



## October Newsletter

***Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.***

*Each 10:30 am service is livestreamed on YouTube for those that are unable to join us in person.*

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

**Micah Kearney, Pastor**  
[mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

**Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship**  
[rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

**Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster**  
[gclinea440@gmail.com](mailto:gclinea440@gmail.com)



***Pastor  
Micah Kearney***

Grace and Peace,  
Reformation Sunday is the last Sunday of this month, and while we don't have anyone being confirmed this year, we will still change the paraments to red, perhaps dress in red ourselves, sing classic Lutheran hymns and hear scripture central to our Lutheran faith, and share...

[Read More](#)



## October 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.*

October 01	Ellen Fleming
October 01	Andres Mendez
October 04	Mark Reese
October 05	Larry Siglar
October 07	Catherine Carr
October 07	Tripp Hyman
October 08	John Lee
October 10	Timothy Kelly
October 11	Evan Howard
October 11	Patricia Roberson
October 14	Jean Ferguson
October 14	Linda Grimsley
October 14	Jeff Howard
October 15	Trey Nerret
October 21	George Keller
October 21	Jeff Nerret
October 22	Taylor Gross
October 24	Renee Carpenter
October 26	Carole Jolley
October 27	Kay Holden
October 28	Andrew Bryant
October 30	Micah Kearney
October 30	Diana Dukeshire
October 31	Kurt Scholler

## Monthly Gatherings

- “ Church Council Meeting- October 8th, 12pm
- “ Kid's Club - October 8th, 4pm
- “ Small Group 1- October 8th, 4pm
- “ Small Group 2- October 10th, 7pm
- “ Prime Timers- October 12th, 10:30am
- “ Christian Education Meeting- October 17th, 7pm
- “ Outreach Meeting- October 19th, 7pm
- “ Discipleship Academy- October 22nd, 5pm
- “ Trunk or Treat - October 28th, 3pm
- “ Reformation Luncheon - October 29th, 11:30pm

## Sundays:

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

## Mondays:

- Book Club - 7 pm

## Wednesdays:

- Chamber Choir - 7 pm

## 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- “ Nar-Anon Meeting - 7 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.*



It always seems premature to be talking about the Advent season in October. The reality is that our choral and handbell ensembles begin looking at seasonal offerings even in the late summer months. For the moment we would like to...

[Read More](#)





One of my favorite Sundays of the year is filled with yellow t-shirts, tennis shoes, and friends! We worship, we eat lunch, and we head out into the community. Did you figure out the Sunday yet? God's Work Our Hands Sunday is a...

[Read More](#)

## Faithful Families Tip - Get to know Kids



***"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 Middle Schooler- Aged Kid](#)

## Faith Story

### Life Changing

Will Charnock's faith journey has led him on some twists and turns. Will was raised in a conservative church where the message was a mix of eternal damnation and the gospel of prosperity. "I thought of God as a gumball machine", says Will. When in high school and college Will did not receive his prayer requests he, like so many others that age, backed away from the church.



As a young professional in Charlotte Will was invited by a friend to a Lutheran church. "The message at that church was not what I was used to. It was more love, less fire and brimstone." That time was also a time of tragedy in Will's life. As the eldest son in his family Will was forced to make the difficult decision to place his father in long term care. His father passed away a couple of years later and then a nephew died of a drug overdose a year after that. Will's mother died a few weeks later. "It felt like trial by fire", claims Will. At his lowest point, Will was supported by his church family. "I found the strength to go through difficult times. It was life changing."

Will moved from Charlotte to Belmont two years ago. He would have liked to stay connected to the church where he felt so loved and supported, but soon



found that the increased travel time was resulting in his decreased participation. Will set off to find a new church family where he could find the human connection he valued but was closer to his new home.

A brief internet search led Will to Holy Comforter where once again people made him feel welcome. "The first service I attended a couple of people came up to welcome me and were very nice. It goes to show that one or two people can make a real difference." Will also appreciates the focus on love preached at Holy Comforter. "The sermons are current without being confrontational. I want to be part of a congregation that supports each other and not tears them apart."

Each of us may face tragedy in our lives, it is part of the human condition. But Will seems to be prepared for what life has to throw at him because he feels welcomed, seen and supported by our congregation. Thank you to everyone at Holy Comforter who does so much to help others walk through their trying times surrounded by love.

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## Treasurer's Report for August 2023

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter Historical Financial Perspective - August 31, 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	20,910	7.6	9.9	19,431	19,027
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	174,631	3.1	-10.3	169,455	194,595
Expenses for the Month	29,836	13.9	27.7	26,188	23,358
Expenses YTD	229,296	18.6	20.6	193,270	190,085
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	28,902	10.2	12.2	26,222	25,767
Budget, YTD	231,213			209,776	206,136
Annual Budget	346,819			314,664	309,204

Holy Comforter's operating deficit (expenses in excess of offering income) during August was \$8,926.44. Total giving to support Holy Comforter's routine expenses for the month was \$20,910. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2023 is \$28,901.58. The year-to-date deficit, through August 31, was \$54,664.39. Year-to-date spending was \$1,917.02 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*

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# Women's Bible Study

*Every Wednesday*

STARTING OCTOBER 4TH

6:45PM IN THE PARLOR



## Womens Bible Study

Women's Bible Study is starting with a fall session **October 4th at 6:45pm in the Parlor.**  
They will meet weekly on Wednesdays through November 15th.

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# Discipleship Academy



## Wholeness Wheel

### Discipleship Academy

Our first Discipleship Academy class is on the Wholeness Wheel. This class will explore what it means to care for ourselves as creations in God's images. The wholeness wheel elective class is worth 1 credit. ***We will meet on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm.*** If you have any questions, please reach out to Deacon Beka or Pastor Micah.

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# Reformation Luncheon

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH**

**Immediately following worship**

**The Church will provide meat and drinks. We would ask the congregation for sides and desserts.**

## Reformation Sunday Luncheon

Reformation Sunday is the last Sunday in October and we will have a luncheon immediately following worship. The church will provide meat and drinks. We would ask the congregation for sides and desserts. We hope to see you there!



### Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are available to be sponsored. If you would like to do so in honor or memory of a loved one or to celebrate a milestone please click the button above.

**October 8** - Will and Katie Howard in honor of Jeff Howard's birthday.

**October 8** - Shelia Kelly in honor of Tim Kelly's birthday.

**October 15** - Katie Howard in



### Children's Church

**October 1** - Jennifer Kearney

**October 8** - Volunteer Needed

**October 15** - Jennifer Kearney

**October 22** - Deacon Beka

**October 29** - Amanda Kelly

*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.*

thanksgiving for Will Howard and celebration of 5 years of marriage.

Children's Church Sign  
up

**October 22** - Rochelle Potter in celebration of Caron Potter & Taylor Gross' birthday.

### HYC & Kids Club Meal Provider

**October 1** - Cheryl Bansen  
**October 8**- Shelia Kelly  
**October 15**- Jennifer Kearney

### HCY Meals

### October Sunday School Teachers

**Pre-K/K** - Travis Rhyne  
**Elementary**- Brittany Lewis  
**Youth** - Deacon Beka  
**Adult** - Pastor Micah



### Lectors

**October 1** - William Charnock  
**October 8** - Anne Reese  
**October 15**- Anne Reese  
**October 22** - Anne Reese  
**October 29** - Anne Reese

Lector Sign  
Up



Join us in the parking lot for the annual Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 28th from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.



*Click the button below to volunteer to set up your trunk at the event!*

Trunk Sign  
Up

## Some shots from a very successful God's Work Our Hands Sunday





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## Church Calendar

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!

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

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Grace and Peace,

Reformation Sunday is the last Sunday of this month, and while we don't have anyone being confirmed this year, we will still change the paraments to red, perhaps dress in red ourselves, sing classic Lutheran hymns and hear scripture central to our Lutheran faith, and share a meal together. It has generally been a good day together, and I certainly expect it to be again. I have to say though, that I occasionally struggle with the language that I use on the day (people know who me well aren't surprised that I spend too much time worrying about language). Is the Reformation something we "celebrate" or "commemorate." The reason I struggle with this is because, while as a lifelong Lutheran there is much about the Reformation that I celebrate, there are also some things that I grieve.

The Reformation, when Martin Luther initiated a protestant break from the Roman Catholic Church, was something I believe Christian faith needed. Theologically, Luther sought a forgiving, grace-filled, loving God, instead of the God he had been taught was eager to punish. Luther also sought to push against the Catholic Church's traditions that were not biblically founded and were easily used to empower people in ways that had nothing to do with scripture or a true faith. (It was interesting to be in St. Peter's Basilica this summer, which was built with the indulgences Luther was fighting against) The Reformation brought scripture into the hands of people of faith, as he translated the New Testament into the vernacular for the first time, instead of Latin reserved only for priests or the highly educated. There is much to celebrate about the Reformation.

And at the same time, there were bloody wars fought because of the Reformation, as the Catholic Church and those whose power relied on their relationship with the church pushed back against this loss of power and influence they were experiencing. The implications were not only theological, but also political, as German princes and others were eager to support Luther and others if it meant they were not under the thumb of Rome. Even now, while being thankful for Luther's theological assertions, I grieve that it meant that the church throughout the world is now divided between thousands of different denominations. We often struggle as much or more to get along with fellow Christians as we do people of other faiths or beliefs. So when we get to Reformation Sunday, I'll likely use the word "commemorate," which means "to remember together," when talking about the Reformation. It is not because I do not celebrate Luther and other reformers and the work they did, I certainly do celebrate that. But it is because I do not want to be blind to the bloodshed and the division that is also part of that story and something to grieve. And so as Reformation Sunday approaches we remember, together, that we are a church that is still reforming, still working to humbly recognize the ways as a church we have failed and been complicit in the harm others have experienced, and still working to Re-Form ourselves to better live into our identity as the body of Christ in and for the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Micah





## Music Notes

It always seems premature to be talking about the Advent season in October. The reality is that our choral and handbell ensembles begin looking at seasonal offerings even in the late summer months. For the moment we would like to invite children grades 3 and up to participate in a handbell ensemble. You do not have to read musical notation, but that can be helpful.

In December we will be using the beautiful Advent evening worship liturgy with Holy Communion entitled, "Behold Our Light." This service is led by our choir and features youth handbell accompaniment. There will be a sign up sheet during the month of October. This ensemble is limited up to 10 ringers. Below is the schedule for participation:

Rehearsal on Wednesdays in November 6:00 - 6:50. (No rehearsal Thanksgiving Eve)  
Rehearsal on Wednesdays in December 5:30 - 6:00. Congregational dinner @ 6:00...followed by worship at 6:45.

Contact Greg Cline if you would need more details.



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The music ministry welcomes our newest members to the church choir and handbell family...Stacey and Tim Wilson moved to Gastonia from Fredericksburg, VA...where Tim served Christ Lutheran Church there for the past 27 years as director of music. He retired from teaching elementary music in the Virginia public schools and is now employed as an elementary music teacher for Gaston County. Stacey is now working as a nurse for Home Instead in Gaston County. We are delighted to have Tim and Stacey share their musical gifts with us at Holy Comforter.



Folks have asked from time to time how we put together the worship bulletins. It actually comes from a wealth of resources...but the primary one is entitled, "Sunday and Seasons." From this planning resource we utilize more than 6 settings of the liturgy and hundreds of hymns that we rotate throughout the church year. Sunday and Seasons has now been an available resource to us for 28 years. It is a marvelous online planning tool. Literally hundreds of pastors, musicians, members of music committees, choir members, altar guilds, seminary professors, and others contribute their wisdom and ideas. Holy Comforter and thousands of other congregations throughout the U.S are blessed to be a part of this resource family. So now you know!

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Alone Be the Glory)

Greg Cline ,MD (Music Director)







Beka's  
Buzz 



One of my favorite Sundays of the year is filled with yellow t-shirts, tennis shoes, and friends! We worship, we eat lunch, and we head out into the community. Did you figure out the Sunday yet? God's Work Our Hands Sunday is a unique and fun Sunday for us. After months of planning, we have six projects that the congregation signs up for and they get the experience of learning about the organization and loving the organization.

Our projects this year were Bunny Blessings, SOCKS, helping a homebound member, cookie decorating for first responders, and making place mats for Meals on Wheels recipients. Each group offering something to a part of community in the light of service and gratitude. My group was able to volunteer with Bunny Blessings. We took 18 people to the Bunny Barn, where they cleaned food bowls for the bunnies. A group cleaned the travel van, that we measured last year for it's cool bunny wrap, and that takes all the bunnies and their supplies to visits. We helped clean a bunny pen and got to watch bunny care for Max. Erin Cassel and Gabriel Kearney folded and organized all shirts that people can buy and volunteers wear. There were projects for every person there! Wade Rhyne helped clean windows. After all our hard work, we got to hold some of these special bunnies.

Bunny Blessings is a unique ministry in Belmont, that serves Belmont, Gastonia, Dallas, and Charlotte. These bunnies travel to preschools, churches, nursing homes, and to nuns 98<sup>th</sup> birthday parties. They bring lots of joy and offer comfort and connection. We are grateful to get to love on Bunny Blessings and for them to love on us again and again. God's Work Our Hands allows us to go into Belmont and love on our community, to show our support and learn the value in how others love our neighbors. By serving these organizations we were able to love the neighbors that they serve. We loved those receiving meals on wheels who are aging, all the people the bunnies visit, all those who live below the poverty line that seek out SOCKS for help, those who risk their lives to keep up safe, and one of our own Holy Comforter community. God's Work Our Hands isn't just about service projects, it's also about how we love our community and support the work they do to care for our neighbor.

Deacon Beka

# 21 QUESTIONS

## TO GET TO KNOW YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER (AGES 11-14)

1. What is your favorite snack?
2. If you were to start a video channel on social media, what would it be about?
3. What rule in our family drives you the most crazy?
4. If you could be the star in any movie, what movie would you choose and who would you be?
5. If you had to choose one chore to do for the rest of your life, what would you choose?
6. What's the most annoying habit that other people have?
7. If you had to be stuck in a video game, what video game would it be?
8. What do you look forward to most: getting your driver's license, going to college, or something else?
9. What apps/games are your friends into?
10. What is your favorite app/game?
11. If you could choose three people outside of your family to go on a dream trip with you, who would they be?
12. If you could be famous for something one day, what would you be famous for?
13. What is the most talked about TV show right now?
14. Who is your favorite social media influencer?
15. If you could only be good at one thing, what would it be?
16. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
17. Why is your favorite person your favorite your favorite person?
18. What is the funniest video or meme you've seen lately?
19. What makes you feel better when you are sad?
20. Would you rather have only one or two close friends who know you very well or a bunch of friends who don't know you as well?
21. If you had to play one song on repeat to annoy everyone around you, what would it be?