

THE WINDOW

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

WHLC Staff:

Rev. Chris Olkiewicz

Lead Pastor

Rev. Karen Cluts

Visitation Pastor

Zach Meyer

Director of Youth and Family
Ministry/Congregational
Life Coordinator

Heidi Hennig

Office Manager

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Holy Week

April 6

Maundy Thursday
Services at noon & 7 p.m.

April 7

Good Friday
Services at noon & 7 p.m.

April 9

Easter
Services at 6:30, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

7:30 & 9:30 a.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall



“Faith seeking understanding” is a phrase that we get from Augustine and Anselm. Both theological giants used the phrase with rich and varied meanings, but at a basic level, it simply means that growth in faith always entails growth in understanding. “I learned everything I need to know in Sunday school” is not the slogan of a mature and vibrant faith. As the author of Proverbs says, “The fear of the Lord [faith/trust in God] is the beginning [not the end] of wisdom” (9:10). Faith moves us into a lifelong journey of learning, and learning consistently deepens our faith.

Lutherans have always placed a high value on having an educated clergy (it’s why, for example, we require a Master’s degree before ordination and encourage pastors to engage regularly in continuing education), believing that preaching and teaching are key in promoting growth in understanding. If you feel like you never learn anything from my sermons, please tell me and I’ll go back to the drawing board. Of course, we call Jesus our teacher (rabbi), and reading the gospels is one way to encounter his teaching, which is almost always about how to follow him. There is a reason why we stand and listen to our Teacher every Sunday as the gospel is proclaimed: Jesus is teaching us how to be disciples!

The Council and I have been talking about how our congregation can be renewed in these post-pandemic times by focusing on the essential things that make disciples: worship, prayer, scripture, and service. In this formulation, “scripture” more broadly means faith seeking understanding. How does our congregation expect people to grow in understanding, and how does it help that to happen? Look for much more emphasis on each of these pillars of discipleship formation. In the meantime, I encourage you to let your faith lead you to seek understanding during the season of Easter. Here are some ways to do that:

- Come to worship. Listen to the sermon. Think about what you heard. Talk about it with others. Engage me in conversation. Ask me any questions that stirred in you. Share your insights with me.
- Pick up a copy of *Christ in Our Home* from the narthex. Read the scripture passage(s) for each day and the reflection. Reflect. Share your thoughts with others and listen to theirs.
- Engage in an opportunity for Bible study. There are several:
 - WELCA (Women of the ELCA) groups. See the church calendar for meeting times and places. Even if you are not a WELCA member, you can get a copy of the excellent *Gather* magazine, which includes a Bible study in every issue. Talk to me if you're interested.
 - Men's Bible Study — Tuesdays at 6:45 a.m. online. Join on Google Meet at meet.google.com/ock-svix-niz
 - Pastor's Bible Study (lead by me) — Wednesday evenings at 7:15 in Room 127 and online at meet.google.com/fid-vgit-ayb
 - Start a new group. I'll help you!
- Attend Pastor Axness' class "How the Bible Came to Be" described later in this *Window*.
- Join the Book Club — Wednesdays at 6pm.
- Come to Pub Theology, a discussion of a current issue through the lens of faith — third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Look for time and place in the E-Weekly or let me know if you want to be on the mailing list.
- Join the watch party and discussion of the film "Searching: Our Quest for Meaning in an Age of Science" hosted by me. This summer — date TBD.
- Read your Bible. Read a book. Read a book about the Bible. Let me know if I can help guide you toward something that you might be interested in. If you are questioning whether a book is worth reading, I would be happy to share my opinion, if I have one.

Clearly we are not lacking in opportunities. Just ask me if you have questions about any of them. Let us challenge and support one another toward a faith that is always seeking understanding.

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris





Easter

BREAKFAST

Easter Breakfast is probably our biggest church meal of the entire year! As many of you know, the breakfast serves as a fundraiser for youth events, including the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024 among others. Two breakfasts will be hosted on Easter Sunday this year, one following Sunrise service at 7:30 a.m., and another at 9:30 a.m.

When we brought the breakfast back last year, after a hiatus during the pandemic, we continued this tradition, albeit with a few changes, turning it into something more of a "group effort." While the middle and high schoolers are still primarily serving the meal, we're asking again this year for some additional help! Given how large the size of the meal is, and how much there is to operate in terms of appliances in the kitchen, we could really use your help!

We understand everyone has their own plans for Easter, so helpers usually just pop into the kitchen when they can and work till they have to go somewhere else! We'll start prep around 6:30 a.m. and finish up right before the 10:45 a.m. service, so if you can help during any window of that time, we'd be grateful! Zach will also be setting up tables and table cloths for the event the day before Easter (Saturday, April 8) at noon, and anyone is welcome to help if they like!

The size and scope of the Easter breakfast seems to grow a bit every year, so any help is appreciated. Contact Zach if you'd like to help, or if you have any questions. We are so excited to serve this meal once again this year and enjoy some wonderful fellowship time with all of you on this celebratory day!





Spring is here, and this year's Easter Garden donations will support ELCA World Hunger. More than 1 in 10 people in world cannot access the food they need to live healthy lives. Donations support ELCA's response with sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty. Checks may be directed to WHLC with a note to direct to the Easter Garden. A suggested donation is \$20, but any amount will be gratefully accepted! If you would like to donate in honor or memory of someone, please include a note with your donation or let the office know by emailing Heidi at office@whlc.org by Tuesday, April 4. We look forward to the colorful display and seeing everyone Easter Sunday, April 9!

Lenten Service Project Personal Care Kits for LWR



Make kits at home as a family project!

Follow the link to watch how they are put together:

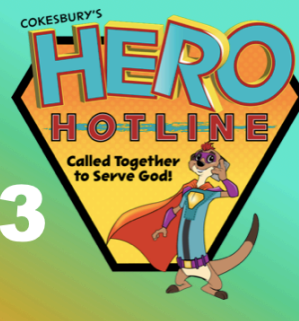
<https://www.facebook.com/windsorheightslutheran/videos/473246128262324>

Boxes are still needed for shipping; bring them to the WELCA Room
(Room 125 on the first floor)
anytime before Monday, April 10.

Donations are still being accepted.

ALL are welcome to come join in the fellowship on
Monday, April 10 at 9 a.m. in Crabtree Parish Hall
to help assemble 500 kits!

WHLC VBS 2023



Presenting WHLC VBS 2023: Hero Hotline!

We're full speed ahead on prepping for VBS this summer, and we are so happy to announce that registrations for both kids & volunteers are up on the WHLC website! A formal presentation of the theme will be unveiled Easter Sunday, and we think it's one everyone will love. Hero Hotline explores how we are called to work as a team of superheroes, to show God's love to our entire communities. Like last year's curriculum, the theme is filled with colorful visuals, awesome music, great opportunities for community service, and tons of cool super-hero activities!

To register for VBS, simply head to the website, or Facebook, and look for the VBS registration bubble on the main page! A reminder that VBS is open to students in Pre-K thru those entering 6th grade in the fall, and is free for everyone to attend. Like previous years, registering for VBS gets you an awesome free t-shirt as well. Lunch is provided by the church, and runs from 9am till noon for pre-k students, and till around 3:30pm for students in K-6th.

We're still a couple months away from VBS, but with numbers for this awesome week of ministries growing each year, we continue to need all the help we can get! Like last year, we will be collecting various donations of food and supplies throughout the next few months, to help with everything from decor, to meals, to activities for the kiddos! We'll begin sharing some ideas here in the next month or so of what we'll be collecting for this VBS!

Of course, we'll also need plenty of help from volunteers to make VBS an incredible week again this year! It goes without saying, but VBS here at WHLC really is a team effort between the planners, volunteers, students and the entire community. Given how much of a community outreach VBS here has become in the past several years, volunteering is a great way to serve the neighboring families here in our community. Not only that, but there are so many ways to volunteer, and there is no experience or certain skill set required to do it. Just come as you are, and enjoy the week alongside everyone else.

It always means so much to the kids and their families to see so many people invest in all the fun & learning with them. It's an incredible experience for all, and a such a fun week for us here at WHLC. Throughout all of this planning and prep, we want to make sure to thank all of you here at WHLC for your support of this incredible ministry! It really is a highlight of the summer, and we are so excited to bring it back once again this July!

Contact us if you have any questions about VBS, and feel free to spread the word to friends & family, or anyone you know who might be interested. All are welcome at VBS! Hope to see you there for Hero Hotline this summer; it's sure to be one super-special week!

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

WHLC News & Notes

ELDERBERRIES

Thursday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Join us for a discussion on safe medication practices for better health!

- Be your own advocate
- Learn safe medication practices
- Know the risks of medication misuse



Brought to you by Peri Severs, Prevention Specialist at Employee and Family Resources

How The Bible Came To Be

A Short Course Offered This Spring

In four sessions (Sundays on April 23, 30 & May 7, 14) in Room 127, in between services, we will look at a some of the fascinating issues involved in getting from the Hebrew, Aramaic, Latin texts to English so that we can read it for ourselves.

- How many translations are there?
- Which is the best one?
- Who wrote the Bible?
- What are the Dead Sea scrolls?
- Who decided what books to include?
- What is the "Catholic Bible"?

Many more questions will be discussed. This is exciting stuff! Taught by Paul Axness. Hope to see you there!



Cole Barrett is a member of Luther Jazz Orchestra and they have an upcoming concert in Des Moines. Friday, April 21, 7:30 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Ave.

Want to Spend More Time with Your Kids or Grandkids?

Then join us on **May 6** for our free **Kiddos 'n Caregivers** music class at WHLC!



Hi everyone!

My name is Amanda Lauritsen, and I'm the praise team and kids choir director here at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church.

Many of you know that I teach private piano and voice lessons when I'm not leading music at church. And recently, I've decided to share my passion for music with kids and families in a new way-teaching Kiddos 'n Caregivers music classes!

Our free class on May 6th will help your kids become more confident, experience creative movement, and find the joy in making music together with you and other families. And it's a fulfilling way to spend more time with your kids or grandkids!

If you or someone you know might be interested in joining us, click this link to learn more & register- <https://tinyurl.com/da7rtmka>.

Blessings, Amanda Lauritsen

TREASURER'S REPORT

WHLC Council,
Attached please find the financial reports for February 2023.

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

| | February 2023 | | Year-to-Date | | 2022 YTD |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------|
| | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | Actual |
| General Offering | 55,463 | 39,886 | 90,902 | 79,772 | 112,557 |
| Other General Fund Income | 1,806 | 1,298 | 2,517 | 2,596 | 1,981 |
| General Fund Income | 57,269 | 41,184 | 93,419 | 82,368 | 114,538 |
| General Fund Expense | 38,502 | 41,150 | 80,353 | 82,300 | 85,589 |
| General Fund Net Income | 18,767 | 34 | 13,066 | 68 | 28,949 |
| Special Offering Income | 204 | | 336 | | 312 |
| Special Offering Expense | 54 | | 116 | | 232 |
| Special Offering Net Income | 150 | | 220 | | 80 |
| Total Net Income | 18,917 | 34 | 13,286 | 68 | 29,029 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Mortgage Balance | 696,530.37 |
| Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance | 162,067.39 |

General Offerings in February were quite strong, due in part to the fact that some members give their offerings in a lump sum early in the year. Based on prior giving patterns (which attempt to neutralize months with 5 Sundays and when holidays occur) expected General Fund Income should have been over \$96,000 through February versus actual ytd February 2023 General Fund Income of \$93,419. We expect the General Offerings to approach budget levels as the year continues.

February 2023 General Fund Expenses were \$2,648 below budget. Some of this is because we make several of our benevolence payments quarterly rather than monthly. Overall, year-to-date expenses are in line with what we expect, recognizing seasonality in other expenses.

The balance of the mortgage is now under \$700,000. Members continue to make offerings to the Capital Appeal Permanent Fund, for this we are truly blessed.

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

Please let me know if you have questions.
Barb Waymire

Volunteers Needed for Kits & Quilts Truck Loading for Lutheran World Relief

On Saturday, April 15, from 8:30-noon, we are in need of greeters and loaders. WHLC is the main hub in the Des Moines area for both ELCA and Missouri Synod congregations to drop off their kits and quilts. They will be transported to Lutheran World Relief. Please contact Jan Grannes at 515-279-8017 if you can help or if you have any questions. Thank you!



THANK YOU



Thank you to the following who contributed to the funeral luncheon celebrating the life of Tony Wheeler.

Servers:

Cindy Ambroson
Linda Anderson
Sharman Blake
Quent and Inez Boyken
Georgeann Johnson
Tracey Hirst

Set Tables:

Linda Anderson
Sharman Blake
Cheyenne Hennig
Heath Hennig

Provided Bars:

Cindy Ambroson
Julie Borseth
Peg Armstrong-Gustafson
Cheryl Rigler
Linda Rye
Kathy Safris
Jeri Spizale
Maren Steensen
Barb Waymire
Mary Wilke-Adair

Tablecloth Laundry:

Jan Belken
Kathy Safris

Coffee Table Host & Hostess:

Marc & Mary Anderson

Dish Clean Up Crew:

Marc Anderson
Quent Boyken
Chuck Safris

Thank you for your ministry. Many hands make light work.
Linda Anderson and Sharman Blake





Women of the ELCA News

April 2023



35th Annual Convention & Gathering Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA June 9 & 10, 2023



Convention and Gathering is always fun and exciting. We hope you have it on your calendar and plan to attend. Spread the word and bring another woman from your church or bring your mother, sister, daughter, friend or cousin!

Location: Stoney Creek Hotel Des Moines
5291 Stoney Creek Court
Johnston, IA

Make reservations by calling 515-334-9000

Group code for reservations is
2306LUTHERAN - Rate is \$130 per night

Final date to make reservations under the block rate is Tuesday, May 9.

Speakers: Bishop Amy Current, Kim Crawford with Circle of Freedom Women's Center, Christine Meyers - church musician, Terri Mark Spears with IMPACT Community Action Partnership and Pastor Sarah Trone Garriott with the Iowa Senate and Des Moines Area Religious Council.

Registration: \$80 for two days/\$65 for one day

You may register online using this link: <https://forms.gle/S3XQUH42nrxSwxPP7>

Dear Gather subscribers,

We apologize for the recent delays in receiving Gather magazine. We know these delays have caused you challenges, especially for scheduled Bible study sessions. Because our goal is to walk with you, we are changing what we have control over – the pre-print production of the magazine. We appreciate the support so many have given, and the grace extended to staff during these difficult times. We acknowledge the time and money spent by many of you in downloading and copying PDFs of the Bible studies and in juggling your Bible study meeting times.

As an expression of appreciation for your loyalty to the magazine and Women of the ELCA and as an apology for the delays, we will be extending all existing subscriptions by two issues. Our circulation management company will handle the administration of this extension.

We value your partnership, both with the magazine and within Women of the ELCA. Together we mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. And that changes the world.

— The staff at Gather and Women of the ELCA

Registration for the Just Love Gathering is Open

Get ready for the Just Love gathering scheduled for September 21-24, 2023, in Phoenix, Ariz.!

This special in-person gathering is an opportunity to live out the message that the Rev. Angela Khabeb left us with in Minneapolis in 2017 and virtually in 2021, "Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you are doing it wrong."

Early bird discount through April 30, 2023!

[Learn more.](#)



April

BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Beth Olkiewicz, Ellen Roose, Taylor Santi
- 4 Ryland Boyken, Dana Leahy
- 5 Ellen Graham
- 6 Julie Borseth, Olivia Charlton, Al Schornack, Megan Seifert
- 7 Marilyn Colby
- 10 Marilyn Warling
- 11 Patrick Baldus
- 12 Henry Fergus
- 16 Gregg Gustafson, Maren Steensen
- 17 Sue Crum, Matthew Eakins, Karen Jansen, Hannah Parker
- 18 Judi McGowan
- 21 Liz Nelson
- 22 Gale Russell
- 23 Debra Goss
- 24 Darrell Klooster, Dorothy Nicolet
- 25 Mike Johnson
- 26 Julie Swanson
- 27 Jan Grannes, Stephanie Opsal
- 30 Linda Lundgren, Bob Prigge



Young at Heart



Thanks So Much!

Thank you to everyone that volunteered on March 25 to clean up the interior and exterior of the church. We were fortunate with good weather and filled 40 bags of lawn material and got the grass and flower beds ready for spring.

The interior team was able to wipe down walls, pews, vacuum floors, clean out lights and gave the church a good dusting.

We had over 50 volunteers from Windsor Heights Lutheran Church and the Chin Baptist Church. It was a wonderful experience working side by side with people of all generations to get the church ready for Holy Week. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents to support this worth while effort.

Church Council



Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, and phone calls while I've been recovering. So many good wishes have made every day easier and we're very grateful. -Marilyn, Kris and Eric Penberthy



Thank you to everyone of WHLC for the cards expressing the hope for a quick recovery, the delicious meals, the words of encouragement given to my caregiver, Henry, and especially all the prayers. Prayers do have the power of healing. Blessing to everyone, Bonnie Hyda

Dear Friends,

I wish to thank everyone who sent cards and memorials to me at the passing of my brother.

Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

Yours in Christ, Jan Grannes



Thank you to Dan Goss for cleaning up the pews, sharpening pew pencils and organizing the pew papers/ envelopes. We appreciate you, Dan!

HE IS RISEN

Hallelujah

