

# 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

### March 28

Maundy Thursday  
Services at noon & 7 p.m.

### March 29

Good Friday  
Services at noon & 7 p.m.

### March 31

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

### Easter Breakfast

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



## **A SPECIAL MESSAGE ABOUT OUR EASTER BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

Easter is right around the corner this month, and that means the return of our annual Easter Breakfast! As many of you know, this is a yearly fundraiser that's run by the youth group, and is a way to raise money for the group. This year, however, is a bit of a special year for this fundraising event, and I wanted to take a minute here to explain why.

While the money gathered from this fundraiser is gathered into our Youth Permanent Fund, which covers youth related events, it was originally created to really help cover one big, seminal event for Lutheran students: The ELCA's National Youth Gathering. This event occurs only once every three years, and due to logistical and safety problems linked to the pandemic, it hasn't been hosted since 2018, which is the last time WHLC sent a group to the event.

That all has changed this summer however, as the event will return to New Orleans for an amazing week from July 16-20, where over 20,000 students and churches from all over the whole world will gather to worship, serve, build community and learn how they can play a critical role in the global church. I'm so happy to share that WHLC has a group of 10 congregants attending this event: Matt, Stephanie, Michael and Makenna McNamara, Megan, Ryenn and Harper Seifert, Amanda Eakins, Lucy Valin, and myself. This is an incredible group of students and volunteers that are already so excited for this incredible week!

As you can imagine, sending 10 people down to New Orleans for a week like this takes a ton of logistic planning and many expenses. WHLC has been blessed to help front some of the big costs for the trip, including covering half the cost of registration for each participant, as well as the entirety of our travel flight fees from Des Moines to New Orleans and back. We were happy to do this as a church, as we had accrued some spare funds to use over the years while the event was on hiatus.



## EASTER BREAKFAST CONTINUED

However, there is still plenty more for us to cover, and a large chunk of the Permanent Youth fund to refill and use for this event; that's where the Easter Breakfast comes in. This event will act as one of our major (but certainly not only) fundraisers to raise money to cover expenses on the trip. Our Gathering group will be taking an extremely hands-on approach to planning and hosting these events, as we work as a team to raise funds while offering some great things to the congregation and community!

This year, perhaps more so than any other, this breakfast is a powerful chance for us to connect fundraising to our youth ministry. It's a great opportunity for our students to experience and model service, while providing something everyone likes (hey, what Lutheran doesn't enjoy a large community meal?) On the reverse side, it's a great opportunity for us as a congregation to come together to support these students in attending a once in a lifetime event. The National Youth Gathering is unlike any other event in the ELCA, and really is one of those mountain-top moments for so many of our younger congregants in the larger church.

I guess that's the long way of saying that, we'd be grateful for your help, donations and support as we return to this beloved fundraiser. Any donation, no matter how large or small, would be of great assistance. This is a great cause, and event, to rally around, and we're so excited the students can personally engage in supporting their trip through serving this breakfast.

If you would like to assist but won't be there on Easter Sunday, we will once again be offering the "take and fill" casserole pans that we serve at the breakfast. You'll find these pans in the narthex, color coded to each casserole. Simply take one, fill it with the ingredients listed, and bring it back to church for us to bake and serve on Easter Sunday! Individual checks and monetary donations can also be put in the church drop box. Please write "permanent youth fund" in the memo line if you write a check.

We hope to see you there on Easter Sunday for a great time of food and fellowship in Crabtree Parish Hall. Come on out and support our young students as they prepare for one of the most incredible weeks they'll ever experience!

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





Spring is here, and this year's Easter Garden donations will support the DMARC Food Pantry. The number of new individuals visiting the pantry continues to increase, and food insecurity has become a symptom

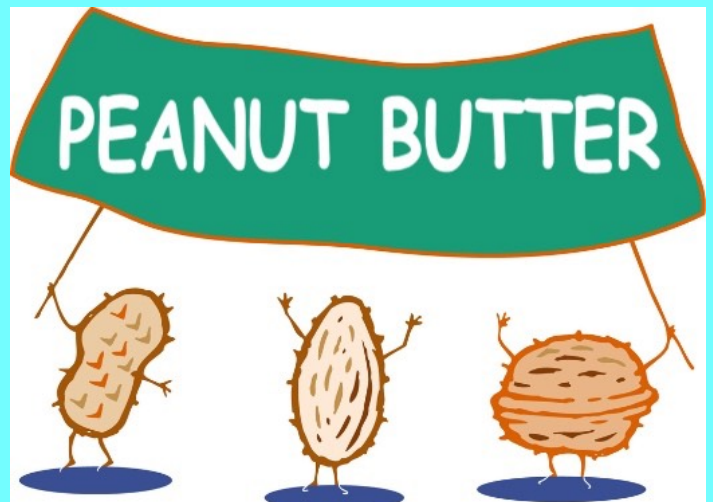
of a new, broader inability for everyday working folks to meet the basic costs of living. Donations support the DMARC Food Pantry's response to meeting the basic human needs of our neighbors and our communities. Checks may be directed to WHLC with a note to direct to the Easter Garden. A suggested donation 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](mailto:office@whlc.org) by Tuesday, March 26. We look forward to the colorful display and seeing everyone Easter Sunday, March 31!



It probably does not come as a great surprise to you to learn that the DMARC Food Pantry Network is experiencing an emergency level of need. Over 65,000 unique individuals utilized a pantry in 2023. The number of people assisted is 20% higher than a year ago and over 1/3 of those were children. WHLC members who volunteer at the Urbandale Food Pantry have seen this with their own eyes and can testify to the great need.

This is why we have chosen to dedicate our Lenten offerings to the DMARC Food Pantry Network. Any offering that you give on Ash Wednesday or during a Holden Evening Prayer service, any donation that you put in one of the special envelopes marked “Lent,” or any gift you clearly indicate as for the food pantry will go toward this purpose. This also includes giving online at [whlc.org](http://whlc.org), where you will find a line clearly labeled “DMARC Food Pantry.”

**We will also be building a pyramid of peanut butter jars in the narthex. The goal is to make it as large and in the way a possible, so that nobody can miss it. Can you grab an extra jar of peanut butter when you're out doing your grocery shopping? Just leave it on the coffee bar, in the office, or in one of the grocery carts, and we will employ our younger architects, builders, and Lego enthusiasts in the ongoing construction of the tower.**



# A Note from

*Jim  
Cacciatore  
Director of  
Alleluia  
Choir*



Dear Windsor Heights Lutheran Church Congregation,

On Tuesday, February 6, I tendered my resignation as Director of the Alleluia Choir at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church effective at the conclusion of the second service on May 19, 2024 (Music Sunday).

It has been an honor and a privilege to direct the Alleluia Choir and serve the WHLC congregation for the last 26 years. You all have truly been my second family and have been there for me through my times of celebration and my times of grief. I honestly would not have survived a number of my life's lowest points without you all by my side, supporting me. The Alleluia Choir and Windsor Heights Lutheran Church congregation will always have a very special place in my heart.

As I think about my life as a book, the beginning of the end of the current chapter was my wife's illness and passing. In the pages of my life that immediately followed Kathy's death, I committed myself to be a good Papa for my step-grandson. And the recent weddings of my two daughters, the failing health of my elderly parents, and the birth of my granddaughter have been clear signs that the current chapter of my life is ending and another is beginning. The last paragraph on the last page of this chapter is the end of my time as leader of the Alleluia Choir. For 26 years, Windsor Heights Lutheran Church has been the consistent thread in my storyline through multiple chapters. But now it's time to turn the page and begin a new chapter. I am looking forward to having more flexibility in my weekly schedule to be a good Papa, care for my parents, visit my own children (why can't they live closer?), and be a meaningful part of my new granddaughter's life.

I am looking forward to leading the choir over the coming weeks and continuing to enjoy our time together making music and in fellowship with the congregation. I will surely miss working with the choir and engaging with congregation members regularly on Sundays. It is my hope that our personal friendships will continue to be ongoing and long-lasting. But moving forward requires me to finish this chapter and start a new one. Thank you ALL for the irreplaceable role you have played in my story!

With Love And Gratitude,  
Jim Cacciatore, Alleluia Choir Director  
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church



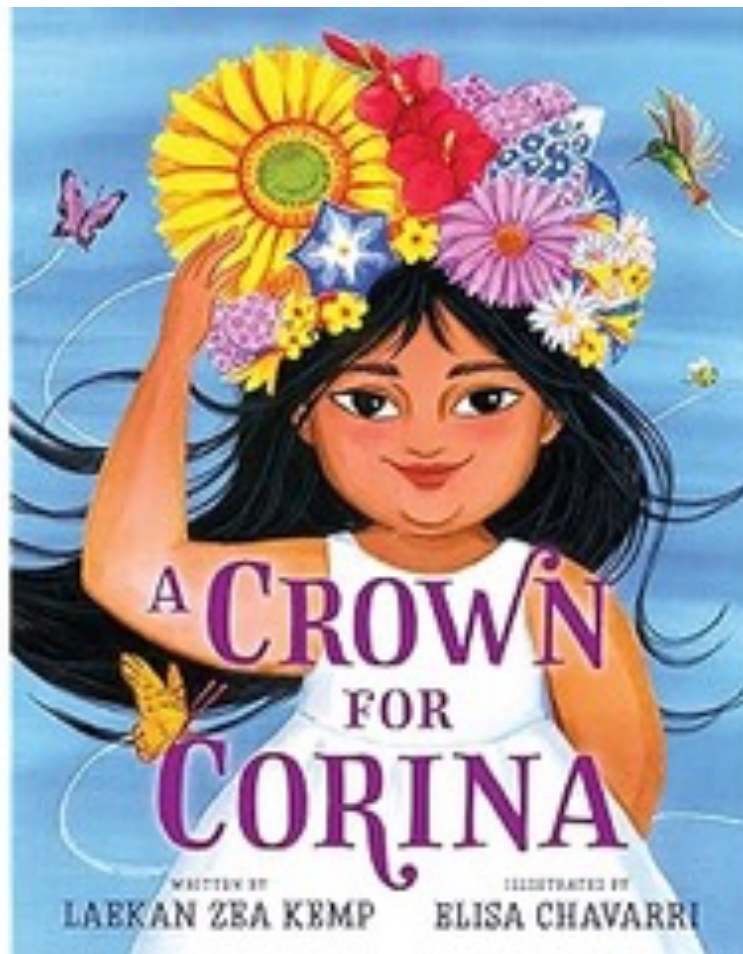


# You Did It! Thank You!



You have helped **Windsor Elementary** reach both their monetary goal and their reader volunteer goal! You, the wonderful members of Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, have provided over \$1,200 to purchase a copy of the book A Crown for Corina for each child. This may be the only new book many of these children have ever received! Each of the books will have a sticker saying the book was donated by WHLC.

And nine members have volunteered to be readers to small groups on March 4. It will be a fun and rewarding event! Thank you! ~Julie Borseth





# WHLC News & Notes



WHLC member Peg Armstrong-Gustafson will be making a special presentation to the Elderberries at our monthly gathering on **Thursday, March**

**7 in Crabtree Parish Hall.** A lifelong champion of the environment and wildlife, as well as a Blank Park Zoo board member, Peg will be accompanied by some of her friends from the zoo and will update us on new and exciting developments at the zoo... and there just may be some animals who come along for the ride! Please plan on joining us with a casserole or side dish for the meal at **11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 7** and for the wildly entertaining presentation that will follow.



WHLC has a wonderful tradition of sending care packages to our college students during finals week twice a year. These packages have been a loving reminder of their church home and much appreciated. Thank you to Jan Grannes and Marilyn Penberthy for coordinating this for many years!

Church council has approved forming a "college care package ministry team" going forward. If this is a project that you feel called to help organize, meet me at church on Sunday, April 7, at 9:30 a.m. during fellowship time in Crabtree Parish Hall to share ideas. When plans are made, further communication will be sent out for ways to support the project.

I am contacting parents of current college students to verify student's information. If you have a college student that we can support during finals, please text or email me: 515-418-0247, [mesteensen@gmail.com](mailto:mesteensen@gmail.com)

Thank you! Maren Steensen

## RIDE NEEDED!



Isabell Wegner lives at Walnut Ridge and is in need of a ride on the two dates below.

**March 5 at 12:15 p.m. to Wolfe Eye Clinic in WDM and back home.**

**March 7 a ride to Elderberries and back home.**

If you could help her, could you please call her at 515-221-4508? Thank you so much!

## Jim and Marile South have a new address:

**Rose Glen at Luther Park  
2808 E. 16th St, Apt 46,  
Des Moines, IA 50316**







# More News & Notes



I awake in the morning in my nice warm bed, in my nice warm house and my first prayers are for those who have no warm bed and no house at all. I am thinking of the refugees in the world and especially of the folks in Ukraine.

My prayers are for their wellbeing and for the brave folks who are there helping them, that they continue to be strong and not give up hope.

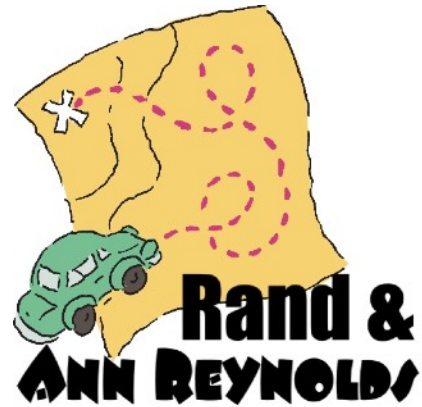
My action is to help with our church's ministry of making quilts. We have a lot of kits at this time if your heart is also concerned with the people who are cold and in need of a warm blanket. The kits make it easy to sew a top. We also need some more folks willing to spend an hour or two helping us tie the quilts on Monday morning. Our little band of five can use more help, for half an hour or more as you have time to spare. We are there from 9:30 to 11:30 Monday morning.

Come and help with this important project.

Jan Grannes, LaVon Heston, Dee Koch, Kathy Safris, and Jeri Spizale



We are now wrapping up our time in Costa Rica and looking forward to returning to the USA. Here is a link to [our blog](#) that includes videos of this beautiful country, with a couple Mr. Bean cameos. We stayed in the hill country, near Naranjo with one 3-day excursion (via public buses) to the Monteverde Cloud Forest. ~Ann & Rand Reynolds



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10! Don't forget to spring forward and change your clocks!

**No Wednesday Night Activities on March 13 due to spring break.**

**No Wednesday Activities on March 27 due to Holy Week.**



**Save the date for VBS!**

**July 8 - July 11, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Check out this awesome VBS video made by Zach!**

<https://vimeo.com/907581529>



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Below is a summary of the results for the General Fund followed by Special Offerings for January 2024:

	January 2024		Year-to-Date		2023 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	26,936	40,000	26,936	40,000	35,439
Other General Fund Income	1,735	1,957	1,735	1,957	711
General Fund Income	28,671	41,957	28,671	41,957	36,150
General Fund Expense	37,533	41,923	37,533	41,923	41,851
General Fund Net Income	(8,862)	34	(8,862)	34	(5,701)
Special Offering Income	90		90		132
Special Offering Expense	350		350		62
Special Offering Net Income	(260)		(260)		70
Total Net Income	(9,122)	34	(9,122)	34	(5,631)

Mortgage Balance	631,840.63
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	233,200.54

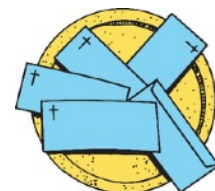
In January Windsor Heights received a second distribution from the Crabtree estate. This distribution of more than \$94,000 is reflected in the Capital Appeal Permanent Fund balance shown above and in February will be used to further reduce the mortgage balance. All gifts made to the Capital Appeal Permanent Fund have allowed us to make significant progress towards paying off the mortgage balance. We are grateful for all who have continued to make occasional gifts as well as ongoing regular gifts. The ministries we can offer as a result of the remodeled and updated building are a blessing to many.

January 2024 General Fund Expenses were \$4,390 below budget. Most of this variance is due to the timing of expense payment vs when the expenses are budgeted. Expenses such as insurance, or non-ELCA benevolence payments are budgeted monthly, but disbursed quarterly, causing variances in monthly financial statements which 'catch up' as the year progresses.

While general offerings for January are significantly below budget, we know that giving patterns are not uniform throughout the year for a variety of reasons. As such, we anticipate general offerings will approach budget levels as 2024 continues. If you are looking for a way to automate your giving, we encourage you to investigate the Simply Giving program which offers the opportunity to have one-time or recurring giving directly to WHLC. You can find a link to this program on the WHLC website.

The Finance Committee actively reviews the financials of WHLC routinely and makes recommendations as appropriate. WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

Please let me know if you have questions.  
Barb Waymire



# Abundant THANKS



Dear WHLC Friends,  
Thank you all for all of  
the prayers, cards, and  
kind words you shared  
regarding the passing of  
my cousin, Steven Christ.  
It meant so much to us!

God's blessings to you all! ~Elaine Hites and  
Max Bridgewater

Thanks  
Many Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks  
Thanks

*I am grateful for all  
the thoughts and  
prayers that I have  
received from  
everyone at WHLC.  
All have helped with  
the healing of my  
knee replacement.  
Blessings to everyone,  
Bonnie Hyda*



Amber Addison,  
TJ Hon, Drew  
Linger, Mike  
Free and Tyler  
Joe Hindley  
walked to Hy-  
Vee on  
University in  
Windsor  
Heights to  
return their pop

cans and bought a jar of peanut butter for our peanut butter  
tower with their pop can money! How wonderful and  
thoughtful is that!? **Thank you, Easter Seals!**

I want to thank this  
caring community for your  
prayers and other  
expressions of support as  
I return to good health.  
God's love has sustained  
me during  
this  
journey. I  
appreciate  
your  
kindness,  
Cheryl  
Rigler





## Just Dropping By



**David Stewart** is now at Luther Park Trinity Center, **Room 218 - a new room! He would LOVE books on CD!** Do you have any that you could lend to him? He would love for you to come visit and drop one or a few off if you have any! 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.

**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 there is 515-978-2757.



**Vivien Wells** is at Sunny View Care Center in Ankeny. Her new address is Sunny View Care Center 410 NW Ash Drive, Room 121L, Ankeny 50023 and phone number of 515-556-3901. She would love to have phone calls and visitors! You might make a reservation with her to visit.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Elaine Hites, Bonnie Hunefeld, Emily Roose
- 2 Naomi Rowland
- 8 Bill Lewis, Dave Logan, Lily Nelson
- 10 Mia Brnilovich, Linda Rye, Mason Ziemke
- 11 Amy Morris
- 12 Erik Carlson
- 13 Tony Dahlman
- 15 Tim Schneekloth
- 16 Bill McGowan, Mary Wegner
- 17 Cash Hennig
- 20 Cindy Petersen, Paul Rye
- 21 Alexis Eakins
- 24 Shirley Foster
- 25 Jordan Eakins, Steve McCracken
- 26 Lori Nicolet, Chris Olkiewicz
- 30 Melissa Krumm

Is your birthday missing? Please let Heidi know and she will get you added!



Young at Heart



*Sending Our*  
**SYMPATHY**



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Linda James. Linda died February 16. No services are planned at this time.*

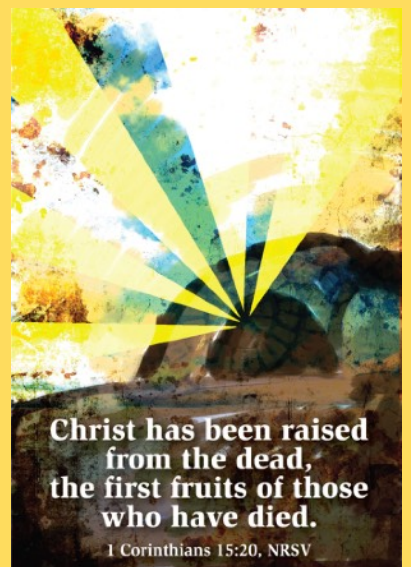
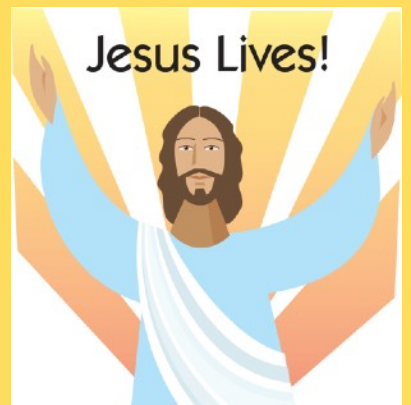
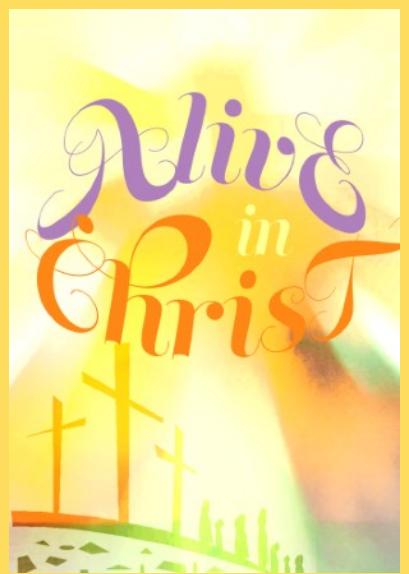
**THE BEATITUDES**

*“Rejoice  
and be glad,  
for your reward  
is great in  
heaven.”*

Matthew 5:12, ESV

†  
He  
is not here;  
he has risen!

Luke 24:6



Hope is Alive

HE IS RISEN

Hallelujah

