

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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Director of Youth and Family

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A Merry and Blessed Christmas to All!

As we continue to celebrate the mystery of incarnation, the wonder of God taking on material flesh and entering into our existence fully in love, I pray that the year ahead brings you a deep sense of peace and hope. God is with us in the big picture and in all the little ups and downs of our lives. Emmanuel!

January may not be the most exciting month of the year (though I guess there are some sports ball events that are of interest to many), but we do have a few important, and maybe even interesting, things going on at church.

The **annual meeting** of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m. All members of the congregation are voting members of the annual meeting and encouraged to attend (non-members are welcome as well, but can't vote). We need to adopt the budget for 2024 and elect new congregation council members. It's also an opportunity to hear some of our mission stories from this year and look forward in hope to the year ahead.

The tradition of a **potluck** lunch preceding the annual meeting continues. Please bring something to share, if you're able, and your own table service. This is a great time of fellowship. Mark your calendars!

The Finance Committee will hold a **Q&A session** on the proposed 2024 budget on Sunday, January 14 at 9:45. Grab a donut hole and get all your budget questions answered.

If you have been thinking about joining WHLC, I will hold a **new member orientation** on Saturday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. I plan to talk a bit about the Lutheran tradition, the greater church (Lutheran and ecumenical) of which we are a part, and our congregation. We can also discuss what interests you. What brings you here? What questions do you have? It's a church meeting, so I'll make sure there's coffee, and maybe even donuts. Please join me!

Thank you for being good news—for me, for each other, and for the world. As we turn the page on another year, I am grateful for all that you are and for the privilege of sharing this journey of faith and discipleship with you.

In peace,

Pastor Chris



Dana Leahy's Advent and Christmas Pillar Designs

By now, most of you have noticed the familiar images and key words of the Christmas story that are wrapped around the three pillars at the south entrance of the church. WHLC Member Jim Spizale invited me to create what I call a revolving design for each of the three pillars that would allow the story to flow from each of the four sides of the three pillars. After accepting Jim's invitation, I drew the three designs (at 1/6 of the 8x8-foot scale) using pastels and glitter paint, scanned the images into my computer, added filters and type in separate programs and then sent the documents to Fast Signs, who created the weather-proof panels you see. Thanks to Jim and his never-ending creativity and expertise, the pieces were fitted and affixed to the pillars with zip ties and beautifully lit with an LED lighting system, also installed by Jim.

What an honor and joy it was to collaborate with Jim and to create works of art that celebrate and glorify the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Advent Blessings,
Dana Leahy



The Window



WHLC NEWS & NOTES



If you give by Simply Giving and plan to change the amount you give for 2024, please make sure to complete a new Simply Giving Form. There are forms on the ledge in the narthex, or Heidi can mail or email you one. Turn in your completed forms to Heidi.

Remember to turn in your gold pledge cards for 2024! There are some on the back table in the sanctuary.

2024 offering envelopes are available to pick up in the narthex.



Elderberries will not meet in January, but they will meet on February 1 at 11:30 a.m. for a Valentine's Day party. All are welcome!

Windsor Elementary

As WHLC continues our support of Windsor Elementary, we cannot forget the teachers and staff who make everything happen. Friday, December 8, was a Professional Development Day for the teachers and staff. WHLC provided home baked cookies to let them know how much we appreciate their work and effort!

THANK YOU Gayla Russell for taking the time to bake these cookies with love!





THANK YOU!

MANY THANKS!



The offering collected during the Advent worship service on Sunday, Dec. 3 was \$954.00 to combat food insecurity. It was divided equally between the Des Moines Area Religious Council that oversees 14 food pantry sites in the Des Moines area and its suburbs to fight hunger locally; and half went to ELCA World Hunger to combat food insecurity globally. Donna Yeager sent a check for \$477 to DMARC and a check for \$477 to ELCA World Hunger. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause.
Inez Boyken

KUDOS!



A big thank you to Jim and Jeri Spizale who have been at church many days decorating for Advent and Christmas! Please tell them thank you the next time you see them!



*Thank you,
Volunteers!*

Thank you to our Christmas Eve/ Day and New Year's Day worship service volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you! If you would like to volunteer Sundays, sign-up with the link below. We appreciate each and every one of you!

<https://volunteersignup.org/CTRAF>



Thank you to those who recently provided cookies for our college kids. The cookies came at a good time to help with energy needed for exams! Those who provided cookies were:

Alice Barrett

Sue Crum

Elaine Hites

Liz Nelson

Marilyn Penberthy

Marian Perman

Carol Popken

Teresa Powers

Our most sincere thanks!

Sincerely,

Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy,
Co-Chairs of the Care & Nurture
Committee



**Thank you for all the cards and prayers.
The family thanks everyone.
Noreen is home and receiving
physical therapy.
~Paul and Noreen Rogness**



Words cannot capture our gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown at the time of Janet's death. From those who were present to provide comfort and gifts to help others in her name, to those who helped make her funeral beautiful, meaningful, and organized, to those who prepared and served food and cleaned up afterward, and to those who continue to include us in your circle of thought and prayer, we thank you.

George Hanusa, Ellen Wonderlin Wilke &
Julie Hanusa

EASTER SEALS



Throughout the year, Easter Seals has returned pop cans to Hy-Vee. With their can money, they thought it would be a great idea to get food for donating to the needy. They picked out cans of soup, ramen noodles, cereal, toothpaste and diapers. All of these items were put in the shopping carts downstairs and will be donated to The Urbandale Food Pantry.

Pictured:



- Paul Hauser
- Tyler J. Hindley
- Jolene Culp
- Anna L. Whims
- Lauren E. Mackey
- Emily Mulder
- JR D. Fitzgerald



Thank you so much for the birthday celebration and cards.

Everything was so beautiful!

Love, Vivien Wells



OFFERING ENVELOPES



Thank you to Dick and Joni Wilberg, their cat, Duke, and their friend, Georgina, for labeling and organizing the offering envelopes! Pick up your envelopes the next time you're at church.



TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	November 2023		Year-to-Date		2022 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	34,373	39,886	430,754	438,746	434,520
Other General Fund Income	655	1,298	18,661	14,278	9,364
General Fund Income	35,028	41,184	449,415	453,024	443,884
General Fund Expense	40,239	41,150	434,979	452,650	475,561
General Fund Net Income	(5,211)	34	14,436	374	(31,677)
Special Offering Income	639		3,767		3,070
Special Offering Expense	35		2,610		2,298
Special Offering Net Income	604		1,157		772
Total Net Income	(4,607)	34	15,593	374	(30,905)

Mortgage Balance	641,586.80
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	137,114.88

While General Offerings were down in November relative to October and to Budget, when based upon 2020-2022 income patterns, General Fund Income should have been around \$436,546 versus actual General Fund Income of \$449,415, which is more than 102% of expected. We know that income does not come in uniformly throughout the year and the Finance Committee regularly monitors our income and expenses to make sure we have no items of concern.

Year-to-date General Fund Expenses are running \$17,671 below budget. Some of these are items that are only paid quarterly and will 'catch up' in December, such as many of our benevolence items. Some of the line items contributing to the more permanent lower-than-budgeted expenses include snow removal (where we entered into a new contract during 2023), as well as some expenses we budgeted for the time of transition from two pastors to one. Parish Ed expenses are also below budget, thanks in large part to the ability of our staff and volunteers to efficiently provide awesome programming. In compiling the 2024 Budget the Finance Committee continues to work towards being prepared for all programming and other financial needs of our congregation.

We are extremely blessed to be in a strong position. Thank you for your continued support of WHLC financially, prayerfully and with your time & talents.

Please contact me if you have any questions.
Barb Waymire





- 1 Bonnie Hyda,
Richard Pedersen
- 2 Frederick Lubben
- 4 John Groh
- 6 Charlene Paulsen
- 8 Marion Dietz
- 10 Daniel Goss
- 11 Isabell Wegner
- 13 Linda James,
John Leahy
- 15 Marc Anderson
- 17 Ryenn Seifert
- 19 Gladys Hertzberg
- 21 Shelly Thieman,
Paula Virtue
- 23 Jim Spizale
- 24 Linda Anderson
- 25 Michael McNamara,
Jonathan Morris
- 26 Wesley Fergus
- 28 Nicholas Cox
- 29 Matt McNamara
- 30 Ann Fasse, Cole Gilbert,
Noah Gilbert





In Our Thoughts & Prayers



The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. Exodus 15:2, NIV

Frances J. Wiesner, 92, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2023 in West Des Moines, IA. Frances had been a member of WHLC since 2007 and was a regular participant in Elderberries.

Melvin Henry Nielsen passed away on December 21, 2023 surrounded by family at Clarissa C Cook Hospice, Bettendorf Iowa.

Fellowship Luncheon for Family and Friends of Mel Nielsen

A catered lunch for 80 was served in Crabtree Parish Hall after the funeral service for Mel Nielsen. We would like to thank Sue Crum for helping set up prior to her greeting visitors. And to Linda Fasse, Quent Boyken and Chuck Safris for volunteering during a busy holiday weekend. We could not have done it without your help! We were a small but mighty team! God bless you, Linda Anderson and Sharman Blake

