

THE WINDOW

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

WHLC Staff:

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Lead Pastor

Rev. Karen Cluts

Visitation Pastor

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**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Officially recognized by Pope Francis in 2015, the Season of Creation began in 1989 when the Orthodox Church recognized the first day of September as a day of prayer for creation. Soon after the World Council of Churches expanded the season and since then, Christians all around the world have come together in this season to pray for, celebrate, and protect God's creation. The season runs from September 1 - October 4 (the commemoration of St. Francis). We have the following activities planned for our celebration of the Season of Creation:



- Creation themes reflected in worship throughout the season
- Bible study led by Pastor Chris based on Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, an appeal from the Pope addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet — Sundays at 9:30 a.m., September 10 - October 1 in Room 127
- Contemplative nature walk at [the Brenton Arboretum](#) in Dallas Center — Saturday, September 23, 3:00-6:00 p.m. — including worship and a potluck
- Blessing of the Animals — Sunday, October 1 at 4:30 p.m.

In addition to these activities, look for regular posts to the church Facebook page. During this Season of Creation, let us pray, celebrate, and reflect together on our call to care for our one and only Earth home. And be sure to invite friends to join us for any of the above activities.

Let
Justice
&
Peace
Flow



Season
of
Creation
2023



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE



September 6 - December 20, 2023

- 5:30 - 6:00pm: Community Meal (Crabtree Parish Hall)
- 6:00 - 6:30pm: Faith Formation (3rd Floor Classrooms)
- 6:00 - 7:00pm: Confirmation (Room 127)
- 6:00 - 7:00pm: Book Club (Koinonia Room)
- 6:00 - 7:00pm: Windsor Bells (Room 309)
- 6:30 - 7:00pm: Joyful Noise Choir (Room 128)
- 7:00 - 7:20pm: Cherub Chimes (Room 308)
- 7:00 - 7:30pm: Grace Notes Choir (Room 128)
- 7:00 - 8:00pm: Alleluia Choir (Choir Room)
- 7:15 - 8:00pm: Pastor Bible Study (Room 127)
- 7:30 - 8:00pm: After Hours Game Time (Crabtree Parish Hall)

**Fall Worship
Schedule**

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:30 a.m. - Coffee & Donuts
10:45 a.m. - Worship

**Saturday Nights will resume
summer 2024!**

*Joyful Noise is generally for students in Pre-K thru 3rd Grade

*Grace Notes is generally for students in 4th - 8th Grade

*Link for Pastor Bible Study can be found at www.whlc.org

Invitation to hear Jill Dopf Viles

Sunday, September 10 3:30 p.m.

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church Crabtree Parish Hall
1240 66th St. Windsor Heights

Free Event Coffee, Lemonade, and Bars Will Be Served
Jill grew up attending Windsor Heights Lutheran Church

Come Hear Jill's Amazing Story

Jill's story has been shared on NPR's podcast [*This American Life*](#) as well as on the trusted media sources [*The Atlantic*](#), [*ProPublica*](#), and [*USA Today!*](#)

The "Do It Yourself" Geneticist: How Jill Diagnosed Herself and Her Family

Jill Viles is a "DIY" scientist who researchers say has influenced an entire field of study.



Iowa Mom's Genetic Discovery Changes Olympic Athlete's Life

What do Jill Viles, who has the genetic condition Emery-Dreifuss Muscular Dystrophy, and the Canadian Olympic Hurdler Priscilla Lopes-Schliep, bronze medal winner in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, have in common? Hear how Jill correctly identified and diagnosed their connection!





YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS



KIDS SING THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!



As we ring back in the fall schedule this month, we invite everyone to attend the 2nd service on Sunday, September 10 to hear the kids share special music. The students will be performing some of their favorite songs from VBS, and the energy will be upbeat and electric!

ELCA Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Sunday Sep. 10th
6pm in the Youth Room!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE

MYLE
Young
Adult
Gathering

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING INFO MEETING: SUNDAY 9/10 @ 6 P.M.!

This summer marks the return of the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (July 16-20) and WHLC is planning on ending a group out for this amazing experience. This first meeting is purely informational, and will go over all the basics as we begin to put our group together. Registration forms will be available at the event!

The Gathering is open to all students currently in 8th-12th grade this fall, and parents are welcome to register with their kids. We welcome adult volunteers to join us on this trip! If you or your student are interested in attending, but cannot make this first meeting, please contact Zach! Registration forms will be available in the church office, and we can send you a powerpoint if you miss the first meeting. Registration opens Sep. 15th, so the sooner we can finalize our group the better! Hope you can join us for an amazing experience!



Join us for Liftoff Round 9!



Dinner, games, and fun for
kids in pre-k thru 3rd grade
& their families!

Friday, September 15th 7:00-8:30pm

LIFTOFF RETURNS: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 6-7:30 P.M.!

After a summer hiatus, our favorite ministry of fun for elementary schoolers and their families returns this fall. Liftoff is a night of games, food and community for kids in Pre-K thru 3rd grade, and their families! Dinner is provided by WHLC, and families are welcome to drop their kids off and pick them up later, or stay throughout the evening. Plenty of adults will be on hand to assist. Students are welcome to invite as many friends as they like!

CHAOS

Returns Sep. 17th, 6-8pm
Open to confirmation thru high school students!

CHAOS RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS WELCOME!

In an exciting move for youth ministry, we are excited to announce the merger of Junior High Nightstand CHAOS this fall. Starting this month, CHAOS is now open to everyone from 7th grade and up, mixing our jr. and sr. high school students in an awesome new group. CHAOS meets every Sunday from 6 - 8 p.m., and students are welcome

to bring their friends! CHAOS starts each night with a group meal chosen by the students, before heading into a time for reflection and discussion, before closing with a big group game.

OCTOBER RETREAT OPPORTUNITY!

EWALU is bringing back their Dirty Feet Retreat this fall, from October 20-22! It's a fun opportunity for a weekend at camp, meeting other church groups and having a lot of fun along the way. Open to kids in 6th-9th grade. More information can be found at <https://ewalu.org>; contact Zach if you're interested!

Treasurer's Report

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

	July 2023		Year-to-Date		2022 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	37,776	39,886	294,412	279,202	292,133
Other General Fund Income	1,281	1,298	12,381	9,086	5,728
General Fund Income	39,057	41,184	306,794	288,288	297,862
General Fund Expense	33,286	41,150	269,561	288,050	309,218
General Fund Net Income	5,771	34	37,233	238	(11,356)
Special Offering Income	485		1,757		1,751
Special Offering Expense	85		1,337		1,301
Special Offering Net Income	400		420		450
Total Net Income	6,171	34	37,653	238	(10,906)

Mortgage Balance	666,744.42
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	152,653.88

During July general offerings rebounded from that of June, and year-to-date through July 2023 the offerings are \$15,000 ahead of budget. Thanks to all for faithful giving. Windsor Heights Lutheran continues to provide meaningful programming within the budgets set for 2023, and we are appreciative of all who do such a wonderful job with our programs. We invite you to take advantage of all that is offered, especially now that we are nearing the start of Fall programming.

Capital appeal contributions remain strong and WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

If you will not be in church, remember you can always mail your offerings, or contribute through Simply Giving online. There is a link on the WHLC website.

Please let me know if you have questions.
Barb Waymire



Thank you for giving!

Windsor Elementary School Supplies



This year, our fall service project was purchasing or donating school supplies for a local elementary school. We selected Windsor Elementary, just a few blocks up the street. Once again, WHLC came through with the grocery cart filled multiple times with supplies, and donating over \$900. Madison, the Care Community Director, came to church to load up her car and was overwhelmed with gratitude. The impact we made on students and staff at Windsor Elementary will be felt all year long. Thank you again for your generosity with this project! Linda Anderson and Julie Borseth



Lutheran World Relief School Backpacks

There were supplies remaining from Lutheran World Relief school backpacks last fall. More are needed to fill 12 backpacks. These backpacks will be shipped in October with the quilts and other kits. There is a display in the narthex that shows what is needed to fill to fill each bag. A sign up sheet is also there for you to sign up what you would like to donate. Please put your donations in the bin under the table by October 8. Thank you! ~Linda Anderson





FALL CLEAN UP!



Please join us on October 28 at 2 p.m. for our Fall Clean-Up at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. We need people of all ages to vacuum, dust and wipe down the sanctuary, and nursery. Rather work outside? We also

need individuals to rack, trim and pick up the grounds around the building. The clean-up is meant to be a multi-generational event, so everyone is welcome to help. During the clean-up snacks and beverages will be available. We hope to see you on October 28 at 2 p.m. to show off your cleaning talents. Thank you! ~2023 Church Council

Save the Date

The 2023 Advent Worship Service and Dessert Fellowship will be **Sunday, Dec. 3**. The theme is **“Advent Preparations and Christmas Memories.”** All are welcome! Tickets will again be \$5. Viewing of the tables will begin at 3 p.m. with the worship service in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. We will again collect gifts for the residents of Luther Park. If you would like to decorate a table, please contact Inez Boyken: ILBoyken@msn.com Call or text at: 515-669-3879. Watch for more info later about purchasing your ticket and other details.



Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 1 at 4:30 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.

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.



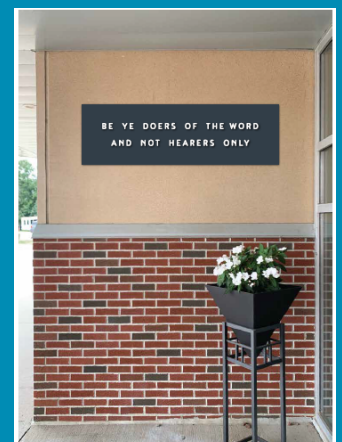
EAST LAWN SIGN

The council has spent the summer researching the best path for the sign on the East lawn that fell and broke last spring. After several conversations with contractors and members researching the history of the sign. The council determined the front sign that fell and broke doesn't need to be replaced, as our current signage on the southeast corner of the property is adequate for our church.

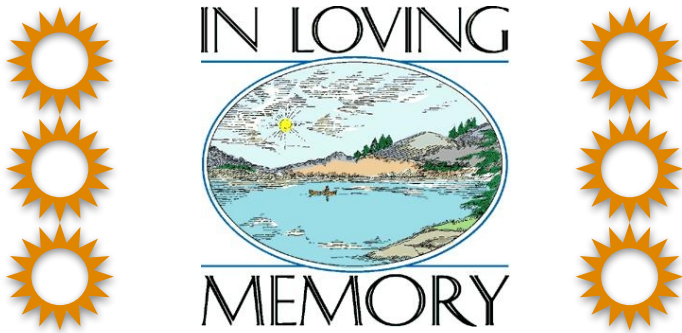
They did feel that it is important to maintain the message that was written on the back of the sign facing the east church door. The council explored a couple of options and decided to create a new sign that will be hung next to the south door. The council feels that the south door represents the main entrance into the church and the new sign will continue to encourage the message **“BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY”** as members and guests leave the building. See attached photo on the proposed location.

Work will begin with the signage company and the new sign will be in place late September or early October. The existing sign will be removed during the fall clean-up project.

Thank you for your patience, Church Council



FUNERAL THANK YOUS



Dr. John Gustafson

The life and legacy of Dr. John Gustafson was celebrated with many distant family relatives in attendance. Members of WHLC came together to host a luncheon that received rave reviews! One lady said, "This by far has been the best funeral luncheon I have attended in my 85 years!" Thank you to the many members who helped make this a special time of healing for the family and friends of John.

Food was donated by Ellen Graham, Sue Crum, Inez Boyken, Maren Steensen, Sharman Blake, Georgeann Johnson, Harriett Lewis, Marilyn Penberthy, Cheryl Wheeler, Barb Waymire, Marian Perman, Dianne Greenfield, Carol Popken, Cindy Ambroson and Linda Anderson.

The crew that got everything set up, helped with serving, beverage table, clean up, dishwashing and laundering of tablecloths include Sharman Blake, Cheyenne Hennig, Zach Meyer, Quent Boyken, Linda Fasse, Dianne Greenfield, John Ambroson, Chuck Young, Chuck Safris and Linda Anderson.

Please consider donating and/or being a part of the WHLC funeral luncheon crew! It's a time of great fellowship and fun!

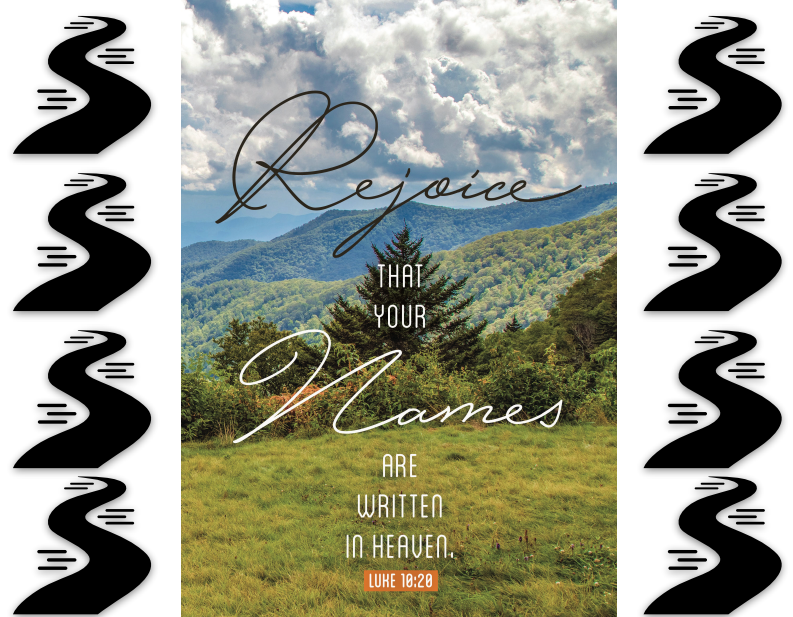
Ted Kellen

WHLC came together to help celebrate the life of a family member of Amanda Eakins, Ted Kellen.

Special thanks to those who brought food: Ellen Graham, Sue Crum, Barb Waymire, Ann Rowland, Inez Boyken, Kathy Safris, Linda Anderson, Linda Fasse, Linda Rye and Gregg Gustafson.

The behind the scene help: setting tables, making coffee, getting food out and the final dishwashing and cleanup. The crew was Sue Crum, Quent Boyken, Ellen and Dennis Graham, Zach Meyer and Linda Anderson.

Funeral luncheons are made possible from your donations of the food and time to help! Please consider doing your part at the next funeral lunch.





Our Hearts Go Out to...



Sympathy to Pastor Chris, Beth and Bennett on the death of Deb Pederson (Pastor Chris' mom).

Sympathy to Beth Olkiewicz, Pastor Chris & Bennett on the death of Beth's father, Charles Duerksen, on August 7. Your WHLC family is sending you all comforting thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy to the friends and family of Ted Kellen, life partner of Olga Gatica. Amanda Eakins is Olga's daughter. Ted's funeral was Friday, August 25 at WHLC.

Sympathy to the friends and family of Dr. John Gustafson. His funeral was at WHLC on Tuesday, August 29 at 11 a.m., with a luncheon that followed in Crabtree Parish Hall.

Please pray for Bruce Dodgen & Paula Virtue. Bruce's brother, Dan Dodgen, died September 4. Dan is an organ donor of two kidneys, the liver and other tissues.



Thank You

The last several months have been hard for us as we have grieved the illness and death of parents/ grandparents and worked through, and continue to work through, the many emotions and tasks that accompany all that. Through it all, we have been deeply grateful for your love and support. If we were to write thank-you notes to each of you who have shared condolences and given memorial gifts, we would still be at it months from now. So please receive our heartfelt thanks for your many expressions of care and concern. We are in awe and thankful for your love.
~Pastor Chris, Beth, and Bennett



September Birthdays

- 1 David Stewart
- 3 Bennett Olkiewicz, Michael Wegner
- 4 Joni 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,
Quent Boyken
- 14 Wayne Barrett, Zach Seifert
- 18 Caleb Eakins, 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

Don't see your name on the birthday list? Email Heidi at office@whlc.org and she will get you added!



Birthdays This Month