

# THE WINDOW

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church ~ 1240 66th St. Windsor Heights, IA 50324

## WHLC Staff:

### Rev. Chris Olkiewicz

Lead Pastor

### Rev. Robin Coughenower

Associate Pastor

### Zach Meyer

Director of Youth and Family  
Ministry/Congregational  
Life Coordinator

### Heidi Hennig

Office Manager

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First, let me begin by wishing you all a joyful and safe New Year. I sincerely hope that you were able to celebrate Christmas with your family, surrounded by love and comfort - even if that looks different than any of us expected.

Another gathering that will be different than we expected last year will be our Annual Meeting, which we plan to hold online on Sunday, January 24th at 11:30 AM. While I think I can speak for us all when I say the potluck element will be sorely missed, we do still have some church business to manage to set us up for continued success and fellowship in 2021. These items include approving our annual budget, appointing new council members, and making non-substantive changes to our church constitution that bring us into alignment with ELCA recommended language. Copies of an agenda of all of these documents will be available at [whlc.org](http://whlc.org) in early January.

The Finance Committee has also graciously offered to hold two Question & Answer sessions about the 2021 Budget online. The dates and times for those meetings are below, and we'd encourage you to discuss any thoughts or questions you have about the budget in advance.

We do need to reach a quorum of 50 members in order to conduct meeting business; so please consider joining! If you have questions about using the Google Meet platform, please reach out to a pastor with questions.

### Annual Meeting

~Sunday, January 24 at 11:30 AM: <https://meet.google.com/gyo-zkxj-hfm>

### 2021 Budget Q&A Sessions

~Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 AM (After church):

<https://meet.google.com/num-pmyj-uaf>

~Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM: <https://meet.google.com/hcf-fctk-yvx>

I hope to see your faces again soon in 2021!

With best wishes, Halley Ryherd, Council President-Elect

# December

## Council Report



On December 22 , the WHLC Church Council met online. President Elect Halley Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present. Opening devotions were led by Suzanne Nelson.

The agenda was approved with one item added, Housing Allowance Resolutions. The Secretary's report from the November 24 meeting was approved.

Duane Danielson provided a brief Treasurers Report including the renewal of a CD at 0.65% interest. He then turned the meeting over to Scott Steensen, Chair of the Finance Committee. Scott reviewed the proposed budget for 2021. The budget provides for a decrease in revenue with a budget of \$509,000 for total revenues. Expenditures were reviewed. Decreases in expenses included a \$10,000 reduction in the extra Mortgage Retirement expense. A reduction in our property insurance of about \$3,000 was offset by an increase of a like amount in building maintenance expenses. The council approved recommending it to the congregation at the annual meeting. Two forums have been scheduled in January to review the budget with any members interested ahead of the annual meeting. Scott then reported that the annual financial Audit had been done by Duane Danielson and Brian Ryherd. Everything was as it should be. Scott thanked them for their work on this.

Pastors reports were accepted. The written reports had been sent to council earlier. Pastor Chris identified a need to find two people to represent our church at the annual synod assembly. Pam Lundell and Brian Ryherd were selected for the representatives and will be put forward for nomination at the annual meeting. The Health Committee had met earlier in December. With students heading back to classes around the area it was recommended and approved to have Faith Formation and Confirmation resume in person after January 1. Otherwise, meetings will not resume in January. We continue to monitor Polk and Dallas county levels of virus positivity and will resume more in person meetings as events warrant it.

In Old Business the stewardship efforts were updated. Reaction to date has been supportive and council appreciates the support of our membership.

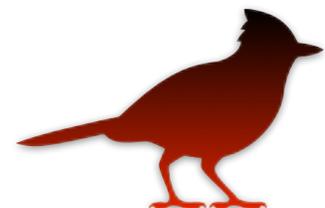
Ambrosion provided an update on the Nominating Committee. Most of the slate is ready to go. Ryherd provided an update on the efforts to hold our annual meeting online. The work is going well. Pastors provided an update on the Christmas Stroll which was a success. They reviewed Christmas service schedules and other activities.

In New Business we already had addressed the cost savings in our insurance quote. We will be moving from Guide One to Church Mutual. The council date in January was confirmed to be Monday, January 25. Council received an update on the need to annually approve the Housing Allowance Resolution for pastors. Pastors can move a portion of their salary to housing allowance which saves them taxes. It requires them to spend the amount on housing costs and have records to demonstrate the same.

Halley Ryherd volunteered to lead devotions in January. Ambrosion offered to write the council meeting summary.

Pastor Robin closed with a Reflection and prayer.

Meeting was adjourned by Ryherd.



# January WELCA Info

ELAINE HITES

ATTENTION WHLC WELCA:

WELCOME TO 2021!

THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON GATHERINGS FOR WELCA OF WHLC IN JANUARY, 2021.

PASTOR ROBIN WILL BE SETTING UP LINKS FOR THE FOLLOWING PLANNED EVENTS IN JANUARY:

JANUARY 4, 2021: WHLC WELCA BOARD MEETING, 6:30 PM.

JANUARY 21, 2021: WHLC WELCA GENERAL MEETING AND JOINT BIBLE STUDY, 6:30 PM.:  
JOURNEYS WITH ANGELS: SESSION ONE: "LOOKING UP"

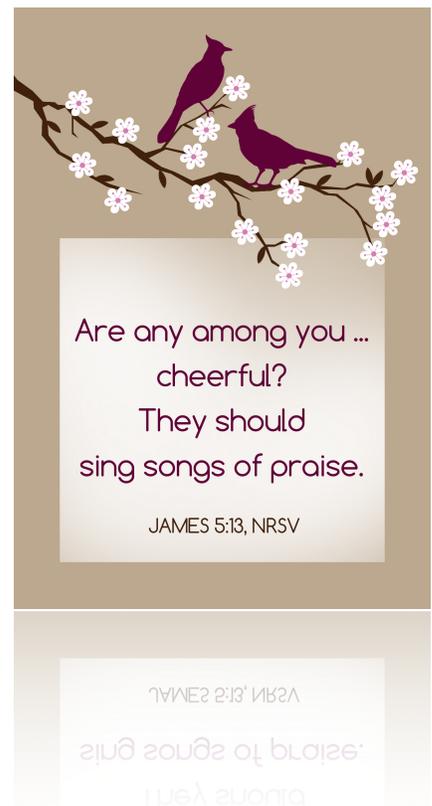
IN THE PAST NOT ALL WOMEN HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE INTERNET TO JOIN PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN 2020. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, SAFE DISTANCING AND WEARING A MASK, PERHAPS THOSE THAT DO NOT HAVE COMPUTER/INTERNET ACCESS TO JOIN MEETINGS MEETING IN SMALL GROUPS WITH SOMEONE THAT DOES HAVE COMPUTER/INTERNET ACCESS.

WHERE DO YOU SEE OR HEAR THE PRESENCE OF ANGELS?

MAY THOSE ANGELS BE WATCHING OVER ALL AND KEEPING YOU SAFE AND WELL!

IN GOD'S LOVE,

ELAINE A HITES, PRESIDENT OF WHLC WELCA



# Youth & Family News

## WHLC Advent Video!



As you might have already seen on Facebook and the E-Weekly, the kids worked hard in December on a special project! As we couldn't have our usual Advent Program this year, the kids decided to create a special video, sharing what Christmas looks like in their homes! Join the kids as they explore beloved holiday traditions, and experience some joy and laughs along the way! Thanks for creating this project, kids; you did great!

Watch the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/494243690?fbclid=IwAR2m45TzG4yTFrCtKLDqYtYMIukxQrS23R3DVWydPYQveK2TADWIgfk3zE>



## Confirmation & Faith Formation

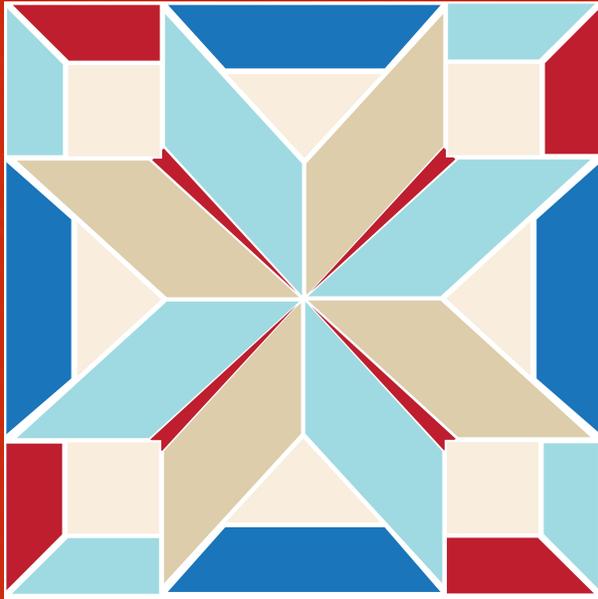
Confirmation and Faith Formation will begin in -person on Wednesday, January 6, from 6-7 p.m. with masks and social distancing. We hope you can join us!



# January

## WHLC NEWS & REMINDERS

### WHLC QUILTERS



The WHLC Quilters will begin meeting in-person again at a later date.

As for now, quilt bundles are available for anyone to pick up from the credenza inside the main doors.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Anderson at 515-491-9242 or [landy12450@aol.com](mailto:landy12450@aol.com).

### SUBMIT YOUR REPORTS

Please email all articles for the annual report to [office@whlc.org](mailto:office@whlc.org) by Sunday, January 3. Thank you!



If you would like to sign-up for online giving or change the amount you are currently giving through Simply Giving, please email [office@whlc.org](mailto:office@whlc.org) and request a Simply Giving form. Heidi can email or mail it to you. If you wish to continue your current Simply Giving, you do not need to complete a new form.



THANK YOU!

### Drive-By for Luther Park



A Christmas wish from Vivien Wells not to forget the residents at Luther Park turned into a successful drive-by in December. More than 300 gifts and \$200 were delivered! Thank you to all the generous WELCA members. Hoping next year we can once again celebrate the WELCA Advent service.

### Thanks from the Heart!



We wish to thank everyone for praying with and encouraging Elaine Hamilton (Ann's mom) during this difficult time. She is now out of quarantine and back to craft painting and decorating Christmas cookies. We are forever grateful for your love and support. Sincerely, Rand & Ann Reynolds

### THANK YOU!



Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Stroll. Heidi, Pastor Chris and Zach, along with many volunteers, helped make the event a joyous time to hear the Christmas story, sing some carols and greet our friends, from a distance, of course. Linda Anderson baked some fabulous treats, and members of Windsor Brass and the Alleluia Choir sang hymns along the way. 20 different readers shared the story of our Savior's birth. And to top it all off, many bags of food and over \$700 of cash donations were collected for the Urbandale Food Pantry. -Pastor Robin

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is a brief summary of the results for the General Fund followed by Special Offerings:

	November, 2020		2020 Year-to-Date		2019 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	30,655	42,791	427,192	470,701	449,747
Other General Fund Income	84	1,540	14,750	16,940	17,288
General Fund Income	30,739	44,331	441,942	487,641	467,035
General Fund Expense	40,527	44,318	454,816	487,494	466,065
General Fund Net Income	(9,788)	13	(12,874)	147	970
Special Offering Income	385	-	9,760	-	10,880
Special Offering Expense	420	-	9,433	-	10,543
Special Offering Net Income	(35)	-	327	-	337
Total Net Income	(9,823)	13	(12,547)	147	1,307

November, 2020 General Offering was \$12,136 or 28.4% under budget. 2020 year-to-date General Offerings are \$43,509 or 9.2% under budget and \$22,555 or 5.0% less than 2019 Year-to-date General Offerings. November, 2020 experienced the smallest General Offering for any month between January, 2014 and November, 2020. Let us all hope and pray that December offerings are generous and get us close to the annual budget of \$513,500.

Based upon 2017-2019 giving patterns expected General Fund Income should have been around \$464,522 versus actual General Fund Income of \$441,942 resulting in a negative variance of \$22,580.

November, 2020 and Year-to-Date General Fund Income is a bit concerning because the last 2 months of offering income has been down; however, our working capital remains strong due to overall expenses also coming in under budget.

November, 2020 General Fund Expenses were \$3,791 or 8.6% under budget and 2020 year-to-date expenses are \$32,678 or 6.7% under budget. Most of the November, 2020 and 2020 year-to-date General Fund Expense variance is from timing differences or from activities suspended due to COVID-19, e.g. Building & Grounds (Utilities), Employee Benefits (Continuing Education and Meetings & Conferences), Fellowship events, Parish Education (Wednesday Night Meals, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School) and Worship Resources (Altar Flowers, Communion Supplies and Sanctuary Care). Expenses continue to be managed within budget, the impact of the pandemic and balanced with General Offerings.

The Donate Button on WHLC.ORG has been updated to include a Memorial Fund option and has a box for the Donor to include the name of the deceased.

We continue to hold our own financially during these unusual times which truly is a blessing.

Thank you for your generous offerings.  
Duane Danielson, Treasurer





In Our Thoughts &  
*Prayers*

*Sympathy to Marilyn  
Colby and family on the  
death of Clark.*

*Sympathy to Al  
Schornack and family  
on the death of  
Marilyn.*

*Sympathy to the family  
of Jo Anne Widestrom.*



The LORD  
is my  
strength  
and my  
song;  
he has  
become  
my  
salvation.  
Exodus 15:2, NIV



- 1 BONNIE HYDA, RICHARD PEDERSEN
- 4 JOHN GROH
- 6 CHARLENE PAULSEN,  
PATRICE PAULSEN
- 7 RANDY RATEKIN
- 8 MARION DIETZ
- 10 DANIEL GOSS, JOANNE ROTHCHILD
- 11 ISABELL WEGNER
- 13 LINDA JAMES, JOHN LEAHY
- 15 MARC ANDERSON
- 17 RYENN SEIFERT
- 19 GLADYS HERTZBERG
- 21 SHELLY THIEMAN, PAULA VIRTUE
- 23 JIM SPIZALE
- 24 LINDA ANDERSON
- 25 MICHAEL MCNAMARA,  
JONATHAN MORRIS
- 26 WESLEY FERGUS, JANET HANUSA
- 28 NICHOLAS COX
- 29 MATT MCNAMARA
- 30 ANN FASSE, COLE GILBERT,  
NOAH GILBERT





# Cardinal Fun Facts



1. Cardinals are typically the first bird to visit feeders in the morning and the last to visit in the evenings.
2. During courtship, affection is expressed by the males feeding their females seeds in a method known as "beak to beak."
3. Occasionally, a lack of typical red pigment in the plumage occurs and is replaced by vibrant yellow or orange pigments which results in a yellow cardinal.
4. The average lifespan of a Northern Cardinal is approximately three years but they can live up to 15 years!
5. In the winter months, Northern Cardinals forego their territorial ways and congregate together to form flocks. They are more successful as a group looking for food than a single cardinal or pair.
6. Unlike many species of songbirds where only the male can vocalize, both male and female cardinals can vocalize. Females are known to sing when they are in the nest as a way of signaling their mate to bring food. Males sing during courtship and to defend their nesting territory.
7. Northern cardinals are monogamous and pairs stay together year round.
8. Northern cardinals are mostly a non-migratory species, opting to stay in their chosen spring/summer habitats during the winter.
9. Cardinals were named after Catholic bishops. Their red color resembles the robe worn by Roman Catholic Cardinals.
10. Cardinals voluntarily cover themselves with ants, helping them ward off lice.



Psalm 51:12, NIV



"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

<https://birdwatchinghq.com/interesting-facts-about-cardinals/>

<https://www.worldbirds.org/cardinal-bird-facts/>

