

THE WINDOW

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

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Annual Meeting & 2022 Budget Q & A

Greetings friends, and may I welcome you to this new year with wishes of health and happiness.

One of my favorite parts of a new year is cracking open a new day planner. If we've met, you're probably not surprised that I have a color-coded system for managing my life that also includes a lot of sparkly stickers. But the last two years have seen a lot of strikethroughs, and now instead of breaking out a rainbow of pens I exclusively write in pencil.

While our current world demands we live with uncertainty and act with flexibility, there are a few things that remain constant. Those things are called bylaws, and they are not written in pencil. The ones applicable to our congregation say that we must hold our Annual Meeting before the end of January, and provide notice of it at least ten days in advance. So, here we go:

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 at noon in Crabtree Parish Hall. Current plans are to hold this meeting in person, but we are prepared to move online if conditions warrant it - please keep an ear out for updates! We will again have several online meetings to field budget questions - keep an eye on the E-Weekly for further information.

I truly appreciate your flexibility as we approach another year as a faith community.

With best wishes, Halley Ryherd, Council President

Basic Information for Giving for 2022

January 1, 2022



Here is a recap of the information shared in recent weeks about stewardship for the coming year. As you will recall, council decided to forgo a stewardship drive this fall given the ongoing impact of the pandemic on our in-person gatherings. Instead, council asked all members to prayerfully consider maintaining their current level of giving to both the general fund and the building fund—and of course, growing in generosity as you are able.

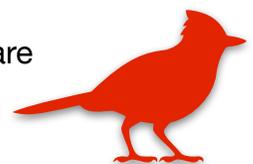
- **General Fund Giving (Offering).** Your quarterly giving statement will carry over your pledge amount from 2021. If you would like to adjust this amount, either up or down, just contact Heidi in the church office.
- **Building Fund Giving.** Your capital appeal pledge will no longer show up on the giving statement because the last three-year appeal ended at the close of 2021. We hope that you will be able to continue giving at the same level so that we can continue to make good progress toward retiring our mortgage debt. For your convenience, the amount of your previous capital appeal commitment will be included as a reminder with the first quarter giving statement. If you need to know sooner, call or email us.

What if I have not made a pledge in the past and would like to do so now? Just call the office and Heidi will assign you an envelop number, which is simply a way for us to track and report your giving to you for tax purposes.

What if I want to enroll in automatic giving? Call Heidi. She will be happy to answer any questions and get you signed up.

Can I give online without signing up for automatic deductions? Yes. Click the “donate” button at the top of the WHLC homepage and a secure form will open that you can use to make a gift anytime. Use the dropdown menu to indicate how you want your gift to be used.

Please let us know if you have a question about anything. We can help. We are so grateful for your ongoing support of the ministry of our congregation!



January WELCA Info

ELAINE HITES

Attention WHLC WELCA:

Welcome to 2022!

WHLC WELCA General Annual Meeting and Joint Bible Study will be held Thursday, January 20, starting with a brief business meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by Joint Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

In God's Love,

Elaine A Hites, President
of WHLC WELCA



Youth & Family News



After a break over New Years, Wednesday Night Activities for students resume on January 5!

- * 6:00-6:30pm: Faith Formation (pre-k thru 2nd grade) in the pre-k room
- * 6:00-6:30pm: Faith Formation (3rd thru 6th grade) in the youth room
- * 6:30-7:00pm: Joyful Noise (pre-k thru 2nd grade) in the choir room
- * 6:30-7:00pm: After Hours (3rd thru 6th grade) in the youth room
- * 7:00-7:30pm: Grace Notes (3rd thru 8th grade) in the choir room
- * 7:00-7:30pm: Cherub Chimes (pre-k thru 2nd grade) in the pre-k room

Junior High Night: Friday, January 21!



We are bringing back Junior High Nights to WHLC! All students in 6th-9th grade are welcome to join us at WHLC from 6-8 p.m., on the 21st for a time of community and games. Guidelines for the event will be inline with our current protocols for worship. There is no RSVP for the event, just be sure to let Zach know how many you'll be bringing so we can make sure we have enough supplies for everyone! Everyone is welcome to invite their friends to join along as well. Contact Zach if you have any questions about JHN. Hope to see everyone there!

CHAOS Resumes

CHAOS will return to its weekly meetings (Sundays from 6-8 p.m.) on January 9!

Confirmation Retreat

We have five students attending our synod's weekend retreat this month at EWALU from January 14-16. We'll be sure to share some photos and memories from the event on Facebook when we get back. Prayers for safe travels and a fun weekend are always appreciated!



Children's Choir Special Music

Our Wednesday evening student groups will be sharing special music during the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, January 16. Come out to see them perform some special music!



WHLC NEWS & REMINDERS



Saturday Evening Worship

Over the past few months, the practicality of continuing to hold a worship service on Saturday nights has been under discussion. While attendance at all three of our worship services has been affected since the onset of COVID-19, the Saturday service has declined the most.

Our Saturday worship ensemble, led by Amanda Lauritsen, works hard to select music and devotes time to rehearsing those selections for each week's service. I think we can all agree that they do a great job each week with their musical leadership of the service. And so, it can be very discouraging for the volunteers who are in the ensemble to see only a few people in attendance. One week attendance was four people.

At the December council meeting, the council voted to suspend holding worship services on Saturday evening until May of 2022. Please note that the service has been suspended, not eliminated. This decision will be revisited in the spring.

Beginning in early 2022, Amanda and the ensemble will play for one of the Sunday morning worship services with Jan playing at the other, alternating service times each week. The details of this schedule have not been finalized.



Please email all articles for the annual report to office@whlc.org by Tuesday, January 4.
Thank you!



If you would like to sign-up for online giving or change the amount you are currently giving through Simply Giving, please email office@whlc.org and request a Simply Giving form. Heidi can email or mail it to you. If you wish to continue your current Simply Giving, you do not need to complete a new form.

MORE WHLC NEWS & REMINDERS

Jim Spizale



Our custodian, Jim Spizale, retired at the end of December 2021. We are especially grateful to Jim, who gave WHLC extra attention during the coronavirus pandemic, with extra cleaning and sanitizing. Many thanks to Jim for his outstanding work!



Offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Feel free to grab yours the next time you're at church. A big thank you to Dick & Joni Wilburg for organizing and labeling them!

Christmas Gifts for Luther Park



Thank you once again for your generosity of Christmas gifts for Luther Park! Barb and Joel Waymire delivered the items along with \$100 in donations.

A special shout out to Sharman Blake and granddaughter Cheyenne, Jan Johnson and Barb Waymire for being at church to receive the gifts during the drop off times.

Each one of your gifts will bring a smile to the residents at Luther Park! ~Linda Anderson

Rand & Ann Reynold's Blog

A link for Rand & Ann Reynold's blog: <https://areynolds219.wixsite.com/kerkouel>

The short blogs and videos cover their passage from Valencia, to Gibraltar, Morocco and back to Valencia (Sept - Oct), as well as things they saw in Valencia afterwards.



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	November, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	40,707	41,925	432,062	461,175	427,192
Other General Fund Income	434	532	6,431	5,852	14,750
General Fund Income	41,141	42,457	438,493	467,027	441,942
General Fund Expense	38,616	42,425	439,311	466,675	454,816
General Fund Net Income	2,525	32	(818)	352	(12,874)
Special Offering Income	445	-	6,236	-	7,875
Special Offering Expense	250	-	3,911	-	7,548
Special Offering Net Income	195	-	2,325	-	327
Total Net Income	2,720	32	1,507	352	(12,547)
Mortgage Balance			929,874.54		
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance			274,700.05		

November General Offerings bounced back and were only \$1,218 under budget but are still \$29,113 under year-to-date budget. 2021 Year-to-date General Offerings are \$4,870 greater than 2020 Year-to-date General Offerings.

Based upon 2018-2020 giving patterns General Fund Income should have been around \$448,247 versus actual General Fund Income of \$438,493 resulting in a negative variance of \$9,754 or 97.8% of expected.

WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations. December is usually a strong month for General Offerings. Hopefully giving and thankful hearts provide a strong finish for 2021.

November 2021 General Fund Expenses were \$3,809 under budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses are \$27,364 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. November expenses also include budgeted quarterly expense for HVAC maintenance agreement. Also incurred expenses for carpet cleaning and roof leak repair. Snow Removal expenses are \$4,698 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 are Repairs & Maintenance, Utilities, Employee Benefits (Continuing Education, Mileage Reimbursements and Meetings & Conferences), Parish Education (Wednesday Night Meals and Sunday School and Books & Resources), Synod Assembly 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.

The net result is General Fund net income of \$2,525 for November and a year-to-date net loss of \$818.

Thank you for your generous offerings.
Duane Danielson, Treasurer





In Our Thoughts &
Prayers

*Sympathy to
Jessica
Chance and
family on the
death of her
son, Jason.*



The LORD
is my
strength
and my
song;
he has
become
my
salvation.
Exodus 15:2, NIV



- 1 BONNIE HYDA, RICHARD PEDERSEN
- 4 JOHN GROH
- 6 CHARLENE PAULSEN,
PATRICE PAULSEN
- 8 MARION DIETZ
- 10 DANIEL GOSS, JOANNE ROTHCHILD
- 11 ISABELL WEGNER
- 13 LINDA JAMES, JOHN LEAHY
- 15 MARC ANDERSON
- 17 RYENN SEIFERT
- 19 GLADYS HERTZBERG
- 21 SHELLY THIEMAN, PAULA VIRTUE
- 23 JIM SPIZALE
- 24 LINDA ANDERSON
- 25 MICHAEL MCNAMARA,
JONATHAN MORRIS
- 26 WESLEY FERGUS, JANET HANUSA
- 28 NICHOLAS COX
- 29 MATT MCNAMARA
- 30 ANN FASSE, COLE GILBERT,
NOAH GILBERT



PSALM 63:4, NIV



THANK YOU!

With Gratitude

I want to thank you so much for all of your love, prayers, cards and supports during my injury and recovery. I'm grateful for my WHLC family. ~Judy Munger

Thanks from the Heart!



Thank you WHLC family for supporting Ann's mother, Elaine Hamilton. We greatly appreciate all who remember Elaine in your prayers, those who send her cards and notes of encouragement as well as taking time to visit when you are able. We are grateful to God for you all. (Photo credit: Sue Crum)

Sincerely, Ann & Rand Reynolds

A big shoutout to Linda Fasse, Pam Lundell & Jim & Jeri Spizale for decorating the church this Advent

and Christmas season! Don't they do a beautiful job? Make sure you tell them the next time you see them at church!





Happy New
Year!