

THE WINDOW

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

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Stewardship is about . . . LOVE! Isn't that a cool way to think about stewarding the gifts we have received from God? When we share what we have—not only our money but also our time, skills, knowledge, wisdom, humor, etc.—God is at work through us loving the world. I don't always think of generosity that way. Sometimes it feels more like an obligation, something I think I have to do.

But you know, I don't believe that God loves *me* out of a sense of obligation. I believe that God loves me because that is who God is. God's nature and being is love. Maybe that's my nature too—who God created me to be.

And maybe that's why generosity just feels "right." When I am sharing myself with and for others, it feels like I am in the groove that God intends for me. I recently heard someone say that when you are having a bad day, you should try to do something for others, and that will make you feel better. Maybe so. I probably should give it a try the next time I'm feeling grumpy.

What do you think about generosity? Is it part of how you understand following Jesus, who invites us to love God and our neighbors? How do you share yourself with others? Do you have some stories to tell, some insights that would help others grow in faith? Let's talk!

I invite you to join me for four Bible studies and conversations about gratitude and generosity beginning on November 12. Gather in Room 127 between services. I'll also be preaching on this theme as it connects with the lectionary texts throughout the month. We'll hear some personal stories from council members. Sort of like creation themes wound through the recent Season of Creation, themes of gratitude and generosity will flavor worship in November.

On Sunday, December 3 we will take a moment to pledge our financial support for the ministry of WHLC in the coming year (i.e., fill out pledge cards). Of course generosity isn't only about money, but we often skirt conversations on the important matter of faith, finances, and giving. At the end of the Window you will find some resources to help you have that conversation at home, whatever the size of your household. If you have younger kids or see your grandchildren regularly, there is an adapted list of questions that can be used with children ages 5-12. This material will be on the website as well — whlc.org.

Stewardship begins with God, not with us. We offer ourselves in love for the world in gratitude for what God has done and continues to do for us. I look forward to giving thanks with you for how you experience God's presence, love, grace, and mercy in your lives and to learning from you new ways to express that gratitude in generosity.

Faithfully,
Pastor Chris



A graphic with a white background and a dark red border. The word "Thanksgiving" is written in a large, orange, serif font. Below it, the word "Service" is written in a smaller, dark red, cursive font. To the left of "Thanksgiving" is a cluster of small red berries on a black vine. To the right of "Thanksgiving" are two orange leaves on black stems. The entire graphic is set against a dark red background.

Thanksgiving Service

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. It's back! After a long pandemic-induced hiatus, we will gather again with our neighbors for a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. at Windsor United Methodist Church. The pastors of our three churches—Windsor Presbyterian, Windsor Methodist, and WHLC—will offer short reflections on gratitude. A joint choir will sing one piece. Check with Jim Cacciatore or Pastor Chris for information about rehearsal times.

The people of Windsor United Methodist will graciously provide pie and cider for our fellowship time after the service. If you like to bake and want to contribute something (pie or otherwise), you are welcome to do so. Just drop it by the kitchen before worship on the day of the service.

We have begun discussions about gathering with an enlarged circle of churches in the community during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. Thanks be to God for our church neighbors!



The Advent service and dessert fellowship with the theme "Advent Preparations and Christmas Memories" will be **Sunday, December 3**. All men, women, and older youth are invited to attend. Viewing of the beautifully decorated tables will be from 3:00-4:00 in Crabtree Parish Hall with the worship service at 4:00 in the sanctuary. The dessert fellowship immediately follows in Crabtree Parish Hall. Tickets are again \$5.00 and

will be sold between services on the four Sundays in November. Heidi has graciously agreed to sell tickets on the days that she is in her office (T, W, and Th). When you purchase your ticket, sign up to sit at one of the tables being decorated by some of our very talented church members. Please write one name on each line and indicate on the sign-up sheet if you would like a gluten-free dessert. If you wish to write a check, please make your check payable to WELCA. We will again collect unwrapped gifts for the residents of Luther Park. Please see the list of gift suggestions given to us from Luther Park. Come to prepare your hearts and minds for Advent and Christmas!

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST FOR LUTHER PARK

Entertainment

Baby dolls (soft, new)
Washable markers
Adults coloring books
Puzzles (500 pieces or under)
Board games/Memory games

Hygiene

Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Combs/brushes
Nail polish
Hand lotion
Body lotion (men & women)
Body wash (men & women)
Non-aerosol Deodorant
Hair ties
Cologne
Perfume
Men's Electric Razor

Other

Necklaces
Jewelry/beaded jewelry
Echo dots
Headphones
Art Supplies
Games
Stuffed animals
Beads
Sensory items
Packaged Snacks/Candy:
 Cans of Soda
 Crackers/Chips/Cookies
Stationary
Sporting Items
Fidget Blankets
Walker Pouches
Wheelchair Pouches
Medium Christmas Bags

Clothing

Socks/Gripper Socks
Small lap Blankets





LIFTOFF RETURNS!



Liftoff is back this month! All students in Pre-K through 3rd grade, and their families, are invited to join us from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17. The event is free, and dinner will be provided by the church. Students are encouraged to invite their friends, and spread the word. Parents can either choose to hang around through the duration of the event, or drop their kids off and pick them up when it wraps up. We'll have several adult volunteers present throughout the event if anyone needs anything. Contact Zach if you have any questions!

Student Advent Program & Practice

The kids advent program is just around the corner! This will take place between the two services on Sunday, December 10. It will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend the program in person. We'll be practicing on Wednesdays nights leading up to the event Like last year, the students will be given the largest voice in determining what this program will look like. We are excited to see what they plan and perform for everyone!

No Kids Programming Wednesday, November 22

We won't be hosting our regular Wednesday programming or meal for the kids on the 22nd, as most will be busy or traveling for Thanksgiving the next day. Regular programs will return on the 29th!





Your help is needed to restock Windsor Elementary's Personal Needs Pantry and provide clothing items for the students and their families. These are items the school system is not able to provide, but are needed to help the students focus on learning. Many of the items will be used at home, enabling younger and older siblings to focus on their education as well.

Can you help? Items can be dropped at the church anytime through Sunday, November 19. Just look for the "Windsor Elementary" sign in the church entry.

- Body wash, bar soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Laundry detergent
- Long pants and shorts (even though winter is coming, they need shorts as well as long pants) in kids' sizes S, M and L for boys and girls (unisex is great!)
- T-shirts (both long and short sleeved) and sweatshirts in kids' sizes S, M and L

Monetary donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase needed supplies. Please write checks out to WHLC with "Windsor Elementary" on the memo line.

Contact Julie Borseth (515-360-4466 or jkborseth@gmail.com) with any questions.





Packing & Loading of the Kits & Quilts for

LUTHERAN WOLRD RELIEF



Saturday, October 21, the truck arrived, all set to be loaded with kits and quilts. We had many volunteers to help. When they finished, there was little room left!

The volunteers were great! Dan Goss worked in the truck where many hands helped fill it. Those who worked to fill it were Ken Popken, Chuck, Kathy and Will Safris, Wayne and Alice Barrett, Pam Lundell, Elaine Hites, Dean Grannes, Sebastian, Nathaniel, Nicholas and Dana Grannes, and Steve and Kathy Mccracken. Special thanks to Dan and Deb Goss for taking the truck to South Saint Paul, Minnesota!

31 churches participated! There were 1,405 quilts, 1,490 school kits, 437 baby kits, 552 health kits and 41 fabric kits. That's 3,925 kits and quilts altogether! What a great day we had! Congratulations WHLC!

-Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy



The Window



TREASURER'S REPORT



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

	September 2023		Year-to-Date		2022 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	25,046	39,886	359,683	358,974	353,815
Other General Fund Income	3,615	1,298	17,399	11,682	8,334
General Fund Income	28,661	41,184	377,082	370,656	362,149
General Fund Expense	45,674	41,150	355,386	370,350	394,547
General Fund Net Income	(17,013)	34	21,696	306	(32,399)
Special Offering Income	150		2,685		2,381
Special Offering Expense	273		2,505		1,795
Special Offering Net Income	(123)		180		586
Total Net Income	(17,136)	34	21,876	306	(31,813)

Mortgage Balance	651,248.68
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	143,816.88

For the month of September General Offering was lower than budget while General Fund expenses were higher than budget. While this resulted in a net loss for the month, it is similar to the pattern of income and expense in recent years, and we have a strong year-to-date 2023 net income. Additionally, several material quarterly expense items (benevolence and mortgage principal payments in particular) were paid in the month of September.

Year-to-date income continues to be ahead of budget as well as prior year, and expenses are lower than budget and prior year. Finance Committee monitors the patterns of income and expense to help ensure we are being good financial stewards of the resources of WHLC.

In 2023 we have budgeted and made \$12,000 of principal payments towards the mortgage in addition to the regular monthly mortgage payments, allowing our mortgage balance to now be \$651,248.68 vs \$705,752.36 at 12/31/2022. Capital appeal contributions remain strong and WHLC remains on a solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

Detailed financial statements are available in the Church Office. Please let me know if you have questions.

Barb Waymire


WHLC NEWS & NOTES


GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED

It's hard to express our gratitude to our WHLC family for your prayers and cards and messages during Dennis

recent surgery. He is well on his way to recovery and we thank you for your support. ~Dennis and Ellen Graham

Thank you to all our WHLC family for all the prayers, emails and cards during our son-in-law, Brandon Curtis's, long fight with cancer and passing into heaven. We are so very grateful. ~Jim and Marile South.

Thank you to our church family for all the prayers, cards, and texts for quick healing after Linda's hip surgery. We are very blessed to be a part of such a caring community. ~Linda and Tony Russell

Thank you for your prayers, cards and well wishes. I am receiving radiation treatments and hope to complete them near the end of October. I feel great and I am grateful for your support. Peace, we pray, Pastor Robin.

Thank you for all of your love, prayers, cards and calls as I continue to recover from a procedure to remove skin cancer from my head. ~Vivien Wells



This Sunday, November 5, Daylight Saving Time Ends. Don't forget to change your clocks!

WHLC Quilters



As the holiday season approaches, the quilters take some time off! This year we will continue on November 6 and 13. We will not meet again until Monday, January 8. We will resume at our usual time of 9-11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us and can come and go as needed. We also want to thank all of those who sew tops, provide fabric and give encouragement! ~LaVon Heston

Gather Bible Study Author Continues Work in Jerusalem

Following the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel and the Israeli siege of Gaza, many *Gather* readers contacted Women of the ELCA church wide staff to ask about the safety of *Gather* Bible study author, the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, and her family.

Click this link to read more information : <https://www.gathermagazine.org/we-have-felt-the-power-of-your-prayer-gather-bible-study-leader-continues-work-in-jerusalem/>

Wednesday, November 22
No Wednesday night meal, activities or rehearsals on November 22, as Thanksgiving is the following day.





Please pray for Vivien Wells and her family as she mourns the death of her granddaughter, Marilyn Shipley, of Overland Park, KS.

Please pray for Jim and Marile South as they mourn the death of their son-in-law, Brandon Curtis. Please also pray for their daughter, Michelle, on the death of her husband.



- 3 Joel Waymire
- 4 Jerry Toft
- 9 Elly Ratliff
- 11 Jessica Chance
- 12 Lois Owen
- 17 Jill Hyda
- 18 Carol Popken
- 22 Paige Jansen,
Kevin Nicolet,
Wilma Nielsen,
John Reed
- 26 Don Beck
- 27 Henry Hyda
- 29 Evolve Baxter



My Gobble-let Overfloweth with Gratitude

THANK YOU TO THESE WHLC MEMBERS & FRIENDS!



A big thank you to Mark and Linda Fasse for getting the candelabras ready for the Service of Remembrance!

Check out the beautiful, new sign in the WHLC entryway! Kudos to the WHLC Church Council for making this happen!



Jan Grannes & Marilyn Penberthy deserve a round of applause for all of their efforts, time and organization for the loading of the LWR kits and quilts. You are blessings to WHLC, Jan & Marilyn!

Many thanks to all of our Boo Bash volunteers! It was a spooky good time! We couldn't have done it without your help!



At Home Practice #1

LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

You may have heard that it's impolite to talk about money. Over the next couple of weeks, we invite you to break that taboo by having a conversation about money as a household. Talking about money can bring you closer together, relieve anxiety, lower stress, and help you see where God might be leading you in your relationship with money.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following questions are designed to be used throughout the next few weeks. While you can certainly work through them all in one sitting, we suggest working through one set of questions once a week over the next four weeks.

Find a time to work through the questions where everyone is comfortable and has space to listen and share. This might be around the kitchen table during dinner, around the fireplace in the evening, over coffee on a weekend morning, or on a walk through the fall leaves.

There are no right or wrong answers. These questions are designed to help you think about how your faith and your money intersect.

Don't have someone else at home with whom you can discuss these questions? Find a family member, friend, or someone else at your church you can meet with each week to walk through these questions together.

HAVE YOUNGER KIDS AT HOME? WE'VE INCLUDED AN ADAPTED LIST OF QUESTIONS ON PAGE 3 THAT CAN BE USED WITH CHILDREN AGES 5-12.

At Home Practice #1

LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

ADULT AND TEEN MONEY QUESTIONS

WEEK 1: ME & MONEY

1. What is your earliest experience with money that you can remember?
2. Who stands out as a primary money role model for you? What's one key thing you learned from this person?
3. What's one way you've used money recently that you feel good about?
4. How would you describe your present attitude toward money? How has that changed as you have aged?

WEEK 2: FAITH & MONEY

1. Does your relationship with God influence the way you use your money? If so, how?
2. What's one way you've heard money talked about in a faith context that you resonated with? Why?
3. What's one way you've heard it talked about that you didn't resonate with? Why?
4. If someone asked you "What does the church say about money?" How would you respond?

WEEK 3: CHURCH & GENEROSITY

1. Growing up, what do you remember seeing and hearing about giving to others, including the church? Who taught you about charitable giving?
2. What's one way you've heard giving talked about in a faith context that you resonated with? Why?
3. What's one way that you didn't resonate with? Why?
4. If you give to the church ...
 - a. What first prompted you to give to the church?
 - b. What keeps you giving to the church?
 - c. Does it feel like an act of worship for you? Why or why not?
 - d. Does giving to the church feel different from giving to other nonprofits? Why or why not?
5. If you don't give to the church, what keeps you from giving?

WEEK 4: MOVING FORWARD

1. What values or beliefs guide the way you spend, save, and give your money?
2. What obstacles or beliefs hinder you as you spend, save, and give your money?
3. Might God be leading you to use your money differently? If so, how?

At Home Practice #1

LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

This list of questions is geared toward kids age 5-12.

KIDS MONEY QUESTIONS

WEEK 1: ME & MONEY

- What's your first memory that involves money?
- What's one way that you used money that made you happy?

WEEK 2: FAITH & MONEY

- Have you ever heard money talked about in church? When?
- Do you remember any bible stories that include money?

WEEK 3: CHURCH & GENEROSITY

- Have you ever given money at church? If so, how did it make you feel?
- Why do you think we give money at church? Where does it go?

WEEK 4: MOVING FORWARD

- Do you think God cares about the way we use our money? Why or why not?
- What are some ways we might use money to share God's love with others?

At Home Practice #2

GIVING TOGETHER

INSTRUCTIONS

Too often decisions about how much to give to the church are made by just one person and the rest of the family is left out of the conversation. In this activity, you'll learn how to talk about your giving as a family so you can make a joint decision about how much you're giving and why.

While the conversation will be helpful no matter how you give or who is in your household, it's especially helpful for families with children who give online and don't have a chance to model their giving to their children during worship.

Don't have someone else at home who you can work through this practice with? Find a family member, friend, or someone else at your church who can do this practice with you.

Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for all the things you have entrusted to our care: family and friends, food and shelter, money and talents. Be with us as we reflect on the ways you are present with us through this congregation. Guide us as we decide how much money to give to the church so we can help do your work in the world. Amen.

At Home Practice #2

GIVING TOGETHER

1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Stewardship begins with God and what God has done, not with us. Share a story of one way you've experienced God's presence, love, grace, and/or mercy recently. Not sure? This might be on a walk in God's creation, a conversation with a friend, or even in the words of a favorite hymn.
- What's one way your church has helped you grow in faith?
- What's one way your church is sharing God's love with those who need it?
- How much is your household currently giving to the church? How did you land on this number?
- Do you think God might be calling you to grow in your giving? Why or why not?
- If you decide to increase your giving: What might you need to cut back on as a family in order to increase giving?

2 IMAGINE:

As you think about the next gift you will be making to your congregation talk about how the church might use that money. For instance, might it be used to buy craft materials for Sunday School, new sheet music for the choir, a meal for a hungry person in your neighborhood, etc. Be as creative as you can.

3

Giving Together: Take the time to walk through the giving process together. If your congregation uses an "estimate of giving" or "commitment" card, fill that out together with your new giving amount and sign each of your names on the card.

- **If you generally give in-person during worship:** Together, write the check for next Sunday's service or collect and count the cash you will give. Remember to increase your gift if you decided to do that.
- **If you give online during worship:** Together, walk through the process of giving online that you use during Sunday worship. If possible, invite the children to walk through the process with you on the next Sunday. Remember to increase your gift if you decided to do that.
- **If your giving is automatically withdrawn from your bank or credit card:** Explain where the money is coming from and when it will be taken out. If you're increasing your giving, go online, and together, make that change.