

THE WINDOW

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

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LENT

A Season of Change



It finally snowed—a lot. That was kind of pretty. Then it got very, extremely, extra cold. That wasn't so nice. Now a lot of the snow has melted, there is sand, salt residue, and brown sludge everywhere, and everything is dirty and gross. Well, that's my opinion anyway.

If you were to guess that this is not my favorite time of year, you'd be correct. The joy and warmth of gathering with family and friends around the holidays has passed. The beauty of clear starry skies has been replaced by endless cloudy days and nights. Yet we know that change is coming. The days are getting longer and warmer. It may be more of a wait until spring than we (or at least I) would like, but we know that winter's days are numbered.

Lent is a season of change. The word comes from an old word for “spring.” *Lenten/lengthen* reminds us that the days are, indeed, lengthening in this season. Lent calls us to change—our hearts, our attitudes—and turn again toward God. Lent calls us to be agents of change—to grow in our commitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as instruments of God’s transforming love. Lent is a springtime of the soul, and we can feel change stirring in our hearts.

Many will practice greater attentiveness to scripture and prayer during this season. You may pick up a booklet of Lenten readings and reflections in the narthex that will help you along this path. We will gather for worship—Holden Evening Prayer—on Wednesdays during Lent, another opportunity for spiritual growth.

Almsgiving (i.e., aiding the poor and the hungry) is another Lenten discipline. Our special offerings this Lent will be given to the DMARC Food Pantry Network. Food insecurity continues to be a significant problem in our community. The number of people seeking food assistance at the DMARC pantries is up 20% from a year ago, and one-third of those receiving help are children. Please make a difference by giving as generously as you can. Donations of food items are also always welcome. There will be opportunities to learn more about the causes of food insecurity and what we can do to help.

Let us enter into this Lent confident in God’s power to change us and to change the world through us.

Faithfully,

Pastor Chris



WHLC 80th Anniversary February 24

Hearers and Doers

That's been the congregation's motto since the beginning. How has that been carried out in the five years since our year-long 75th anniversary celebration? How will that be carried out as we move into the future?

Well, everything is the same and everything is different. The hearing and doing is still constant, but the times are different, so the ways we do the hearing and doing has to adjust, too.

Our 75th Anniversary booklet posed the question: "We celebrated, what now?", asking the questions: "What did we celebrate from the past?"; "What can we celebrate now?"; "What will we be able to celebrate in the future?" We can ask/answer these same questions now.

A look at the past five years:

The numbers haven't changed too much, though the average age of our membership has been taking its toll—with a swell in the number of deaths of loved ones, and those we have learned to love. Yet, we have enjoyed a lively group of children and young people who bring laughter and life to Wednesday night activities and Sunday worship. We are blessed by staff members who facilitate that ministry.

Our music ministry continues to be strong and vibrant. We have solid pastoral leadership and lay staff and dedicated lay leadership. We have a robust ministry and mission outreach. That includes participation in ELCA and Southeast Iowa Synod programs, as well as partnering with the Des Moines Area Religious Council and Lutheran Services in Iowa. Our facilities provide a home for the Heartland Youth Choir, Chin Baptist congregation, Easter Seals special needs activities and more.

What will we be able to celebrate in the future?

(Only God knows, and she's not telling.)

Well, it means continuing and even deepening our hearing of God's Word—through our individual devotions, taking advantage of Bible study opportunities offered by our pastor and men's and women's groups and weekly worship. It means becoming "evangelists" seeking and inviting unchurched neighbors, offering care of whatever appropriate kind to people we see in need—maybe even that "loner" who seems to be ignored.

Perhaps we can participate with our other local churches in surveying our community and surroundings to identify and invite unchurched people.

What about you? Use your imagination and submit your ideas to the church leadership.

Be hearers and doers!

--by George Hanusa

Windsor Elementary Two Ways to Help the Students Can you help on Monday morning, March 4?

This is a great opportunity to spend a little time with students at Windsor Elementary! They are looking for people to read to small groups of children. Let's help them accomplish this!

Sign up at church, or email Julie Borseth (jkborseth@gmail.com).

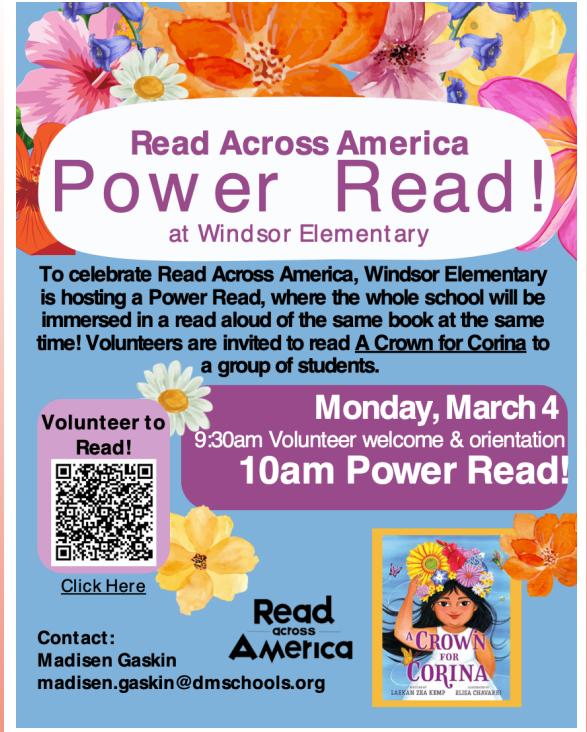
We will meet at WHLC at 9:00 am and carpool to Windsor Elementary. The volunteer welcome and orientation begin at 9:30, and the reading to students begins at 10:00.

**Can't be there to read?
You can help by purchasing a copy of the book!**

The school would like each student will receive a copy of the book, but funds are needed to purchase them. There are already 100 copies purchased, with 200 more needed. **Each book costs \$14. If you can help with a donation, it would be greatly appreciated!**

Make checks out to WHLC, and write "Books for Windsor Elementary" on the memo line.


**THANK YOU!
Julie Borseth**



**Read Across America
Power Read!**
at Windsor Elementary


To celebrate Read Across America, Windsor Elementary is hosting a Power Read, where the whole school will be immersed in a read aloud of the same book at the same time! Volunteers are invited to read **A Crown for Corina** to a group of students.

Monday, March 4
9:30am Volunteer welcome & orientation
10am Power Read!

Volunteer to Read!

[Click Here](#)

Contact:
Madisen Gaskin
madisen.gaskin@dmschools.org

Read across America



Want to help Windsor Elementary? AND clean out your clothing and shoe collection?

When you drive by Windsor Elementary you will see a big green bin by the curb in front of the school. This "Clothes Bin" is there to collect clothing & shoes that can be passed on to others. It's a recycling effort that allows you to contribute clothing and shoes you no longer need, but are still in decent shape, for others to use. And --- because Windsor Elementary partners with The Clothes Bin by hosting the Green Bin on site, they receive cash funds for all the usable items left in the bin by us! It's a win for everyone!

Items accepted in the Green Bin:

Clothes - Pants, jeans, skirts, dresses, suits, shorts, shirts, tees

Outerwear - Coats, jackets, gloves, hats

Footwear - Shoes, boots, heels, sneakers, sandals

Accessories - Hats, belts, ties, scarves

Handbags - Wallets, purses, totes, backpacks, briefcases

For more info, check out <https://fillthebins.com>.





LENT Lent LENT Lent



LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS THIS MONTH



A reminder that Ash Wednesday, February 14, 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. This schedule goes through March 27. 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.

Holden Evening Prayer begins Wednesday, March 21.



Ash Wednesday is February 14.
Services will be at noon and 7 p.m.

*Create in me a
clean heart,
O
God,
and renew a
right spirit
within me.*

Psalms 51:10, ESV

WHLC NEWS & NOTES



The Lunch Bunch widow's group will NOT meet in January. Our next lunch will be on Saturday, February 17 at 11:30.

Thanks, Marilyn Warling



If you haven't heard yet, the extreme cold weather unfortunately caused a bit of damage to the church. One of two water heaters ruptured from cold air blowing through the intake vent, resulting in the flooding of the music library, the choir room, and parts of surrounding rooms and hallways.

Service Master is handling the mitigation. Lots of fans and other drying equipment are running in the space. Once the drying phase is complete, they will assess the scope of restoration work needed. It seems likely that at least all of the carpet and laminate flooring will need to be replaced. Church Mutual, our insurance company, is processing the claim. Fortunately none of the contents of the rooms was damaged.

We don't know how long the process of restoration will take, so thanks for your patience! It is also an inconvenience for a number of groups who use our space, so we hope the repairs will not take too long.

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 in the narthex. A big thank you to Dick and Joni Wilberg for labeling and organizing the offering envelopes!



The next Elderberries will be Thursday, March 7 at 11:30 a.m. Be on the lookout for the theme/topic in upcoming bulletins and E-Weeklies. Everyone is welcome to come!

JUST DROPPING BY



David Stewart

David Stewart is now at Luther Park Trinity Center, Room 214. The best way to reach him is to call the nurses station and to have a portable phone brought to him. The number is 515-261-6393. David would love visitors!

Address:

1555 Hull Ave, Room 214
Des Moines, IA 50316

Dorothy Meier

Dorothy Meier is at Edgewater in the Aster Building, Room 210. She would love visitors! There are no restrictions on visitors and you can come anytime. Her phone number is 515-978-2757.

Address:

9225 Cascade Ave, Room 210
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Vivien Wells

Vivien Wells is out of Methodist West and is at Sunny View Care Center in Ankeny.

410 NW Ash Drive, Room 121L, Ankeny 50023

Do you know someone who would like visitors or who would like cards sent to them? Let Heidi know and she will spread the word!

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	December 2023		Year-to-Date		2022 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	64,026	39,886	492,580	478,640	494,426
Other General Fund Income	1,240	1,298	19,900	15,600	10,692
General Fund Income	65,266	41,184	512,480	494,240	505,118
General Fund Expense	48,086	41,150	479,144	494,240	516,437
General Fund Net Income	17,180	34	33,336	0	(11,319)
Special Offering Income	1,671		5,438		4,000
Special Offering Expense	1,357		3,967		2,727
Special Offering Net Income	314		1,471		1,273
Total Net Income	17,494	34	34,807	0	(10,046)

Mortgage Balance	636,686.04
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	144,386.38

As you see, December 2023 was a very strong month financially, adding to our strong full year results. I'd like to take the opportunity to say that I thank God for every one of our members and staff. Those who are responsible for our programming take the financial aspects of those activities into account as they plan and execute the programs. Members have continued to provide financial resources that allow us to offer a varied and strong assortment of ministry opportunities. You are indeed "doers of the Word and not hearers only."

December General Offerings were up from prior months and were more than \$24,000 above budget. For the year General Offerings finished 2023 slightly below the level of General Offerings year-to-date in 2022, while total General Fund Income was more than \$18,000 higher than budget and \$7,000 higher than 2022, due to higher CD interest earnings as well as increased facility rent.

While reflecting our current congregational ministry focuses, 2023 Expenses came in at levels significantly lower than 2022, allowing us to experience a strong bottom line 2023 General Fund Net Income. The primary line items contributing to the reduction in expenses are Payroll and Benefits, which relate to staff changes following the departure of Pastor Robin at the end of 2022. As presented at the Budget Review session and the Annual Meeting in January 2024, the 2024 budget has worked to continue addressing WHLC's ministry focuses while maintaining a balanced budget.

As noted above, the remaining mortgage balance as of 12/31/2023 is \$636,686.04, a reduction of over \$69,000 for the year. Regular mortgage payments of \$7,076 per month are made from the Capital Appeal Permanent Fund, and at its current balance, it will support 20 more months of payments. Windsor Heights members continue to contribute to this fund, which will further lengthen the time it can be used to make the mortgage payments. Additional principal payments of \$12,000 were made in 2023 funded from the 2023 budget. The 2024 budget also includes the additional principal payments of \$12,000 for the year. The opportunities we have taken to pay the mortgage faster than the required terms have put us in an excellent position as we anticipate the April 2025 reset of the rate of our Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM).

In January 2024 we were blessed to have received an additional bequest from the Crabtree Estate of more than \$90,000 which we will apply directly to the mortgage principal balance as well, in keeping with the wishes of the Crabtree family.

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





Youth & Family News

Zach Meyer

A collage of four small photos showing children and adults at an event. The photos show children playing, a group of people, and a child with a rocket. A red rocket icon is also present.

**Join us for
Liftoff
Round 12!**

Dinner, games, and fun for
kids in pre-k thru 5th grade
& their families!

Saturday, February 17th 6:00-7:30pm

Our first Liftoff of the year will be hosted on **Saturday, February 17**, from 6-7:30 p.m. This is a switch up from our usual Friday meeting time. Dinner will be provided by the church, and there will be plenty of fun activities for students in pre-k through 3rd grade. Families are welcome to stay and hang out during the event, or drop off and pick up their students later on! Students are encouraged to invite as many friends as they like; All are welcome!

The logo for Camp Firelight, featuring a cartoon bee, a house, and a campfire.

WHLC VBS '24
July 8 - 11
9:00am - 3:30am
Find out more @
www.whlc.org

Join us for Camp Firelight VBS this Summer!

We're thrilled to officially announce our VBS for this summer! We hope you'll join us from July Monday July 8 to Thursday July 11 for Camp Firelight, our day camp VBS for 2024! Our theme for this year centered around a fun summer camp in the woods, where students will learn how they can trust God through all situations in life, and share His love with everyone!

Our VBS returns it day camp format, starting at 9:00 a.m., and running until noon for Pre-K students, and until 3:30 p.m. for students in Kindergarten through those entering 6th grade in the fall. VBS is FREE to attend, lunch and snacks are provided each day, and every student gets a VBS t-shirt! Students are welcome and encouraged to invite as many family and friends as they like, and to spread the word wherever they can! It's our highlight of the summer every year, and an awesome week for everyone involved!

As with every year, we need tons of volunteer help to make VBS happen, and we could use all the help we can get for 2024! Anyone in 7th grade or older is eligible to volunteer, and no special skills or prior experience is needed! All we are looking for are folks who are willing to experience and have fun alongside their students throughout the week. Volunteers can assist in several ways, including lunch prep, helping with a certain age group, leading a rotation station, and much more!

As with last year's VBS, we'll also be collecting donations to help supply the event, mostly for meals and for decor. We'll share more info about donations as we get closer to July. As with previous years, we're excited to go all-out with decorating the church for this event, and this year, we'll be turning into a big camp, bringing all the lush forests, friendly animals (stuffed, of course), and starry skies right here inside the church!

An official registration form for both students and volunteers will drop later this month, and a Facebook event will also be created here shortly. The Parish Ed Committee is already hard at work going over what this year's VBS will look like, and we are so excited to welcome everyone back for another fun round of VBS this summer. Contact Zach if you have any questions about VBS, and hope you can join us this year for an awesome experience at summer camp!

CHECK OUT THIS VBS VIDEO MADE BY ZACH! IT IS AMAZING!

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/907581529](https://vimeo.com/907581529)

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART



Thank you to our WHLC family members who sent prayers, cards, and meals after my knee replacement surgery. It was

very thoughtful of you and I appreciate each and every one of you. Please keep the prayers coming, I'm getting better but it's still a work in progress.

Donna Yeager



Thank you so much for all the prayers while I've been recovering from knee surgery. I truly appreciate it and things are going well. -Jon Lewis

Dear WHLC Friends,

Thank you all for all of the prayers, cards, memorials and kind words you shared with our family on the passing of Wanda Baraldi. We are overwhelmed with your thoughtfulness and kindness. You are all true blessings in the world and we are forever grateful for each one of you.

The Family of Wanda Baraldi



From Madisen, our contact at Windsor Elementary:

"I cannot thank you enough for all the support you've coordinated for Windsor recently, we are so grateful! The word is starting to get out about our pantry and families have been surprised at the amazing items in the personal hygiene section!"

Thank you everyone for your generosity!



I would like to express my deep gratitude for the outpouring of care and support since my dad, Ron Stoen, died. My mom, Ann, is also thankful for the cards. She is in long term care at Iowa Jewish Life Center and is receiving excellent care for her ongoing health concerns and dementia. There will be a memorial for my dad at a later date. This is truly a loving congregation.

Blessings, Tracey Hirst





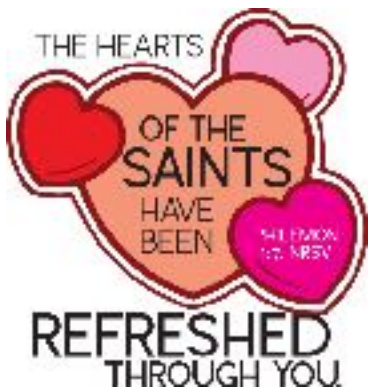
FEBRUARY



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
- 17 John Ambroson, Delores Koch,
Elliott Waymire
- 18 Dwight DuBois
- 19 Chris Nelson
- 20 Bill Morris
- 21 Rilynn Rogness
- 23 Lincoln Yeager
- 24 Ken Popken
- 26 Melinda Krumm, Barb Waymire
- 27 Heath Hennig
- 28 Katie Fergus





Please pray for Elaine Hites on the death of her cousin, Steven Christ.

The message below is from Elaine:

My fun and loving cousin died 01/07/2024 at age 66 yrs.

Steven Christ was raised on a farm outside of Lakota, Iowa and lived in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Please keep his wife, Becky, son, Kyle, daughter, Kayla and their families in your prayers.

Steve had esophageal cancer, esophagectomy, partial gastrectomy, as well as chemo, radiation a good 10 yrs ago. He developed congestive heart failure, kidney failure, was on respirator since PM of Christmas Day also treating Influenza A and that went bacterial.

In God's love, Elaine Hites