

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:

Boo Bash.	1-2
Loading of Kits & Quilts	3
Blessing of the Animals	4
Serving at the Homeless Shelter	5
2023 Stewardship Emphasis	6
Volunteers Needed	7
School Kits	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Life-Long Learning	10
October Birthdays	11
Sympathy	12
Thank Yous/Announcements	13

Find our more at
www.whlc.org

Join us for the Boo Bash!

Sunday, October 16th, 6:00-7:30pm
 Pizza is provided! Free to Attend!
 All Are Welcome!

Games, Candy, Movies, Costumes
 & A Spooky Good Time!

@ Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
 1240 66th Street, 50322 Windsor Heights IA

October is here and that means the return of our annual Halloween family event! This year, we're excited to announce the return of Boo Bash! Starting at 6 p.m., all are welcome to join us in Crabtree Parish Hall, and across the entire 1st floor of the building, for a fun night of Halloween activities! Pizza will be provided by the church. While this event is certainly targeted towards the younger kiddos, there'll be something for everyone to do! Be sure to come in your own fun (or spooky, if you prefer) costumes!

This is always a big event, and with the recent surge of kids from Liftoff and VBS, we're expecting a bigger crowd this year! We need your help! Spread across the space will be various activities for kids to do, including a cookie walk, pumpkin decorating, the long jump, ring toss and more. At each of these stations, we'll need one volunteer to hand out candy after the student has participated in the event. We promise none of these activities are hard to learn or manage! Anyone in 6th grade and up is welcome to be a volunteer! To sign up, you can either go to the website, fill out a sheet in the narthex, or contact Zach at zach@whlc.org.

If you'd like to help with VBS, but cannot be there on the 16th, another way to help is through candy donations! Simply drop off bags of candy at the church office, and we'll use them to hand out at the event!

This is a free event open to the general public, so all are welcome! Invite friends and family, and be sure to spread the word! If you have any questions or ideas about Boo Bash, please contact us; we'd be glad to hear from you! Hope you can join us on the 16th for a spooky good time filled with laughs, sweets, community and fun events!





Saturday, October 15, from 8:30 a.m. - noon marks the date for the WELCA kits and quilts to be loaded into a truck in the WHLC parking lot. The kits and quilts will be taken to the South St. Paul Lutheran World Relief warehouse, where other ELCA and Missouri Synod churches wanting to bring their items will be loaded October 15, as well.

Volunteers are needed to help load the truck Saturday morning, October 15. If you are able to help, please contact Jan Grannes at 279-8017. Thank you!





Sunday, October 30
3 p.m.
WHLC Front Lawn

The Blessing of the Animals service is in remembrance of St. Francis Assisi's love for all creatures. St. Francis was born into the family of a wealthy merchant and gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creations, including animals and nature.

Everyone and all pets are welcome! Treats for both humans and pets will be provided following the service. Since the blessing is right before Halloween, feel free to have your pet wear a costume!

Please consider making a donation of the items below to benefit the Furry Friends Refuge. Feel free to drop it off in the church office or bring it to the event. You may also make a monetary donation by making a check out to Furry Friends Refuge.

- Cat food (Nothing with red dye listed as an ingredient)
- Kitten food (Nothing with red dye listed as an ingredient)
- Cat litter (clumping)
- Dog collars, beds and leashes
- Supplies such as paper towels and rolls of trash bags

*Furry Friends tends to have more cats than dogs, so they have sufficient dog and puppy food.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Hennig at hvblake@gmail.com or Sharman Blake at sharmancisco@gmail.com.



-Serving at the Homeless Shelter-



After two years and seven months away, we returned to serving the meal at the Central Iowa Shelter and Services on September 11. We had nine WHLC members who served the evening meal to approximately 200 shelter guests. Despite our lengthy absence, things went swimmingly and among those who served, we made the decision to return to regular serving on the 11th of every month. As we have in the past, we will need nine volunteers to serve each month, so a sign-up sheet has been and will be posted on the bulletin board near the second floor drinking fountains every month.

Instead of asking church members to sign up to bring food items, as we have in the past, we are requesting that members consider making a monetary donation toward the meal and include any contributions in their offering envelopes — designated CISS fund. A special thank you to all those who have continued to contribute to the fund over the course of the pandemic. Since the meal costs approximately \$800 per month, your ongoing donations and new donations of any amount are greatly needed and appreciated.

If you have any questions or need more information about this vital, long-standing WHLC ministry, please contact Dana Leahy at danainc@mchsi.com or at 515-707-5646.





This year we will be using a resource from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, entitled, *Go Tell the World: 4 traits of a life of stewardship*. Each week a different trait will be highlighted: Faith, Persistence, Gratitude and Humility. There will be a short Biblical passage, and some questions to ponder as we prayerfully consider how God is calling us to be good stewards of our gifts.

Beginning on October 16, each week there will be a short article in the E-weekly and the bulletin. On November 13, during each worship service, there will be time set aside to complete a pledge card for 2023.

Here is an excerpt from the resource.

The Fall 2022 Stewardship resource "*Go Tell the World: 4 Traits of a Life of Stewardship*" gives a glimpse into just what it takes to steward a whole life of faith by examining four aspects of discipleship as it relates to life, money, and community.

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary texts for the month of October, these resources explore faith, gratitude, persistence, and humility all while naming and claiming the baptismal call to tell the world of God's love in Jesus Christ. Included in these materials are weekly scripture reflections, prayers, ideas for engagement in worship, and faith formation exercises.

We trust that these resources become for your community a springboard to further exploration into how individuals and communities can better steward the gifts God has entrusted to them. Believing that each community has all it needs to live into God's mission and call for them, we steward with faith, gratitude, persistence, and humility so that more people may come to know and be transformed by God's saving love.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Now that we can gather in larger groups again it is time to plan some of our cherished traditions as well as some new activities that bring us together for one or all of worship, fellowship and fun.

With the dissolution of the WELCA Board there is no longer a designated group of people to plan some of the functions that we have historically held like Advent Service or Men & Boys Dinner. However, we know there is interest in having some of the favorites and there is also interest in having new activities that may be held at a different time of day or be coed or be inter-generational or be service-oriented (or all of the above). So here's your chance!

Outside of the sanctuary there are sign-up sheets on which you can volunteer for an event. It may be a specific event (e.g. Advent Service) or it may be an unspecified event of your choice (e.g. a Spring function). You may also use the following link to sign up <https://volunteersignup.org/TDWR8> We're not looking only for women to lead and plan these events; we want all who are interested to take a leadership role. Youth and Gentlemen, we're talking to you.

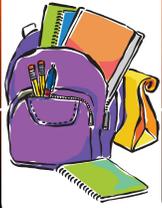
The commitment you are making is not to be on a Board or a standing committee, rather it is to be part of a group that will plan and put on an event that is near and dear to you. When the event is complete your commitment is complete as well. Or you may decide that you had so much fun you want to do it again. It's totally up to you.

To refresh your memory, here are a few of the events that WELCA has sponsored and planned in the past that may serve as inspiration for you, but truly the sky is the limit.

- Men & Boys Dinner with speaker
- Spring Brunch with speaker
- Summer Joint Bible Studies
- Fall Gathering with speaker
- Advent Service and Fellowship
- Spring and Fall Lutheran World Relief Kit Collection

Sign up now. You'll be glad you did!





School Kits

Lutheran World Relief



A BIG thank you to those who signed up and remembered to bring in your supplies for the 80 LWR backpacks. They were assembled and packed within 30 minutes on Monday, September 26, with the great help of Marilyn Warling, Sue Crum, Cindy Ambroson, Mary Wilke- Adair, Julie Borseth, Marilyn Penberthy, Jan Grannes, LaVon Heston, Kathy Safris, Jeri Spizale, Delores Koch and Linda Anderson. Prior to the packing, Vivien Wells made over 180 bundles of pens and pencils!

My Dad would be very happy knowing that we are helping 80 children who otherwise may not have supplies for school! Blessings to all! Linda Anderson



Kathy Safris, Dolores Koch, Cindy Ambroson, LaVon Heston and Marilyn Warling assemble 80 school bags for Lutheran World Relief.

Bags are boxed and ready for their shipping journey mid-October.

Sue Crum putting pencils into backpacks.



Treasurer's Report



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

	August 2022		Year-to-Date		2021 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	31,130	41,666	323,264	333,328	333,090
Other General Fund Income	628	407	6,356	3,256	4,946
General Fund Income	31,758	42,073	329,620	336,584	338,036
General Fund Expense	43,550	42,037	352,768	336,296	316,210
General Fund Net Income	(11,792)	36	(23,148)	288	21,826
Special Offering Income	409		2,160		4,791
Special Offering Expense	171		1,472		2,170
Special Offering Net Income	238		688		2,621
Total Net Income	(11,554)	36	(22,460)	288	24,447

Mortgage Balance	729,450.82
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	105,367.94

General Offerings were down in August, and for the year are now \$10,064 below budget. Additionally year-to-date General Offerings are \$9,826 below General Offerings year-to-date in 2021.

As we continue to ramp up activity in and around WHLC, year-to-date expenses continue to run above budget and are also higher than 2021. There are several accounts where we are higher than budget for the year, including Copies & Supplies, Cleaning Equipment & Supplies, Utilities, and VBS. These types of expenses are reflective of our return to a more robust use of the church than we had during 2020 and 2021. Other of our above-budget expenses are related to the maintenance of the building and are not unexpected as the building ages, but they are higher than when the remodel was first complete. Those expenses include Repairs & Maintenance as well as Yard Care & Landscaping. Insurance Premiums are higher than budget right now due to timing differences between when the expense is paid and when it is budgeted. We anticipate this expense will be near budget levels by the end of the year.

A Certificate of Deposit earning 0.4% matured on August 16, 2022 and a 6 month CD for \$110,000 was obtained from Luana Savings Bank, maturing on 3/7/2023. That CD is earning 2.53%. As interest rates continue to change based on the actions of the Fed, Finance Committee is reviewing all options for renewal of CDs as they mature.

WHLC remains on solid financial footing with respect to working capital.

2022 has been a challenging financial year thus far for many of us. We are thankful for the opportunity to resume so many activities at WHLC and we ask that you continue to support the church as you are able.

Please contact me if you have any questions.
Barb Waymire



Life-Long Learning

In July I attended the Conference on Worship, Theology and the Arts at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. This is a long standing conference that many of my colleagues have attended. Given that I had

not attended an in-person conference since before the pandemic, it was good to be with others at this event.

Pastors are provided funds and time away each year by their congregations to attend events such as these, to read and study in a different way, in order to continue our theological education. Hence the term life long learning. Windsor Heights is very generous in their funding of this benefit which is a component of my compensation package and a provision of my letter of call.

The theme was "Scatter the Imagination of our Hearts". This is a verse from the first chapter of Luke. We hear Mary's song of praise that she proclaims after visiting her cousin Elizabeth. She sings about God blessing her to be the mother of the Messiah, the God-bearer, as some have anointed her to be. The wording is a bit different as it is from a new translation of the Gospels, written by Professor Wilda Gafney.

It was a good week and I enjoyed listening to speakers and participating in worship services that I don't lead! The chapel at St. Olaf hosted the artwork of their artist in residence, Dr. Kat Parent, and they painted a picture during the opening worship service. There was also an exhibit of their artwork on display in the chapel and they gave a presentation about how to encourage art in its various forms in the church and the worship space. We are blessed with our own "artist-in-residence" with Dana Leahy and her Project 66 mosaics.

One of the keynote speakers, Dr. Eunjoo Mary Kim, who is a professor of homiletics at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, spoke about "Preaching in an Age of Globalization." One helpful illustration she used was about how we have described the different races and cultures in the United States. We have used terms like melting pot or salad bowl. Neither is very helpful as a melting pot ignores each individual culture and a salad get covered with dressing that smothers the individual elements, leaving the distinctive flavors behind.

Rather, Dr. Kim talked about the image of a kaleidoscope, where you have different shapes and colors and they move around together, creating new pictures, without one color or shape being dominant. She challenged us to think of our worshipping community in this way noting that in this model, all of the pieces are equal.

During each worship service we were taught some sign language for the responses we use in worship. Thanks be to God, hear our prayer, and also with you, - were some that we learned. Using sign language instead of a spoken word in response to the greeting and prayers and also during the sharing of the peace, added a depth to the worship experience.

While the speakers and discussion with other pastors were interesting and engaging, I found myself a bit envious of the other groups who were there. There were two other "learning tracks" going on, one for bell choirs and one for an adult choir. Each day they would be introduced to new music, and rehearsed together to prepare musical selections for each worship service.

It was refreshing to hear about new ideas for preaching, ministry and congregational life.

Peace, we pray, Pastor Robin.



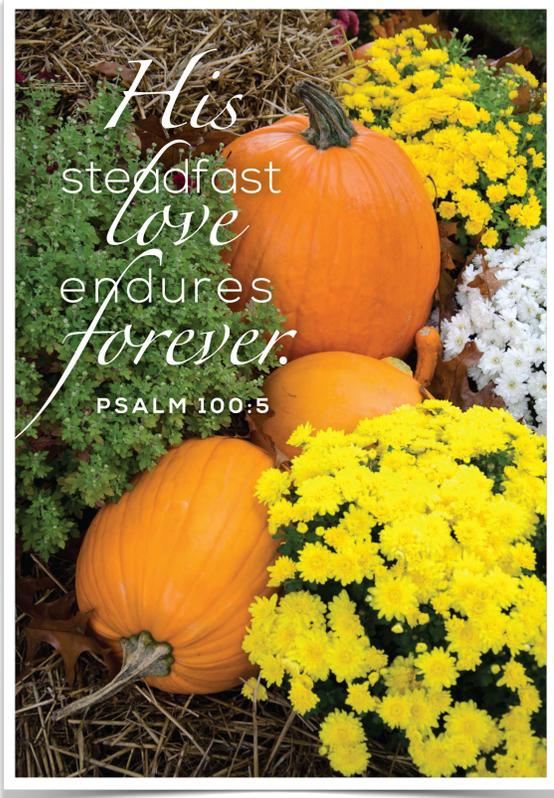


- 1 Victor Glawe, Heidi Hennig, Matt Klein
- 3 Matt Hennig, Jaime Nicolet
- 5 Alice Barrett
- 9 Paul Cartwright
- 12 Sally Watson, Charles Young
- 13 Hadley Rogness
- 18 Judy Risvold
- 19 Steve Coughenower, Philip Crum,
Kurt Paulsen
- 22 Deborah Hudik
- 23 Kaia Brnilovich, Kianna Collier
- 24 Andy Anderson
- 29 Paul Axness
- 30 Olivia Franklin, Makenna McNamara,
Jack Nelson, Dean Paulsen, Jerome Richards
- 31 Robert Johnson, Wanda Loehr

HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY



*Sympathy to
Bill Lewis on
the death of
his brother,
Jack Lewis.*



THANK YOU'S & ANNOUNCEMENTS



My daughter found my address list and sent requests for cards for my 90th birthday. I have cards from 11 states and two from Holland! Some friends I never expected to hear from again. Two of the cards were from refugee families sponsored by WHLC. Due Vu from Viet Nam and Habte and Kidisti Micael from Sudan. A few of you may remember them - those were busy days! Both families sent family pictures and now live in California.

Thanks to all of you for the beautiful cards and messages. I love all of them. You made my birthday so special. We don't get out much anymore, but we miss you. God bless all of you.

Love, Joani Wilberg

ELDERBERRIES



We will meet on Tuesday, October 4, beginning at 11:30 a.m. It will be a potluck so please bring a dish to share. Last month, we had a feast of different foods to choose from. We will be participating in an art project from our own Dana Leahy as the activity this month. Please use the signup sheet in the back of the sanctuary so we know how many people to plan for.

In November our theme will be Game Day, so bring a card or board game to play and wear your favorite team's gear. In December, Jan Carlson and Wendy Prigge will present a musical program and then play some of our favorite Christmas hymns for a sing-a-long.

RESTART RECYCLING FOR WAYNE

I am sure you remember Wayne Wycoff. He started worshipping at WHLC after the congregation welcomed the families displaced by an apartment fire several years ago. On social security for a disability and receiving food stamps, his life was stable and supplemented by recycling cans brought to church by WHLC members.

Covid brought an end to Wayne's can and bottle recycling opportunities. Now, Wayne has asked if WHLC will again help him. His total food stamp allotment has fallen below the pre covid level, and of course we know that inflation has hit the cost of food in many ways.

Members of the congregation have continued to support Wayne with transportation on a weekly basis as needed. We can all help him by bringing in those cans and bottles: the trash can with the red top will reappear in the south west corner of Crabtree Parish Hall. Thanks in advance. Chuck Safris



The WHLC quilters completed their 900th quilt! The top was sewn together by Mary Wilke-Adair.

The quilters meet on Mondays from 9:30-12. Please come join us!

CHANGE of ADDRESS

Tom Shanley is now at Cedar Ridge Village.

8950 Coachlight Dr.,
Room 155
West Des Moines, IA
50266



Women's Bible Study

Mary's Bible Study meeting on October 13, at 2 p.m. in Room 127. We will be putting together some more LWR baby kits. The study will be from the Gather Magazine: "Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith".



Note of THANKS to all WHLC Members who have signed up to help during our Sunday morning worship services! Your assistance makes the service more enjoyable and meaningful for both worshipers and pastors!