



May 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.

[***Click Here to Find Our Worship Services***](#)

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@aol.com



***Pastor
Micah Kearney***

I've been really excited about the weather warming up lately and the days getting longer. Last night after dinner I helped my boys take their kayaks out



on the water across from our house and paddle around for a while, ...

[Read More](#)



May 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.

May 1	Katie Howard
May 1	Philip Piscatelli
May 3	Erin Cassel
May 7	Alec Via
May 8	Madeline Hogge
May 13	Rebekah Milton
May 13	Jan Buell
May 22	Cynthia Scholler
May 24	Perri Gross
May 26	Matthew Hogge
May 26	Declan Nance
May 28	Richard Fox
May 29	Angela Morton

Monthly Gatherings

- Catherine's House** presentation - May 5th, 9:30 am
- Prime Timers - May 9th, 10:30 am
- Kid's Club - May 12th, 4 pm
- Small Group 2- May 14th, 7 pm
- Outreach Committee Meeting - May 16th, 7 pm
- Pentecost Picnic Lunch** - May 19th, 12 pm
- Christian Education Meeting- May 21st, 7 pm
- Dinner Church** - May 29th, 6:30 pm

Sundays:

- Sunday School - 9:30 am (*last day is May 5th!*)
- Church Choir - 10:10 am
- Worship - 10:30 am
- HCY - 5 pm
- Church Choir - 6 pm
- Chamber Choir - 7:30 pm

2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

- Nar-Anon Meeting - 7 pm

Music Notes

The month of May brings on a foretaste of summer here at Holy Comforter. Post Easter Day, whether it begins in March or April, ...

[Read More](#)



Beka's Buzz

Who remembers their first church lock in? Do remember your first mission trip? The first time you spent more than 2 hours with your church friends and made memories ...

[Read More](#)

Mission Trip Must-Haves



Support us today!

- Support us with the necessities.
- Dehydration can be prevented!
- Sunburn can be prevented!
- Check out our Amazon Wishlist

[Click Here to View Our Wishlist](#)

Dehydration, constipation, and sunburn ruin a mission trip faster than walking in the rain! Help equip our young people and adult leaders to travel safely, healthy, and comfortably. Shop our Amazon Wishlist below to have items shipped directly to the church.

[Amazon Wishlist](#)

May 5th 2024 at 4 pm!

Bunny Blessings Visit

Bunny Blessings will be
visiting
pre-k through high school
students and parents!





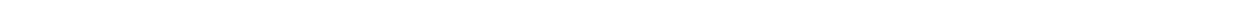
@HOLYCOMFORTERUPDATES

CATHERINE'S HOUSE
Mercy
LIVES HERE

MEET CATHERINE'S HOUSE!
Catherine's House is right next door! We are excited to welcome Kathy Gauger, President of Catherine's House. During Sunday School Kathy will talk about loving our literal neighbors.

Catherine's House

Representatives from Catherine's House will share an overview of their ministry during the Sunday School hour on **May 5th**.



Let's celebrate with a

PENTECOST PICNIC

MAY 19TH • AFTER WORSHIP

We invite you to bring
sides/desserts to share.
It is a great way to fellowship with
new and old friends!

Inclusion Initiative Updates

In furtherance of Holy Comforter's 2024 goal to expand our congregation's ministry to all in the rapidly growing Belmont area, with a specific focus on the young professional and LGBTQ+ communities, your pastoral staff, church council, and evangelism committee are pleased to introduce ...

[Read
More](#)



Summer Book Club Survey!

Click on the adjacent link to see 5 options of books for our summer Book Club. Please take a look, even research them if you'd like, and then **vote for your top 2**. With a variety of publishing dates, you may need to shop around.

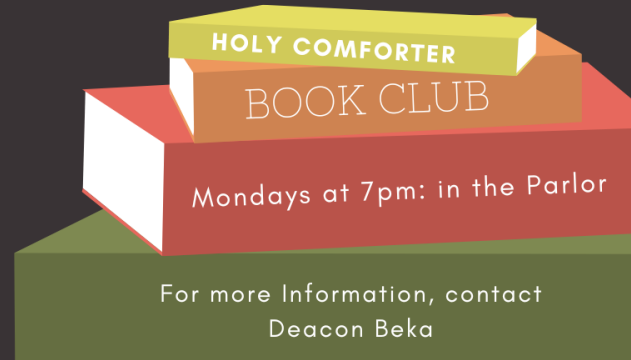
These books include recommendations from Ellen Fleming, who has been reading along with us, Gary Clark, Barbara Manson, Pastor Micah, and Deacon Beka.

Use this link to fill out the survey. >>>>>

BOOK CLUB

Like to read? Enjoy talking about books?
Curious about God?

Join us for holy curiosity and conversation.



**Book Club
Survey**

VBS

REGISTRATION OPEN

June 2nd-5th
Rising Kindergarten-5th Grade
6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall



Register Today!

Our VBS adventure will take place June 2nd-5th, for rising Kindergarten - rising 6th grade. Program starts at 6 pm and will go till 8 pm. We adventure at Camp Firelight! Our theme verse is Psalm 56:3. Our group will make new friends, sing fun songs, learn whenever we are afraid we can put our trust in God, do art

projects and science explorations, have snack and play games. Our young people will have a summer camp experience with God.

[Click Here to Register](#)



FEMININE HYGIENE DRIVE

Join our Outreach Committee in supporting menstrual equality by donating tampons, pads, or menstrual cups to SOCKS in May.



Period Poverty is real. Holy Comforter has acknowledged a call to support those living without. Join our Outreach Committee in giving dignity to those living without period products and other menstrual necessities.



Volunteers are needed!

Altar flowers are the flowers that are on the altar during worship. They can be given *in honor or memory* of someone and are a reminder of the resurrected Christ. Once worship is over, you are able to collect the flowers that you sponsored. The price per vase is \$22.50 or \$45 if you purchase both.

**2024 Altar
Flowers**

Being a Lector is an easy and important way to lead during worship. It would be most helpful for you to sign up for a month at a time, or as much of the month as you can. Readings will be sent to you the Monday before your Sunday.

2024 Lectors

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 making it available to parking lot worshippers and sanctuary worshippers. Materials for children's church are found in the binder in the fellowship hall marked "children's church binder" or at the website below. Caddies with tools, and a basket with construction paper are located in the fellowship hall for CC use. The supplies in the binder are meant to be photo copied.

Children's Church

Monthly Volunteers



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.

- May 5** - Jerri Wesson -
in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary and
granddaughters' 16th birthdays
May 12 - Julia Gunter
Carole Jolley - in honor of Patricia Downing's
birthday
May 19 - Rochelle Potter - In honor of
Perri Gross' birthday
May 26 - --- **need volunteer** ---



May Sunday School
May 5th is our last day of Sunday
School! We'll have donuts, and we'll
have fun putting new handprints on the
Nursery walls.



Children's Church

- May 5** - Beka Forst & Mason Morton
May 12 - -- **need volunteer** --
May 19 - Amanda Kelly
May 26 - Jennifer Kearney

*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**
May 5 - Julia Gunter
May 12 - Julia Gunter
May 19 - -- **need volunteer** --
May 26 - Sherry Alexander

Treasurer's Report for March 2024

Financial Category	2024	%	%	2023	2022
	\$Amount	Increase from 2023	Increase from 2022	\$Amount	\$Amount
Offerings for the Month	40,314	48.9	84.9	27,069	21,804
Offerings Year to Date (YTD)	85,958	29.4	26.3	66,433	68,080
Expenses for the Month	27,571	-6.3	11.4	29,430	24,749
Expenses YTD	81,102	-3.6	15.9	84,118	69,990
Planned Expenses (Budget) for the Month	30,279	4.8	15.5	28,902	26,222
Budget, YTD	60,557			57,803	52,444
Annual Budget	363,342			346,819	314,664

Holy Comforter’s operating surplus (offering income in excess of expenses) during March was \$12,742.59. Total giving to support Holy Comforter’s routine expenses for the month was \$40,314.00. The budget estimate of the amount needed each month in 2024 is \$30,278.50. The year-to-date surplus, through March 31, was \$4,855.26. Year to date spending was \$9,732.51 below the amount planned in the 2024 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 and can always be found on the church website under the events tab. Take a look!

**Church
Calendar**

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

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

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

Sent by communications@holycomforterlutheranchurch.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!



Grace and peace,

I've been really excited about the weather warming up lately, and the days getting longer. Last night after dinner I helped my boys take their kayaks out on the water across from our house and paddle around for a while, when not long ago it was dark by the time I got home from work. It is crazy how easily I forget that it's the case, but I get fed by being outside. Apart from time with certain people, it tends to be spending time outside that helps lower my blood pressure, put aside to do lists, and find joy being present in the moment. This time of year makes me excited to be able to find more time outside, whether because of the sun being out longer or the temperature being warmer. I know plenty of folks who are already planting and tending gardens, going out on camping trips, enjoying sports, and all sorts of other outdoor activities. It's a fun time of year as things are awakening (and creating lots of pollen), reminding us that we're in the season of Easter and the new life it brings, and bringing a sense of hope.

There are a lot of hard things going on in the world, and from conversations I have with people, a lot of hard things going on in people's lives individually as well. If you allow yourself, it is easy to think that the bad things are the main things, or even the only things, going on. It is kind of like how watching the news makes you think that people are horrible and the world is a terrible place, but then when you walk out into it you can quickly be reminded that people are kind and there is so much good in the world as well.

I wonder, what are the things, people, or places that bring you joy, that remind you of goodness in the world, that bring you hope? It might be time outside like it can be for me and other folks. It might be cooking, crafts, music, or other forms of art. It might be reading, playing or watching sports, time with friends or family, acts of mercy and compassion. I'm intentionally listing things that aren't directly church related like scripture and worship because what I want you to consider is how Christ is, or could be, at work within those everyday things that bring you joy, that fill you up, that give you joy. I think all too often we do not consider the ways Christ is at work in all parts of our lives, how the entire world is wrapped up in the Easter story of resurrection, new life, and hope, and how often the things that bring us joy, feed us, and give us hope, are things in which that Christ is at work, perhaps not overtly (I don't think Christ cares who wins or loses sporting events), but in the way we use those things to create beauty, to bring people together, to care for others, to help us or others to grow, or perhaps more accurately the way Christ uses those things through us. What is the thing that brings you joy, that fills you, that gives you hope, and how is Christ at work in it for your sake and for the world?

Yours in Christ,


Pastor Micah



Music Notes

The month of May brings on a foretaste of summer here at Holy Comforter. Post Easter Day, whether it begins in March or April, makes a marked impression on participation and attendance in all areas of ministry. May takes a particular beating with occasions such as Mother's Day, Memorial Day, school dismissal and graduations...etc. Even through the impact of such events, we continue to worship on Sunday mornings, unless interrupted by pandemics or snowstorms..."Where two or three are gathered."

Our church choir continues to lead our musical services of worship through the summer...regardless of numbers gathered. In fact, we just welcomed 2 new choir members to the choral family. Isaac (12) and his sister Elise (15) are now singing with their mom, Cheryl, in our church choir. I was telling them that I joined this choir growing up when I was Isaac's age. In those days we had a large youth choir. But eventually all the boys dropped out, and I was not going to be the only guy in an all girl's choir. So, that's how that happened. I used to at least initially impress our kid choir ensemble when I told them that I was on the 50 yard line at every home football game. "Wow, what position did you play?" "Tenor Saxophone!"

Greg Cline, M.D. (Music Director) 



Beka's
Buzz 



Who remembers their first church lock in? Do remember your first mission trip? The first time you spent more than 2 hours with your church friends and made memories and laughed at inside jokes for hours? Friday, April 12th, we had a lock in for all our Holy Comforter Youth (HCY). We played “get to know you” games, played running and playing games, watched the Barbie movie, made birthday cards for kids living at Catherine’s House, and we had faithful conversations about gender inequity, friends, and faith.

If I’m honest with you, lock ins are made to be more fun for youth than the adult leaders. I know, what a surprise (read that with a hint of sarcasm). Here is what I love about a lock in: I love the community experience bonding. I love the jokes and laughter that is shared. I love how they authentically show up for one another. I love the snacks (when’s the last time you ate a cheese ball?!). I love the sound of delirious laughing. Turns out lock ins aren’t for sleeping...

At the ripe hour of 11 pm we did a hard questions session. The youth were encouraged to write questions about life or faith; if they didn’t have any questions they could write affirmations of youth group. We wrestled with friends, boundaries, standing up for ourselves, where is hell, what is sin, and is it okay to question God. I was amazed to see and hear these young people show love and listened empathetically to one another. No one was alone is what they are experiencing. We heard words of promising to be supportive and friends always. I heard reissuance of everyone belongs here and is wanted here. Lock ins aren’t just for staying up all night...

This lock in reminded me of the hands that hold the church, the people who are leading, and it gave a glimpse of what the church will be like. Lock ins aren’t for sleeping and staying up all night; lock ins are for getting a peak at honest community, being the body of Christ, and feeling hope for how the church will grow. Y’all our youth group is something special, take a moment to behold them. The church is in good hands.

Deacon Beka
rforst@holyc.org



In furtherance of Holy Comforter's 2024 goal to expand our congregation's ministry to all in the rapidly growing Belmont area, with a specific focus on the young professional and LGBTQ+ communities, your pastoral staff, church council, and evangelism committee are pleased to introduce the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program.

The RIC program is offered by ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation, a non-profit ministry formally recognized by the ELCA that advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church. Approximately 12% of ELCA churches have already gone through the RIC process and voted to become RIC partners. All RIC churches are publicly identified on the ReconcilingWorks website, where people searching for an intentionally inclusive faith community in their area can easily find them.

Holy Comforter's RIC process will be led by the RIC Core Team, which is forming now and which seeks a few more individuals to join. The RIC Core Team will meet at least monthly, with specific dates and times to be determined by the general availability of team members. If you are interested in joining the RIC Core Team, please email the church at holycomforter@gmail.com or contact Karen Hinkley by **May 6th**.

More information is coming, but for those who are interested in learning more now, the ReconcilingWorks website is replete with free educational resources, including information, articles, and videos about the RIC process and the faith commitments of RIC partners: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>.

Karen Hinkley