people, and with aspects of their spiritual traditions.

The end of the sabbatical included a trip to Italy with the whole family, including my parents and my sister’s family. We spent three days in Rome, and while it was exciting to see so many historical sights, both religious and secular, and experience the culture of a city like Rome, the most fun was watching our boys engage it, be excited about new experiences, be enthralled by places like the Vatican, and art like Michelangelo’s “Pieta.” From there we took a train to Puglia, a region on the east coast of Italy, and slowed down a good bit, exploring during the day and spending hours at a villa eating and spending time with my family.

Both trips were incredible, and I hope it was not the last time I’ll go to either country, but I think the gift I didn’t expect was how I was able to be fully present with and for my family in between those trips. As the boys finished school I was at each party and award presentation. As summer began I was there through the day to play sports with Nathaniel, watch Gabriel create stop-motion animations, help in the garden, and build another chicken coop on a whim. I have never been able to be that present for that amount of time, and I will cherish that so much, especially with the boys at ages where they still want to hang out with me!

And now I’m glad to be back at work and with you all. I missed you all, and it was hard not having updates on so many folks and how they were doing with health or life situations. I am excited to get back to work planning and being a part of ministry in Christ’s name with you all. After 9 years of serving here, I still feel called to Holy Comforter, to the people here, to the ministry we are a part of together, and I look forward to where the Spirit will lead us from here!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



Music Notes

This was the 70th year of music week at Lutheridge, which began in 1952. It is the longest running program in the history of the camp. Gena Albert also attended from our choir, and I am certain she would be happy to share her experience with any of you.

The program has had a significant impact on worship and music within Lutheran congregations over the years, not the least of which is Holy Comforter. Many of the anthems sung by our choirs have come from the mountain top. The excellence in programming is rooted in the quality of nationally known clinicians who attend each year. It is a powerful experience for me to just be a tenor in the 70 voice choir for a week; to worship without having to plan and think ahead of what is happening next. Several folks here understand what that is like. I am humbled to share that I was acknowledged as having attended camp now for 55 years. Was I just an infant as a first camper?...Yes...let's just say that!

You will see detail in the newsletter and assorted e-mails regarding VBS in August. Part of the programming will include music. Songs will be sung from 6:00 - 6:30 each evening. On the Sunday following, August 13 we would love for the children to share a song or two during the service of worship. So we will ask parents in advance to check your calendars. Numbers able to participate will determine if that is able to happen.

Several in the choirs have stated how much they have missed rehearsals this summer. Good news...here is the upcoming schedule:

Sunday, August 20 & 27 at 6:00.....Church Choir Reunion

Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00.....Chamber Choir

Sunday, September 10 at 5:00.....Adult Handbells

Greg Cline

MD (Music Director)





Beka's
Buzz 



One of my favorite things about my job is getting to have fun! It's wild that my job is filled with so many opportunities to play. Between Kids Club, HCY, Sunday School, and summer activities, fun drips from our ministry. Here's the thing about what I get to do that is unique, I get to play as a form of learning and leading!

This summer we have and will get to do ministry that is faithful and fun! We took a group of 9 to the Dwelling, where we learned through accompaniment and service. We are prepping for a week of VBS where we will learn about what it means to be changemakers and build God's Kingdom, where our young people will be told stories and hear songs from leaders who are to accompany them in their learning. When I say accompaniment what I mean is to be alongside someone, to hear their stories, learn from them, and to be where they are. Accompaniment takes many forms whether that be visitation, youth group, graduations and soccer games, lunches after church, service projects, or small groups. Ministry is about accompaniment. Coming along side God's people to learn about each other and building God's Kingdom. I can honestly say I'm lucky that my ministry of accompaniment is one that can be filled with fun.

The accompaniment that has taken place this summer is one of fun, learning, and building God's Kingdom. I was proud to see our people participate in such a loving way at Bountiful Blessings. This ministry where all are fed, because no one deserves to be hungry is a ministry of coming alongside the hungry and loving them where they are. I was proud to see the ways our youth have learned and been challenged with the realities of homelessness. The Dwelling's ministry of accompaniment is one of learning, and letting the discomfort be our motivation. Our last big thing of the summer is VBS, where the ministry of accompaniment is one of fun, snacks, bible stories, and wild creations. If you're looking for a place to walk alongside people or be walked with, we would love to find a place for you.

Deacon Beka

21 QUESTIONS

TO GET TO KNOW YOUR PRESCHOOLER (AGES 3-5)

- 
1. Where is your favorite place to eat?
 2. If you could go anywhere for a day, where would you go?
 3. What TV, movie, or book character makes you laugh the most?
 4. What is your favorite game to play?
 5. What is your favorite treat?
 6. What animal do you wish we could have as a pet?
 7. What do I do that makes you feel loved?
 8. What is something that makes you feel sad?
 9. What would you do if you were the boss of our family for one day?
 10. What are some things that make you feel happy?
 11. Who is your favorite friend?
 12. What makes your friend so awesome?
 13. What makes you so awesome?
 14. What is something that really scares you?
 15. What is your favorite part of the day?
 16. What is something you are really good at?
 17. If you had \$20, what would you do with it?
 18. What is something you can't wait to do when you grow up?
 19. If you could make any food disappear from the earth, what would it be?
 20. Tell me your favorite Bible Story.
 21. What's your favorite thing we do together?
- 