

THE WINDOW

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

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Lead Pastor

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CHRIST'S CHURCH IS FOR ALL PEOPLE

“We believe that Christ’s church is for all people. God calls each of us by name, and it is not our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. But as ‘saints and sinners,’ we know and experience God’s work of healing and restoring as well as the persistent human pain and injustices of racism in the world. This is where God has put us, in the thick of life, where we participate in what God is doing by insisting on justice and upholding human dignity for the inclusion of all people in the life of the church and society” (Introduction to the ELCA Racial Justice Ministries webpage).

The month of June gives us several opportunities to recall our commitment to be a church for all people and to recommit ourselves to the work of racial justice in church and society. June 17 is the day each year when the church commemorates the Emanuel Nine, who were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while engaging in Bible study at Mother Emanuel Church in 2015. Juneteenth, a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, is celebrated on June 19. The ELCA has prepared worship resources for both of these days, and you can expect there to be an emphasis on racial justice during our services on June 18-19.

I also invite you to join me for dinner and a movie on June 21 and 28, when we will view together “The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song” by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The film premiered on PBS this winter, and you can learn more about it here: [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org). I watched the film on Iowa PBS, and found it to be very compelling. Following our viewing together, I plan to share with you a series of four Bible studies focused on the film’s recurring themes: Hope, Sanctuary, Community Engagement, and Perseverance.

On June 21 and 28, we will gather in Crabtree Parish Hall for an easy meal (probably pizza) at 6:00 p.m. and start watching the movie around 6:30. Each of the two episodes runs just under two hours, so we should conclude by 8:30. Episode 1 will be shown on June 21 and Episode 2 on June 28. The followup Bible studies will be on Sundays after worship in July. (Reminders of dates and times will appear in the E-Weekly in June and July.)

I hope you will join me as we learn and talk together about the ongoing call to engage the challenges of racism in a diverse, complex, and changing world. This is but another step on this important and necessary journey. Let’s walk together, trusting that the Spirit leads us.

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris





GO TELL THE WORLD!

The following reflection was written by Joel Waymire, who—along with Tracey Hirst, Pastor Robin, and Pastor Chris—served as a voting member of the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on May 20-21.

That was the theme of the SE Iowa Synod Assembly held on May 20-21 in Coralville. It is meant as a reminder that we all have a story to tell and by telling that story we can spread God's word in the world. I had the great pleasure of attending with Tracey Hirst as well as our pastors and it was a most enjoyable experience with a lot of celebration, worship, and education as well as handling of the church's annual business.

It was nice to see Pastor Eric Carlson and Erik Ullestad there, though they were busy and didn't get to talk with them too much. We did have the opportunity to sit at the table with Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger, a former member of WHLC, who was ordained just over a year ago and is serving a church in Ames now. It's hard to believe her oldest will be a sophomore this coming school year. She told us her family is all doing well.

The worship services were great as they were a time for celebrating in the name of Jesus Christ, and hearing 300 people singing hymns together was perhaps the most enjoyable part of the weekend for me.

There was business to conduct with the election of officers and committee members as one of the first things on which to vote. It was easy with the voter portal, though there were only a couple of contested positions. Two resolutions were raised voted on at the assembly. The first asked the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (which will be held in August) to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act that is introduced in Congress. A simple explanation is that it is a way to implement the Church's position to help slow climate change. This was approved and will go on to the Churchwide Assembly for further consideration.

The second resolution was one to reaffirm anti-racism efforts in the Church. Again this was overwhelmingly approved by the Assembly.

Bishop Current was magnificent as a worship leader as well as handling all the minor issues that arose during the meeting and keeping the mood upbeat. Her staff kept her well informed and supported at all times. What wonderful leaders we have at the Synod level.

I will say that perhaps the most meaningful part was that we were able to meet in person. The previous two assemblies were online, so having that many people of God together was a joyous and caring time. The stress level that can arise from a large group of people trying to advance their own agendas was non-existent except for very brief discussion of the resolutions. We were there for the betterment of the church and it felt as if we all belonged together, though most of these people I hadn't met before.

GO TELL THE WORLD!

GLORY BE TO GOD!

You're a H  LE in One,
Dad, and I'm proud to carry your BAGel!

Celebrate Father's Day by enjoying
donut holes and bagels after the
9:30 service on Sunday, June 19!



We are collecting pictures
of you with your dad or as a dad.
Please drop them off in the kitchen!



Youth & Family News

ZACH MEYER

VBS June Update



We're a little under two months away from VBS, and things are in full motion as we prep for this awesome week! You'll notice decor has already begun to spring up around the church, and we're planning on setting up much more! We're still collecting cardboard and fake plants for our decorations, and a big thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We're so excited to turn this space into an adventure of mystery, fun, excitement and creativity!

You'll notice we've created some official fliers for VBS; in addition to sending these out to area businesses and schools, we have several in the narthex for anyone to pick up! You'll find them on our decorated VBS table, right by the elevator. These fliers are for anyone to pick up (great to give to a friend or for a community

bulletin board), so take as many as you need! You'll also find paper copies of both our student and volunteer registration form on the table as well.

Speaking of registration, several students have and continue to sign up for VBS. A reminder that anyone in Pre-K thru 6th grade (fall 2022), is welcome to join us! Anyone in 7th grade and up is welcome to join us as a volunteer, and we still need several hands to help make this VBS happen. A reminder for some of our younger volunteers that VBS volunteering can count for community work, is applicable for Silver Cord hours, and can even be put onto referrals and resumes! There are plenty of areas to help out with; everything from working with students 1-on-1, to running a rotation, to helping out with meal prep and service.

Finally, as we wrap this update up, I want to thank all of you for your support as we plan VBS. The Parish Ed team has been hard at work to restore our full day-length schedule to this summer's VBS, while brainstorming new and exciting ways to share our theme with the students. This yearly event truly is a community effort, as we all come together to give the kids a special week of faith and fun. Thank you all for supporting this wonderful ministry! We hope you'll join us on Adventure Island later this summer, it's bound to be an amazing week!



More Youth & Family News

ZACH MEYER

Liftoff Round #3

Folks keep asking us when the next Liftoff Event will be, and we're pleased to announce Round #3 of Liftoff will be Friday, June 10, from 6-8 p.m. You may notice that, unlike the previous two, this month's event is not on the first Friday of the month. Due to some schedule changes, we moved it back a week. But don't worry, this event will be just like the first two, a time of games, food and new friends for kids in pre-k thru 3rd grade, and their families!



We plan to be outdoors for this event, weather permitting, and we're excited to share some fun new games with the kids. There's no RSVP for the event, and Liftoff is FREE for everyone to attend. As always, dinner is provided by the church. Spread the word, and we hope to see you there for a night of fun!

Student Photo Wall

Did you know that we've been chronicling this past year of Youth and Family Ministry through photos? If you wander up to the third floor, you'll find our student photo wall, commemorating some of our favorite memories and moments during the past year. We'll have to take these photos down later this summer for VBS, so be sure to head upstairs the next time you're at church to get a glance at the funny, goofy, and awesome photos we've collected!

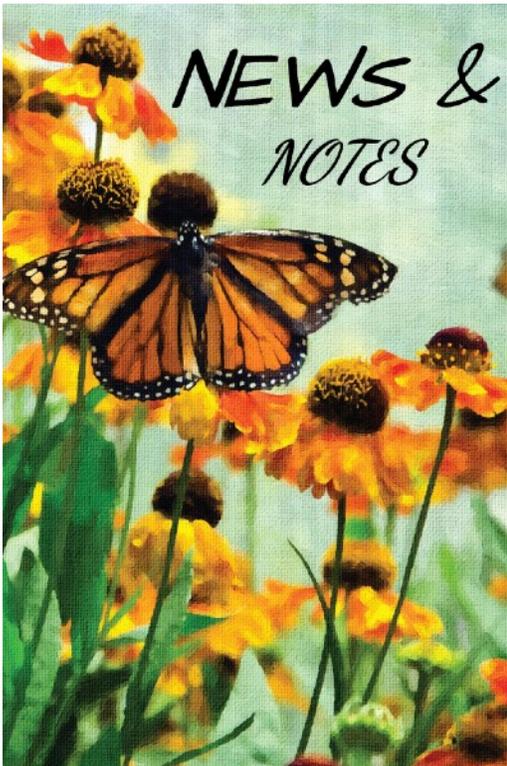


VBS Save-The-Date Reminder



July 25 - July 28
9 a.m. - noon for Pre-k students
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for grade school students





Pastor's Study – Sundays in June

Join Pastor Chris after worship on the Sundays in June for a short, conversational study on the scripture readings of the week or a current topic of concern for people of faith. Remember to pick up your copy of *Living Lutheran*, the monthly magazine of the ELCA, in the narthex. The topical conversations will be based on *Living Lutheran* articles. Pastor Chris may be on vacation on June 26, but should be available on the other Sundays. Grab a cup of coffee and donut in Crabtree Parish Hall and head back to the Koinonia Room (off the narthex) for about 45-minute's worth of conversation.

Women's Joint Bible Study

with communion will be hosted by Ruth Circle on Wednesday, June 15, 9:30 a.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall. All women are invited to join the Bible study and communion led by Pastor Chris.

Welcome to our Church!

Matt & Stephanie Ely

Jim & Marile South



The Return of Elderberries!

Tuesday, August 2 at 11:30 a.m.

Details coming!



If you would like to play an instrument or sing for worship this summer, please contact Heidi at office@whlc.org.



Saturdays - 5:30 p.m.

Outdoor Worship - Bring a chair!

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship time after in Crabtree Parish Hall

Toothpaste for the Urbandale Food Pantry

Toothpaste is greatly needed at The Urbandale Food Pantry. Bring your donations to church and place them in the shopping carts inside the main entrance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

WHLC Council,
Attached please find the financial reports for April 2022

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

	April 2022		Year-to-Date		2021 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	37,381	41,666	186,869	166,664	182,527
Other General Fund Income	1,054	407	3,324	1,628	2,492
General Fund Income	38,435	42,073	190,193	168,292	185,019
General Fund Expense	41,178	42,037	178,334	168,148	161,984
General Fund Net Income	(2,743)	36	11,859	144	23,035
Special Offering Income	2,968		7,537		3,586
Special Offering Expense	171		674		1,490
Special Offering Net Income	2,797		6,863		2,096
Total Net Income	54	36	18,722	144	25,131

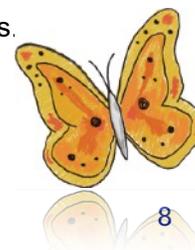
Mortgage Balance	802,139.01
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	215,063.61

General Offerings for April were \$4,285 under budget, while they are \$20,205 over budget year-to-date. Year-to-date General Offerings are also higher than in 2021.

April 2022 General Fund Expenses were below budget, while year-to-date expenses are still higher than budget and are also higher than 2021. In April expenses were incurred to repair the ice machine and replace switch boxes. As noted earlier in the year, we see variances in monthly results because some of our larger expenses, like insurance and non-ELCA benevolence, are paid quarterly vs being budgeted monthly. We expect those type of variances to level out as the year goes on.

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

Please let me know if you have questions.
Barb Waymire





Under Cheryl Rigler's leadership, the following group of women met several times to discuss the future of WELCA: LaVon Heston, Elaine Hites, Marilyn Warling, Sharman Blake, Barb Waymire, Ellen Graham, Sue Crum, and Inez Boyken.

We think that many in our congregation believe that WELCA consists of only the women who actively participate in one of the Bible study circles. WELCA includes ALL the women of WHLC, whether in a Bible study circle or not. Because of this, the group felt it was very important to seek and consider the input of all women.

Our group examined the current status of our women's organization, which has been greatly impacted by the pandemic. We reached out to the women of WHLC and gathered extensive information to consider before making any decisions. Our discussions included the needs and wants expressed to us, while keeping in mind what would also be realistic.

Before we met the last time, Pastor Chris shared with us the article from Living Lutheran dated March 28, 2022 entitled: "My take: They may not come back . . . and here's why" by Dwight Zscheile. To paraphrase one expert: no one should be surprised that the systems of the ELCA (congregations, synods, the churchwide organization) and its partners are unraveling as church membership declines. "This isn't just the church's problem—it's a larger cultural transformation." It goes on to say that it may become necessary to think "outside of the old boxes" of the past.

With prayerful consideration and after thoroughly discussing all aspects of WELCA --including the structure of the organization, our relationship with the Synodical Women's Organization, events, along with ministries and mission projects, we voted how to move forward. Since it has become increasingly difficult to maintain leadership, and based on the feedback from the women of WHLC, we will no longer have officers nor a board that meets regularly.

We are proposing that under this new way of operating, the Bible study circles will continue to meet as they have in the past. However, the Bible study circles will communicate with one another and coordinate the ways in which we support the Synodical Women's Organization, such as collecting Thankofferings each November. Offering collection and decisions about monetary donations would be handled by the individual Bible study circles with collaboration between the circles on how we contribute to SWO causes. Decisions about the current monies in the WELCA treasury will be an item for future discussion.

There are many components of our existing women's organization that will continue to take place and that we are proposing to continue supporting. The quilting group, the prayer shawl group, and the prayer bead bracelet group would all still take place as before. We would still like to collect gifts at Christmas for Luther Park and continue the collection of school kits, baby kits, and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The provision of funeral lunches will continue to take place as a ministry of the entire congregation.

Traditionally we have held several joint Bible study meetings during the year led by either Pastor Chris or Pastor Robin. Many expressed an interest in continuing this. The joint Bible study in January had been hosted by the WELCA board, the Ruth Circle has hosted a brunch with joint Bible study in June, the Martha Circle has hosted a noon salad luncheon with joint Bible study in July, the Mary Circle has hosted the potluck supper and joint Bible study in August, and the Naomi circle has hosted the October event of which the WELCA board planned the program. Some of the Bible study circles have become much smaller and all of us have become older. What does this mean for the future? Joint Bible studies can take place successfully without necessarily including food and drinks. We know this from our virtual meetings online during COVID. The circles can decide if they are able to continue hosting such events and may have ideas for changes. Perhaps in place of the October event which featured a speaker or a philanthropic organization to support, we may want to have an event at some time during the year that everyone in the congregation can attend. Many women that we spoke with suggested keeping the annual Advent service with the dessert fellowship. Maybe this will take on a new look if both men and women wish to be involved.

A sign-up sheet will be circulated later in which both men and women can sign up to help with events, ministries, and LWR mission projects. There will be a section for new suggestions, such as new events/projects/opportunities. We will compile the results from the sign-up sheet and the people who have expressed an interest in helping with an event or project will meet and decide together how to implement it.

If anyone is interested in joining a Bible study group, here are the current Bible studies offered:

Men's Bible study meets each Tuesday at 6:45 a.m. at the church. Contact is Chuck Safris 276-2996

Ruth Circle meets 9:30 a.m. third Wednesday Contact is Bonnie Hyda 987-4639

Martha Circle meets 1:00 p.m. third Thursday Contact is Pam Barber 276-2208

Mary Circle meets 2:00 p.m. second Thursday Contact is Elaine Hites 681-1633

Naomi Circle meets third Monday 6:30 p.m. Contact is Cindy Ambroson 321-3200

There are currently conversations of starting new Bible studies, and there are active Bible study participants who have offered to help mentor those interested in starting a Bible study.

This will all be new, which means that adjustments and certain "tweaks" may be necessary along the way. We hope that everyone will be willing to "give this a try."

Thank you!

Inez Boyken, Barb Waymire, and Cheryl Rigler



Thank You for Helping Celebrate the Life of Morry Hansen

It had been over two years since we served a funeral lunch, but all the planning and volunteering from members of WHLC came right back into play. The lunch for Morry was filled with smiles, memories and fellowship.

Thank you to Zach Meyer for setting up the table and chairs.

The SALADS were made by Ann Rowland, Cheryl Newsom, Julie Borseth, Jan Johnson, Barb Waymire, Marilyn Warling, Jeri Spizale, Inez Boyken, and Mary Wilke-Adair. They were all delicious!

BARS were provided by Kiersten Steensen, Cheryl Rigler, Marian Perman, Linda Lundgren and Linda Rye. Your sweetness was appreciated!

COFFEE TABLE was hosted by Marc and Mary Anderson.

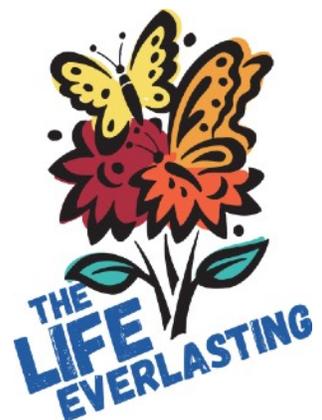
The LUNCHEON SERVICE could have not been a success without the help of Sue Crum, Linda Fasse, Ann Rowland, Jan Johnson, Inez Boyken, Barb Waymire and Linda Anderson.

CLEANUP was the Men's Bible Study duo of Chuck Safris and Chuck Young.
Paula

Virtue also helped cleaning up Crabtree Parish Hall and sorting the napkins.

Taking home the TABLECLOTHS AND THE NAPKINS were Sue Crum, Jan Johnson, Barb Waymire and Inez Boyken.

THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING THE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON A SUCCESS! BLESSINGS, LINDA ANDERSON & SHARMAN BLAKE



Happy Birthday to You!

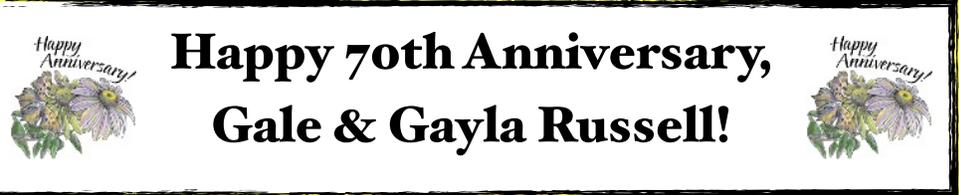


- 2 Wanda Baraldi
- 3 Inez Boyken
- 4 Brett Toresdahl
- 5 Marilyn Harvey, Brent Kowalsky
- 6 Marian Perman, Mary Wilke-Adair
- 7 Daniel Krumm
- 8 Laura Fulps
- 10 Sandra Morse, Lisa Klooster
- 11 Colleen Armstrong, Terry Hudson
- 12 Marilyn Deavers, Sandy Hansen, David Krumm
- 13 Harriet Lewis, Cheryl Rigler
- 15 Jeri Spizale
- 16 Gayla Russell
- 17 Lois Johnson
- 18 Ralph Johnson Sr.
- 20 George Belken, Rebekah Reynolds
- 22 Doug Johnson, Rose Logan
- 25 Norm Carlson
- 26 Edna Eakins, Mark Fasse,
Dorothy Meier, Donna Yeager
- 27 Sharman Blake, Jan Carlson
- 28 Linda Fasse, Ron Rowland
- 29 Arlene Wilson
- 30 Mike Blake, Bruce Dodgen

**Sharman Blake is
turning 70!**

Come to fellowship
time after service on
Sunday, June 26,
to help her celebrate!
There will be treats
and refreshments.

Please bring a card
sharing your favorite
memory with Sharman.
Everyone is welcome!



WHLC Shout Outs!



Shout out to Elaine Hites for her caring and work with WELCA members. She is canvassing members, trying to streamline the board's structure, and perhaps assist in combining a few of our small circles. Thank you, Elaine, for your hard work! ~Wendy Prigge



Shout out to Linda Russell for teaching Faith Formation. We are grateful for her time, and for the kindness she shows the children!

Shout out to Halley Ryherd! She was on Jeopardy! If you would like to see the episode on TV, check her out on Wednesday, June 29!



Shoutout to Karen Cluts for helping to make the WHLC lawn beautiful by picking up sticks.

Shout out to Gayla Russell for repairing the funeral banner. Thank you, Gayla!

