

THE WINDOW

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

WHLC Staff:

Rev. Chris Olkiewicz

Lead Pastor

Rev. Robin Coughenower

Associate Pastor

Zach Meyer

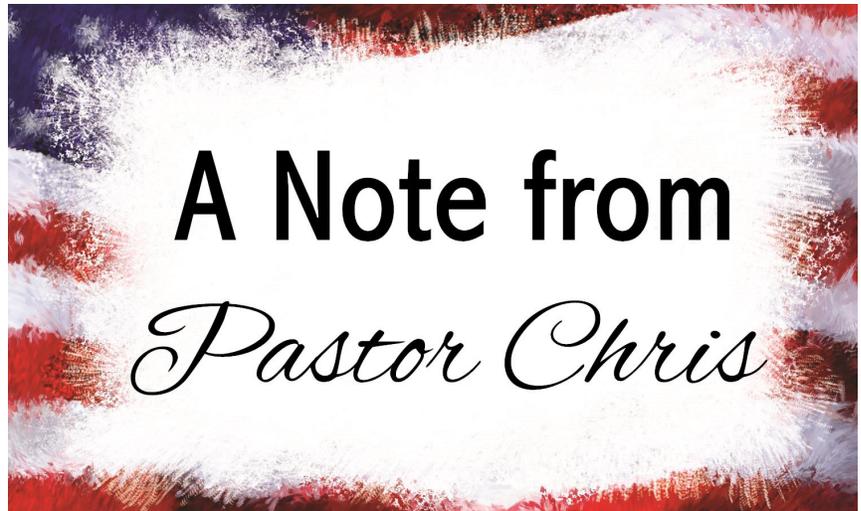
Director of Youth and Family
Ministry/Congregational Life
Coordinator

Heidi Hennig

Office Manager

In this Issue:

Note from Pastor Chris.	1-2
VBS & Liftoff	3-4
Fund a Family Offering	5
Treasurer's Report	6
WHLC's Women's Group	7-8
News, Happenings & Reminders	9
Baptisms	10
New Members	11
Sympathy	12
Birthdays	13
Thank You's	14
WHLC Shout Outs	15



Dear WHLC Friends,

June 18 marked my twenty-seventh ordination anniversary. I have been blessed by many good gifts throughout these years of service, for which I am grateful. One blessing of ministry that I have not experienced, however, is a sabbatical. The synod compensation guidelines recommend a sabbatical for pastors and deacons every six to eight years, so you might say that I am long overdue. I am pleased to say that council has approved me taking a much needed sabbatical from August through October.

A sabbatical is meant to provide the pastor an extended break, typically three months, from the daily responsibilities of parish ministry for rest, renewal, and self-directed study. Sabbaticals are often divided into three phases. One-third is

simply a time for rest and relaxation. One-third is devoted to study on a topic of interest to the pastor. One-third can be focused on learning that benefits the congregation.

I plan to focus the study aspect of my sabbatical on faith and science dialogue, which, as you probably know, is a great interest of mine. My goal is to produce several learning modules for confirmation-age youth that introduce faith and science as complimentary, rather than contradictory, ways of understanding the world. In all my years of confirmation teaching, I have not found a curriculum that touches on faith and science in a substantive way, and I think the need is evident. Far too often, a perceived conflict between the two becomes a reason why young adults reject religion in favor of science, even though it need not be an either/or ultimatum.

Council is forming a task force to make arrangements for my absence. On the Sundays that I am not here, you will get to experience a guest pastor preaching and leading worship. I encourage you to embrace this as an opportunity to hear some fresh voices and varying perspectives. Pastor Robin will step in to cover “other duties as needed,” similar to how I was able to back her up during her sabbatical a few years ago. I am grateful for her support, and for that of Heidi and Zach and other leaders in the congregation.

The Alban Institute says this about sabbaticals: “A sabbatical offers opportunity to get off the treadmill and provides an opportunity for renewal of vision and hope. It is more than just a chance to recharge your batteries for another year. It can be a life and soul-changing time, a time when perspective and the Holy Spirit can come together.” I ask for your prayers that this may be for me, and for us, a time of renewal of vision and hope.

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris



VBS IS HERE!

July 25-28, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

VBS is upon us! Later this month, we'll welcome over 70 kiddos for four days of faith, fun, adventure and community here at WHLC! We are so excited to again host what has become our favorite week of the summer, and one of our biggest ministry events of the year. Among the students joining us for the week are not only members of our church, but extended families, friends of our students, members of the community, and our friends from the Chin Baptist Church! What an awesome crew we'll have joining us for the week.

Of course, with over 70 students attending, we need plenty of help to make it happen. There are several ways you can help out with VBS; we'd be grateful for any help you can offer. **As of now, our biggest need is volunteers who can help with the students throughout the day, and well as leaders for a few rotations!** As in years past, Amanda Lauritsen will once again be leading music, while the awesome team of Megan & Pam is creating awesome crafts for the students. **We still need a couple of volunteers who could lead our Games & Bible Study rotations!** In addition, we're looking for helpers & leaders (both adults and older students) who can work with certain age groups, particularly the older grades!

If you are not available to help out during the week, but still want to contribute to VBS, we continue to collect donations! Right now, we're asking for **small, clear plastic jars for crafts and fake plants for decor**, and we will soon release our food donations list for the week. Contributing any of these donations is a huge help to us during the week!

There is still time to register for VBS, and we'll keep registrations open until the weekend prior to VBS! You can register students or as a volunteer through the church website, or by picking up a paper copy in the narthex and returning it to the office. A reminder that VBS is open to anyone in Pre-K (3 years old & potty-trained) through those entering 6th grade. It's FREE for everyone to attend, lunch is included, and everyone gets a free T-shirt for signing up!

You'll see we've already done a heavy transformation to turn the church space into Adventure Island, and we'll continue to work on it throughout the month. It might seem early to have so much decor up, but we're trying to go with a real immersion theme for this year! We encourage you to enjoy this silly, whimsical and colorful decor (if you want a fun challenge, see if you can identify all the stuffed animals hidden around in the displays; each part of the church represents a different "part" of the island)!



Finally, I want to thank everyone who is helping to make this VBS possible! Our Parish Ed team has been crucial in planning this event: Megan Seifert, Amanda Eakins, Linda Russell and Pam Lundell have all provided wonderful ideas and contributions to this week. I want to give a big thanks to our kitchen crew, who is thinking up tasty meals for the kiddos to enjoy during the week. I want to thank our volunteers who are coming along to help the kids enjoy a fun week. And finally, I want to thank all of you, for supporting this powerful ministry!

It's been almost three years since we've been able to host a VBS like this, and it's a testament to the grace of God, this church's kind spirit and the loving community we have around us to have it once again. All your support, through giving, volunteering and prayers, has helped make this possible, and I thank you all for that! We hope to see you there for Discovery on Adventure Island, which is sure to be a memorable experience and a fun week for all!

Sign up for VBS here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvsBB3F5LDNx6T3XDQn-3g3cbv4vWluoc6JDwCLgPhmicd_w/viewform

Sign up to volunteer here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7LL6sOsKuilAGDcyzzSOvqFtz8GD99wX-A-RtA6dXlbRX_A/viewform

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

No Liftoff This Month!

We're taking a break from Liftoff this month to focus on VBS (which in many ways acts as a bigger form of Liftoff!) Rest assured, we will bring Liftoff back in August, and continue to host it monthly through the rest of the year!



Fund a Family Lenten Offering

Ron & Ann Rowland

A Pashto-speaking Afghani might say, "Manana, Manana, Manana! (Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!)."

Prior to the Lenten season, the WHLC Church Council decided to designate this year's Lenten offerings to Lutheran Services in Iowa's Fund a Family program to support LSI's resettlement efforts for the newly arriving Afghani refugees. LSI projected that it takes \$1,200 to resettle a family of five. This amount is over and above federal funding for resettlement.

The results are in. Wow! The WHLC community really stepped up with overwhelming generosity. The Lenten offering totaled \$6,223—more than enough to assist five Afghani families. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

On a related note, one WHLC member donated a sewing machine and another member donated a considerable amount of fabric to an Afghani family requesting such items. Several beautiful dresses, shawls, tunics, shirts, and pants have been made with these items.

Again, "Manana, Manana, Manana!".



Tunics made with the donated sewing machine and fabric.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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

	May 2022		Year-to-Date		2021 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	32,977	41,666	219,845	208,330	217,712
Other General Fund Income	858	407	4,182	2,035	2,861
General Fund Income	33,835	42,073	224,028	210,365	220,573
General Fund Expense	46,640	42,037	224,974	210,185	202,773
General Fund Net Income	(12,805)	36	(946)	180	17,800
Special Offering Income	216		7,753		3,771
Special Offering Expense	111		785		1,590
Special Offering Net Income	105		6,968		2,181
Total Net Income	(12,700)	36	6,022	180	19,981

Mortgage Balance	796,458.63
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	212,242.61

General Offerings for May were \$8,689 under budget, while they are \$11,515 over budget year-to-date. Year-to-date General Offerings are also slightly higher than in 2021. With the summer months upon us, we know that many families will be traveling and may not be at church in person as much as otherwise. I remind you that offerings can be mailed to the church or made securely online through the church website www.whlc.org if you would like to do so.

Year-to-date expenses are above budget and are also higher than 2021. 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. Some expenses that are running higher than budgeted at this time include snow removal, yard work / landscaping, and repairs & maintenance. Yard work expense was high in May due to spring clean up costs. In May we also see the expense from the clean out of the grease trap interceptor. Overall we are doing a good job of managing expenses to be fiscally responsible while providing programs and activities that advance our mission.

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

Please let me know if you have questions.
Barb Waymire



WHLC'S WOMEN'S GROUP

Inez Boyken, Barb Waymire, and Cheryl Rigler

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.



WHLC'S WOMEN'S GROUP *Continued*

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 Ambrosion 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!

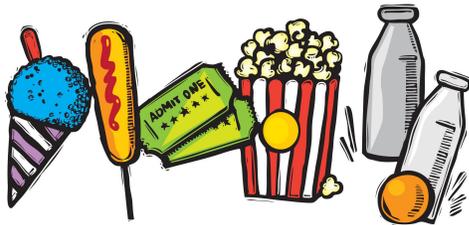
Inez Boyken, Barb Waymire, and Cheryl Rigler



NEWS, HAPPENINGS & REMINDERS!

ELDERBERRIES!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2
11:30 A.M.



I'm pleased to say that we will resume our monthly gathering that is geared towards people aged 60 and older. The date and the time have changed. We will meet on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning at 11:30 a.m., with a few announcements and then a meal. For August, the meal will be provided by our kitchen volunteers, led by Ellen Graham. With a theme of "State Fair Day" the menu will be corn dogs and other summer delights. There will be games, prizes and a cake walk for dessert.

All members and friends are invited to attend. While this group focuses on our older members, anyone can come and join us for some great food, fellowship and fun events.

At this meeting in August, there will be discussion about what Elderberries will look like for the future. Is a pot-luck style meal still feasible? What activities would be of interest to the group? Are there any volunteers who would like to help plan and serve at the event each month?

Please come as we gather again to share a meal, enjoy some fellowship and plan for the future.

-Pastor Robin

Saturday Night Service

Starting this Saturday, the 5:30 p.m. service will move indoors for the rest of the summer to avoid the oppressive heat and humidity that is summertime in Iowa. Come and bring a friend!



In observance of Independence Day, the church office will be closed on Monday. Have a fun and safe holiday weekend!

Women's Joint Bible Study in July

Pastor Robin will lead the Women's Joint Bible Study on Wednesday, July 20, 9:30 a.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall. (This is a change in time and replaces the traditional July salad luncheon). Light refreshments will be served. July will be the 2nd session of the summer Bible study, "Crafted in Christ: A summer of rest and renewal" by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah.



WHLC Baptisms!

July 1, 2022



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated Pentecost Sunday for Lincoln Han Yeager, son of Kellen & Dami Yeager, grandson of Mitch & Donna Yeager. Baptismal sponsors are Kendall & Laura Yeager.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was also celebrated Pentecost Sunday for Mason Lee Ziemke, son of Travis & Kendra Ziemke, grandson of Kim & Dianne Greenfield. Baptismal sponsor is Ryenn Seifert.



New WHLC Members!



In May we welcomed new members, Matt & Stephanie Ely and Jim & Marile South.

Welcome to WHLC, Ely's and South's!



Matt & Stephanie Ely

2929 35th St

Des Moines, IA 50310

Matt: elymatthew@gmail.com

Stephanie: Stephanie.n.dana@gmail.com



Jim & Marile South

6300 School St, Apt 308

Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Jim & Marile email:
jimmarilesouth@gmail.com

Jim cell: 515-508-9626

Marile cell: 515-771-4115



Sympathy to Linda Anderson on the death of her father, Roland Burger. Linda and her sister were by his side as he entered into eternal life.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Don Roose, Calvin Ryherd |
| 3 | Erika Capps |
| 4 | Kim Greenfield, Tessa Logan |
| 6 | Tom Shanley |
| 7 | Cheyenne Hennig |
| 8 | Karin Eshelman |
| 9 | Betty Johnson |
| 10 | Chuck Safris |
| 11 | Dianne Greenfield |
| 12 | Ellie Swale |
| 13 | Mary Anderson, Dena Baldus |
| 14 | Andy Rowland |
| 15 | Wendy Prigge Lucy Valin,
Nicholas Waymire |
| 19 | Ann Reynolds |
| 20 | Karen Maass |
| 24 | Alexandra Gustafson |
| 25 | Annabelle Lubben |
| 26 | Maurine Edmond |
| 27 | Kathy Safris |
| 28 | Kiersten Steensen |
| 29 | Amanda Franklin, Luke Powers |
| 30 | Andrew Opsal |



★ WHLC THANK YOU'S! ★



Losing a parent is one of the most heart breaking experiences I've had. Even at the age of 95 we wanted him just a little longer! But Dad knew he was ready to go home and my sister and I made sure he wasn't alone when he took his last breath.

Father's Day was a tough day but you all knew what to say. It was the first of many first to come.

Thank you to my WHLC family for your prayers, cards, memorials, calls, texts, meals and hugs!!

~Linda Anderson



Thanks for all the cards and greetings to help me celebrate my 90th birthday! It was a great weekend and to

celebrate with church family and my family made it really special! Makes wonderful memories!

Many blessings to all! ~LaVon Heston

THANK YOU!



On 5/26, Bill Lewis had a biopsy surgery of the bladder wall. The results showed "no cancer." He will have chemo treatments later to ensure the cancer doesn't return.

Bill wants to thank WHLC members for all of the support and concern during this time.



Thank You

Thank you to all the WHLC members who shared their memories of a family of former members. The church office received a phone call from a member of the deceased family asking for memories and photos of the family. With your help, this was accomplished --- giving peace and closure.



WHLC SHOUT OUTS!



"With liberty and justice for all."

Halley Ryherd on Jeopardy!



Shout out to Halley Ryherd!

She was on Jeopardy July 29 & July 30! How cool is that!?



Let Freedom Ring!

SHOUT OUT and THANK YOU to all the past, present, and future quilters who have created hundreds of beautiful quilts similar to the one in the photo. The quilts have been shared with Lutheran World Relief, various charities, and local families in need.

