

THE WINDOW

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

WHLC Staff:

Rev. Chris Olkiewicz

Lead Pastor

Rev. Robin Coughenower

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Zach Meyer

Director of Youth and Family
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After a hiatus of several years, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), has recommenced settling refugees in Iowa. The current emphasis is on settling individuals and families from Afghanistan. Many of these individuals assisted the U.S. military when it was in Afghanistan. They were at particular risk when the Taliban took over the Afghani government.

WHLC has been assisting by providing meeting space for LSI to provide cultural training for the new arrivals. This training is intended to assist them in making the difficult transition to a new and very different home.

In addition, the WHLC Council has approved that Lenten offerings commencing on Ash Wednesday will be dedicated to LSI's Fund a Family program. The program is intended to allow LSI to provide necessary goods and services to resettle the families. LSI projects that it will take \$1,200 to resettle a family of four.

WHLC hopes to be able to fully fund the costs of resettlement for one or more families.

Blessings, Ron Rowland



*Love
your neighbor
as yourself.*



Annual Meeting Summary

After having to hold our annual congregational meeting online in 2021, we were blessed to be able to hold the 2022 meeting in person on Sunday, January 23 at noon in Crabtree Parish Hall. With over 70 active members attending, the congregation was able to complete important business to kickoff 2022.

- **Approval of the 2022 budget**
 - The pandemic caused both income and expenses to come in below the 2021 budget. A continued strong financial position has allowed the church to make significant principal payments on the mortgage. The congregation approved a budget of \$504,900 for 2022.
- **Thanks to outgoing council members**
 - The council thanks outgoing council members Amanda Eakins, Suzanne Nelson, John Reed, Samuel Steensen, and past President John Ambroson. Duane Danielson will also be stepping away from the role of church treasurer. Your service to the congregation is very much appreciated.
- **Nomination and election of incoming council members**
 - The nominations committee nominated Sharman Blake, Norm Carlson, Michael McNamara, and President-Elect Kevin Nicolet to begin their terms in 2022. The congregation elected all of the nominees and the new council was installed by Pastor Chris.

We thank you for your participation in the annual meeting and are looking forward to an even more robust gathering (with the traditional potluck dinner!) in 2023.

January Council Meeting

The council met online on Monday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. A few of the highlights of business are as follows:

- With Jim Spizale retiring from custodian duties, the church has entered into a one-year cleaning contract with Stratus Building Solutions in West Des Moines. Part of the contract was an initial deep cleaning that has already been completed in the church facilities.
- The council is seeking volunteers to be representatives to the Synod Assembly on May 20-21 in Coralville.
- President Tony Dahlman appointed Jill Hyda to continue as Secretary and Barb Waymire to serve as Treasurer. The council approved these appointments.

The next council meeting will be Monday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m. in person at the church.

-Tony Dahlman, WHLC Council President

Youth & Family News

ZACH MEYER

Junior High Night!

After the success of our January JHN, we're excited to once again make these a monthly occurrence! Our next JHN will be on Friday, February 18 from 6-8 p.m. All students in 6th-9th grade are welcome to attend, and we encourage students to invite their friends. Policies for the event will be inline with current worship guidelines. There's no sign-up to attend; to RSVP simply email zach@whlc.org and let us know how many you'll be bringing to the event. Hope to see you there!



VBS 2022 Date Announcement coming soon!

We'll be dropping the date selected for our upcoming Summer VBS here very shortly. Stay tuned to Facebook, the website & newsletter for the official announcement!

Come Hear the Kids Perform Special Music!

Our student music ensembles will be sharing music at the 10:45am worship service on Sunday, February 6! Come on out to support the students and hear the wonderful music they've been working on!



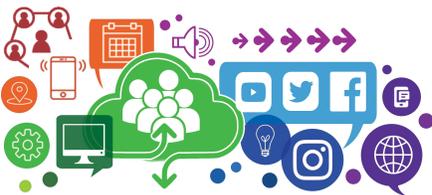
♥ WHLC News & Notes ♥

Several members recently reported receiving suspicious text messages claiming to be from Pastor Chris.

Some of you have reported receiving suspicious text messages from Pastor Chris. This is a well known scam that is going around many church communities. Neither Pastor Chris nor Pastor Robin would ever text you asking for money or gift cards. They also are pretty good at grammar and capitalization, so if the message is poorly punctuated, that's another clue that it didn't come from them. Here are a couple of things you can do if you receive such a message:

1. Check the sender's phone number. If it has an area code other than 515, it did not come from either of your pastors.
2. Block the sender's number. Both iPhone and Android phones give you the ability to do this. Then you know you won't get spam from that number in the future.
3. You can report the message as spam by copying it and forwarding it to 7726 (SPAM). Read more about that on the [Federal Trade Commission](#) website.
4. Call or email us if you have any doubts.
5. Definitely do not respond to the message or click any links in it.

Also beware of suspicious emails. We experienced a similar spam campaign involving email a couple of years ago. There has been a recent uptick in these spam messages nationally. It is not that our email accounts, phones, or the church computer system have been hacked, nor have your devices or accounts. Spammers use very sophisticated computer programs to scan the content of emails, social media posts, and the like and with remarkable accuracy can match up a person's name with that of their pastor. Then a vaguely worded message will catch some people in their trap. As long as you do not give away personal information or click on links, they pose no threat to you.



Be careful out there on the interwebs, friends! And don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

January Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated on Sunday, January 9, for Benjamin Craig Ryherd, son of Brian & Halley Ryherd. Baptismal sponsors are Kyle and Emsy Stille. Welcome to our church family!



SIMPLY GIVING

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.





Lenten Schedule



- 4-5 p.m.: Book Club in Koinonia Room
- 5:45-6:45 p.m.: Windsor Bells in Bell Room
- 6-6:30 p.m.: Joyful Noise (Pre-K thru 2nd Grade) in Choir Room
- 6-6:30 p.m.: Faith Formation (3rd-6th Grade)
- 6:30-7 p.m.: Grace Notes (3rd-6th Grade) in Choir Room
- 6:30-7 p.m.: Faith Formation (Pre-K thru 2nd Grade) in Pre-K Room
- 7-7:30ish p.m.: Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary
- 7:45-8:30 p.m.: Choir in the Sanctuary

Confirmation & Cherub Chimes do not meet during Lent.

Ash Wednesday
March 2
Worship at noon & 7 p.m.





The quilters want to welcome a new young seamstress to our group. Watch the railing as we will be displaying quilt tops completed by Kiersten Steensen! We don't want to forget Sue Crum, Pastor Robin and our adopted sewer Cheryl Moore from St. Marks. Without your help we would not be able to send 50 LWR quilts in April and October. There may be a few anonymous ones that have completed tops that we do not know who you are! Thank you!

The quilters meet on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. - noon in Crabtree Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Quilt bundles are still available for anyone to pick up in the credenza inside the main doors.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Anderson at 515-491-9242 or landy12450@aol.com.



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	December, 2021		Year-to-Date		2020 Y-T-D
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	51,605	41,925	483,758	503,100	487,561
Other General Fund Income	543	548	6,974	6,400	17,391
General Fund Income	52,148	42,473	490,732	509,500	504,952
General Fund Expense	39,502	42,825	478,814	509,500	497,400
General Fund Net Income	12,646	(352)	11,918	-	7,552
Special Offering Income	(445)	-	4,953	-	8,934
Special Offering Expense	1,440	-	4,603	-	8,368
Special Offering Net Income	1,885	-	350	-	566
Total Net Income	10,761	352	12,268	-	8,118
Mortgage Balance			824,284.52		
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance			192,165.51		

December General Offerings were \$9,680 over budget but were still \$19,342 under 2021 year-to-date budget. 2021 Year-to-date General Offerings were \$3,803 less than 2020 Year-to-date General Offerings.

December 2021 General Fund Expenses were \$3,323 under budget and Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses were \$30,686 under budget. A portion of the expense variance for December is from timing differences for property insurance premiums and NON-ELCA benevolence disbursements which are both paid quarterly. December and Year-to-Date expenses accounts under budget were 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 \$12,646 for December and a year-to-date net income of \$11,918.

Special Offering Income shows a negative amount for December. This was due to Lenten Offering of \$2,091 being distributed from income instead of Special Offering Disbursements.

Following is a schedule of 2021 Special Offerings:

ELCA Mission Support	2,000
DMARC Food Pantry	278
Urbandale Food Pantry	275
Lent-Lutheran World Relief Kits	2,296
Haiti Relief	650
ELCA World Hunger	1,120
Windsor Elementary Personal Needs Pantry	425
Total	7,044



The \$350 Special Offerings balance is from the Poinsettia donations supporting Windsor Elementary Personal Needs Pantry and will be distributed in 2022.

WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

A Certificate of Deposit matured on December 17, 2021, for \$55,327.46. This CD had earned 0.65% over the last 10 months. The best current renewal rate was 0.40%. The mortgage incurs interest at 4.125%. These CD funds plus additional checking account funds were transferred to the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA to make a \$100,000 principal payment to the mortgage.

In Our Hearts & Prayers



Sympathy to:

Jon Newsom on the death of his brother, Steve Newsom.

Gregg Gustafson, Peg Gustafson-Armstrong & Colleen Armstrong on the death of their brother-in-law, Loren Carolan.

Laura Fulps on the death of her mother, Margaret Hoffmann.

THE HEARTS
OF THE
SAINTS
HAVE BEEN
REFRESHED
THROUGH YOU.

PHILEMON
1:7. NRSV





FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bridget Brennan, Paul Rogness
- 4 Faith Hougen
- 7 Gloria Edman
- 8 Tracy Curnow
- 9 David Risvold
- 10 Jan Belken , Ruby McIlrath,
Becca Morris
- 13 Noreen Rogness
- 14 Marge Seegers
- 16 Bryan Jansen
- 17 John Ambrosion, Delores Koch,
Elliott Waymire
- 18 Dwight DuBois
- 19 Chris Nelson
- 20 Bill Morris
- 21 Rilynn Rogness
- 22 Chloe Erickson
- 24 Kenneth Popken
- 26 Melinda Krumm, Barb Waymire
- 27 Heath Hennig
- 28 Katie Fergus



THANKS
FROM THE
HEART



The family of Jason Chance wishes to thank our Windsor Heights family for their outpouring of love and support at this difficult time. We greatly appreciate all the many cards and prayers we have received. We feel your caring.

Sincerely,
Jessica, Matthew and Gregory

THANK YOU!



Thank you to everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers, and to Pastor Chris for the phone call as we mourn the loss of Jon's brother Steve Newsom.

~Jon and Cheryl Newsom



Thank you for all the cards, memorials and prayers on the loss of our brother-in-law, Loren Carolan. Your thoughtfulness brought us great comfort.

Colleen Armstrong and Gregg and Peg Gustafson



Dear WHLC Friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers and phone calls after my knee replacement surgery. The WHLC family is a caring and healing family and I am so blessed to know each of you. The surgery was successful and I am recovering well – even walking without a crutch! Your caring is the special ingredient that makes recovery faster. Blessings to you all.

Gregg Gustafson

Happy
Valentine's
Day



For God so loVed the world
thAt he gave his
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

Love is **PATIENT**,
Love is **KIND**.
It does not **ENVY**,
it does not **BOAST**,
It is not **PROUD**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

WHLC SHOUT-OUTS!

Thank you to Sue Crum for making these beautiful baptismal towels!



Five crockpots were recently discovered being stored on the first floor. Prior to COVID, WHLC hosted the class which was taught by Polk County Extension Service on how to cook nutritional meals for families on a budget. Many of those who take the class are immigrants, and learning to use a small American appliance is very helpful! The crockpots are given as a graduation gift for completing the course. The crockpots

were donated by Bible study circles awhile back. Soon, Polk County Extension will again be teaching the class **Buy. Eat. Live Healthy**. Mae McCarty, Central Iowa Supervisor for Nutrition Education Programs, was **THRILLED** to receive the delivery and donation of crockpots. Thank you to the WHLC member who delivered the crock pots!



Is there someone at WHLC that deserves a shout-out? If so, email Heidi at office@whlc.org so they can be recognized in the Window next month!

