

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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Pandemic Reflections

Greetings and happy spring, friends! I hope this Window finds you well as we approach the joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection, as well as the stirrings of new beginnings in nature, and in our church. As you'll read in our Council update and later in this newsletter, increased vaccinations mean we are approaching the light at the end of the tunnel. While we aren't there quite yet, we're laying the foundation that will allow us to regather safely, and soon.

As I've spoken to people about what they are most excited about when returning to our church community, the answer is always the same: the people. We miss the waves and smiles in the parking lot, we miss children sprinting between

tables on Wednesday nights, and we miss catching up over coffee and donuts. After a year, we have a lot to catch up on. Each of us has experienced joy, sorrow, and hope in different ways as teachers, students, parents, grandparents, healthcare workers, and people of faith. To begin to wrap our arms around the complexity of these experiences, we're either going to need a lot more donuts, or to try something new.

So, in the spirit of Lenten reflection, I'm asking you to share what your pandemic experience was like, and what you learned from it. We'll collect them into a time capsule of sorts, to begin capturing the depth and breadth of the pandemic experience at WHLC. These reflections can be as long or as short as you would like, and are open to everyone - please feel free to help your young people, or not-as-young-people, participate.

You can share your reflections using a handy online tool that I will share here (<https://forms.gle/N9iMBDsKchZAbBcG7>). Alternately, if you're better with donuts than you are with computers, you can email me at halley23@gmail.com or call me at 515-577-3367, and I'll make sure your thoughts are included.

I'm excited to hear your responses; if possible, please submit them by Saturday, April 10. Wishing you a 'hoppy' Easter - may your hearts be made new with the hope of the season.

~Halley Ryherd,
Congregation President

<https://forms.gle/N9iMBDsKchZAbBcG7>





March Council Update



On March 22, your WHLC church council met for their monthly meeting. President Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m with all members in attendance online. John Ambrosion provided the opening devotion and prayer.

The meeting agenda and the Secretary's minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Duane Danielson provided the Treasurer's report. Income in February was extremely strong, more than making up for the January shortfall. Danielson explained that two annual gifts were received and a refund from Guide One that contributed the exceptionally strong month. It was noted that WHLC does not qualify for the second round of the PPP government loan program. WHLC did not apply in the first round.

Pastor Robin offered that close to 300 personal care kits had been received to date, almost double the goal with more expected to come in. Robin also provided information regarding memorials and examples of past uses for these funds.

Pastor Chris shared an article about returning to worship as more people are vaccinated. Staff has started to brainstorm plans for return to worship. They are documenting post-pandemic thoughts and ideas. They will share the document with council. Council was challenged to think about we, the church, have done that is good, what can we restart and what we have not done that may not need to be restarted. In addition, where have we benefitted and how we could use those benefits to help others. What do we have new energy for?

In Old Business, Pastor Chris summarized the Health committee meeting. Current plans remain in place. It is ok to meet in small groups socially distanced with masks. Members are encouraged to get vaccines, but it is not required.

Plans were approved to get the west parking lot re-striped with an estimated cost of \$300 or less. Bids will be received. Ryherd will follow up with Chuck Young.

In new Business, Committee liaison assignments were shared with council. Council members will be reaching out to their committee leaders.

Ryherd had connected with each council member over the previous 30 days to discuss post-pandemic life at WHLC. How do we continue to provide multiple ways to access worship, group meetings, usage of the facilities, outreach to marginalized groups, and other issues? Group discussion followed. One common theme was that members missed in person conversations and gatherings. Also, how can we capture our shared experiences over the course of the pandemic? What have we learned and how have we changed?

Council members agreed to reach out to members of the church to touch base and will be making connections in the future.

The next council meeting will be on Monday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m.

It was announced that after Palm Sunday services, there would be a Palm Drive-Through for members to get palm branches and offer personal care kits if they chose to participate.

Pastor Robin closed the meeting with a reflection and prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Lutheran World Relief

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Words cannot even begin to describe the joyful feeling in Crabtree Parish Hall Sunday following the palms pickup and the LWR kit drop off! Unofficially, we have collected a total of 430 kits; way over the goal! There had been 300 completed or dropped off prior to Palm Sunday, and watching the pile grow just showed the generosity and big hearts our congregation has. You are all amazing! There is not an exact amount, but over \$1,000 was collected and used for supplies. The remaining will be sent to LWR as a donation from WHLC.



You may ask as my grandsons did, "Where do they go next and how do they get to the people who need them?" After Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy pack and label the boxes, they will be loaded on a truck with kits and quilts from other local churches. That truck will take them to Cedar Rapids to be combined with churches in the SEIA Synod. Then onward to St. Cloud, Minnesota to the LWR warehouse. At the warehouse, they will be loaded and sealed in cargo containers. Once LWR contacts them that there is a need (which we know there is) they will be loaded in shipping containers and hauled by train to either the east or west coast where they then are loaded on to a cargo ship for their final destination. It may take from 3-9 months for someone to actually receive your health care kit, but we know whenever they arrive, they will be appreciated.

I would personally like to thank Cindy and John Ambrosion, Ellen and Dennis Graham and Vivien Wells for helping put the kits together. It was definitely the work of angels! They all stepped up again on Sunday to help collect the kits, as did Hailey and Calvin Ryherd! Along with Pastor Robin and Pastor Chris, it was so heartwarming to see so many happy faces come through and to share a few minutes of conversation!

And to Pastor Robin, whom I can never say no to, for giving me the reins to get this Lenten project off and running. I am so blessed to be a part of WHLC and to share the joy with all of you!

Have a blessed Easter! Linda Anderson

Marilyn Penberthy & Jan Grannes packing up the LWR kits.



Pictures from the Palm Sunday Drive-Thru!

Pastor Chris, Linda Anderson, Ellen & Dennis Graham, Cindy & John Ambrosion & Pastor Robin.



Halley & Calvin Ryherd handing out palms.



Vivien Wells helped put together many kits! Thank you, Vivien!

Sharman Blake & the Hennig family with their kits.



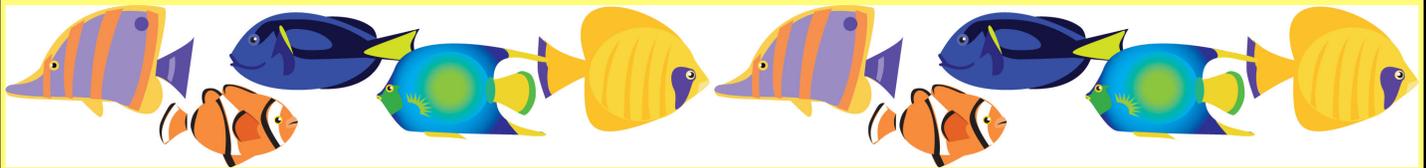
Calvin Ryherd giving a palm to Ruth Lightly.



Youth & Family News

ZACH MEYER

Save the Date for VBS 2021: Mission Deep Sea!



We are thrilled to finally announce an official date for the return of VBS! We hope all students are ready to join us this summer from July 26-30 for an incredible week of community, fun and faith! We will follow all COVID safety protocols for the event, which is susceptible to change between now and late July. We are committed to following whatever protocols we need to make this happen, and we are so excited to return to the highlight of our summer calendar!

We still have quite a way to go until late July, and we'll roll out many more details as we get closer to the event, including an official sign-up. For our theme this year we're taking voyage into the strange and wondrous depths of the ocean (yes, even here in Landlocked Iowa!) This exciting curriculum highlights teamwork, using our diverse gifts, diving deeper into our relationship with God, and how we can protect and serve the earth's environment. Students will become S.E.A. Agents, and together we'll learn and dive deeper into the wonders of God's watery creations and his boundless love. This is a VBS you won't want to miss!

An important factor to note for this event is that as of now, our 2021 VBS will feature a half-day day camp format for five days, as opposed to our usual full length day camp for four days. This will be done to better fit the safety protocols for the event, and will allow us to better utilize the building space to the event. This means that VBS will begin in the morning and end around noon. We hope to release the official VBS timeline and schedule sometime very soon!

If you have any questions, comments or ideas about VBS, please reach out to Zach at zach@whlc.org. We'd be happy to have your input and assistance as we plan out this wonderful summer event!

Zach made a cool video about VBS! Check it out here: <https://vimeo.com/528005924>



CAMPERSHIPS

REMINDER!

We've raised the amount of camperships for this summer from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per student. For more info, please check out the March Window or contact Zach!



As many of you know, the Easter Breakfast acts as our yearly big fundraiser for the youth at WHLC! This will be the second straight year we unfortunately will not be able to offer this event, but we certainly have not forgotten about fundraising for future student groups. In lieu of donating some money at the Easter Breakfast, we encourage you to consider an online donation to the permanent youth fund through the church website! You'll find a new listing for "Youth Activities" on the donate page, which works in the same way as the other options.

With the return of such activities as the Youth Gathering, church camp, VBS & Boo Bash, there will be a lot for our students to partake in in the upcoming year! It is important to note that we are not giving up on fundraisers either! Be on the lookout this summer for some alternate fundraisers with the students to help cover the cost of upcoming ministries. We hope to bring back the Youth Auction for the upcoming Gathering, but even if that's not a viable option, we're committed to finding a way to raise money for

the trip. These options could take the form of things such as sales, yard work, game nights or even virtual activities. We're covering all bases!

Finally, it's important to note that these fundraisers and donations are such a critical part to our kids ministry. Donations allow us to offer things like camperships, cover gas mileage for drivers, and partake in fun activities or ministries that otherwise might not be an option to our groups! We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to travel to events like the Gathering, or partake in a fun event at the church. These donations help us serve kids in ways that grow their faith and expand their communities. Any donation, no matter how small, goes a long way to giving students a holistic faith experience filled with plenty of fun, worship and service!

A screenshot of an online donation form titled "Online Donation". The form is divided into several sections. On the left, under "Donations", there is a list of categories with input fields for amounts: GENERAL OPERATING: 0.00, BUILDING FUND: 0.00, YOUTH ACTIVITIES: 0.00 (circled in red), DMARC Food Pantry: 0.00, CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER FUND: 0.00, and Memorial Fund: 0.00. Below these is a "Total:" field showing \$0.00. There is also a "Donation Frequency:" dropdown set to "Choose One". On the right side, there is a "Log In" section with fields for "Email Address:" and "Password:", a "Log In" button, and a link for "Forgot your Email Address or Password?". Below that is a "Create Your Online Profile" section with a "Create Profile" button. At the bottom, there is a "Consider Recurring Donations" section with a description and fields for "Donation Start Date:" (03/29/21) and "Donation End Date:" (optional). A red arrow points from the text "Donate Option" (written in red) to the circled "YOUTH ACTIVITIES" field. A "Continue" button is at the bottom left of the form.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	February, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y_T_D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	77,854	41,925	111,979	83,850	77,471
Other General Fund Income	1,100	532	1,290	1,064	3,391
General Fund Income	78,954	42,457	113,269	84,914	80,862
General Fund Expense	37,464	42,425	82,053	84,850	88,643
General Fund Net Income	41,490	32	31,216	64	(7,781)
Special Offering Income	290	-	405	-	4,791
Special Offering Expense	260	-	335	-	4,645
Special Offering Net Income	30	-	70	-	146
Total Net Income	41,520	32	31,286	64	(7,635)

WOW, AWESOME, BLESSED and some many other words can describe February 2021 General Offerings. General Offerings were \$35,929 over budget and are \$28,129 over budget for Year-to-Date. Included in the February 2021 General Offerings is approximately \$14,000 for a stock gift, \$7,500 from a Family Foundation and \$4,000 from an IRA Required Minimum Distribution. These tax planning gifts likely satisfy the members' annual pledges so not likely to see repeat donations in 2021.

A refund of \$7,921 from Guide One was received in February 2021 when we changed coverage to Church Mutual. This refund was also included in General Offerings.

Adjusting General Offerings for the 3 one-time gifts noted above plus and the Guide One refund then February 2021 General Offerings would be \$2,500 over budget which is still awesome. Adjusting Year-to-Date General Offerings for these same items would result in Year-to-Date General Offering \$5,300 under budget.

February 2020 General Fund Expenses were \$4,961 under budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses were \$2,797 under budget. Most Expense variance is from timing differences for property insurance premium and NON-ELCA benevolence disbursements paid quarterly. Snow Removal expenses were over budget. Other expense variances are small by comparison.

A Certificate of Deposit matured on February 17, 2020. This Certificate of Deposit was renewed at 0.65% for 10 months.

Thank you for your generous offerings.
Duane Danielson, Treasurer

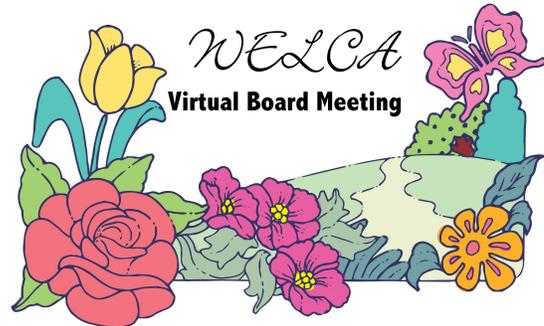


WHLC News & Notes

Health Advisory Task Force Update



At its March meeting, the Health Advisory Task Force advised continuing with our current orange-level safety protocols, which include limiting indoor gatherings to groups of 10-15. Though there is much optimism over the increasing number of people being vaccinated, the infection rate for Polk and surrounding counties remains high, essentially where it has been for the entire pandemic except for the huge surge during the winter months. This means that it is still easy for the unvaccinated to contract this highly contagious virus, and ongoing caution for the sake of our community is warranted. Our regathering plan with the safety protocols for each risk level can be reviewed anytime at <http://www.whlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Our-Plan-to-Regather.pdf>



There will be a WELCA Board Meeting on Monday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. Here is the link: <https://meet.google.com/uab-qgom-nvx>

Christ in Our Home



The April/May/June Christ in our Home can be picked up in the Free Little Library.



The Mary Circle will meet in Room 127 on Thursday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. Social distancing will be practiced and masks will be worn.

More News & Notes

Audrey Johnson



Audrey Johnson is in long term care at Calvin Community after having a stroke. Cards can be sent to:

4210 Hickman Rd, Room 301
Des Moines, IA 50310

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



On the Fourth Sunday in Lent 50 years ago, Pastor Paul Axness was ordained into the ministry of Word and sacrament. Thank you, Pastor Paul, for serving God's people through 50 years of ministry! You have been blessed to be a blessing, and we are blessed to have you and Sandy among us now. Congratulations on this significant anniversary!

Elaine Hamilton



Elaine Hamilton would love visiting with anyone who would like to call on her. Here's a photo of her coloring.

Elaine is at Wesley Acres. They have now opened up visitation to include seven days a week, including children old enough to keep their face mask on. You will have to call ahead for an appointment (no more than two per floor at a time). Up to one hour visits - no pets yet. The number is 515-271-6500.

**God is Faithful,
Ann Reynolds**



Sympathy to Dwight DuBois, whose brother, Doug, died in a farming accident. Our hearts are with Dwight and family in this tragic loss.

*we will
be with
the lord
forever*
1 Thessalonians 4:17



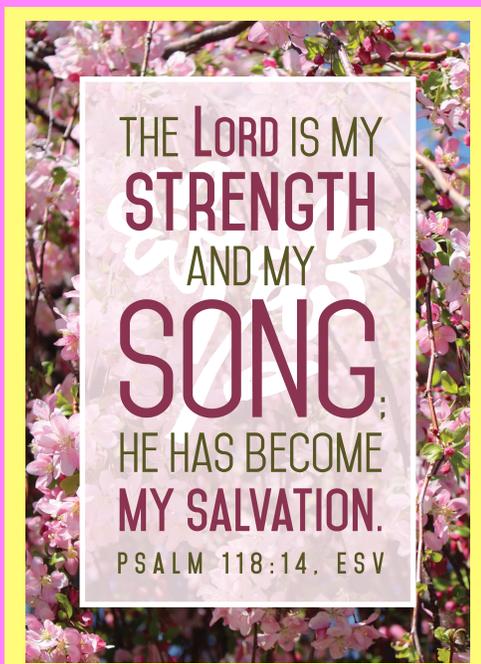
- 1 Beth Olkiewicz, Ellen Roose, Taylor Santi
- 3 Travis Reinders
- 4 Ryland Boyken, Dana Leahy, Tim Reinders
- 5 Ellen Graham
- 6 Julie Borseth, Olivia Charlton, Al Schornack, Megan Seifert
- 7 Marilyn Colby, Amelia Henderson
- 10 Marilyn Warling
- 11 Patrick Baldus, Ben Schramm
- 12 Henry Fergus
- 16 Gregg Gustafson, Maren Steensen
- 17 Sue Crum, Matthew Eakins, Karen Jansen, Hannah Parker
- 18 Judi McGowan
- 21 Liz Nelson
- 22 Gale Russell
- 23 Carl Edman, Debra Goss
- 24 Darrell Klooster, Dorothy Nicolet
- 25 Mike Johnson
- 26 Julie Swanson
- 27 Jan Grannes, Pauline Hughes, Stephanie Opsal, Joseph Schramm
- 28 Anton Wheeler
- 30 Linda Lundgren, Bob Prigge



Al Schornack turns 90 on April 6.
Let's shower him with cards
to help him celebrate!
You can send cards to:
947 Ashworth Rd, Suite 207
West Des Moines, IA 50265
Happy Birthday, Al!



Spring Fun Facts



1. Spring fever is a real syndrome. When the temperature rises during the warm spell after a long winter, there is a dilation of the blood vessels so blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. People experience an energetic feeling when this happens.
2. Benjamin Franklin was the first to propose daylight savings time in 1784. It wasn't fully implemented until the end of the Second World War.
3. The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. What does that stand for you ask? 'Vernal' is Latin for spring while 'equinox' is Latin for 'equal night'.
4. The first spring flowers are typically daffodils, dandelions, lilies, tulips, iris and lilacs to name a few.
5. Baby birds learn to sing during spring. Although they are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the specific songs of their species. They often learn their songs within two months of being born.

<https://trilakesfcu.com/portfolio-view/fun-facts-about-spring/>

HE IS RISEN

Hallelujah

