

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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The WHLC quilters began making quilts in January 2013. LaVon Heston and Audrey Johnson approached Pastor Robin to see if it would be a possibility to start a quilters group and they were given the green light. Approximately 10-12 ladies began meeting in the old Fellowship Hall. At this time the quilters began taking pictures and documenting each quilt made. These pictures were put into albums that are kept in the WELCA room for anyone to look at.

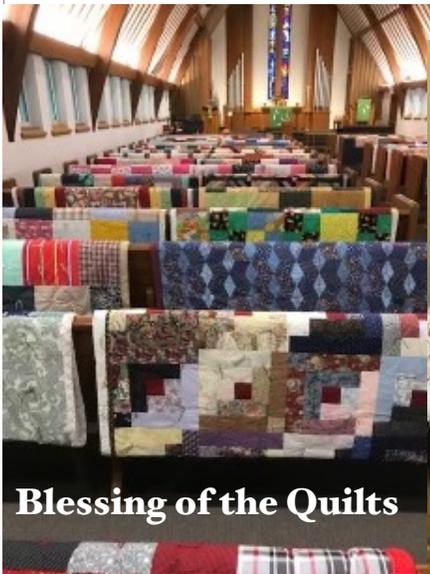
All the fabric used for the quilts is donated by members and friends. The fabric squares are cut and packed into bundles that are available for anyone to pick up and sew into a top. We have been fortunate to have a member of St. Marks Lutheran Church volunteer and sew many of our tops, along with Sue Crum, Mary Wilke-Adair, Wanda Baraldi, Pastor Robin and the quilters. A few tops have been sewn by anonymous sewers and we appreciate all their support. WHLC has been supporting us by purchasing the batting that goes in-between the two layers.

Each Monday we cover raised tables with a back, topped with a layer of batting and then a top that has been sewn together. It takes about 45 minutes to an hour for two of the quilters to tie the three layers together. Our goal is two-five quilts every Monday. After they are tied, the back is folded over to bind the edges and then they are machine sewn. Over the years, Delores Koch and Gayla Russell have stitched over 800 quilts.

The majority of the quilts have been given to Lutheran World Relief, the Pine Ridge Reservation and local shelters. We have also donated quilts for the Riverside Bible Camp Auction. There are no two quilts alike and that is what makes it so fun.

The Blessing of the Quilts in April and October is the highlight of our labor as we share the quilts by displaying them over the pews. They are then packed and transported to the LWR warehouse in Minnesota where they are stored and eventually shipped to world countries when needed. This summer the 800th quilt was completed!

WHLC members may donate cotton fabric and colored sheets that we use for backs. Anyone is welcome to join the quilters on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. - noon for fellowship as the quilts are made. Our motto is still, "If you can tie your shoes you can tie a quilt"!



Blessing of the Quilts

Jan Belken, Gayla Russell, the late Marilyn Schornack, Vivien Wells & the late Audrey Johnson working on a quilt in June 2016.



Dolores Koch machine stitching around the quilt edges in 2016.



Linda Anderson & La Von Heston with the WHLC Quilters' 800th quilt!



A beautiful quilt made by Wanda Baraldi in 2018.



Treasurer's Report



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

	June, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	35,507	41,925	253,218	251,550	235,622
Other General Fund Income	997	532	3,859	3,192	9,505
General Fund Income	36,504	42,457	257,077	254,742	245,127
General Fund Expense	38,497	42,425	241,269	254,550	261,175
General Fund Net Income	(1,993)	32	15,808	192	(16,048)
Special Offering Income	285	-	4,056	-	5,855
Special Offering Expense	375	-	1,965	-	5,734
Special Offering Net Income	(90)	-	2,091	-	121
Total Net Income	(2,083)	32	17,899	192	(15,927)

General Offerings were \$6,418 under budget for June and are \$1,668 over budget for 2021 Year-to-date. 2021 Year-to-date General Offering is \$17,596 greater than 2020 Year-to-date General Offering. General Offerings appear to have leveled off around \$35,000 each month. The Finance Committee believes we will report amounts under budget for the month and year-to-date beginning next month. The Finance Committee continues to feel blessed by the generous offerings to-date.

June 2021 General Fund Expenses were \$3,928 under budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses are \$13,281 under budget. A portion of the expense variance is from timing differences for property insurance premium and NON-ELCA benevolence disbursements paid quarterly. Snow Removal expenses are \$7,003 over Year-to-Date budget and will be approximately \$4,500 over budget at year end. Accounts under budget, e.g., Cleaning Equipment & Supplies, Repairs & Maintenance, Utilities, Employee Benefits (Continuing Education, Mileage Reimbursements and Meetings & Conferences), Parish Education (Wednesday Night Meals, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School) will likely see smaller or no variances in future months as activities which have been suspended return to normal activities. Overall expenses are managed within budget, the impact of the pandemic and balanced with General Offerings.

Following is a schedule of year-to-date Special Offerings:

ELCA Mission Support	985.00
DMARC Food Pantry	148.39
Urbandale Food Pantry	35.00
Lent-Lutheran World Relief Kits	2,888.06
Total	4,056.45



Operating cashflow remains solid.

A Certificate of Deposit matured on June 13, 2021 and was renewed for 10 months at a rate of 0.40%

Thank you for your generous offerings.
Duane Danielson, Treasure





A Letter from
BISHOP AMY CURRENT



28 July 2021

Jesus said to them,

“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

Dear Beloved People of God of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

Oh, how we hoped and prayed that the summer would slow the spread of COVID-19 and it might begin to fade from our lives. After the vaccinations became available, many have celebrated removing masks, gathering for poignant family reunions, traveling for vacations, and returning to in-person worship. Despite these late spring hopes, the pandemic remains and the Delta variant is now the prominent strain in the U.S. and Iowa. See CDC county tracking of community transmission rates.

The change in CDC guidelines and information from public health officials has left us with more decisions to make, plans and policies to rethink. And we may again have to lament gatherings postponed, events cancelled, and experiences missed. We are weary; pastors, councils, and COVID committees are all experiencing decision fatigue. The pandemic has made clear that communities of faith are filled with people that have differing opinions and desires. More than a year into this pandemic our grief is deep, our frustrations may be closer to the surface, and our patience is thin. We are human after all and, on occasion, our frustration, grief, and stress come out in ways that break down communication rather than build it up.

Please be gentle, patient, and kind with one another. Pray for your pastors, deacons, congregational staff, council leaders, and COVID-19 committees. Thank them for the marathon behind us and provide loving support for the marathon ahead.

I hope that we will all keep the love of each neighbor as our guide as we make decisions for the safety of all who gather including those who are vaccinated, who cannot be vaccinated, unvaccinated, children, individuals who are immune compromised, etc. We are all beloved ones for whom Christ died.

I will do my best to continue providing updated resources or guides as they become available on the synod's COVID-19 page as we move ahead together. You are not alone in making difficult decisions. Remember that what works in one congregation may not be what works well for the congregation down the road or in the next county. We have some experiences to rely on now and good resources to guide us forward. The church has not closed; instead, the body of Christ is navigating a pandemic. God is with us and continues to call us to love one another.

If you are eligible and you haven't yet, please consider getting the vaccine. Find a provider and learn more about the vaccines.

I invite you to pause and join with me in a time of prayer for our church, our leaders, our weary world, all who navigate difficult decisions and disagreements. We pray for healing and hope in the midst of the pandemic, especially with the spread of the Delta variant, and for all who are ill in body, mind and spirit, for all who care for the sick and suffering, for peace and reconciliation, for the beauty and suffering in creation, and for good courage as we journey forward not knowing what will come next but knowing that God's love leads us and supports us.

And, now, may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Peace,
Bishop Amy Current





VBS Was A Blast!



Preschoolers gather for a picture after arts and crafts.



The upper elementary kids enjoying music time.



Amanda Lauritsen leading music!

What a blessing to see VBS return to WHLC this summer! A big thank you to all our volunteers, planning team and all the kids who could join us for a wonderful week of fun! We explored the ocean depths, learned all about God's love, the wonder of creation, and how we can serve the world around us! We had 25 kids and over 30 volunteers came together to make this week happen; we were able to stay safe while having an extremely fun time throughout the week. Everyone has such a great time! Look for a deeper write-up on VBS, as well as our summer in Youth & Family Ministry as a whole, in the September Window!



August 1, 2020

CHECK OUT THESE PICTURES FROM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MISSION: DEEP SEA!



Nerf Night #2! Join us for Future Tactics!

You saw in our previous Window that Nerf Night is returning to WHLC, and we are happy to welcome back the teens on Friday August 13th from 5-8pm for some fun Nerf Blasting Action! Students in 6th-12th grade are welcome to join us for different game modes, plenty of Pizza, and a chance to take home some custom goofy trophies & prizes. Students can bring their own Nerf equipment or choose from the church's selection, and the church will provide all the darts for the night.

Now, to address a big question with this event regarding teens: what about masks? Originally, we were requiring them for the evening; however, we are modifying that just a bit. For the event, we are still asking that all students bring a mask along, and to wear them in the event if they are not yet fully vaccinated. This decision was made inline with our current policies for worship & groups using the church space; We won't have a super massive group at the event, and will be using the entire building when no one else is using it. This will allow for social distancing and enough air flow during the event; we'll eat dinner outside. This choice also took into consideration our current middle/high schoolers. I know several of them have been fully vaccinated for some time now, and if the group for our event is primarily composed of students we know are all vaccinated, we wanted to offer them the choice of wearing their mask or not.

Please understand that much like VBS, all of this is still a work in progress. I know many students have really enjoyed Nerf Night in the past, so along with VBS, it's one thing I really wanted to try and bring back this summer. We'll see how it all goes, but please know we're committed to trying to offer as safe and fun an event as possible. You are welcome to invite your friends to join us for Nerf Night; There is no cost to attend, but PLEASE RSVP at the link below so we know how much food to get for the evening. Hope to see you there!

RSVP Link: <https://volunteersignup.org/J3M8M>

NOTE: All Nerf Blasters must be applicable with N-Strike Elite darts. This means no subseries that take other darts, including but not limited to: Rival, Mega, Vortex, Ultra, foam swords/shields & The Adventure Force Nexus Pro Series.

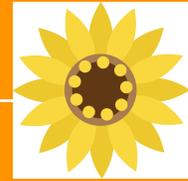
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Zachary Meyer
Director of Youth and Family Ministry/Congregational Life Coordinator





AUGUST



WELCA NEWS

The WHLC WELCA Board will have a meeting in Crabtree Parish Hall on Monday, August 9, at 6:30 p.m.



There will be a potluck prior to the WELCA August Joint Bible Study on Thursday, August 12, at 6:15 p.m. Food will be served from the serving line by the Mary Circle, who will be masked and gloved. A maximum of six people can sit at each round table when eating. If you're not vaccinated, please wear a mask. Bible study will follow the potluck at 6:45 p.m. All of the women of WHLC are invited, and bring food, if you like, to share with others.

Hope to see all of you there on Thursday, August 12, at 6:15 p.m.

Blessings,

Elaine Hites, President of the WELCA & Mary Circle Chairperson



Women of the ELCA



NEWS & NOTES



4th of July Food Drive

Good job, church! Over the July 4 Food Drive, you brought in almost 600 food items and almost 200 personal care items! Your monetary donations totaled over \$650! WHLC continues to show their generosity towards our neighbors in need. Items were packed and delivered to the Urbandale Food Pantry thanks to Dennis & Ellen Graham. Thanks to Linda Anderson for her coordination and publicity work. Thank you for your generosity!

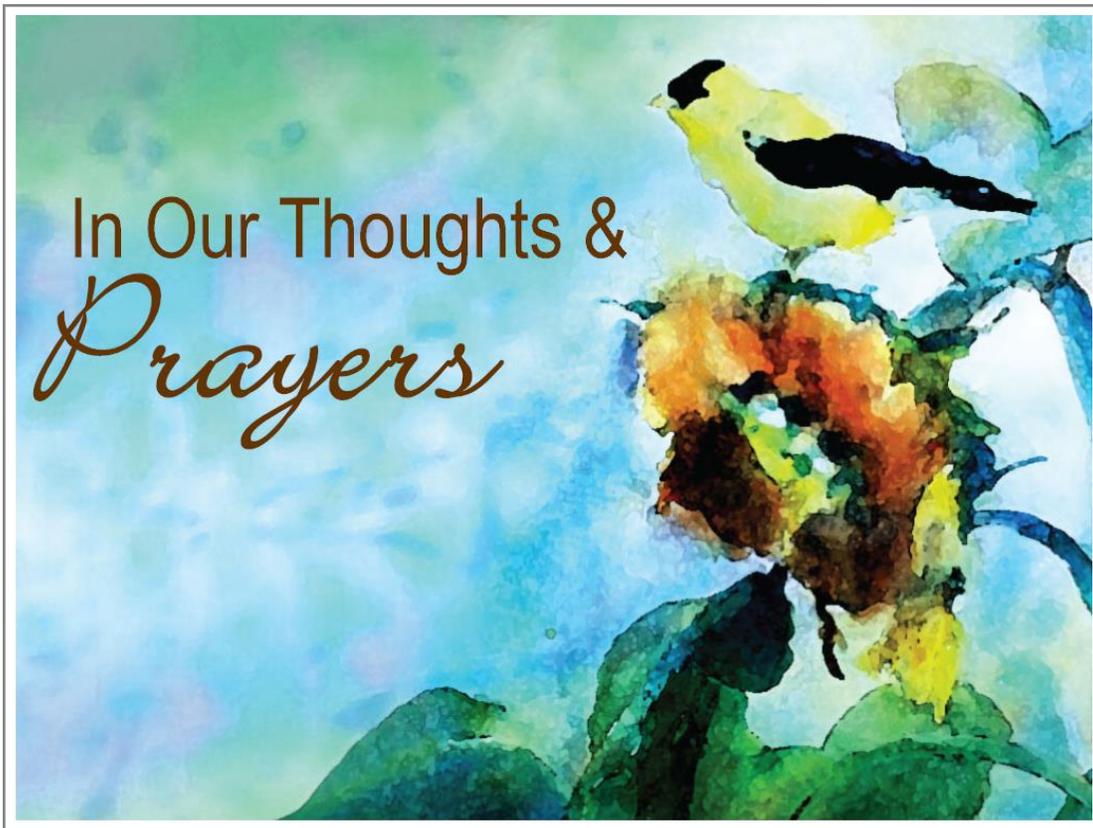


School is right around the corner! This time of year can be exciting and stressful for many of us, but adjusting back into a classroom routine can be especially difficult for kids and teens with emotional or behavioral disorders.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental and behavioral health services for children and families across the state. Our therapists provide virtual and in-person therapy sessions with children, while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) team collaborates with families in their home or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



*Sympathy to
Tammie
Amsbaugh and
family on the
death of her
sister, Carla
Offenburger, who
died on July 24.*

THE FREE GIFT
of
GOD
is
ETERNAL LIFE
in
Christ Jesus
OUR LORD.
Romans 6:23



- 3 Finley Cox, Marvin Kister, Grace Swanson
- 5 Noelle Erickson, David Schramm, Tania Schramm
- 6 Scott Steensen
- 7 Jack Capps, Karla Koudelka, Linda Russell
- 8 Suzanne Nelson, Kahlan Rowland, Valarie Rowland
- 9 Roger Severson
- 11 Angela Eakins
- 12 Robin Coughenower
- 13 Cole Barrett
- 14 Grant Jansen, Jon Newsom, James Petersen
- 15 Tammie Amsbaugh
- 16 Kareem Franklin
- 18 Pam Barber
- 19 Duane Danielson
- 20 Marilyn Cornelius, Marilyn Penberthy
- 22 Alex Brooks
- 24 Cheryl Newsom, Melvin Nielsen
- 26 Elaine Johnson
- 30 John Swanson
- 31 Mark Opsal, Delores Toft



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

THANK YOU



Kathy and I would like to thank the entire WHLC congregation for the outpouring of support and prayers as Kathy begins her treatment for her metastatic breast cancer. There really are no words to describe how very special you all are. From the letters and cards of support, to the meals being delivered, to the volunteers to help Kathy get to and from appointments - it is all overwhelming and amazing. Kathy and I will hold the congregation of WHLC up in our prayers and we will appreciate your continued prayers for her health as we adjust to our new reality.

Thank you all again and God Bless You!
Jim and Kathy Cacciatore



Sunflower Fun Facts

~The darker, middle part of the sunflower is actually made up of thousands of really small flowers that turn into sunflower seeds.



~Sunflowers are one of the quickest growing plants which can make them a fun gardening project for children!



~Sunflowers can help remove heavy metals that have been absorbed in the ground and can also absorb toxins in the ground. They have been used to help combat pollution after nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl.

<https://www.sunflowerjoy.com/2017/07/sunflower-facts.html>



I would like to extend a big thank you to the congregation for the beautiful roses that were given to me as I retired as director of Windsor Bells for a second time. It's been a joy to work the wonderfully talented ringers who made me look good while they did all the work! Best wishes to all the future ringers, and thank you again for allowing me to be their director. Marilyn Harvey



We would like to extend our appreciate to the WHLC community! We have been overwhelmed by the support, kind words, memories and memorials we have received since the passing of our mom, Audrey Johnson. She truly was so welcoming, kind and generous, mixed with a little bit of feisty.

WHLC was such an important part of her life and she just loved being a part of it. I could not even guess how many quilting squares she cut over the last year! With heartfelt thanks, hugs and blessings! Greg Wobken and Beth Schrader