

# 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

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## The Thing About Liftoff!

You've probably heard, and seen photos from our Liftoff events taking place the past few months! Liftoff is designed as a night of fun and games for kids in pre-k through 3rd grade, and their families. We meet once a month on a Friday from 6:00-7:30 p.m., and all are welcome to join us for this fun night of community!

This relatively new ministry has really skyrocketed since it began, and almost overnight, it's become a cornerstone ministry here at WHLC. The average attendance at our first three events was over 40 people, each group a mix of WHLC kids, their friends, and members of the community. Who'd have ever imagined it'd become such a prominent feature so quickly?

Some people have compliment me on Liftoff, and while I'm grateful folks are enjoying it, I can't take credit for it. You see, Liftoff began as a simple request from Heidi, one day when we were chatting back in March. She was wondering if we could host something similar to our Junior High Nights (JHNs) for Cash and his friends. I was excited by the idea, not just because it sounded fun, but because it came from a member of our congregation and met a need in our community.

Perhaps I should explain what I mean by "a present need." Heidi had explained that, since the onset of the pandemic, her kids and their friends hadn't been able to gather much for nights of fun like birthday

parties, playdates and pep rallies. As the pandemic numbers had been dropping around March, they were just starting to venture out to meet as a group again. Noticing how much fun our middle schoolers were having with JHN, she wondered if the church could focus on bringing these fun events to the kids.

Unlike VBS and Wednesday Nights, the point of JHN and Liftoff isn't evangelism, teaching or worship. That's not to say that they don't ever happen at these events, but rather, the main goal is to give kids a night to just simply, well...run around the church and have fun! Given what Heidi, and other parents for that matter, had told me over the course of the pandemic, that was something the kids would really love and need. Turns out they were right!

We never could have predicted Liftoff would have the effect it does. In a span of only 5 months, it's become so key to our ministry, we're already having to adjust the budget to account for feeding so many people at these events once a month! Kids and parents alike are loving the event; we routinely have kids asking to stay longer, and asking when the next event is.

What's also great about Liftoff is how well it works in sync with other ministries. We had multiple Liftoff kids join us for VBS, and a few families who have attended Liftoff are interested in joining us on Wednesday nights! For our WHLC students, it offers an outlet for fun to go along with faith formation on Wednesday nights, and worship on Sundays. Each of these ministries offer something different, and together, I believe we see a more complete approach to ministry.

That's not to say that everyone at Liftoff is suddenly going to pop up at every event. Several of these families already have churches they're deeply involved in, plenty of extracurriculars, and very busy schedules. And that's wonderful! Finding a common ground where we can meet people across our community for fun and fellowship, even just once a month, really shows how diverse, and creative, ministry can be.

Much has changed regarding our ministries the past few years; some have shifted structure, others moved virtually, and some have disappeared. Even things popular at the onset of the pandemic, like our community calls, haven't continued as the need for them is no longer the same as before. Nor is that a bad thing! Now that we can meet in person, that ministry of fun has shifted to things like Liftoff, which offer the same fun and fellowship, just in a format that now better reaches our community!

That's the biggest takeaway I've seen from Liftoff so far, and it's so powerful to see! In the end, Liftoff really is more of a product and result of the families that support it than the brainchild of the church staff. My role with these events really hasn't been so much planning as facilitating, and it really feels like a team effort!

As we look to the future of what outreach and ministry will look like at WHLC, I think this is the great perspective Liftoff offers. What new ministries can we create, or how might we need to adapt our current ones, to offer something the community needs? How can we continue to lift up the ideas and voices of various people across our congregation to bring new options to the table? How can those of us in leadership continue to help facilitate these ideas and voices?

Those questions will continue to be answered in time, and if anyone ever has any ideas, inquiries, and suggestions, we'd love to hear them from you! If Liftoff can be started from something as simple as one request, then there's many possibilities for how we can continue to grow moving forward. We are so eager to hear your input and ideas, and continue to adapt to serve our congregation and community!

Finally, I want to close by thanking you all for your support of this new ministry here at WHLC. We have another Liftoff this month, and we are excited to host the students and their families for another fun night. As we enter into fall, we're excited to join you all in ministries both old and new alike, as together we worship, grow, learn and serve, all in God's love!

Zach Meyer  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries



# Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief

We are going to fill 80 back packs thanks to you! There are still a few slots to fill on the sheets on the table in the narthex but the boxes are getting full. The grocery cart has been emptied once!



Please have your supplies at church by Sunday, September 25. On Monday, September 26, the quilters and anyone who would like to join them will fill the back packs beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall.

Thank you for your generosity!  
Linda Anderson





# WHLC FALL SCHEDULE

Beginning on **Sunday, September 11**, we will return to our fall worship times. On Sunday, there will be services at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. with a fellowship time at 9:30 a.m. Saturday evening services will conclude on September 3, and will resume during our summer schedule.

We welcome back all of our musical ensembles, Alleluia Choir, Windsor Bells, Windsor Brass, Cherub Chimes, Joyful Noise and Grace Notes, who will be providing special music throughout the program year.

As we have done in previous years, the style of worship will alternate between the two services, with Amanda and the praise team at one service and Jan at the other service. There is somewhat of a pattern to this as we strive to alternate each weekend, but the scheduling of our ensembles for each weekend may cause the pattern to change at times.





# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7!

Wednesday Evenings during the school year at WHLC offer something for everyone! Join us for a free community meal each week before we break off into different activities for different age groups. All are always welcome! Contact us if you have any questions.

- 5:30pm to 6:00pm - Community Meals
- 6:00pm to 6:30pm - Faith Formation (Pre-K - 5th Grade)
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm - Confirmation (7th - 8th Grade)
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm - Book Club
- 6:00pm to 7:00pm - Windsor Bells
- 6:30pm to 7:00pm - Joyful Noise (Pre-K - 3rd Grade)
- 6:30pm to 7:00pm - Hangout (4th - 5th Grade)
- 7:00pm to 7:30pm - Grace Notes (4th - 8th Grade)
- 7:00pm to 7:30pm - Cherub Chimes (Pre-K - 3rd Grade)
- 7:00pm to 8:00pm - Confirmation (9th Grade, September to October)
- 7:00pm to 8:00pm - Alleluia Choir
- 7:30pm to 8:00pm - After Hours in Parish Hall (All Ages)

### Community Meals: We Need Your Help!

The beloved community meals will resume with the return of our Wednesday night schedule on September 7, starting at 5:30 p.m.! After our trial run for the return of community meals last spring, we are excited to return them again this fall! While we still anticipate the size of these meals will still initially be much smaller than they were in 2019, we still really need some help running them!

For each community meal, there are two major areas we need help with each week. The first one is someone to head the meal for the week, deciding what the main entree will be and preparing it. As always, the church will pay for all expenses going towards the meal; Zach is happy to grocery shop for any supplies you may need. Please know that we keep these meals simple and accessible; any kind of food you can think of or provide will do. Meals in the past include things as simple as hot dogs, pizza, chili, sandwiches and walking tacos; in reality however, the choice can be anything you like!

The other area we need some help with is 1-2 people who can help wash dishes after the meal. You'll have to know how to run the dishwasher to do this, and we can have someone show you if you don't know how (don't worry, it's really simple!)

If you would like to help with the meals in any way, please contact Zach and let us know what dates you'd like to help, along with what you're planning to make and what supplies you need us to pick up. We can't wait to see you all again this fall as we gather for food and fellowship!



Community Meal



# Youth & Family News



Liftoff will continue throughout the school year, recurring regularly once a month! Our next Liftoff will be **Saturday, September 10 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.!** As always, food is provided, and we'll have some more fun games to play with the kids. Please note the change from our usual Friday time to Saturday! We hope to see you there!



## CHAOS THIS FALL

CHAOS returns this fall, and our first meeting is Sunday, September 11, from 6-8 p.m. All students in 9th-12th grade are welcome to join weekly for a meal, study, reflection, community and some really fun games.

If you'd like more info on CHAOS, please contact Zach! Hope to see everyone there as we begin a fun year of CHAOS!



## Dirty Feet Retreat Opportunity for Middle School & Confirmation Students

We have an exciting opportunity to share for students in 6th-9th grade. EWALU, an ELCA camp here in Iowa, is bringing back their Dirty Feet Retreat! We've been on this retreat in the past, and the students have had a great experience at the camp. The retreat is from Friday evening, September 30th, to Sunday morning on October 2nd, and is open to all students in 6th-9th grade! The camp is a chance for students to meet other youth groups, grow in their faith, explore fun activities at the camp like the high ropes course! Cost per student is \$90.00; however, WHLC offers \$50.00 camperships for students to go on retreats, so we'll cover over half the cost!

Congregations generally sign-up as a group, so if we hear that a group of our students are interested, we register all at once. If your student is interested in the retreat, please contact Zach! Students are welcome & encouraged to invite their friends. Once we have a group that's interested, we'll meet further to figure out travel details for the trip. More info about the retreat can be found on the EWALU website, which is linked below! Hope you can join us for a fun weekend at camp!

Dirty Feet Retreat Info: <https://ewalu.org/dirty-feet-retreat-2022/>



# Treasurer's Report

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

	July 2022		Year-to-Date		2021 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	45,451	41,666	292,133	291,662	296,465
Other General Fund Income	954	407	5,728	2,849	4,008
General Fund Income	46,406	42,073	297,862	294,511	300,473
General Fund Expense	41,779	42,037	309,218	294,259	276,454
General Fund Net Income	4,627	36	(11,356)	252	24,019
Special Offering Income	(6,113)		1,751		4,341
Special Offering Expense	155		1,301		1,995
Special Offering Net Income	(6,268)		450		2,346
Total Net Income	(1,641)	36	(10,906)	252	26,365

Mortgage Balance following \$50,000 additional principal payment	735,109.25
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	158,360.61

General Offerings improved in July coming in \$3,785 greater than budget, and General Offerings are now slightly ahead of budget year-to-date. Year-to-date General Offerings are \$4,332 below General Offerings year-to-date in 2021.

Year-to-date expenses continue to run above budget and are also higher than 2021. Overall we are doing a good job of managing programming and activity expenses to be fiscally responsible while providing the programs and activities that advance our mission. There remain some timing issues around expenses in the Buildings and Grounds budget, and we are seeing higher expenses as we return to the "new normal" in the life of the church. Finance Committee will continue to monitor this and review it in the next few months as we look to establish the 2023 Budget.

A \$100,000 Certificate of Deposit was obtained from Luana Savings Bank, maturing on 8/10/2023. The CD is earning 2.58%. In August another CD of \$108,014.05 will mature, and Finance Committee will determine the most appropriate placement of those funds, based on rates at the time and needs for the funds.

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

Please contact me if you have any questions.  
Barb Waymire





# WHLC



## NEWS & NOTES



Our next gathering of Elderberries will be on **Tuesday, September 6** at 11:30 a.m. Our meal will be in potluck style, so please bring a dish to share. Our activity this month will be White Elephant

Bingo. Please bring an item from your home, you do not need to purchase anything for this, but bring a small gift-wrapped item from your home that you wish to share. These will be the prizes for our bingo rounds. Please contact Pastor Robin if you need transportation to Elderberries. I hope to see you all there. If you plan to attend this month's gathering, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

### Celebrating the Life of Suzanne Nelson

On Thursday, September 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m., there will be a potluck supper gathering to celebrate the life of Suzanne

Nelson. Suzanne did not want to have a funeral, so her family and friends decided to share a meal together and enjoy some fellowship time with those who knew Suzanne. Please bring a dish to share. Tableware and beverages will be provided.



### Crabtree Parish Hall's New Layout!

As we prepare to enter our fall schedule, you may notice the layout in Crabtree Parish Hall has shifted a little! This will be our first fall featuring community meals in three years, and much has changed since our last layout we used in the fall of 2019. To reflect the changes since then, we've updated the way chairs and tables are set out!

While we've still kept to our original number of tables and chairs (12 circle tables with 7 chairs per table), they've all been pushed back to the half court line. This allows us to use nearly half the space for groups like Junior High Night, Liftoff, and Wednesday Night activities. These groups require space and physical activity, so not only does this give them plenty of room, but it ensures they keep some distance from people who may be eating/meeting at the tables.

Another change is staggering the tables a bit at the far end to make room for the quilters and their supplies. Given how we don't generally use the far end of the space (by the dishwasher), this makes an ideal place for the quilters to store and work on their lovely quilts! We continue to keep two long tables in front of the kitchen garage for food serving. We've also added another one in the far left corner of the space, to hold coloring supplies and some games for Liftoff.



Aside from our own groups, other groups such as Women's AA, Easter Seals, the Chin Baptist Church and Heartland Youth Choir use the space periodically. We've filled all of them in on the new layout as well. We realize many different groups will need to move tables and chairs to fit their event, which we certainly encourage! We simply ask that everyone return them back to the original layout after they are done. Doing so ensures that Crabtree Parish Hall stays free of cluttering, and open for everyone to use whenever they need to!



# MORE NEWS & NOTES



## 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 yellow top will reappear in the south west corner of Crabtree Parish Hall.

Thanks in advance. Chuck Safris



## WHLC Gather Offer

Your Congregation Council has been pursuing renewal with a focus on worship, prayer, scripture, and service. We believe that one valuable resource for all members to further this goal is *Gather* magazine.

*Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. The existing Women's Bible Study groups use the monthly Bible Studies in *Gather* as the basis for their studies, and the joint Bible Studies led by our Pastors use this resource as well.

But *Gather* is so much more than Bible Studies. There are articles relevant to the seasons of the church year, there are reflections about current events, family, mountain top experiences, handling low points and a variety of other topics in each issue. Many current subscribers read it cover to cover the day it arrives. Though published by the Women of the ELCA, this magazine has something for all members, not just women.

In order to introduce as many WHLC members as possible to this wonderful publication, Council has offered to pay the first year's subscription for any first-time subscriber in the congregation. With your subscription you will receive 6 bi-monthly hard copy issues as well as digital access to *Gather*. The following link provides additional information:

[Inspirational Christian magazine | Gather magazine](#)

We believe you will find it valuable whether you choose to attend an existing Bible Study or read it in the comfort of your home when you can catch a few minutes to do so.

Please contact WHLC Treasurer Barb Waymire (515-490-9167, [bar7812@gmail.com](mailto:bar7812@gmail.com)) to get information about how to get your first-time *Gather* subscription paid for by WHLC.



## Worship Volunteer Sign-Up

Please consider helping with any of these roles and sign up on the church website or right here:

[Online worship volunteer signup.](#)

As always, we are in need of worship volunteers to help with items such as communion prep/assistance, lector and other positions. This is especially true with Pastor Chris' sabbatical. The Sabbatical Task Force members will be monitoring the volunteer list during this time and contacting individuals to ensure there is adequate help on the weekends for the pastors and worship host.



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5, for Labor Day. Have a wonderful holiday weekend!





# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Stewart
- 2 Ruth Lightly
- 3 Bennett Olkiewicz, Michael Wegner
- 4 Joan Wilberg
- 5 John Rigler
- 6 Ann Rowland
- 8 Caleb Shepard-Valin
- 9 Karen Kowalsky
- 10 Matthew Whipps
- 11 Keith Eakins
- 13 Sandy Axness, Karen Beck,  
Quentin Boyken
- 14 Wayne Barrett, Flo Hunter, Zach Seifert
- 18 Caleb Eakins, Gary Gusland,  
Cyndi Pederson, Geraldine Warnke
- 21 Francis Wiesner, Mitchell Yeager
- 22 Susan Brennan, Dennis Crum,  
Dennis Graham, Brian Ryherd,  
Dave West
- 23 Jude Charlton, Halley Ryherd
- 26 Rodger Curnow, Sue Opsal,  
Barrett Rogness, Rory Yeager
- 30 Stephanie Cox, George Hanusa

## 90th Birthday Card Shower for Joan Wilberg!



*Help us wish her a  
Happy Birthday on  
or after Sept. 4!*

Send cards to:

Joan Wilberg  
7610 Roseland Drive  
Urbandale, IA 50322

# Ninety!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
HONORING

## Flo Hunter

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH 11am - 3pm  
The Venue in Valley Junction  
209 5th St  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

\*PARKING INFO\*  
5th street will be closed on the  
100, 200 & 300 blocks for an event



# Our Deepest Sympathy



*Sympathy to Ann Reynolds as she mourns the death of her mother, Elaine Hamilton.*



*Sympathy to the friends and family of Suzanne Nelson, who died Friday, August 26.*



*Sympathy to Karen Cluts on the death of her mother, Marla.*

## **Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Elaine Hamilton**

Thank you to all who contributed to the lunch that was held following the funeral service for Elaine Hamilton, mother of Ann Reynolds. We asked and you generously contributed in many ways.

Salads by Sue Crum, Kathy Safris, Inez Boyken, Linda Fasse, Amy Morris, Maren Steensen, Peg Armstrong-Gustafson and Linda Anderson.

Bars by Dana Leahy, Julie Borseth, and Barb Waymire.

Set up and serving by Linda Fasse, Sue Crum, Sharman Blake, and Linda Anderson.

Additional Cleanup by Kathy Safris, Marc and Mary Anderson, Paula Virtue and the "Dishwashing Duo," Chuck Safris and Chuck Young, representing the Men's Bible study.

Taking laundry home was Kathy Safris, Sue Crum, Linda Fasse, Sharman Blake and Linda Anderson.

Again we are thankful for the generosity of the members of WHLC. -Linda Anderson & Sharman Blake



# WHLC THANK YOUS



*Thanks to all those who sent cards and expressed condolences at the death of my mother, Marla. ~ Karen Cluts*



Thank you to everyone who attended, participated, and helped to serve for my ordination service at WHLC on August 14th. Your warm and gracious hospitality was so appreciated!! The service was lovely and the reception was wonderful! Thank you to the following participants in the service: Pastor Robin, Pastor Chris, Jan Carlson, Pam Lundell, Michael McNamara, Kevin Nicolet, Wendy Prigge, John Reed, Paul Rye, Halley Ryherd, Charles and Kathy Safris, and Kiersten Steensen. A special thank you to Heidi Hennig and Bruce and Paula Dodgen. And thank you to Ellen Graham for coordinating the reception and everyone who helped provide food or serve: Linda Anderson, Colleen Armstrong, Quent and Inez Boyken, Steve Coughenower, Sue Crum, Dennis Graham, Peg Armstrong Gustafson, Tracey Hirst, Bonnie Hyda, Zach and Luke Meyer, Amy Morris, Chuck and Kathy Safris, Donna Yeager, and Barb Waymire. As Ellen said, "We were happy to be part of such a wonderful occasion. As it is said 'it takes a village!'" Truly, it does! I am so grateful for your love and support, and my family has been so blessed by all of you and this beloved community! In Christ, Tania Schramm

You're Appreciated more than you know.



There are so many to thank and so much to say regarding the church's response to my mother, Elaine Hamilton who moved to Wesley Acres less than a year before the pandemic. You prayed, visited, sent cards, brought your dogs by, called, sent gifts, made a quilt, gifted her with prayer shawls, brought over reading material, listened, laughed, washed clothes, and asked about her often. Both Pastor Robin and Pastor Chris visited regularly, serving communion, praying, talking and listening. You brightened her day and her mood before, during and after the isolation produced by the pandemic, these were the most difficult days. Being away a good part of the year was hard on us, but the WHLC community was faithful to keep in touch with Elaine and for that we will always be grateful.

Special thanks to Pastor Robin for your heartfelt message and coordination of Elaine's Celebration of Life service on August 29th. Music by Amanda Lauritsen was both powerful and angelic. If you missed the service or wish to revisit the celebration, it can be found on the WHLC Facebook page or this [YouTube link](#).

Thank you also to Linda Anderson & Sharman Blake who coordinated the many volunteers that graciously prepared, served and cleaned up the delicious luncheon following Elaine's service. It all made for an amazing day and a fitting celebration of a life well lived.

Elaine on the Wesley Acres Nature Path (8/2/22)

Sincerely,  
Ann, Rand, Rebekah,  
Jon, Lindsay, Nathanael,  
and Asrit Reynolds

(Cards and condolences may be dropped off or sent to the church office and we will make sure the family receives them. Ann and Rand will soon be traveling again.)

