



June 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*

Tim Canniff-Kuhn, *Interim Pastor*
pastortimck@gmail.com

Beka Forst, *Deacon of Discipleship*
rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, *Organist /Choirmaster*
gcline@holyc.org



***Interim Pastor Tim
Canniff-Kuhn***

Friends in Christ,
As you read this, our journey together is at the midpoint. Pastor Micah half-way in his six-week sabbatical. I am very appreciative of the welcome I've received. It is easy to feel "at home" when we are together in worship. I'm thankful for the leadership and guidance of gifted staff

JUNE 19th

HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day

Happy Father's Day June
19th!

and the ways that folks in the congregation perform ministry acts inside the building and outside in the community without the need for pastoral input. Holy Comforter is indeed the Body of Christ! Professional leaders in the church, like Pastor Micah...

Read
More



June 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.

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| June 2 | Lucas Serrano |
| June 3 | Jimmy Holloway |
| June 5 | Asa Gross |
| June 6 | Katie Piscatelli |
| June 10 | Greg Garrison |
| June 11 | Tonya Zander |
| 11 | Gus Pinheiro |
| June 12 | Martha Hogge |
| June 14 | Luther Rhyne |
| June 18 | Dawn Fleming |
| June 19 | John Koehler |
| June 27 | Reid Passer |
| June 29 | Gabriel Kearney |
| June 30 | Leah Koehler |

If we have unintentionally left any member's name off the birthday list, or if there are any errors,



Monthly Gatherings

- Bountiful Blessings Volunteer Time - June 8th, 7:30am
- Prime Timers - June 8th, 10:30am
- Church Council Meeting - June 11th, 12pm
- Outreach Meeting - June 15th 7pm

Sundays:

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

Mondays:

- 7:00 pm -Book Club

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- 7:00 pm - Nar-Anon Meeting

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.

Our church musician ministers are on a bit of a Sabbatical themselves; with a respite from regular rehearsals during the month of June and July. These folks donate literally hundreds of combined hours throughout the year in worship leadership and preparation. As we discuss in closing rehearsals....



[Read More](#)

Music Notes



Beka's
Buzz

In May of 2022 I had been hearing from our young people about “the bunnies”. I had heard that they got to hold them, and they would just lay in their laps. AND SOFT, they were soft and sweet bunnies. So, I started to do some investigation on “the bunnies”. Bunny Blessings is the first field trip that our 1st graders take from Page Primary. They walk down the street to the bunny barn. They get to take turns holding the bunnies, learning about the different kinds of bunnies, and they...

[Read](#)

Faithful Families Tip — Bubble Prayer

Using a bubble wand blow bubbles. With one bubble say one thing you pray for or praise God for, and the next bubble say hear our prayer. Go back and forth between bubbles. Blow the bubbles towards the sky and imagine that they are floating up to God. The giggles and excitement of blowing bubbles will model fun in praying and praising God.



Oh The Places He'll go! *Our Graduate Garrett Carpenter*

Garrett graduated with his Associate of Arts degree from Midlands Tech in Operations and Supply Chain Management and will begin Clemson in fall. We are so proud of Garrett and can't wait to see what he does next!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

S.O.C.K.S FEMININE HYGINE DRIVE

YOU donated over **2,319** supplies to those in need of feminine hygiene products!

The biggest thank you to those that donated!

"1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:1-2





Lector

June 4 - Brian Achor
 June 11 - Julia Gunter
 June 18 - Julia Gunter
 June 25 - Jodi Nerret

This months altar flowers were sponsored by:

June 4 - Rochelle Potter in celebration of Asa Gross' Birthday

June 11 - Shelia Kelly in memory of Alma Hedrick (Shelia's mom)

June 18 - Debbie Mendez in memory of Alice & Mark Lyerly

June 25 - Rochelle Potter in memory of Perri Kirkland, Rochelle's Dad



Children's Church

June 4 - Beka Forst
 June 11, 18, 25 - Volunteers Needed

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.

**Altar
Flowers**

Treasurer's Report for April 2023

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

| Financial Category | <u>2023</u> \$Amount | <u>% Increase from</u> <u>2022</u> | <u>% Increase</u> <u>from 2021</u> | <u>2022</u> \$Amount | <u>2021</u> \$Amount |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Offerings for the Month | 27,950 | 28.2 | 28.3 | 21,804 | 21,788 |
| Offerings Year to Date (YTD) | 94,384 | 38.6 | 2.7 | 68,080 | 91,908 |
| Expenses for the Month | 33,773 | 36.5 | 47.3 | 24,749 | 22,925 |
| Expenses YTD | 117,891 | 68.4 | 74.4 | 69,990 | 67,596 |
| Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month | 28,902 | 10.2 | 12.2 | 26,222 | 25,767 |
| Budget, YTD | 115,606 | | | 104,888 | 103,068 |
| Annual Budget | 346,819 | | | 314,664 | 309,204 |

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during April was \$5,823.01. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$27,950.25. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through April 30, was \$23,506.95. Year-to-date spending was \$2,284.62 above the amount planned in the 2023 budget. The adjacent table provides additional perspective and comparisons with offering income, expenses and budgets in prior years.

-Warren Heller, *Treasurer*

Summer Book Club

Book club is returning with a summer session!

"When words fail, when we cry out in longing and loneliness, when God feels impossibly far away, *By Bread Alone* displays the tangible expression of God's presence and provision for us in the form of bread. It's the story of hunger and family, of friendship and unmet longing. It's the story of a God who meets us in both sacred and mundane ways. In the mixing and kneading, in the waiting and partaking, may God also meet you."

Weekly meetings at 7:00 pm will be led by Deacon Beka, and Jan Buell starting June 5th and lasting six weeks until July 17th (with July 3rd off). Mark your calendar and meet us in the parlor room (Education Building) for the first meeting.

..... SUMMER
BOOK CLUB

Led by Deacon Beka & Jan Buell

June 5- July 17

Parlor Room,
Education Building

Every Monday
7:00 PM



By Bread Alone : A Baker's Reflection on Hunger, Longing, and the Goodness of God By Kendall Vanderslice.

[Buy Book](#)



Bountiful Blessings

We have the opportunity to volunteer with drive-thru food pantry, *Bountiful Blessings* this summer! They were recently featured on *WCNC Charlotte News* for their extraordinary work within Gaston County by feeding more and 430,000 people in the past three years

Don't miss this opportunity to volunteer on June 8th and June 29th from

7:30am to 12:30pm. Feel free to sign up for as much as fits your schedule. Deacon Beka will be there for the full time slots each of our volunteer days. Add yourself to the sign up below and watch the video linked for more information.

**Volunteer Sign
Up**



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church | 216 N Main St, BELMONT, NC 28012

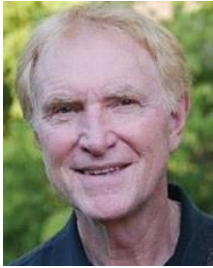
[Unsubscribe holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

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

Sent by holycomforter@gmail.com in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!



Friends in Christ,

As you read this, our journey together is at the midpoint. Pastor Micah half-way in his six-week sabbatical. I am very appreciative of the welcome I've received. It is easy to feel "at home" when we are together in worship. I'm thankful for the leadership and guidance of gifted staff and the ways that folks in the congregation perform ministry acts inside the building and outside in the community without the need for pastoral input. Holy Comforter is indeed the Body of Christ!

Professional leaders in the church, like Pastor Micah and Deacon Beka, have positions that make it difficult to turn their vocational work "on and off." The Sabbath Day and High Holy Days, when many of us can be most relaxed, are their busiest of days and their positions require them to always be "on call" even on a planned day off. A sabbatical allows enough time for Pastor Micah to wind down and let go, getting to a place where Holy Comforter is not always the first thing on his mind. It also can become the occasion for us to think about the value of Sabbath rest for ourselves.

Throughout scripture, the value of sabbath rest is lifted. On the 7th day of Creation, God rested from all God's work. The law of Moses forbids work on the sabbath. Even the land is to be fully rested from planting every 7 years so that it might regenerate to produce more fruit in future years. The emphasis of Sabbath recognition is punctuated in the giving of the 3rd commandment. God wants us to slow down and regularly "hit the pause button" of our lives. Jesus clarifies the purpose of sabbath further by saying "The Sabbath was made for humans, not humans for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27) Sabbath is not for God, it's for us! It's not that God needs us to rest but rather it's good for us to rest! It's not even that God needs a time designated to praise God, but it is of great value for us as God's children.

Our world and our lives are increasingly busy. While I once lived in a time and place that on Sunday's much of the world shut down and our family went on aimless afternoon car rides after worship, I now live in a time that we have a hard time slowing for a yellow traffic light. When I first moved to South Carolina to attend Southern Seminary, I needed to become familiar with "blue laws" that limited the sale of certain items to restrict activity and promote rest but now stores are open on Sunday morning, so we purchase whatever our hearts desire. The work phone calls that once went to an answering machine to be checked on Monday now ring in our pockets, making it more challenging to "get away," especially in a society that values a person's worth based on productivity.

Amid a culture that does not value sabbath rest, the witness of scripture remains the same. It is still important to have down time to make us mindful of our daily blessings and regenerate our creative selves. However, it is not the job of government to create laws which limit one's activity nor is it in the best interest of a capitalistic economy to shut down businesses to limit our options. Rather it is the responsibility of The Church to teach the value of sabbath rest and of us as faithful followers of Jesus to live out what God has deemed best for us. To do this, we need to be intentional in finding ways to shut off outside forces that clammer for our attention and focus on sabbath rest. This can look different for each of us as some can use Sunday or another particular day for rest, while others can carve out quiet time each day, and yet others can observe a longer sabbatical.

The Holy Spirit has given us gifts to use to fulfill God's mission here on earth. We have been called to carry out Christ's work as the incarnation of Jesus' hands and feet. But we are also commanded to slow down, for our own good, and find rest in the reassuring promises of God so that we might become more mindful of God's presence in the world and in our lives and that we might be renewed in our Christian vocations that we might be even more fruitful in our work of spreading the Good News of God's love in word and deed. May God bless and guide you in this journey.

Walking together in Christ, Pastor Tim



Music Notes


Our church musician ministers are on a bit of a Sabbatical themselves; with a respite from regular rehearsals during the month of June and July. These folks donate literally hundreds of combined hours throughout the year in worship leadership and preparation. As we discuss in closing rehearsals...any choir member that is in town on Sunday morning during the summer is invited to attend our regular 10:10 sessions as we prepare to lead the congregation in worship and praise.

During this summer we will be upgrading our pipe organ console. Imagine if you still had a computer that was operating with 1980 - 1990 technology. Our instrument was contracted to be built in 1990 and, while it is a pipe organ, it has programmable switching systems and components which allow the organist to select sound combinations almost instantaneously. For example we currently have 8 levels of memory, and when complete there will be 250 levels; quite an improvement!

The organist will also now have capability to store programmed music. I generally record 5 minutes of sacred music on the synthesizer each week, which is used while communing with the choir. The same can be accomplished now with the organ. A remote control will also allow one individual to manually tune any one of the 1883 pipes without the aid of having another individual physically holding keys. There are an array of other benefits to speak of, but that will be discussed once the installation is complete. This project is a blessing to accomplish, as we are well into our second generation of pipe organ use. The instrument has served us well and will continue to do so as we are upgraded into the 21st century. The cost is underwritten through the generosity of donors who contribute through honorariums and memorials to the Holy Comforter Music Fund. The installation week has yet to be determined...but anticipated in the month of July.

Greg Cline MD (Music Director)



Beka's
Buzz 



In May of 2022 I had been hearing from our young people about “the bunnies”. I had heard that they got to hold them, and they would just lay in their laps. AND SOFT, they were soft and sweet bunnies. So, I started to do some investigation on “the bunnies”. Bunny Blessings is the first field trip that our 1 st graders take from Page Primary. They walk down the street to the bunny barn. They get to take turns holding the bunnies, learning about the different kinds of bunnies, and they get to watch them in their stalls. Well, I needed to know how we could support this ministry that has loved our young people and many other people so uniquely well. So, I reached out to see if they would be a service site for us for God’s Work Our Hands. We took a group of 15 people, both adults and kids, to the barn. We cleaned pet beds, weeded the garden, helped organize their store stuff, and helped measure their van for their cool car wrap. We got to hold one bunny; everyone got a turn getting to love on Willie. I think I might have been the most excited. I very quickly saw the gift this ministry was to our Belmont community and our youth. I learned that they need volunteers taking the bunnies to different locations all over. For the last six months I have had the delightful and joyful opportunity to see these bunnies love their neighbors. They have visited nursing homes, preschools, elementary schools, and US!

Luther Rhyne and his family came to see the bunnies, along with lots of others, and said “I don’t know about the therapy part, but these bunnies made me happy”. That my friends IS the therapy part, it is the loving your neighbor part. Gabriel Kearney held Willie for several minutes and afterwards he said, “that was so relaxing, thanks!”. Not only did kids of all ages get to hold these sweet creatures, but parents and adults got to have the joy of being loved by Bunny Blessings too. I know I say this a lot, but faith can be fun. Faith can have all of creation in one room. Faith can be all ages sharing in quality time together building community. God was in our joy yesterday, God was in the love from and for those bunnies, God was in our play. What a gift to have Bunny Blessings come love on us, and we hope to keep loving on them. Join us in September for a bunny project for God’s Work Our Hands.

Deacon Beka