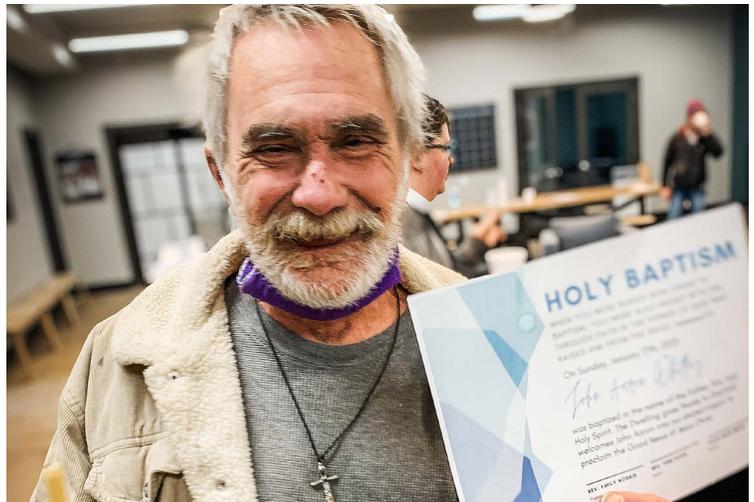


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”



Invite † Grow † Serve

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Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southeastern Iowa Synod

2021 Staff

Chris Olkiewicz – Lead Pastor

Robin Coughenower – Associate Pastor

Zach Meyer – Director of Youth and Family Ministry/Congregational Life Coordinator

Heidi Hennig – Office Manager

Zach Seifert – Financial Coordinator

Jim Spizale – Custodian

Chuck Young – Facilities Manager

Jim Cacciatore – Alleluia Choir Director

Jan Carlson – Organist

Marilyn Harvey/Shelly Siemer – Director of Windsor Bells

Amanda Lauritsen – Director of Alternative Worship & Children's Choirs

Jon Lewis – Director of Windsor Brass

Megan Seifert – Director of Cherub Chimes

2021 Congregational Council

Halley Ryherd - President

John Ambroson - Past President

Tony Dahlman - President-Elect

Duane Danielson - Treasurer

Jill Hyda - Secretary

Julie Borseth

Jessica Chance

Sue Crum

Tracey Hirst

Pam Lundell

Matt McNamara

Suzanne Nelson

John Reed

Amanda Shepard-Eakins

Samuel Steensen

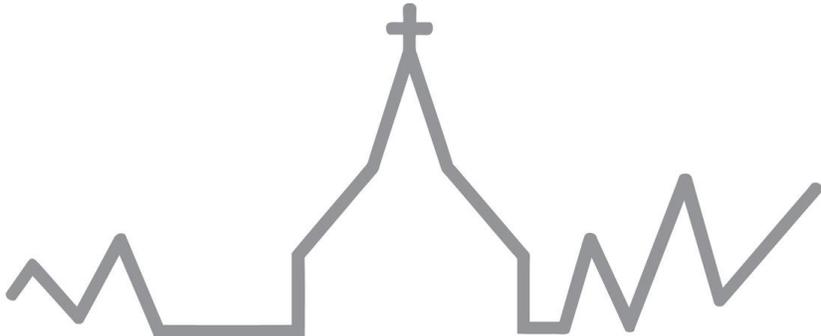


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Annual Congregational Meeting for 2021 Agenda
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 23, 2022
12 p.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Declaration of a Quorum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – 2020 Congregation Meeting

Council President Report

Pastors' Reports

Recognition of Council Members

2022 Budget Approval

Council Nominating Committee Report

Election

Installation of New Council Members

Sending

Adjournment

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 24, 2021
Crabtree Parish Hall & Virtual

I. Call to Order

John Ambroson reviewed some procedure information. John Ambroson called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

II. Opening Prayer

Pastor Robin led the congregation in the litany and prayer.

III. Declaration of a Quorum

John Ambroson established a quorum, declaring over 50 registered voters present.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Unanimous consent was established on the agenda, and John Ambroson approved.

V. Approval of Minutes – 2019 Congregational Meeting

Unanimous consent was established for the minutes, and John Ambroson approved.

VI. Council President Report

John Ambroson reflected at 20 years ago he served as president of the congregation during a time when growth was occurring in our church and neighborhood. Now 20 years later, the pandemic occurred as a challenge. It was a blessing to see what the congregation can do with Bible studies, small groups, service with the shelters and food banks and much more. John thanked the Health Advisory Team that has provided guidance to staff and council in order to stay safe during this time. John thanked the staff for all their work and care and the congregation on their continued stewardship during this unusual time.

VII. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin thanked the congregation for their patience, generosity and care and support this past year.

- Pastor Chris reflected on surviving and our life personally and professionally amidst the pandemic. He is amazed by how we have adapted and new ministries our congregation has been called to this year. Thanks be to God and calls to share our love. Hope is ahead with the vaccines. This will still take time and perseverance with a phased approach as the world tries to resume normal activities and move forward. Pastor Chris thanked the Health Advisory Team for their work and guidance, including Joel Waymire, Kent Thieman, Marilyn Warling, John Reed, Ann Rowland, Deb Goss, Harriet Lewis.
- The Pastors' Reports are available in the Annual Meeting booklet.

VIII. Recognition of Council Members

Special recognition and reflection were given to Les Aasheim as past president who unfortunately passed early in 2020. Les was a vital component of the building expansion and planning and many contributions to WHLC. John Ambrosion acknowledged Mitch Yeager whose term is completed with Council and thanked him for his service. John recognized the other members of Council: Halley Ryherd (incoming president), Amanda Shepherd-Eakins, Suzanne Nelson, John Reed, Samuel Steensen, Pam Lundell, Jessica Chance, Sue Crum, Jill Hyda (secretary) and Duane Danielson (treasurer).

IX. 2021 Budget Approval

- Two budget meetings were held over the past couple weeks. Scott Steensen discussed the recommended 2021 budget. WHLC ended December 2020 in strong financial position with a total of \$505,000 income, which is below budget but below 2020 expenses. 2021 Total Income and Total Expense budgets are around \$510,000, which is a very small increase from 2020 actuals. Because the 2021 budget income is less, the percent of budget given towards Benevolence increases from 18.0% to 19.1%. Mortgage balance was \$1,087,000 at the end of 2020, which is a decrease in \$752,000 in 2020 with a large portion from the Crabtree Estate gift. Scott Steensen thanked the Finance Committee. John Ambrosion thanked Duane Danielson for his service as Treasurer and Zach Seifert for maintaining the books and payments.

Unanimous consent was established on the budget, and John Ambrosion approved.

X. Adoption of ELCA Model Constitution Language

- Pastor Robin Coughenower gave an overview of the ELCA Constitution Amendments that is presented for congregational approval. The ELCA approved these changes at the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. The changes consist of replacing "synodical" with "synod", replacing "the congregation" to "this congregation" and making editorial changes in alignment with the Constitution,

Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Constitution for Synods.

Unanimous consent was established to adopt the ELCA Model Constitution language changes to WHLC's constitution, and John Ambroson approved.

XI. Council Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee consisted of Maren Steensen, Tania Schramm, Kevin Nicolet and John Ambroson. John Ambroson presented the slate of Tony Dahlman (President-elect), Tracey Hirst, Julie Borseth, Matt McNamara (3 year terms). The Council will now have nine members with three members' terms end each year.

XII. Election

Unanimous consent was established for the nomination slate, and John Ambroson approved.

XIII. Installation of New Council Members

Pastor Chris thanked Pastor Robin, Heidi Hennig and Zach Meyer for their dedication and work in 2020. The staff thanked Pastor Chris for his leadership. Pastor Chris installed the 2021 Council members: John Ambroson, Julie Borseth, Jessica Chance, Sue Crum, Tony Dahlman, Tracey Hirst, Pam Lundell, Matt McNamara, Suzanne Nelson, John Reed, Halley Ryherd, Amanda Shepard-Eakins, Samuel Steensen Duane Danielson and Jill Hyda were appointed and will serve as Treasurer and Secretary for 2021, respectively.

XIV. Sending

Pastor Chris led the congregation in a closing blessing.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
January 24, 2021

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church Membership Statistics

Baptized Membership on December 31, 2020	786
Baptized Members received in 2021	2
Members removed by death, transfer or release	9
Membership Total on December 31, 2021	779

Pastoral Acts in 2021

Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) (5)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
10/24/21	Adelaide Brennan
10/24/21	Naomi Rowland
10/24/21	Ben Schramm
10/24/21	Kiersten Steensen
10/24/21	Wesley Fergus

Baptisms (2)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Parents</u>
11/27/21	Elliott Driscoll Waymire	Josh & Becca Waymire
11/28/21	Rory Dean Yeager	Kendall & Laura Yeager

Weddings (0)

Funerals/Graveside services - (7)

<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
2/23/21	Sue Burt
4/20/21	Marjorie Fenton
6/1/21	Audrey Johnson
8/31/21	Dolores Mandt
11/10/21	Charles Morse
11/20/21	Pauline Hughes
11/28/21	Dale Ratliff

Lead Pastor

I will admit that I did not want to write this report, so much so that I spent most of a day writing another one before deciding on this particular course. I'd already written my pandemic annual report last year, never thinking that I would have to write another. That thought was depressing and I was having a difficult time wrapping my mind around it. Starting the year with a mild Covid infection myself did not improve my frame of mind.

But within that fact there is buried some good news. The seemingly unstoppable Omicron variant is everywhere. I'm sure that's what I got because of the ease with which I caught it, most likely from another fully vaccinated and boosted family member with whom we spent some time over the holidays. But I did not get very sick, and indeed, there is solid evidence that Omicron is considerably less severe than previous strains of the virus. As you know, our health care system is maximally stressed by the Omicron surge (more patients are still more patients even if they are less ill), which is why we continue to wear masks in public places, wash our hands, and stay home when sick, and why we continue to pray for our beleaguered health care workers. But let's not miss the good news. We are not where we were a year ago when 99 percent of us were unvaccinated and unsure of the way forward.

There is good news buried in the past year of our congregation as well. By God's grace we were able to remain faithful through another pandemic year to our call to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through worship, service, generosity, and hospitality. Groups with caring and life-giving missions in our community, like Easter Seals, were able to return to working in our facility. Because of your offerings, we maintained all of our vital benevolence commitments. We returned to in-person worship. Our musical groups once again offered their gifts to the glory of God. You found new ways of loving God, your neighbor, and yourself, empowered to some extent, I hope, by the good news proclaimed by this congregation. It hasn't been easy and change has been required of all of us, but we continue to live in the light of God's grace.

One major and obvious shift in our life together is that we have become a solidly hybrid worshipping community. Most Sundays there are considerably more people online than in person. Given pandemic realities, including the Delta and Omicron surges, this is understandable, and insofar as it enables people to worship without fear of infection, a good thing.

But let me be honest, there are drawbacks. You cannot create and experience community in the same way online. As Father Richard Rohr says, "The Body of Christ is inherently a collective reality . . . Until and unless Christ is someone happening between people, the gospel remains largely an abstraction. Until Jesus Christ is passed on personally through faithfulness and forgiveness, through bonds of union, I doubt whether he is passed on at all." Can the person of Christ be shared when we are not in-person? Yes, but it is considerably harder, for we are not bits and bytes but flesh and blood.

Let me conclude by saying that I miss you and I need to see you face-to-face. I need to talk with you around a real table. I need to hear about your life in the world from your moving lips. I need to place communion into your actual hands. I need to hear your vibrating vocal cords singing and praying. And I think you need these things from me and from each other. It's why we exist as a community—to be a place where the "someone" of Christ can happen between us. May 2022 be the year when all this becomes possible again.

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris

Associate Pastor

One of my favorite portions of Scripture is the Prologue from the Gospel of John. Verse 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” Then verse 5, “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.”

These things we can say about our community in 2021, God is with us, and the light still shines. These things are what we can hold onto as we once again adapt to the events of the world around us.

We resumed in-person worship on May 16th. We made the necessary changes and it may not have been what we had before, but it is good enough. We saw each other in community face to face, while also streaming the services for those who are not ready or able to return. We held worship outside for most of the summer and fall on Saturday evenings, and enjoyed those community gatherings as well.

Over the past 18 months, as those in our congregation experienced the death of a family member, they were not always able to gather as a community to mourn. So we adapted our Service of Remembrance, bringing it back to Sunday morning worship. We created a time of remembrance for their loved ones with pictures and mementos set up in Crabtree Parish Hall. Many displays were there and people came to view and talk and reminisce with the community.

And.. we gathered for worship on Christmas Eve! That felt wonderful, given that last year we met outside in the freezing weather to hear the Gospel and greet each other before going back inside to warm up! We also set up luminaries along the front sidewalk, I'd like to do that again some year, it was very peaceful and beautiful. God's light shone bright that night.

Other areas of ministry were challenged by the ongoing pandemic. The Women of the ELCA, WELCA, have struggled to fill leadership positions on their board and therefore had no new incoming officers. While this is not an ideal way to function, some individuals have continued to lead informally, taking on tasks that are near and dear to them, such as collecting Christmas presents for Luther Park. As further proof that God is with us always, the most important gathering of the WELCA community, monthly Bible study, continues. The darkness did not overcome it.

Our youth were not able to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, which is a fun and uplifting event held every three years. It has been rescheduled for this summer, and we hope they can go this time. We had many starts and stops with our Wednesday evening activities, and we all certainly miss the community meal, but our groups found ways to meet and be together, let the light shine!

My thanks to all of our ministry leaders, Pastor Chris, Heidi Hennig and Zach Meyer. Our ensemble directors, Jon Lewis, Jim Cacciatore, Shelly Siemer, and Megan Seifert. Others who serve such as Zach Seifert our financial coordinator, and Jim Spizale our (now retired) custodian. Two leaders who have had to make the most changes are Jan Carlson and Amanda Lauritsen. Both of these gifted musicians have been generous with their time and open to leading worship in the different ways we have offered this year.

As for me, at the close of this year, I continue to focus on being here for this congregation. Here in person, here online, here to testify to the Light, here in praise of God, who is with us always.

Here as your pastor, in peace we pray, Pastor Robin
Global and Community Action Committee

The committee did not meet during the year, but the congregation has continued to support community programs. Members of each community program provided the following updates:

Central Iowa Shelter Services – Dana Leahy

A BIG thank you for all the donations to CISS that have continued to flow in during the pandemic. WHLC continues to provide meals on the 11th of every month. I'm so grateful for our congregation's generosity and I know that the people at CISS are also deeply grateful.

Urbandale Food Pantry – Ellen Graham

Urbandale Food Pantry continues to supply nourishing foods to those in need. The need for food continues to increase and we have new families daily.

The pantry has never closed due to Covid-19. After laying off all the volunteers, a few of the paid staff and the board devised a system of packing groceries and delivering them to folks lined up outside. Volunteers, including members of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, are back now and follow city and DMARC guidelines to safely serve folks in need.

Family Promise

Beginning in September 2020, it was determined that it was best for WHLC to take a sabbatical from previous quarterly ministry participation. It was not known at the time what challenges and changes Family Promise of Greater Des Moines would face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the same challenges exist, and WHLC has extended the sabbatical.

Windsor Elementary Personal Needs Pantry – Julie Borseth

In an effort to assist and support an organization in our WHLC community, we reached out to Windsor Elementary, a Des Moines public school located at 5912 University Avenue. Windsor Elementary serves about 300 students that range in age from 5 – 11. As a congregation, we support the 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 are used at home, enabling younger and older siblings to focus on their education as well.

WHLC members responded to the requests in October and November by providing elastic waist pants, underwear, socks, toilet paper, laundry detergent, hair care products, deodorant, and other needed items. Thank you to all of you – individual members and Bible study groups – for your support and generous donations. Support for Windsor Elementary will continue in the future as needs are identified.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Borseth, Council Liaison

Worship Committee

I would like to express the committee's gratitude to the pastors, staff, music directors and all the musicians for their dedication and flexibility as we returned to in-person worship and full music ensembles this past year.

There were new layouts, technology and processes for rehearsals, performances, and worship. New equipment for live-streaming worship services and other special events was installed. And, most recently, we were able to gather in-person and celebrate Christ's birth with the Children's Advent Program, Lessons & Carols with Windsor Brass and Christmas Eve services.

Also, a special thank you to the Health Advisory Task Force for their guidance, as we continued to learn yet move forward.

God's Peace, Jill Hyda, Worship Committee Chair

Parish Ed Committee

Members: Amanda Eakins, Zach Meyer, Linda Russell and Megan Seifert

After the strange year that 2020 was, the best word to describe our family ministry in 2021 would be: adapt. Indeed, as the situation with the pandemic seemed to switch back and forth throughout the year, we found ways to return beloved ministries in all new ways. Wednesday evening activities returned, albeit minus the community meal, allowing for kids and families to gather for fellowship, faith and fun once again. After a year of virtual and outdoor meetings, CHAOS returned to in-person meetings at our usual time, and has welcomed new members to the fold. The Christmas program returned too, and while it was much simpler than what we've done in the past, it was a blessing to see the kids perform in person again!

Perhaps the biggest highlight of this year was the return of VBS. After the cancellation of VBS in 2020, this was the most anticipated event of our summer. Indeed, the Parish Ed team worked hard with the staff and health team for months to ensure we could safely host the event. Here too, much was adapted. Instead of four day-long camps, we had five half-day ones. Instead of lunch together, we sent kids home with bagged lunches. Instead of large games inside, we went outside for all-camp activities. And as opposed to the large group we had in 2019, our group this year was much smaller, and even more tight-knit. The result? A fun and memorable week for everyone involved. Kids and parents alike reported back to us how much fun the week was, and volunteers remarked how good it was to help out with this beloved event once again.

Of course, this year wasn't without its challenges as well. Due to stormy weather and different schedules, we sadly couldn't host Trunk or Treat this year. I'm saddened to report that the upcoming retreat five of our students were supposed to go on in a few weeks has been postponed due to omicron. We were not able to meet in person for the final Wednesday evening of 2021, as the massive windstorm canceled all activities for the evening. Every year has its challenges, and as always, we are so blessed to have such a committed and flexible group of people around us who help us plan forward when these roadblocks occur.

Overall however, this year has been filled with amazing memories and growth. Families have been adaptable as we figure out how to safely host fun events and ministries for our kids. And of course, the kiddos have been the brightest spot of this entire past year. With optimism, laughter, hope and friendship, they've truly been the ones to light the spark in this ministry this year. We see the love of God, the compassion of Jesus, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in them each week. What a blessing all these students are to this church and community! Truly, this year has been inspiring in how it's brought all of them, and us, together!

I'd like to give special thanks to all our volunteers and leaders who have worked with the kids this year. Megan Seifert and Amanda Lauritsen have done a remarkable job

with the kids music groups, and we thank them for the wonderful music they are sharing with the kids. The pastors continue to do a great job walking with our junior high students through the confirmation process, especially in these pandemic years. I can't thank Linda, Amanda and Megan enough for their work on the committee this year; from VBS to the Christmas program, their wisdom, ideas, suggestions and guidance has been a blessing. We've had to adapt our meetings too this year, whether it was virtual in the winter to outdoors over food in summertime. And of course, many thanks to everyone who offered lended a hand with family events this year, be it VBS, Trunk or Treat or Wednesday Nights!

Thanks be to God for the blessings we have seen in 2021. Exciting opportunities await us in this new year of 2022, and we can't wait to see what's in store for our family ministry!

Respectfully Submitted,
Zach Meyer, Director of Y&F Ministries

WELCA

January 21, 2021-General Annual Meeting was held virtually. The WHLC WELCA Board recommended giving \$100.00 to the SEIA Synod. A Bible Study was led by Pastor Robin-“Journeys with Angels-session one-“Looking up”

Due to CoVid-there was no annual Men and Boys Dinner normally held in February.

There was no WELCA Spring Brunch normally held in April due to CoVid.

April 16, 2021-a successful LWR drive took place with many thanks to Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy. A report of 467 boxes, 3,091 a combination of kits and quilts were donated that were taken to Cedar Rapids with the help of Kent Thieman.

June 16, 2021- A joint Bible Study and Communion Brunch led by Pastor Robin and hosted by the Ruth Circle took place social distancing and masked. Each participant brought their on paper sack lunch and beverage.

July 21, 2021-A joint Bible Study led by Pastor Robin was hosted by the Martha Circle

August 12, 2021-A joint Bible Study led by Pastor Chris and a potluck dinner hosted by the Mary Circle was held.

September 13, 2021- An open WELCA meeting for all women of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church was held. Elaine Hites gave a report from the WELCA SE Iowa Synod conference noting that WHLC is not alone in having problems getting WELCA board members. Despite changing times involvement in activities, such as missions, have not stopped in many churches. Only three delegates will be able to attend the next 2023 WELCA tri-annual convention: the president, a woman of color or has English as a second language, and someone 45 years old or younger.

Elaine Hites shared the recent history of outreach to recruit new board members. The meeting was opened to discussion and opinions were expressed.

The core of the WHLC WELCA is active in Bible Study groups. Each Bible Study was to discuss issues and give feedback to Elaine by November 1st.

October-WELCA Fall Event not held due to COVID. There was no installation of new WHLC WELCA Board members.

October 16, 2021-another successful LWR drive again many thanks to Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy. There was a total of 4,110 quilts from the Southeastern Iowa area. There were also 1,028 health kits, 5,824 school kits, 201 fabric kits, 500 baby kits and 429 masks. These were delivered to Cedar Rapids with the assist of Chuck Young.

November 20 and 21, 2021-WELCA Thank Offerings were collected. They totaled \$1,233.81. Donna Yeager, Treasurer, was sending a check to WELCA.

December- Due to the pandemic, our annual Advent Service with decorated tables did not occur for the second year. It has been a long tradition that the women of the church bring Christmas gifts for Luther Park. December 4 & 5 gifts were dropped off. Barb and Joel Waymire took the WHLC donations to Luther Park on December 6th. The back of the car was full and there also was \$100.00 to donate. The generous folks at WHLC came through again! Thanks to all of you from Barb Waymire who spread the word in your circles and elsewhere, and who gave your time and gifts and organizational skills particularly, Linda Anderson, Sharman Blake & Vivien Wells. Also, A special shout out to Sharman Blake and granddaughter Cheyenne, Jan Johnson and Barb Waymire for being at the church to receive the gifts during the drop off times.

Many, many thanks to the dedicated women of WHLC, especially those who provided leadership to WELCA in 2021, including, Elaine Hites, Barb Waymire, Donna Yeager, Ann Rowland, Jan Grannes, Marilyn Penberthy, Linda Anderson, Sharman Blake, Kathy McCracken, Pam Barber, and Cindy Ambrosion. These dedicated women agreed to continue their current WHLC WELCA Board positions until August, 2021, when prayerfully, there was to be a new slate of officers nominated and later to be presented in October, 2021.

Currently there is no new slate of WHLC WELCA Board positions that have been filled. There will be a meeting of previous WHLC WELCA Board presidents after Christmas to further discuss potentially forming committees/leaders for WELCA Events as might be planned for 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine A Hites, President, WHLC WELCA

Foundation Committee

If the emergence of COVID-19 made 2020 an unpredictable year, the year 2021 saw predictably unpredictable behavior as some markets outperformed for much of the year after previously being trounced. The current balance as of September 30, 2021 is \$658,327, which marks a gain of about \$31,909 Sept year-to-date. WHLC Foundation board members met in June to review the many worthwhile aid organizations and conscientiously spread the funds to as many aid organizations as possible. Added to this year's list of distribution was Des Moines Area Religious Council and Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines - Disaster Relief for COVID-19.

2021 WHLC FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church:	
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church (special grant)	\$4,530.00
Rigler Restricted Grant	\$ 136.00
Danielson Restricted Grant	\$ 160.00
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	
Litzner Fund	\$730.00
Additional Support to World Hunger	\$2,000.00
Wartburg Theological Seminary	\$1,500.00
Mosaic Des Moines	\$1,100.00
Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$2,500.00
Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence	\$1,250.00
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$500.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,650.00
Children's & Family Urban Ministry	\$1,300.00
Freedom for Youth Ministries	\$950.00
JOPPA	\$1,250.00
Gigi's Playhouse	\$650.00
Dorothy's House	\$1,250.00
Family Promise	\$1,250.00
YESS	\$1,350.00
DMARC	\$500.00
Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines – Disaster Relief	\$500.00
Reinvestment	\$0.00
Total Gifts	\$25,056.00

The 2021 Foundation board members were: Mike Blake, Norm Carlson, Ryan Charlton, Deb Goss, Jill Hyda, and Barb Waymire. The 2021 church council liaison was John Ambroson. Please join me in sharing a heartfelt thank-you for their time and diligence in serving the Windsor Heights Foundation. A special thank you to Ryan Charlton for his devotion to the Foundation during his and Jamie's time of transition.

If you are interested in finding out more about the WHLC Foundation, feel free to reach out to one of the board members listed above.

Peace,

Deb Goss

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
2022 Budget

19.14% 19.35%

	Actuals Through 11/30/2021	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Variance (\$'s)	Variance (%)
Income					
General Fund Income					
Flower Donations	665	600	700	100	16.7%
Freewill Offering	135	800	200	(600)	-75.0%
General Offering	432,062	503,100	500,000	(3,100)	-0.6%
Lenten Offerings	2,838	0	0	0	0.0%
Total General Fund Income	435,700	504,500	500,900	(3,600)	-0.7%
Other Earned Income					
Facility Rent	1,615	1,000	1,500	500	50.0%
Interest Income	4,017	4,000	2,500	(1,500)	-37.5%
Total Other Earned Income	5,631	5,000	4,000	(1,000)	-20.0%
Special Offerings	3,398	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Income	444,729	509,500	504,900	(4,600)	-0.9%
Expense					
Administration					
Mortgage Retirement-debt service	18,333	20,000	16,000	(4,000)	-20.0%
Bank Fees & Charges	1,207	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Copies & Supplies	503	1,100	800	(300)	-27.3%
Data Base Expense	470	500	500	0	0.0%
E-publications	294	360	360	0	0.0%
Internet & Website	1,330	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Office Equipment Lease	4,439	6,000	6,200	200	3.3%
Office Equipment Repair & Maintenance	0	220	100	(120)	-54.5%
Supplies-Coffee, paper products	502	800	500	(300)	-37.5%
Paper	56	900	500	(400)	-44.4%
Postage	745	1,200	1,000	(200)	-16.7%
Technology Expense	127	200	200	0	0.0%
Telephone	3,495	3,900	4,000	100	2.6%
Insurance Premium-Property	11,840	12,000	12,500	500	4.2%
Council Discretionary Fund	1,500	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Administration - Other	154	250	250	0	0.0%
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	826	600	600	0	0.0%
Total Administration	45,821	52,030	47,510	(4,520)	-8.7%
Benevolence					
Community Concerns					
Central Iowa Shelter	788	1,050	1,050	0	0.0%
DMARC Compassion in Action	1,537	2,050	2,050	0	0.0%
ELCA World Hunger	563	750	750	0	0.0%
Emergency Assistance	0	1,050	1,050	0	0.0%
Hope Ministries	338	450	450	0	0.0%
Family Promise	788	1,050	1,050	0	0.0%
Urbandale Food Pantry	826	1,150	1,150	0	0.0%
Community Concerns - Other	1,350	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%
Total Community Concerns	6,190	9,350	9,350	0	0.0%
DMARC	1,912	2,550	2,550	0	0.0%
ELCA Mission Support	59,812	65,250	65,250	0	0.0%
EPIC Scholarships	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Luther Care Services	1,200	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
Riverside Bible Camp	1,200	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
Total Benevolence	71,814	81,850	81,850	0	0.0%

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
2022 Budget

19.14%

19.35%

	Actuals Through 11/30/2021	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Variance (\$'s)	Variance (%)
Buildings & Grounds					
Cleaning Equipment & Supplies	2,158	4,000	1,800	(2,200)	-55.0%
Maintenance Equipment & Supplies	4,790	3,000	5,000	2,000	66.7%
Repairs & Maintenance	5,053	9,500	5,000	(4,500)	-47.4%
Security System	2,807	4,000	3,500	(500)	-12.5%
Snow Removal	9,769	5,540	10,000	4,460	80.5%
Trash Removal	0	900	900	0	0.0%
Utilities	12,517	18,500	16,000	(2,500)	-13.5%
Yard Care & Landscaping	3,036	3,500	3,750	250	7.1%
Buildings and Grounds - Other	161	500	250	(250)	-50.0%
Total Buildings & Grounds	40,291	49,440	46,200	(3,240)	-6.6%
Care & Nurture					
College Care Packages	90	200	200	0	0.0%
Supplies	0	100	100	0	0.0%
Total Care & Nurture	90	300	300	0	0.0%
Employee Benefits					
Continuing Education	1,035	3,850	3,850	0	0.0%
Disability Insurance ELCA	2,342	2,295	2,040	(255)	-11.1%
Health Insurance	23,720	27,888	28,164	276	1.0%
Meeting & Conferences	0	600	600	0	0.0%
Mileage Reimbursements	572	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
Pension	17,084	17,601	18,042	441	2.5%
Survivor Insurance ELCA	1,093	1,071	1,425	354	33.1%
Term Insurance - Thrivent	234	434	434	0	0.0%
Employee Contributions	346	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Employee Benefits	46,426	55,239	56,055	816	1.5%
Evangelism					
Advertising	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Evangelism Events	230	300	300	0	0.0%
Total Evangelism	230	300	300	0	0.0%
Fellowship					
Fellowship Events	236	1,000	750	(250)	-25.0%
Summer Celebrations	0	500	500	0	0.0%
Total Fellowship	236	1,500	1,250	(250)	-16.7%
Global and Community Action					
Global and Community Programs	0	200	200	0	0.0%
Total Global and Community Action	0	200	200	0	0.0%
Music Ministry					
Alleluia Choir	428	450	450	0	0.0%
Bell Choir	344	400	400	0	0.0%
Brass Choir	0	100	100	0	0.0%
Celebration & Cherub Choirs	0	200	200	0	0.0%
Guest Musicians	216	500	300	(200)	-40.0%
Instrument Maintenance	765	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Meetings & Conferences	0	100	100	0	0.0%
Total Music Ministry	1,753	2,750	2,550	(200)	-7.3%
Other Ministries					
Prayer Bead Ministry	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Elderberries	0	300	200	(100)	-33.3%
Faith Formation/Spiritual Practice	326	300	300	0	0.0%
Quilting	214	500	500	0	0.0%
Total Other Ministries	540	1,100	1,000	(100)	-9.1%

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
2022 Budget

19.14%

19.35%

	Actuals Through 11/30/2021	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Variance (\$'s)	Variance (%)
Parish Education					
Adult Programs	0	200	200	0	0.0%
Wednesday Night Meal	81	1,200	800	(400)	-33.3%
Bible Studies	0	100	100	0	0.0%
Books & Resources	16	500	300	(200)	-40.0%
Christ in Our Home	708	600	600	0	0.0%
Parish Ed - Other	0	400	300	(100)	-25.0%
Confirmation	317	500	500	0	0.0%
Sunday School	163	750	750	0	0.0%
The Lutheran	268	350	350	0	0.0%
Vacation Bible School	1,167	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%
Total Parish Education	<u>2,720</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,100</u>	<u>(700)</u>	<u>-12.1%</u>
Payroll Expenses					
Gross Pay Clergy	105,296	114,882	117,600	2,718	2.4%
Gross Pay Non-Clergy	106,995	122,721	125,950	3,229	2.6%
Payroll Administration	2,117	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
SocSec/Medicare Match Nonclergy	7,893	9,388	9,635	247	2.6%
Total Payroll Expenses	<u>222,301</u>	<u>248,591</u>	<u>254,785</u>	<u>6,194</u>	<u>2.5%</u>
Special Offerings Disbursements	<u>3,910</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Special Requirements					
Synod Assembly	194	1,800	1,000	(800)	-44.4%
Total Special Requirements	<u>194</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(800)</u>	<u>-44.4%</u>
Stewardship					
Offering Envelopes	461	700	500	(200)	-28.6%
Stewardship Event	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Time and Talent Software	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Stewardship	<u>461</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>(200)</u>	<u>-28.6%</u>
Transfers to Fund Balances					
Data Systems Fund	458	500	500	0	0.0%
Property Maintenance Fund	734	800	800	0	0.0%
Multiple Year Project Fund	1,100	1,200	200	(1,000)	-83.3%
Total Transfers to Fund Balances	<u>2,292</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>-40.0%</u>
Worship Resources					
Altar Flowers	964	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Books & Resources	679	1,500	1,000	(500)	-33.3%
Communion Supplies	46	250	250	0	0.0%
Arts & Environment	625	900	900	0	0.0%
Sanctuary Care and Appointments	453	250	250	0	0.0%
Worship Resources - Other	749	200	200	0	0.0%
Total Worship Resources	<u>3,516</u>	<u>4,100</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>-12.2%</u>
Youth Ministry					
High School Programs	579	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Young Adult Outreach	48	300	200	(100)	-33.3%
Total Youth Ministry	<u>627</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>(100)</u>	<u>-7.7%</u>
Total Expense	<u>443,222</u>	<u>509,500</u>	<u>504,900</u>	<u>(4,600)</u>	<u>-0.9%</u>
Net Income	<u>1,507</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread; forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

All Creation Sings #1063

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**O God,
 you have called your servants
 to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
 by paths as yet untrodden,
 through perils unknown.
 Give us faith to go out with good courage,
 not knowing where we go,
 but only that your hand is leading us
 and your love supporting us;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021