

THE WINDOW

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

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In this Issue:

February Announcements	1-2
January Council Update	3
Youth & Family News	4
WHLC News & Notes	5
Marilyn Schornack Tribute	6
WELCA & Quilters	7
Treasurer's Report	8
Sympathy	9
February Birthdays	10
Thank You	11
Valentine's Day Fun Facts	12



February Announcements

Since the pandemic began almost a year ago, health concerns have kept us from worshipping in person and sharing what is, for many Lutherans, the primary Sunday service: Holy Communion. While larger physical gatherings still present unacceptable risks, our longing for the sacraments is real and requires a response.

We are happy that the Health Advisory Team has given the green light to return to sharing small group communion services throughout the week. Starting the first full week of February, we will offer an opportunity to commune in groups of ten or fewer on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary rather than Parish Hall, but as before, we will need you to sign up in advance here — <https://volunteersignup.org/RDMJF> — or by calling or emailing us.

On Sunday, February 7, we plan to go back to Holy Communion as our Sunday liturgy, instead of Service of the Word that we have been using since the pandemic began. We realize that most of you will continue to pray and participate from home via the Facebook livestream.

In addition, we would welcome as many as ten people to be with us in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings (including worship leaders), as another opportunity to share communion in a small group setting. Advanced signup is necessary, as are masks and physical distancing.

In addition to these scheduled gatherings, Pastor Robin and I are able to commune with you individually or in small groups by appointment. If you are interested, just give us a call.

What if you remain at home on Sunday — as most of you will — and don't yet feel comfortable receiving communion in person in any setting because of COVID concerns? In the early centuries of the Christian era, pastors were frequently unavailable to lead worship everywhere believers wanted to have communion. As St. Augustine's prayer from the 4th century makes clear, physical reception of the bread and wine is not the only way to participate in the Lord's Supper:

"In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed body and blood are offered, I long to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray You to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing separate me from You; let me serve You in this life until, by Your grace, I join You in Your reign of unending peace. Amen."

Until such time as you feel okay about participating in person in Holy Communion, we invite you to participate spiritually, joining your prayer for Christ to come into your heart, soul, and mind with the prayer of the whole church, trusting that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now let's turn our attention to Lent for a moment. Yes, the season of Lent is coming with Ash Wednesday on February 17. We will have one service on Ash Wednesday live streamed at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays in Lent (beginning February 24), Holden Evening Prayer will be live streamed at 7 p.m. Small groups are planning to offer special music each week. In the coming days we'll tell you about a congregation-wide Lenten service project to benefit Lutheran World Relief.

Now let me conclude with a couple of thoughts about celebrating Holy Communion on Sundays with, for the time being, only a few people present in person while many others participate spiritually online.

First, when communion was celebrated less frequently (monthly, biweekly), most congregations still followed the communion liturgy on non-communion Sundays. (There was a Service of the Word in *LBW*, but I never saw it used.) In effect, we were doing communion even when we weren't sharing the elements — a communion service without the bread and wine.

Second, take seriously the idea of spiritual communion. As Augustine teaches, it is surely possible to receive Christ in heart, soul, and mind without receiving the physical elements.

Third, when is it "enough" people to return to communion as our principal Sunday service? If not ten, then 25? 50? 100? Or not until all may come without worrying about COVID? Sadly, it may be a year from now before that final stage becomes reality, which is far too long to wait to return to the Lord's Supper. So we'll return, stage by imperfect stage, until all can gather safely in person.

I urge you to make use of the several opportunities we are offering to commune as often as you can, and to continue to pray ardently for that day when we may again be one in body as well as spirit. May it come soon!

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris





February 1, 2021

We called our first council meeting of 2021 to order on Monday, January 25, at 6:32 p.m. Halley Ryherd provided an opening devotion, and asked Council members to volunteer for future monthly devotion offerings.

The agenda and the December 2020 minutes were approved unanimously, and Treasurer Duane Danielson provided a brief overview of the function of monthly financial statements for new members. The Treasurer's Report from December 2020 was approved unanimously.

The floor was opened for announcements for the good of the order, and John Reed commended the individuals who prepared for and lead the Annual Meeting (Sunday, January 24). Pastor Chris reflected that seeing the number of members in attendance was wonderful, and the meeting went very smoothly. (Halley adds that she still missed the potluck.) Halley Ryherd noted that she sent thank you notes on behalf of the Council to Brian and Karen Jansen for their hard work and support refinishing the floor in Crabtree Parish Hall, and to the Women's AA Group who met in our facility and the Chin Baptist Church, who have continued to support our congregation financially despite not being able to meet in the building.

Pastor Chris and Pastor Robin provided written reports, and Pastor Robin added that she recently received a package from our new property insurer, Church Mutual. It contained sensors that are a part of a free monitoring program they offer, which will be placed around the church to ensure that if there is a sudden temperature or moisture change, we'll be aware of it quickly. Pastor Chris noted that the past year has been difficult for WHLC's hospitality ministry, and he looks forward to renewing relationships with the neighborhood, community, schools, and organizational partners.

As noted in an earlier E-Weekly, the Health Team approved the resumption of some in-person gatherings, including youth group activities, and small-group communion services (which will be moved to the Sanctuary). If you are a part of a group activity interested in returning to in-person meeting, contact the pastors to schedule a time to meet in the building.

The Lenten season is near, and The Holden Evening Prayer will be offered via live-stream on Wednesdays, with special musical offerings from our music ensembles.

Pam Lundell and Tony Dahlman were confirmed as the layperson representatives at the Synod Assembly, which will be conducted online in May. Our next meeting is on February 22nd, when we will move forward with committee assignments, and Halley Ryherd will report back with further information on repainting the lines in the parking lot later this spring.

Last, an enormous thank-you to all who logged on to the Annual Meeting. It was amazing to see that many of your faces at the same time, and we truly appreciate your time and commitment to the success and vitality of our congregation.

Halley Ryherd, President

Youth & Family News

ZACH MEYER

Introducing: JHN Express

We haven't had a Junior High Night here at WHLC in almost a year; we certainly have missed hanging out with the middle schoolers one night a month for some fellowship and games. While we are still unable to return to our regular JHN's in the midst of the pandemic, we are excited to announce something new we are trying this month: JHN Express!

Express acts as a mini junior high night that allows the kids to gather while following our current safety guidelines for indoor gatherings. Group size must be limited, and we can have no more than 10 students at each event: therefore, [students must register on this brief sign up sheet](#) (can also be found on the website). Again, there are limited spaces for this event, so if your students would like to come (or even bring a friend or two) please sign up as soon as you can! If/once we reach 10 students, the signup is officially closed to further registration! Other guidelines for the evening are:

- **Mask must be worn at all times & social distancing (6 ft) will always be kept**
- **The event will run for only 1 hour (6-7 p.m.) as opposed to the usual 2 hours**
- **Unlike regular JHN's, we will not be able to serve snacks/dinner**
- **Games will be restricted to Parish Hall, rather than the entire building**

This is still very much a work in progress, but we are happy to announce we'll host our first Express on **February 19 from 6-7 p.m.** We understand this can't match the level of our regular JHN's, but it will give the middle schoolers a chance for some fellowship, laughs and games in small, safe groups, which grade school & high school students have been receiving this past month through Faith Formation & CHAOS. As with any event at WHLC, please be sure to consider your risk tolerance and willingness to meet with people in person at this time. Everyone should continue to make what they feel is the safest decision for their families!

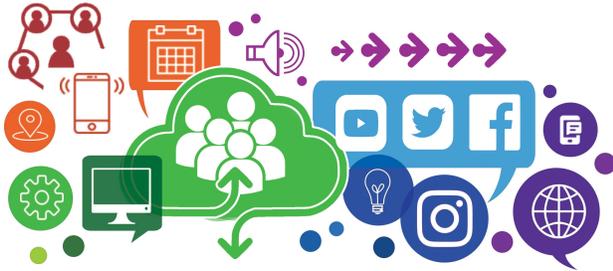
Due to the small size of this event, we cannot advertise it on Facebook, and are limiting the event to current middle school students of WHLC & their friends. It is also important to note that all of this is susceptible to change at the guidance of staff, the health advisory team, and continued updates on the level of vaccinations. This is a very small step in returning some of our beloved teen ministries, so we hope it offers a wonderful chance for our small group of middle schoolers to meet for a brief, fun and safe time!

Sign-Up Link: volunteersignup.org/8Z9RQ



♥ WHLC News & Notes ♥

BE CAREFUL!



Several members of the congregation have had their email accounts used for suspicious activity recently. If you receive an email from someone you know asking for help and asking you to email them as soon as possible, please be careful. It is likely a spoofed message that is really from a spammer or someone trying to steal your personal information. The emails we have been made aware of do not include attachments or links that could deliver malware to your device, but they do ask you to email the sender right away. Don't do it!

This is a good opportunity to review basic email safety protocols:

- Never click on links or attachments in emails unless you were expecting to receive them from the sender.
- If an email asks for help but is vague about what kind of help is needed, do not reply to it. If you're worried that the person really may need help, call them and ask. Remember that your pastors -- or the bishop! -- will never email you asking for money, gift cards, etc.
- Carefully scrutinize the sender's email address. The name of a person whom you know may appear in the "from" field, but the email address may not be theirs.

Be careful out there on the interwebs!



Virtual Altar Flowers

Would you like to sign up for virtual altar flowers? If so, you can through this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/DBYAE>. As you're signing up, you will be taken to another screen. Please complete the information. Heidi will reach out to you the week you are signed up to see if you would like a message included with your flowers. Your message will be included in the E-Weekly and the bulletin. There is no cost to sign up since the flowers are virtual.



Rand and Ann Reynolds continue living on their 28' sailboat near Annapolis, Maryland. A mild day recently provided an opportunity for an afternoon sail mid January. Their son, his dog and a friend joined them. This video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5lwQZCeDPY&feature=youtu.be>, includes highlights of the day trip and how they dock their boat with shots of the marina at sundown. They are enjoying their time on the east coast, near family and learning how to live on the water.

"And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you." Psalm 39:7

Tribute to Marilyn Schornack

The outpouring of your thoughts, prayers, sympathy cards, and memorials has been overwhelming to my family and me. Words cannot express how grateful we are to all of you for honoring Marilyn with your love and kindness at this time. We appreciate it very much.



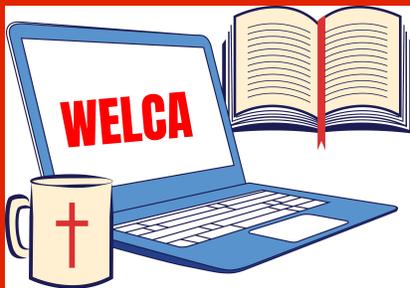
Back in April of 1964, when we moved to Windsor Heights, our first priority was to find a church home. Our first visit was to St. Stephens in Urbandale. The next Sunday we went to WHLC. In a couple of days we had a visit from Pastor Irv Schlachtenhaufen from WHLC. Within the next few minutes he had our two young girls, Marcy (6) and Jan (4) on his lap and was feeding them cookies. The next weekend Marilyn and I asked the kids where they would like to go to church. The resounding answer was--"where the pastor with the good cookies is." So, we went to WHLC and never looked back. That was 67 years ago. We were warmly welcomed and became very active in the church. Marilyn belonged to many groups/organizations in the church and enjoyed them all.

Marilyn truly loved WHLC. She especially delighted in working with and teaching younger children in Sunday School through the years. Singing in the choir for a long time was special for her. She had a special place in her heart for The Women of The Church. The lifelong friends she made in the church will never be forgotten.

God Bless All Of You!

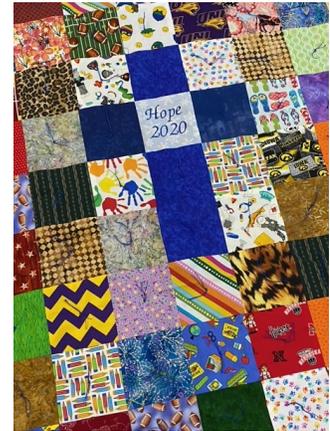
Al, Marcy, Jan and Kent





**WHLC WELCA
Joint Bible Study
will be held
virtually on
Thursday,
February 18, at
6:30 p.m. Pastor
Robin will lead
the study again.**

WHLC QUILTERS



Hanging in the entryway is one of two quilts, representing masks made by Linda Anderson. This quilt was sewn together by Sue Crum. If you look closely, you can see how she creatively arranged the blue squares into a cross with “Hope 2020” in the center.

The quilters have resumed on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. - noon. Everyone is welcome!

Quilt bundles are still available for anyone to pick up in the credenza inside the main doors.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Anderson at 515-491-9242 or landy12450@aol.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	December, 2020		2020 Year-to-Date		2019 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	60,369	42,799	487,561	513,500	510,381
Other General Fund Income	2,641	1,560	17,391	18,500	20,845
General Fund Income	63,010	44,359	504,952	532,000	531,226
General Fund Expense	42,584	44,506	497,400	532,000	510,073
General Fund Net Income	20,426	(147)	7,552	-	21,153
Special Offering Income	1,059	-	10,819	-	11,595
Special Offering Expense	820	-	10,253	-	11,595
Special Offering Net Income	239	-	566	-	-
Total Net Income	20,665	(147)	8,118	-	21,153

What a great finish to 2020. The only words I have that can express my appreciation for the General Fund and Capital Appeal income we received in December, 2020 are simply "THANK YOU"! It is gratifying to see how WHLC members, friends, guests, etc. financially supported the mission and programs of WHLC. We did not reach our 2020 Budget but we finished better than expected after watching October and November offerings come in lower than expected. WHLC is truly blessed with wonderful and supportive members. December, 2020 General Offering was \$17,570 or 41.1% OVER budget. 2020 year-to-date General Offerings are \$25,939 or 5.1% under budget and \$22,820 or 4.5% less than 2019 Year-to-date General Offerings.

December, 2020 General Fund Expenses were \$1,922 or 4.3% under budget and 2020 year-to-date expenses are \$34,600 or 6.5% under budget. Most of the December, 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, Mileage Reimbursement 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 have been managed within budget, the impact of the pandemic and balanced with General Offerings.

Special Offerings for 2020 are as follows:

Mission Support	3,206.00
Parish Hall & Kitchen Audio/Visual	3,495.00
Lent	1,885.00
DMARC Food Pantry	726.93
Urbandale Food Pantry	145.00
Souper Bowl	350.73
Bishop Burke Retirement	25.00
Lutheran Relief	165.00
Landscaping Project	440.00
Thanksgiving	380.00
Total	10,818.66



A Certificate of Deposit matured on December 16, 2020 and was renewed for another 10 months at 0.65%, maintaining the Certificate of Deposit maturity ladder.

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

Thank you for your generous offerings.

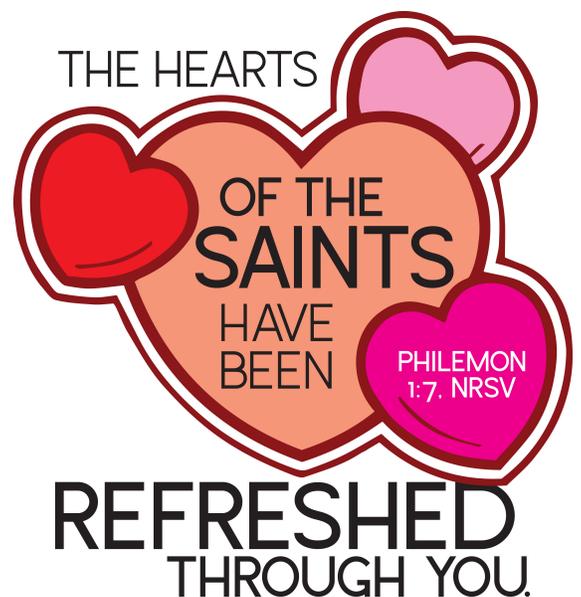
Duane Danielson, Treasurer

In Our Hearts & Prayers



*Sympathy to Marilyn
Warling on the
death of her brother,
Howard.*

*Sympathy to Patrick
& Dena Baldus on
the death of
Patrick's father, Bob.*





FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bridget Brennan, Paul Rogness
- 4 Faith Hougen
- 7 Gloria Edman
- 8 Tracy Curnow
- 9 David Risvold
- 10 Jan Belken , Ruby McIlrath,
Becca Morris
- 13 Noreen Rogness
- 14 Marge Seegers
- 16 Bryan Jansen
- 17 John Ambrosion, Delores Koch
- 18 Dwight DuBois
- 19 Chris Nelson
- 20 Bill Morris
- 21 Rilynn Rogness
- 22 Chloe Erickson
- 24 Kenneth Popken
- 26 Melinda Krumm, Dale Ratliff,
Barbara Waymire
- 27 Heath Hennig
- 28 Katie Fergus



THANKS
FROM THE
HEART



Thank you to Linda Anderson for delivering many offering envelopes!

Thank you to Mike Blake for shoveling the WHLC sidewalk on 66th Street!



With Heartfelt Thanks...

To our WHLC family,

Thank you for all of your prayers and cards. Your prayers have worked. George is out of the ICU and has been moved to therapy at the VA. He can breath and eat on his own, and now he's learning how to walk and use his arms and legs again. His brain is functioning normally and he still has his dry sense of humor!

With my heartfelt thanks,
Jan Belken and family



Thank you for your thoughtfulness and support as it has been deeply appreciated during this time. ~Marilyn Colby and family

Happy Valentine's Day



For God so lo**V**ed the world
th**A**t he gave his
on**L**y
begott**E**n
So**N**,
tha**T** whoever
bel**I**eves
i**N** him should not perish
but hav**E** everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

Love is **PATIENT**,
Love is **KIND**.
It does not **ENVY**,
it does not **BOAST**,
It is not **PROUD**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Valentine's Day Fun Facts

1. St. Valentine wasn't just one person. There's actually some confusion surrounding *which* St. Valentine the holiday technically honors. According to [History.com](https://www.history.com), there are at least two men named Valentine that could've inspired the holiday, including one Valentine who was a priest in third century Rome. As the story goes, this Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage (he thought it distracted young soldiers), illegally marrying couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death.

Another legend suggests that Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome, and that he actually sent the first "valentine" message himself while imprisoned, writing a letter signed "From your Valentine."

2. Not until the 1840s did we get the first mass-produced valentines. People started exchanging cards and handwritten letters to both lovers and friends during the 17th century, but it was in the 1840s that the first Valentine's Day cards were mass-produced in the U.S.

3. Americans spend millions of dollars on gifts for their pets for Valentine's Day. Around 27.6 million American households gave Valentine's Day presents to their pet dogs last year, and more than 17.1 million picked up gifts for their cats. All in all, American households spent an estimated \$751.3 million on gifts for their pets on Valentine's Day

4. Conversation hearts got their start as medical lozenges. Weirdly enough, [the story of conversation hearts](https://www.history.com) first began when a Boston pharmacist named Oliver Chase invented a machine that simplified the way medical lozenges — used for sore throats and other illnesses — could be made. The result was America's first candy-making machine, because the pharmacist soon started shifting his focus from making lozenges to candy instead! Chase founded the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, and the candy lozenges soon became what we know today as Necco wafers.

5. It's celebrated differently around the world. Many Latin American countries know the holiday as *el día de los enamorados* (day of lovers) or *día del amor y la amistad* (day of love and friendship). Though couples exchange flowers and chocolate on this day, the holiday's focus is also directed at showing gratitude to friends!

In Japan, it's customary for just the women to give confections to the men in their lives, with the quality of the chocolate indicating their true feelings, according to *Fortune*. On March 14, exactly a month later, the men repay the favor by celebrating the increasingly popular "White Day."

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/valentines-day-ideas/a26863/valentines-day-facts/>