

THE WINDOW

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

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Recently I came across a prayer that spoke to me very much: "Healing God, during this lingering pandemic we pray that the Spirit will guide us to show patience, exercise flexibility, and care for our neighbor's physical and spiritual well-being. Inspire in us a spirit of sacrificial love and concern for one another, especially the most vulnerable." Whoever wrote that prayer for ELCA Prayer Ventures has keen insight into this moment in life. As the pandemic indeed lingers longer than we could have imagined, we need patience and flexibility and grace to follow in the way Jesus taught us, the way of self-giving love for others. To this lovely prayer I would add two ideas.

First, in addition to compassion for others, we need to be compassionate with ourselves and practice good self-care. This is the "as yourself" part of Jesus' command to

“love your neighbor as yourself.” I don’t know about you, but I am pretty worn out. The constant vigilance with which we have had to live for the past 20 months takes a toll. We have to think so hard about *everything*. Is it safe to travel? Eat in a restaurant? Visit grandchildren? Attend a concert? Go to church? If you have responsibility for the safety of not only yourself but others, the decisions multiply exponentially. It all takes time and energy, and since the stakes are high, it is emotionally draining.

So, beloved, please remember to take good care of yourself. Remember that grace is for you too. Give yourself a break. When you sense reluctance in your heart to do or to restart something, be patient. That reluctance may be a sign that you are going too fast or trying to do too much. Take time for activities that nourish your spirit, even if that means saying no to some that do not. Find someone to talk to (including your pastors) if you need to get something off your chest. You are not in this alone.

Second, in addition to patience, flexibility, and care for self and others, try to practice gratitude, ideally every day. It is the best antidote to fear and uncertainty.

I have always been a light sleeper, which in times of stress and trouble can translate into being WIDE awake at 3 a.m. staring at the ceiling with my mind chasing down all kinds of negative rabbit holes. I’ve found that the best way to break that chain of gloomy, sleep-depriving thoughts is to start making a list of everything for which I am grateful. It could be simply calling to mind small kindnesses I experienced that day. Maybe it’s relationships that nourish me. Perhaps it’s remembering those who love me. Maybe it is something basic but important, like having a roof over my head and knowing where I will find breakfast. (And coffee. Never forget to be thankful for coffee.) Gratitude is the quickest path back to sleep and rest for me.

During this month of November you will be hearing about gratitude from various voices, in the E-Weekly and during a temple talk or two. I hope that hearing others express gratitude will encourage you to do the same. May we, like the psalmist, sing: “I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High” (Psalm 9:1-2).

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris





Treasurer's Report



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

	September, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	29,293	41,925	362,383	377,325	364,733
Other General Fund Income	216	532	5,162	4,788	13,063
General Fund Income	29,509	42,457	367,545	382,113	377,796
General Fund Expense	44,625	42,425	359,685	381,825	376,061
General Fund Net Income	(15,116)	32	7,860	288	1,735
Special Offering Income	790	-	5,581	-	7,124
Special Offering Expense	1,365	-	3,490	-	6,938
Special Offering Net Income	(575)	-	2,091	-	186
Total Net Income	(15,691)	32	9,951	288	1,921
Mortgage Balance			940,892.97		
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance			268,398.59		

September General Offerings were \$12,632 under budget and are \$14,942 under year-to-date budget for 2021. 2021 Year-to-date General Offerings are \$2,353 less than 2020 Year-to-date General Offerings. This is the first month since the beginning of the pandemic that General Offerings have been below budget and trailed prior year General Offerings. Despite these circumstances WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

Based upon 2018-2020 giving patterns General Fund Income should have been around \$372,279 versus actual General Fund Income of \$367,545 resulting in a negative variance of \$4,734 or only 98.7% of expected.

September 2021 General Fund Expenses were \$2,200 over budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses are \$22,140 under budget. A portion of the expense variance is from timing differences for property insurance premiums and NON-ELCA benevolence disbursements which are paid quarterly. Snow Removal expenses are \$5,620 over Year-to-Date budget due to large snow falls early in the year 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 Sunday School and Books & Resources) and other smaller variances from activities which have seen minimal activity due to the pandemic. Expenses are managed within budget, the impact of the pandemic and balanced with General Offerings.

A Certificate of Deposit will mature on October 16, 2021, and could be 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





Packing & Loading of the Kits & Quilts for



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



On Friday, October 16, members and friends of WHLC gathered to load the truck with kits and quilts. Chuck Young drove the truck, and by the time all churches had brought their projects, it was full!

A big thank you goes to those who helped: Sue Crum, Dana, Sebastian & Nathaniel Grannes, LaVon Heston, Elaine Hites, John & Dana Leahy, Spencer Masumura, Bill Morris, Chuck & Will Safris and Chuck Young.

The total number of quilts from the Southeastern Iowa area was 4,110. There were also 1,028 health kits, 5,824 school kits, 201 fabric kits, 500 baby kits and 429 masks. Our congregation worked hard and organized all kits, especially Linda Anderson with the school kits, 111 from WHLC. The semi truck at Cedar Rapids was also full, loaded by Chuck Young and many adults from the Cedar Rapids area.

This drive collects projects twice a year, in April & October. It has grown and this year 23 ELCA churches, three Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and two others participated. There is a great need both here and overseas, and it was wonderful to see how the congregations came together.

Your efforts are sincerely appreciated and were a wonderful success! Thank you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Jan Grannes & Marilyn Penberthy,
Missions Co-Chairs





Windsor Elementary Personal Needs Pantry

Windsor Elementary is located just down the street from WHLC at 5912 University Avenue. The school serves about 300 students that range in ages from 5-11. The very general area that Windsor serves is 70th St to about 48th St and Franklin Ave to just south of 235. There is a small area taken out of there for Cowles Elementary. Windsor is a complete free lunch school which means over 60% of the families qualify for free or reduced lunch due to income levels.

As a congregation, we have the opportunity to support Windsor Elementary students by stocking a "Personal Needs Pantry" with items that the school system is unable to provide but the students need in order to focus on learning. Many of these items will be used at home, enabling younger and older siblings to focus on their education as well. After initially stocking the pantry, there will be opportunity to refresh and restock as items are used.

Can you help? Items can be dropped at the church anytime.

- * Underwear for boys and girls - size medium most in need, but some small and large are also helpful
- * Elastic waist pants for boys and girls or unisex - size medium most in need, but some small and large are also helpful
- * Toilet Paper
- * Laundry detergent
- * Feminine Hygiene products
- * Lice Treatments - both full kits and lice shampoo
- * Hair care products for all hair types - shampoo, conditioner, hairbrushes, combs, picks
- * Deodorant

Note: toothbrushes and toothpaste are not needed at this time.

Full size items are preferred, but all donations are welcome.

Please contact Julie Borseth with any questions at 515-360-4466.



Christmas Wish List for LUTHER PARK

The Advent season will soon be upon us! Due to the pandemic, we can assume that our annual Advent Service with decorated tables will not occur for the second year. It has been a long tradition that the women of the church bring Christmas gifts for Luther Park. As we did last year, we will collect gifts the week after Thanksgiving. You may drop your gifts off and set them inside Crabtree Parish Hall, where tables will be set up identified for your gifts. If you prefer to stay in your car, we will be there Saturday, December 4, from 1-3 and Sunday, December 5, from 1-3. Feel free to drop off your donations during the week. If the church is locked, ring the doorbell and someone should be able to let you in during office hours.



**The following are items that have requested.
Please bring your gifts UNWRAPPED.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Baby dolls (soft, new)
Crayons/Washable markers
Adult coloring books
Large print word find books
Fiction books for all ages
Fidget items

CLOTHING

Socks
Gripper socks
Small lap blankets
Fidget blankets

HYGIENE

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Hair picks
Combs
Nail Polish
Hand lotion
Body lotion (men & women)
Body wash (men & women)
Non-aerosol deodorant
(men & women)
Hair ties
Electric shavers
Cologne/perfume

OTHER

Necklaces/jewelry
iTune Gift Cards
MP3/Ipod
Art supplies
Headphones
Games
Stuffed animals
Beads
Sensory items
Packaged snacks
cans of soda
crackers, chips
cookies
Memory games
Stationary
Sporting items

Thank you for your generosity in continuing this mission to Luther Park,
Linda Anderson, Sharman Blake & Vivien Wells



November 1, 2021

Come See Special Music from the Kids Choirs!



Our student music groups will be sharing special music once again, this month on November 13 at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. service. Those who aren't able to see the kids perform in person will be able to hear their performance over our Facebook worship livestream. The kids did such a wonderful job sharing music in October, and they cannot wait to do so again!



Youth Gathering Meeting & Early-Registration Deadline



Our Youth Gathering group is coming together, and there's still time for you to join in! Early-Bird registration (which are the cheapest rates for students and volunteers to sign up) goes through November 21, after which the cost rises! You can find registration forms on the WHLC website or at the office; once you've filled them out, send them to Zach, so we can get everyone signed up at the most affordable cost!

We'll have another gathering meeting this month, so be sure to check our Facebook & the E-Weekly for the announcement of that date! At the meeting we'll discuss travel plans, protocol updates from the ELCA, and begin to build our schedule for the event. Again, there's still plenty of time to join our group, so even if you're just curious about attending the gathering as a student or adult volunteer, we encourage you to come! If you'd like the info but cannot attend the meeting, let Zach know so we can keep you up to date!

Synod Confirmation Retreat at EWALU



Discipleship Retreat:

Walk the Talk

January 14 - 16, 2022

Experience with other confirmands across Southeastern Iowa what it means to be a disciple of Christ!

Students in 6th-9th grade are invited to attend a synod retreat from **the evening of Friday, January 14 to the morning of Sunday, January 16!** Camp EWALU is the same place we attended the 2019 retreat, and this will be a great chance to meet students from fellow churches. This retreat has been planned by synod youth leaders, and will explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus!

To register for the event, pick up a form in the office and return it to Zach! **The deadline to sign up is December 1.** A packing list and description of the event can be found on the form. The retreat is asking for either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test before arriving at camp. **Oh, and did we mention, it's totally free to attend?**

Once we've heard back from interested students, we'll meet in December to discuss travel plans for the weekend. If you have any questions about the retreat, please contact Zach! This is an awesome weekend opportunity for our confirmation students to grow their faith and experience community in a really fun way. Hope you can join us for this incredible retreat!



WELCA NEWS

Something to Gobble About!



As many of the WHLC women are aware of, an open WELCA meeting for all women of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church was held on September 13. Some of the opinions that were expressed:

- We have strong Bible study groups that can continue.
 - The most loved events WELCA puts on are the Advent program and the men's dinner.
 - Continuing to do the mission work of quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief is important.
 - We need at least a contact person to receive and distribute the Directions magazine and information from the National and Synod organizations.
 - Collecting the Thank Offering is important.
 - Writing a check for a cause is easy but building relationships by "doing" is important.
 - A committee rather than a board might be less intimidating but would still need a contact person.
 - Church demographics have changed with fewer middle-aged women as members now than in the past.
 - A committee could be formed to explore different ways of doing the things that are most important to us.
 - Many awesome things are done by the women of our church such as Luther Park gifts.
- A list of needed items for Luther Park Christmas gifts were handed out at the September 13 meeting.**

As a reminder: The core of women in WELCA are active in Bible Study groups. Each Bible Study is to discuss the issue and give feedback to Elaine by November 1. The next WELCA board meeting is November 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., to be held in the choir room.

Announcement: The WELCA Thank Offerings will be collected by each individual submitting a check making it out to WELCA Thank Offering to have submitted by November 21 to WHLC.

New to Thank Offerings?

Thank Offerings support the annual budget of the church wide women's organization. All congregational units of Women of the ELCA are encouraged to collect Thank Offerings. Thank Offerings are gifts made in response to God's grace. They are a way to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments. Lutheran women have been making Thank Offerings since the 19th century. Join the legacy of our foremothers by adopting the spiritual discipline of Thank Offerings.

In God's Love,
Elaine A Hites, President of WHLC WELCA



My Gobble-let Overfloweth with Gratitude

THANK YOU TO THESE WHLC MEMBERS!



A big thank you to Dan Goss for refinishing the memorial box stand. It looks beautiful! WHLC appreciates your woodworking skills, Dan!

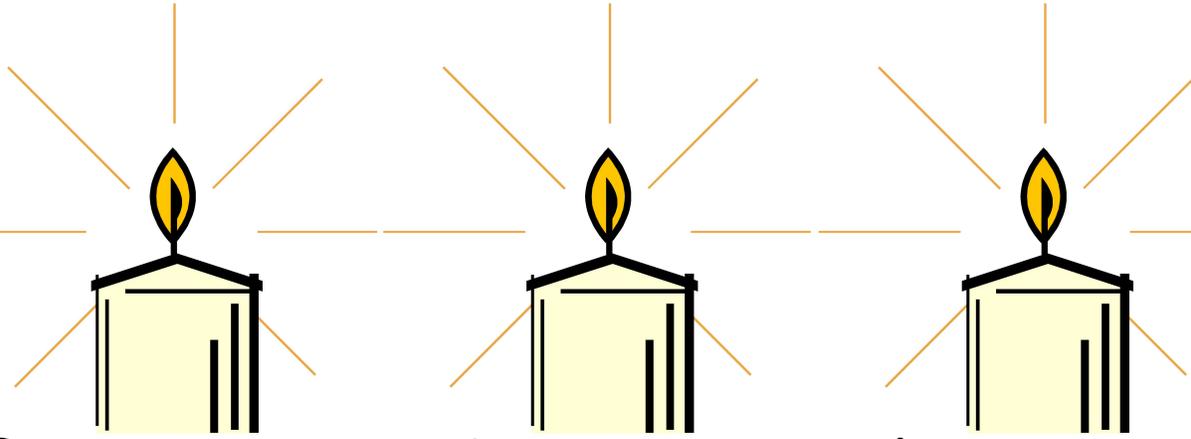
Linda Fasse brightened and shined the candelabras this month. Thank you for your time and elbow grease, Linda!



Jan Grannes & Marilyn Penberthy deserve a shout-out for all of their efforts, time and organization for the loading of the LWR kits and quilts. You are blessings to WHLC, Jan & Marilyn!

Kudos to Bonnie Hyda for researching and ordering the pew ropes for the sanctuary. Thank you for all you do for the church, Bonnie!





Service of Remembrance

Festival of All Saints November 6 & 7

The Festival of All Saints is a time to commemorate all those in our congregation who have died in 2020 and this year as well. It has been the tradition at Windsor Heights to host a separate service for this occasion, the Service of Remembrance. This year we are including the elements of that service into our weekend worship services.

Also on that weekend, our large gathering space, Crabtree Parish Hall, will be set up with individual displays for each person in remembrance. The table will be set with white tablecloths. You are invited to bring a photo, and 1-2 other mementos, such as a poem or other pictures. Each table will hold 2 -3 displays.

The tables will be ready by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 6. You may bring your display items to the church between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. There will be someone from the church in Crabtree Parish Hall to assist you with the display.

WHLC members and families are invited to visit Crabtree Parish Hall on Saturday evening beginning at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. to view these memorial displays.

Worship service times:
Saturday, November 6, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 7, 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.



- 3 Joel Waymire
- 4 Jerry Toft
- 9 Elly Ratliff
- 11 Jessica Chance
- 12 Lois Owen
- 17 Jill Hyda
- 18 Carol Popken
- 22 Paige Jansen, Kevin Nicolet,
Wilma Nielsen, John Reed
- 26 Don Beck
- 27 Henry Hyda
- 29 Evolve Baxter



It's Turkey Time!



Fun Thanksgiving Facts

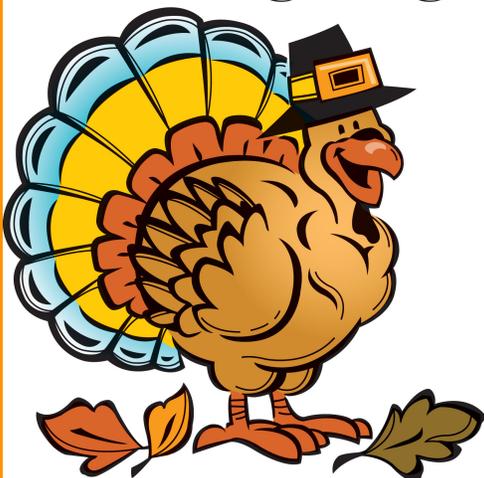
1. Did you know that only male turkeys gobble? Female turkeys cackle.
2. Turkeys were the most bountiful meat in 1621, when the first Thanksgiving celebration was.
3. When they're scared, wild turkeys can run 20 mph!
4. Almost 90% of Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving.
5. Funny Fact: The day after Thanksgiving is the busiest day for plumbers!



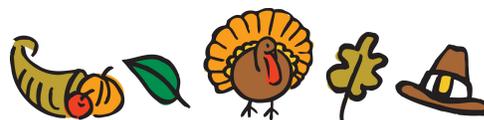
"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
Revelation 7:12, NRSV



Happy Thanksgiving



<https://superheatandair.com/thanksgiving-day-fun-facts/>



SO MANY BLESSINGS