

# THE WINDOW

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

## WHLC Staff:

### **Rev. Chris Olkiewicz**

Lead Pastor

### **Zach Meyer**

Director of Youth and Family  
Ministry/Congregational  
Life Coordinator

### **Heidi Hennig**

Office Manager

## In this Issue:

Lenten Service Project 1-2

Visitation Pastor-Karen Cluts 3

CISS Coordinator Needed 4

WHLC News & Notes 5

Dana's New Mosaics 6-7

Treasurer's Report 8

Youth & Family 9

Congrats, Jim! 10

February Birthdays 11

Sympathy 12



## Lenten Service Project



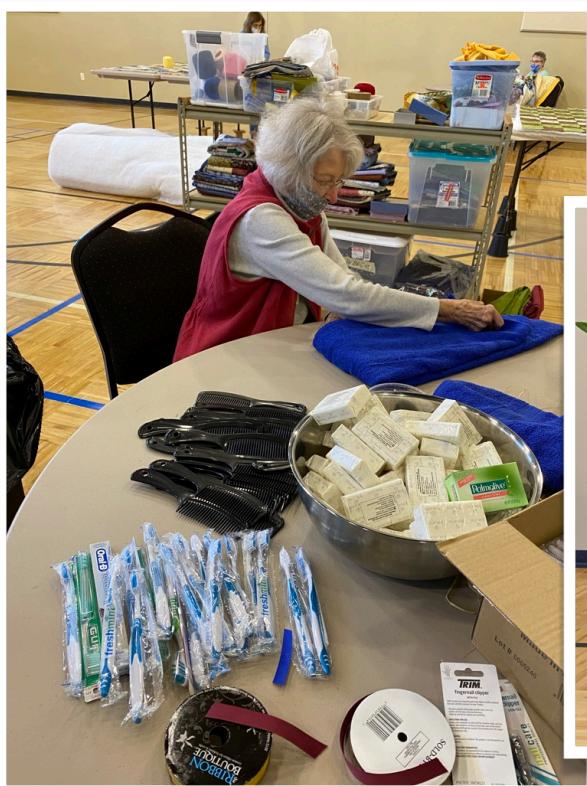
We have been invited by Lutheran World Relief to participate in making LWR Personal Care Kits for Lent. As a congregation, we did this project in 2021 and shipped over 400 kits. The pictures on the next page reflect that mission.

This year we are asking for monetary donations to support the mission. It is more convenient for you and more economical to purchase the needed supplies in bulk. Each kit costs approximately \$5 to complete. Please consider sponsoring one, two, five or ten kits this lenten season. Our goal is 450 kits! Can we do it?

When writing your check, please make it out to WHLC and write "Personal Care Kits" on the memo line. If you would like to put together your own kit as a family project, you may do so. Follow the instructions here: <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>

The kits will be assembled on Monday, April 10, as the spring Lutheran World Relief shipment will be on Saturday, April 15. Anyone is welcome to join in the fellowship as we assemble the kits! Thank you for your generous support! ~Linda Anderson

## PICTURES FROM THE 2021 LENTEN PROJECT:





# Get to Know Karen Cluts

At the January meeting, the Congregation Council approved a job description for Visitation Pastor, a new part-time position for an ordained clergy person who will visit homebound members once a month and provide pastoral care backup when Pastor Chris needs to be away. Council also offered this position to a WHLC member, Pastor Karen Cluts, and she accepted. Pastor Karen introduces herself below and will start making visits this month. Welcome to this new role, Pastor Karen!



Pastor Chris has asked me to introduce myself as I begin serving as WHLC's visitation pastor. I have been a member for about four years since retiring and moving back to Des Moines. I am an Iowa farm girl, growing up on my grandparents' farm in northeast Iowa. However, we raised Shetland and Hackney ponies instead of hogs or cattle! I came to Des Moines to attend AIB after high school and began working for the State of Iowa after graduating. I worked as a legal secretary and eventually as an insurance examiner for the State until going to seminary.

I attended the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and was ordained in 1993. I have served as associate pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran in Cedar Rapids; as mission developer for Grace in Adel; a year of interim ministry in Northeastern Iowa

Synod and as solo pastor at Elim Lutheran in Marshalltown from 2001 to 2018.

I am not Lutheran by birth as my grandparents did not attend church. I was invited to come to Sunday School by my best friend in Kindergarten. Her parents continued to bring my brother and me to church and Sunday school until I was old enough to drive. For that reason, I am a strong believer in the ability for many Lutherans to get over their "shyness" and become evangelists, sharing their faith and inviting others to worship. Everyday evangelism is often a strong emphasis in my sermons.

I am a cancer survivor of over 22 years. That experience gave me better insights into pastoral care. After my mother's death last summer, I realized I had more time now to consider part-time ministry. I look forward to serving WHLC homebound and helping Pastor Chris in any way that I can.

Blessings, Pastor Karen Cluts



# New CISS Monthly Meal Coordinator Needed



After coordinating and participating in the Central Iowa Shelter & Services monthly meal for nearly a decade, John and I will be stepping down as the coordinators effective June 15, 2023. We have found so much joy and fulfillment in coordinating the shelter meals and serving approximately 250 people there on the 11th of every month for the past decade, but we've decided that it's time to allow someone else in the congregation to experience the same joy and fulfillment that we have all these years. We're confident that someone in our loving, benevolent congregation (or a pair of someones) will step up to the plate and joyfully accept the responsibility and honor of coordinating the monthly meals— the ONLY ministry coordinated outside the walls of WHLC in our community for those experiencing homelessness and hunger.

The following is a description of the tasks associated with coordinating this ministry every month: calling Price Chopper every month to order the sloppy joe meat and buns, which are delivered to the shelter on the 11th of every month; shopping for the rest of the items that round out the meal at Sam's Club or Costco, including lettuce, veggies, fruit cocktail, cookies, pickles, ranch dressing, ketchup, utensils, napkins and cups— or soliciting food/supply donations from the congregation via a sign-up sheet; securing 8-9 volunteers from the congregation to serve the meal at the shelter on the 11th of every month; contacting the shelter volunteer coordinator to confirm the plan for serving every month; overseeing and attending the two-hour preparation/serving operation on the 11th of every month; posting a sign-up sheet every month in the narthex to garner food and monetary donations, as well as servers.

I will be delighted to coach and “shadow” my replacement as John and I plan to continue serving at the shelter, that is provided I can secure a replacement to guarantee the continuation of this vital ministry. If you’re interested in learning more about coordinating this marvelous, long-standing WHLC ministry, please contact me at 515-707-5646 or at [danainc@mchsi.com](mailto:danainc@mchsi.com). Thank you for your past support of the CISS monthly meals and for considering this urgent and rewarding opportunity to live out Christ’s command to help and serve those in need.

Respectfully,  
Dana K. Leahy





# WHLC News & Notes



## LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS THIS MONTH



A reminder that Ash Wednesday, February 22, marks the start of our Lenten schedule on Wednesday nights. The schedule for Lent is slightly different from our usual format to account for worship services. In addition, Cherub Chimes, Confirmation and After Hours are not hosted during Lent. You can find the Lent schedule below:

**5:15 - 6:00 p.m.: Community Meal  
 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.: Windsor Bells  
 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.: Joyful Noise  
 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.: Book Club  
 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.: Grace Notes  
 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.: Faith Formation  
 7:00 p.m.: Worship  
 7:45 - 8:30 p.m.: Pastor's Bible Study  
 Alleluia Choir meets after worship has finished.**



**Many thanks to my WHLC family and friends for prayers, words, and cards to ease the sadness when my brother, Bill, died. It helped so much**

**showing how much you cared. I loved my brother very much! God's blessings, Elaine Hites**



**Elderberries** will meet on February 7 at 11:30 a.m. for a Valentine's Day party.

Pizza will be provided. You do not need to bring any food! Make sure to bring Valentine's Day cards to share and a box/bag to collect Valentines! All are welcome!



*Cookies for College Kids*

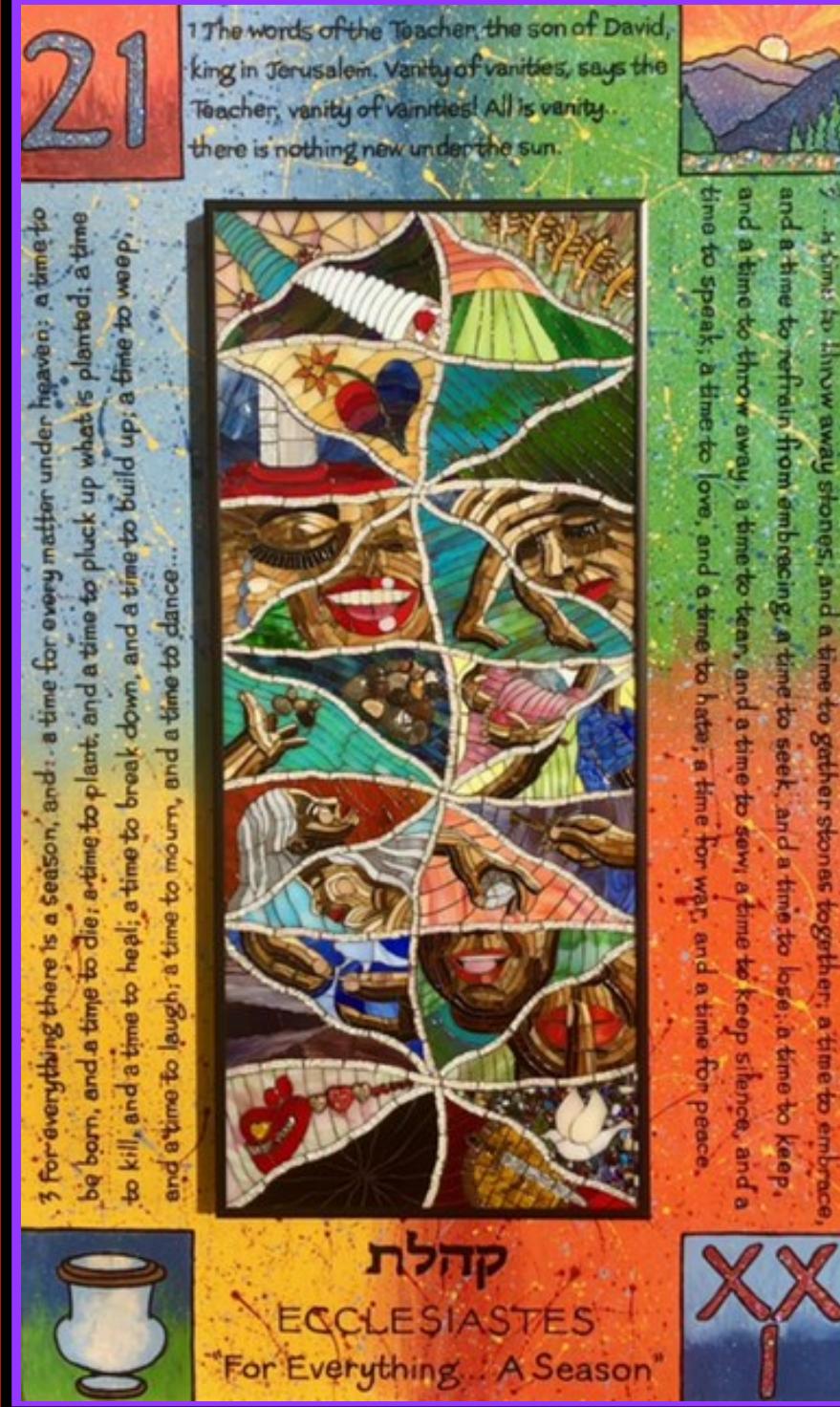


The Care and Nurture Committee will be sending cookies to our college kids at exam time in early May. If you have a student in college, please let Jan Grannes or Marilyn Penberthy know so they can send cookies.

Jan: 515-279-8017  
 Marilyn: 515-255-5782

# New Mosaics by Dana Leahy

As you enter the sanctuary and turn right, you will notice Dana Leahy's two new beautiful mosaics: Ecclesiastes and Jeremiah. We are so blessed to have Dana's gorgeous and colorful mosaics all around our church. Thank you, Dana, for sharing your exquisite artwork with us here at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church!



## Ecclesiastes #21 "For Everything... A Season"

The book of Ecclesiastes is written as a personal memoir by a wise, seasoned teacher believed to be Solomon, the wisest of Israel's kings. The teacher often repeats key phrases such as "***all is vanity and a chasing after the wind,***" which appears in some form nearly 40 times within the 12 chapters of this book. Likewise, the phrase "***there is nothing new under the sun***" also appears in some form nearly 30 times. It's impossible to miss the teacher's message that there's more to life than striving after riches, pleasure and success.

However, what I chose to focus on in this mosaic is one of two poems in Ecclesiastes that is instantly recognizable upon reading its first line in chapter 3: "***For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.***" Within the poem, there are 14 different "matters" addressed as well as their opposing sides, all of which are depicted in the mosaic— one on top of the other and in linear fashion. Every word of this poem, which resonates so deeply with me, is also carved into the sides of the backdrop to inform the viewer as to what each mosaic image depicts. Some are obvious, others more subtle and abstract.

The upper right-hand icon represents the phrase "***there is nothing new under the sun,***" and the lower left-hand icon represents the first verse of chapter seven: "***A good name is better than precious ointment.***"

(This piece is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Kathy Cacciatore~ 1964~2022.)

# 24

1 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying... "I appointed you a prophet to the nations... I have put my words in your mouth. And I for my part have made you today a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall, against the whole land... for I am with you..."

7 "My anger and my wrath shall be poured out on this place... it will burn and not be quenched." 18 "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hands..." 31 "I will have loved you with an everlasting love..."



32 "They shall be my people, and I will be their God. 39 King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah... Jeremiah wrote in a scroll all the disasters that would come on Babylon..."



## *Jeremiah* #24 **"A Prophet to the Nations"**

Like nearly every other prophet God calls in the Bible, Jeremiah is a reluctant one, and claims his youth as an excuse as to why he wouldn't be a good candidate for the job. Nevertheless, God chooses him to be a prophet to the nations and touches his mouth with his hand, thereby putting his words in Jeremiah's mouth, which is reflected in the lower lefthand icon of the backdrop.

Within the 52 chapters of this book, Jeremiah is tasked with speaking God's messages, which warned over and over again of God's wrath and the impending invasion and exile of the people of Jerusalem and the nations of Israel and Judah, because the people had been unfaithful to God. In chapter one, God promises to make Jeremiah a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall, which are depicted on both sides of the mosaic.

In the course of his 40-year ministry, Jeremiah not only speaks God's messages and warns of the coming fire and destruction by King Nebuchadrezzar, but he also writes God's words on scroll after scroll — some of which are burned piece by piece, while others are tied to a rock and thrown into the Euphrates river. Along the way, God instructs Jeremiah to use parables and symbols, such as the linen loincloth, wine jars, the potter and the clay, broken vessels and baskets of figs to communicate God's messages to the people. In the process, Jeremiah is imprisoned, put in stocks and thrown into a cistern, yet he survives and remains faithful to God. All of these events, as well as God's promise to restore Israel in chapter 32, are reflected in the mosaic. In the "heart" of the mosaic is a medallion etched with what I believe are God's most important words to the exiles of Israel who survived the invasion: "*I have loved you with an everlasting love.*"

The upper righthand icon of the backdrop is reflective of God's promise in chapter 17 to make those who trust in him like a tree planted by the water...it shall not fear when the heat comes and its leaves shall stay green.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached please find the financial reports December 2022.

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

	December 2022		Year-to-Date		2021 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	59,906	41,674	494,426	500,000	483,758
Other General Fund Income	1,328	423	10,692	4,900	6,974
General Fund Income	61,234	42,097	505,118	504,900	490,732
General Fund Expense	40,877	42,493	516,437	504,900	478,814
General Fund Net Income	20,357	(396)	(11,319)	0	11,918
Special Offering Income	930		4,000		4,953
Special Offering Expense	428		2,727		4,603
Special Offering Net Income	502		1,273		350
Total Net Income	20,859	(396)	(10,046)	0	12,268

Mortgage Balance	705,752.36
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	170,410.94

As we often see, December General Offerings were up from prior months and were more than \$18,000 above budget. For the year General Offerings are less than \$6,000 below budget. And when combined with other income, overall General Fund Income was \$505,118 or just over 100% of expected. General Offerings finished 2022 above the level of General Offerings year-to-date in 2021 and we are very grateful for the faithful giving of our members and friends.

2022 Expenses are \$11,537 higher than budget and are \$37,623 higher than in 2021. One reason for the increased expenses is the return to normal activity levels in the congregation. Also, we have initiated new activities that are bringing more people of all ages into the church. These are great reasons to have seen increased expenses. We also are seeing additional (but not abnormal) upkeep expenses for the building and grounds as we are now 8+ years in our renovated space. The line items contributing to the increased expenses in 2021 include cleaning, supplies, repairs & maintenance, utilities, yard care & landscaping, and some Parish Ed expenses. The 2023 budget has worked to address the primary areas where the increases have occurred and are expected to continue.

While our formal 3-year Capital campaign ended at the end of 2021, members were asked to continue their contributions as they were able. During 2022 contributions of more than \$113,000 were made to the Capital campaign, about 93% of the 2021 contributions and at the end of December we had enough in the Permanent Fund to make 2 years of mortgage payments, which will get us to the end of 2024. As we continue to receive contributions, we will make even more progress in paying down the mortgage.

Windsor Heights Lutheran continues to be in a strong financial position with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

Please contact me if you have any questions.  
Barb Waymire

The Window





# Youth & Family News

## Zach Meyer



### LIFTOFF



All students in Pre-k thru 3rd grade, and their families, are invited to join us for the first Liftoff of 2023! The next Liftoff will be on Friday, February 3, from 6-7:30 p.m., here at WHLC. Dinner is provided by the church, and kids are welcome to invite as many friends as they like. Parents are welcome to stay throughout the event, or drop their kids off and pick them up at the end if they prefer. We will have several adult volunteers present throughout the evening, and will have access to the entire church building. Come out and join us for a fun time of games, new friends and tons of fun; you won't want to miss it!

**Sunday, February 26**

Kids' choirs and Cherub Chimes will sing/play at 2nd service.



**VBS: Save the Date**  
**July 17 - 20**



# CONGRATULATIONS, JIM!



Congratulations to Jim Cacciatore  
for 25 years of  
music service to WHLC!

We appreciate his dedication and  
musical expertise! Thank you, Jim!



# FEBRUARY



## BIRTHDAYS

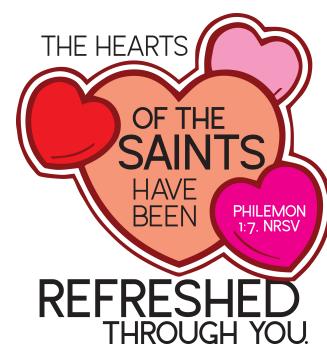
- 3 Bridget Brennan, Paul Rogness
- 4 Faith Hougen
- 7 Gloria Edman
- 8 Tracy Curnow
- 9 David Risvold
- 10 Jan Belken , Ruby McIlrath, Becca Morris
- 13 Noreen Rogness
- 14 Marge Seegers
- 16 Bryan Jansen
- 17 John Ambroson, Delores Koch, Elliott Waymire
- 18 Dwight DuBois
- 19 Chris Nelson
- 20 Bill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





**Our hearts go out to Elaine Hites as she mourns the death of her brother, William (Bill) D. Christ.**

**Bill passed away January 9.**



It is with much sadness that we are sharing that Cathy Rehfeldt died at home in Rochester on Thursday, January 19, 2023, following a diagnosis of recurrent cancer. Cathy was the wife of Pastor Richard "Dick" Rehfeldt, former beloved pastor of WHLC.

The family requests no flowers, please; Cathy's wishes were that any memorial gifts be made to ELCA World Hunger ([elca.org/hunger](http://elca.org/hunger)).

[Click here](#) to view the obituary.

**Mailing address for Pastor Rehfeldt:**

1813 Spruce Meadows Dr. S.E.  
Rochester, MN 55904

**Email:**

[RNRehfeldt@aol.com](mailto:RNRehfeldt@aol.com)

