

# THE WINDOW

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

## WHLC Staff:

### **Rev. Chris Olkiewicz**

Lead Pastor

### **Rev. Robin Coughennower**

Associate Pastor

### **Zach Meyer**

Director of Youth and Family  
Ministry/Congregational Life  
Coordinator

### **Heidi Hennig**

Office Manager

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After Beth, Bennett, and I were all fully vaccinated this spring, one of the things we enjoyed most was being able to eat in restaurants unmasked after so many months of carryout. Even in July, as the Delta variant was breaking into the U.S., we felt comfortable dining indoors while on vacation in Colorado. It was wonderful!

Given Delta's trajectory since then, we now are refraining from indoor dining and are wearing masks in public spaces, as the CDC recommends, not so much out of concern for ourselves as a desire to protect others and help contain the present surge in infections. It's disappointing to be in this place again.

At this stage of the pandemic, disappointment is a feeling that many of us are experiencing on many levels. Personally, I am disappointed in my fellow citizens who shun vaccination out of a malformed concept of personal liberty that values individual rights over public good. I am exceedingly disappointed with our political leaders who have made it impossible for schools to take sensible, proven steps for protecting our most vulnerable

citizens, children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated. What's become of our capacity to care for others? That's me; I'm sure you have your own reasons for feeling disappointed.

Certainly we had hoped that by this fall church would have returned to "normal," but we still have capacity limits, masks are again recommended indoors, some groups have returned to meeting virtually, and many feel safer worshipping online than in person. Disappointing.

But keep in mind that in many ways we are NOT where we were a year ago, when worship was only outdoors or online, as were all church activities. We have been back to in-person worship since May and plan to continue. You have no idea how grateful I am to see you face to face (even as I understand, and continue to miss, those of you who still feel safest joining us from home).

We also plan to resume Wednesday evening activities on September 15. All will not be 100% "normal" yet — we are holding off on serving the community meal, and all participants will be encouraged to wear a mask indoors — but confirmation, faith formation, and music rehearsals are coming back. And that means by later this month, Alleluia Choir, Windsor Brass, Windsor Bells, and our various children's groups will begin contributing to worship again, something to look forward to, indeed, after such a long absence.

And there's more good news: Windsor Bells has a new director. Marilyn Harvey is a hard act to follow, but we found just the person to do so in Shelly Siemer. Shelly recently moved back to Des Moines after living for 30 years in Idaho Falls, ID, where she played in and directed the handbell choir at Trinity United Methodist Church. Shelly has a lifelong interest in handbells and a wealth of experience, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the congregation.

Mark your calendars for October 3, when we plan to hold a Homecoming Tailgate in the church parking lot. Read all about it just below. I can't wait, though I should start thinking soon about which Packers sweatshirt to wear.

I see and acknowledge your disappointment, my friends, and I share in it. But I encourage you not to let it get you down. We *have* come a long way since last September, we *are* making progress toward a new normal, and Delta will pass. In the meantime, Christ is present in the love, friendship, care and support we give to others. Now and always, we are the Body of Christ, nourishing one another with the Bread of Life. Thanks be to God!

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris



# Mark Your Calendars for A Homecoming Tailgate!



Pack up your yard games, lawn chairs, and foam fingers for an outdoor gathering to celebrate the spirit and pride we have in our congregation this October! Feel free to wear your favorite sports team apparel, if you wish.

**Sunday, October 3 from noon to 2:00 p.m.**

**(Rain date is Sunday, October 10)**

**WHLC Parking Lot**

While the specifics of this event are subject to change, right now this event includes the tailgate essentials: food, games, and fellowship. We will share more information as the event approaches. We hope you'll join us for some socially-distanced outdoor fun in October!



## A Reflection ~ Health Committee & COVID Protocols

JOHN AMBROSON, PAST PRESIDENT

When COVID first was identified in the US over eighteen months ago, I was President of the WHLC Council. One of the first things that your council did at that time was to ask a group of medical professionals that were members of our church to participate on a Health Committee. That team continues to meet monthly and provide guidance and support to staff and council as we make decisions that impact our congregation.

Of paramount importance has been the ongoing health of all members of the congregation. Given the make-up of our congregation and the significance of the spread of the disease, the church has taken a cautious approach. I know the staff and council have appreciated the support of the congregation as we have done our best to work through safety precautions and returning to meeting in person again.

While masks and vaccines have been strongly encouraged, we recognize and appreciate that some people may have good reason for opting out. Regardless, we believe that everyone should focus on our love for our neighbor. We can all be supportive of our church family members and keep them safe. We also recognize our responsibility to be mindful of others across our community and throughout the world.

With the rise of the delta variant of COVID, some of the plans for returning to our facility and in person activities this fall have been put on hold or adjusted. Please know that the Health Committee is monitoring the situation and providing your council with the best advice they can. We all long to return to being able to be together and share of love of God and each other in person. Your council and staff will continue to make the best decisions possible in this difficult environment.

If you get a chance, please express your thanks to our Health Committee members: Joel Waymire, Deb Goss, Marilyn Warling, Ann Rowland, Harriet Lewis, John Reed, and Kent Thieman. We value their hard work and counsel.

With prayers and wishes for health and peace,  
John Ambroson, past President





Equip a child with the supplies they need to keep learning even in a crisis.



In 2020, Lutheran World Relief distributed 174,055 school kits.



Each kit made will be cherished by the person who receives it.

# School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief has indicated the need for school kits this year. As a congregation we are going to do them for our fall service project. This was not going to begin until September but there are many back-to-school sales going on now.

The WHLC Quilters have decided to purchase 50 school bags with memorial funds received for Audrey Johnson, who was a former school teacher.

Please look over the list and see what you'd like to donate to fill the backpacks; then call Heidi at the church office at 515-277-6277. Heidi will keep a tally of the items so we don't receive 100 boxes of crayons! The signup sheet will also be passed at church services. You may put together your own school kit. Thanks again for your generosity!

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (200)
- rulers with both centimeters and inches (50)
- pencil sharpener (50)
- blunt safety scissors (50)
- #2 unsharpened pencils (250)
- black/blue ballpoint pens (250)
- crayons 24 ct boxes (50) - **Donations for crayons have been fulfilled. Thank you!**
- 2.5" eraser (50)

**Items and bags will be collected the last week in September.**

**Thanks again for your generosity!  
Linda Anderson**





# Youth & Family News



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

We're excited to bring back Wednesday evening activities or the Fall! Starting September 15, we will bring back our regular student activities schedule, minus the community meal. As a reminder, our schedule is:

- **Faith Formation - 6 - 6:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor classrooms**
- **Confirmation - 6 - 7 p.m. in Room 127**
- **Joyful Noise - 6:30 - 7 p.m. in the Choir Room (little kids)**
- **After Hours - 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Room**
- **Grace Notes: 7 - 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room (big kids)**
- **Cherub Chimes: 7 p.m. in the Pre-K Room**

As you've heard from staff & the health team, masking will be strongly encouraged as we start the year, not just for the kids, but for leaders & adults as well. Our groups are generally on the smaller side, so we will resume using our normal rooms, which offer enough space to branch out, while giving the larger spaces to groups who need them more.

As always, please remember that everything is still a work in progress! We're doing everything we can to keep the kids safe while offering as normal of a return to schedule as possible! Hope to see you there!

### CHAOS THIS FALL

CHAOS returns this fall, and our first meeting is Sunday, September 12, from 6-8 p.m. All students in 9th-12th grade are welcome to join weekly for a meal, study, reflection, community and some really fun games. We will resume meeting in the Youth Room this fall!

Safety precautions are currently being discussed and collaborated amongst our group. As some of you know, a majority of our middle and high school students (including our entire CHAOS group from last year) are fully vaccinated. However, we still want to do our part to keep everyone safe, so we'll discuss with the high schoolers and their parents, along with the feedback from the Health Team, on how we want to lay out guidelines for the fall.

If you'd like more info on CHAOS, please contact Zach! Hope to see everyone there as we begin a fun year of CHAOS!

### Youth Gathering Registration Opens!

Congregational registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering next July in Minneapolis opens on September 22! Students currently in 8th-12th grade are eligible to register! Because congregations must register as one for the event, we are asking interested students and adult leaders (must be 21 or older) to sign up individual registration forms and return them to the church office, or email/fax them to Zach at [zach@whlc.org](mailto:zach@whlc.org). You can find paper copies of the form in the Narthex, or digital copies on the church website mainpage. Once we have collected all the individual registrations for our group, we'll register as a church!

Our first gathering info meeting was on September 2. We'll have more meetings in the coming months to figure out details such as travel plans, gathering schedules, housing and much more! Future Gathering meeting dates will be posted on Facebook, the E-Weekly and the website. These meetings help get our entire group ready for the event, so we really encourage you to attend them if you can! If you have questions about the Gathering, please contact Zach!

# Treasurer's Report

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

	July, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	43,246	41,925	296,465	293,475	271,297
Other General Fund Income	149	532	4,008	3,724	9,695
General Fund Income	43,395	42,457	300,473	297,199	280,992
General Fund Expense	35,184	42,425	276,454	296,975	297,651
General Fund Net Income	8,211	32	24,019	224	(16,659)
Special Offering Income	285	-	4,341	-	5,940
Special Offering Expense	30	-	1,995	-	5,804
Special Offering Net Income	255	-	2,346	-	136
Total Net Income	8,466	32	26,365	224	(16,523)
Mortgage Balance			951,728.00		
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance			273,071.45		

General Offerings were \$1,321 over budget for July and are \$2,990 over budget for 2021 Year-to-date. 2021 Year-to-date General Offering is \$25,168 greater than 2020 Year-to-date General Offering. The Finance Committee feels blessed by the generous offerings to-date allowing us to remain financially stable in these unstable times.

July 2021 General Fund Expenses were \$7,241 under budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses are \$20,521 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 \$6,542 over Year-to-Date budget and will be \$4,200 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 and Vacation Bible School) will see smaller or no variances in future months as activities which have been suspended due to the pandemic return to normal activities. Overall expenses are managed within budget, the impact of the pandemic and balanced with General Offerings.

Operating cashflow remains solid.

A Certificate of Deposit matured on August 16, 2021 and was renewed for 10 months at a rate of 0.40%

Detailed financial statements are available in the church office.

Thank you for your generous offerings.  
Duane Danielson, Treasurer





# September

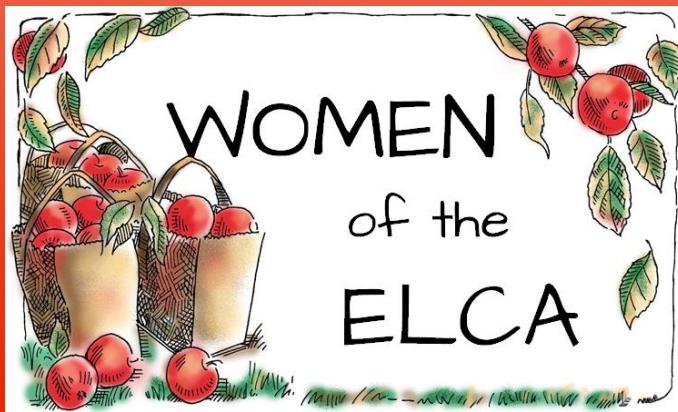
## WELCA NEWS



### WELCA BOARD MEETING

ALL women of WHLC are invited to attend the WELCA Board Meeting on Monday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. There will be open discussion and voting regarding the status of the WHLC WELCA Board and future directions.

Elaine Hites, WHLC WELCA President





# NEWS & NOTES



At this time we are planning to have our Service of Remembrance. It will include 2019, 2020 and 2021 or any other year. It will be the weekend of November 6 & 7 at all services. If you have a loved one that you would like to recognize please let the church office know. It will depend on Covid if we have a reception. Thank you, Cheryl Wheeler



## THANK YOU!

Jim and I so appreciate all of your love, support, meals and prayers. We are still struggling and setbacks keep coming, but the love we feel from our church family helps us keep going. From the bottom of our hearts, we appreciate you all.

Love, Kathy Cacciatore



**Lutheran Services in Iowa is again having an Empower Event to support their Refugee and Immigrant Services programs. Ron and Ann Rowland are sponsoring a table at the dinner on 9/25 from 6-8 p.m. at the Sheraton in West Des Moines. Tickets are \$65 or \$70 for the virtual option which includes a \$25 Grub Hub credit. Please call me (Ann) at 515-249-9624 to sign up or for more information. It's a fun event for a good cause!**

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6, for Labor Day. Have a wonderful holiday weekend!





# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | David Stewart   |
| 2  | Ruth Lightly  |
| 3  | Bennett Olkiewicz, Michael Wegner   |
| 4  | Joan Wilberg  |
| 5  | John Rigler   |
| 6  | Ann Rowland   |
| 8  | Caleb Shepard-Valin   |
| 9  | Karen Kowalsky  |
| 10 | Matthew Whipps  |
| 11 | Keith Eakins  |
| 13 | Sandy Axness, Karen, Quentin Boyken   |
| 14 | Wayne Barrett, Flo Hunter, Zach Seifert   |
| 18 | Caleb Eakins, Gary Gusland,<br>Cyndi Pederson, Geraldine Warnke                           |
| 21 | Francis Wiesner, Mitchell Yeager  |
| 22 | Susan Brennan, Dennis Crum,<br>Dennis Graham, Elaine Hamilton,<br>Brian Ryherd, Dave West |
| 23 | Jude Charlton, Halley Ryherd  |
| 26 | Rodger Curnow, Sue Opsal,<br>Barrett Rogness  |
| 30 | Stephanie Cox, George Hanusa  |



# APPLE FUN FACTS



1. There are over 2,500 kinds of apples grown in the United States.
2. The Red Delicious apple tree was discovered in IOWA! It began as an appleseed growing from a runaway seed in the wrong spot.
3. Steve Jobs came up with the name Apple after visiting an apple orchard. He said the name "just clicked."
4. The Japanese Hokuto apple is the largest apple ever grown, weighing four pounds.
5. Apples are a symbol of education. An apple is a popular gift to give a teacher.
6. Apple bobbing is a common game played in the fall or during Halloween.
7. Apples are part of the rose family. They are also related to peaches and almonds.
8. It takes energy from 10-50 leaves in order to produce one apple.
9. If an apple is lopsided, that means it has fewer seeds on one side than the other.
10. It can take up to eight years for an apple tree to start making apples.

<https://minnetonkaorchards.com/apple-facts/>

