

THE WINDOW

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

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2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

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the table BE Young Adult Gathering

Get to Know About the Upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering, and Our Group that Is Going!

You may have noticed, as we prepared for the Easter breakfast these past few weeks, quite a bit of talk about the upcoming ELCA National Youth Gathering. I'm grateful to our pastors and congregants for spreading the word about this event, and how the church has come together to support the group we are sending! You may have heard a bit about why this event is so critical, but with the Gathering being only four months away, we figured it might be a good time to share more information on this powerful event!

Ever since 1988, the ELCA has hosted this large gathering of students from various ELCA churches across not only the U.S., but the entire world. For five days, students come together in the host city to see how they fit into the larger picture of the work God is doing throughout the church. They'll learn about ministries the ELCA is partaking in, hear from different speakers and organizations, explore potential challenges they may face in their faith and in the world, and partake in work that serves the community. It's a mountaintop and life-changing experience for so many, as several previous attendees from WHLC could tell you!

This summer's Gathering will be in New Orleans from July 16-20 (our group will have an extended stay from July 15-21). This will be the third time the event has been hosted in NOLA, but this Gathering might be even more critical than the last one that met there, back in 2012. That's because the Gathering has not gathered together in six years, due to the outbreak of the pandemic back in 2020 and the subsequent fallout. Much has changed in that time, and the young students in our ELCA churches, in many ways, face a very different world compared to what it was even just a few years ago.

With all of that in mind, the Gathering team has adapted, and everyone is super excited to meet again this summer. It'll be such an incredible chance for all these young students to see what they are a part of, and just how much of an important role they play in the ELCA's future! I know our group is really excited to go to this event, and is already exploring the ways their faith will be expanded by this experience.

Speaking of our group, how about we get to know them a little better? We have five students and five adult volunteers (including myself) attending this event, and it's been exciting to watch them all come together. The five students attending, Ryenn and Harper Seifert, Michael and Makenna McNamara and Lucy Eakins are names familiar to most of you, as they're a fixture at worship, Wednesday activities, helping with VBS and so much more. They are an energetic group, and this will be the first time for any of them attending The Gathering!

One aspect I really find cool, and a little unique about our group is that the remaining adult volunteers (apart from myself) are parents of the students attending! Megan Seifert, Stephanie and Matt McNamara, and Amanda Eakins will also be joining us during our week in New Orleans, to experience this week alongside their kids. When I was a student attending the Gathering in '09 and '12, I was fortunate to have my own mom volunteer as an adult leader for the group, and to this day it was such a memorable experience to share with her. While the event is geared towards the students, for the volunteers the week is just as special and moving in so many ways. It's really a blessing to see these families supporting their students by taking this amazing trip together!

The Easter Breakfast we hosted the other week, along with the March Madness Bracket Pool we did, were the first fundraisers we hosted to help raise money for this group to attend the Gathering. We've got a couple of more fundraisers planned for the next few months prior to July, so be on the lookout as our students continue to find fun ways to raise money for this big trip!

WHLC has been very blessed to cover quite a bit of the expenses for each of the students and volunteers attending The Gathering, including the costs of travel, housing and half the cost of everyone's registration. We we're grateful to have quite a bit of funds built up over the past six years to cover this, but as you can imagine, there's still other cost that need to be met, and we are hoping to replenish the current funds we are using so future youth gathering groups can have the same coverage this year's group does! Any monetary donations made out to the Permanent Youth Fund would be so greatly appreciated by our group.

Finally, I just want to take a moment to thank all of you for your support, well wishes, and prayers for this group as we prepare for this amazing week in July! I know it means so much to our students and their families to have so much love and support from this congregation, and we're excited to represent WHLC on this trip. We'll continue to keep all of you up to date as we get closer to the Gathering, and share the many ways in which we are preparing as a group. Again, thank you all for all of your support, we couldn't make this possible without all of you!

Zachary Meyer
Director of Youth and
Family Ministry/
Congregational Life
Coordinator





⌘ FAMILY NEWS!

An April VBS Update

A VBS update, already in April? Well, suffice to say, lots of things are already in motion for this summer's VBS, and there's still so much fun ahead of us as we prepare for this incredible week. 30 kids are already signed up for VBS, and many more figure to be on the way. We're so excited to see many names returning from last year, as well as plenty of new ones in the fold as well. Older students have reached out to us about volunteering, as we're really excited to hear about the support the event is generating! VBS T-shirts have been designed, and we've already started collecting decor to transform the church into a summer camp in the woods!

Of course, there is still plenty of time to sign up your students for VBS, and you can find the link on the church website! We're also still in need of many volunteers to help make this week happen, and anyone can help out at VBS! We can work with flexible schedules and would be grateful and happy for any help we could get. We are also happy to sign-off on silver cord/volunteer cards for students. Contact Zach if you have any interest in volunteering!

This is going to be such a fun week coming up in July, and it's always the highlight of our summer each year. Thank you all for your support of VBS through donations, prayers and just spreading the word! God continues to bless this ministry each year with so much joy, learning and an expanding community. We can't wait for it to get here!

Zachary Meyer
Director of Youth and Family Ministry/Congregational Life Coordinator

WHLC VBS 2024
July 8th - 11th
9:00am - 3:30pm
Info & Registrations at
www.whlc.org

Psalm 56:3
A SUMMER CAMP
ADVENTURE WITH GOD



**VBS DECOR
NEEDED!**

We couldn't be more excited to prep for this awesome week in July! Like previous years, we are going to go all-out with decor; we'll be transforming the church into the ultimate summer camp forest, decorating all three floors to enhance the experience for the students.

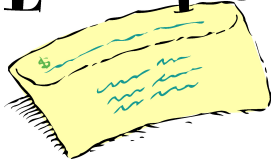
Like previous years, we need your help in collecting supplies to decorate the entire church! This year, we're looking for donations of a couple key items: Camping equipment you don't need anymore (tents, sleeping bags, bug nets, chairs, electric lanterns, etc.), GREEN disposable tablecloths, wooden pallets and cardboard boxes.

We'd gladly take any of these items if you got them!

It'll take us quite some time to decorate the whole church, so be on the lookout for decor starting to spring up here pretty soon!

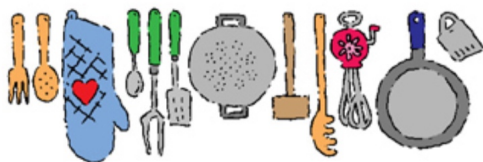
WHLC News & Notes

Offering Envelopes



You can pick up offering envelopes in the narthex. Thank you!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HOST A FUNERAL LUNCH?



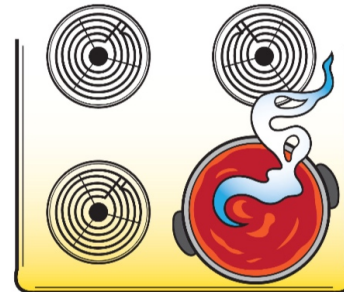
If you have not attended a funeral lunch at WHLC for awhile we would like to share with you what goes on behind the scene!! It took a few days/hours of contacting WHLC members for the three funeral luncheons that were hosted during the Easter season.

In total we served 280 sandwiches (from Hy-Vee), 30 salads, 38 pans of bars and 40 people helped with the set up, serving, cleanup and laundry. Many members volunteer before we even make a call as soon as a funeral is announced.

We have a wide selection of members who enjoy helping. If you have not been contacted to either supply food or help the day of the lunch please contact one of us at church or send us a text.

Thank you, Sharman Blake (515-664-0681) and Linda Anderson (515-491-9242)

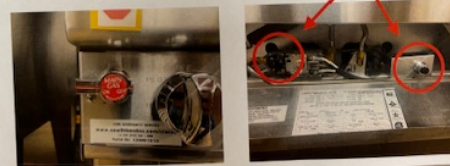
GAS STOVE IN KITCHEN



Please follow these directions that are posted in the kitchen when using the gas stove:

If the gas oven does not turn on...

1. Make sure the switch on the far left side is set to ON (NEVER turn it to OFF)
2. If that doesn't fix the problem, open the panel at the bottom of the oven
3. You'll see a button (that's the pilot light) and a knob (labeled on, off & pilot)
4. Turn the knob to "pilot" while pushing the pilot button to start the oven.
5. If that doesn't fix the problem, please contact the church office



THANK YOU!

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

	February 2024		Year-to-Date		2023 YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering	41,746	40,000	68,681	80,000	90,902
Other General Fund Income	7,629	1,957	9,364	3,914	2,517
General Fund Income	49,375	41,957	78,045	83,914	93,419
General Fund Expense	43,309	41,923	80,841	83,846	80,353
General Fund Net Income	6,066	34	(2,796)	68	13,066
Special Offering Income	1,863		1,953		336
Special Offering Expense	0		350		116
Special Offering Net Income	1,863		1,603		220
Total Net Income	7,929	34	(1,193)	68	13,286

Mortgage Balance	530,853.78
Capital Appeal Permanent Fund Balance	133,474.54

General Offerings in February improved from January, and when combined with interest on a CD that was paid in February, General Fund Income was strong. While year-to-date General Offerings are below Budget, as we have seen in previous years, we expect them to approach budget levels as the year continues.

February 2023 General Fund Expenses were slightly higher than budget, though expenses are less than budget year-to-date and are very consistent with 2023 expenses. This pattern is normal and reflects that the budget expense patterns are level monthly while the payment of expenses varies from month to month on several items such as insurance and benevolence.

The balance of the mortgage is now under \$535,000. Members continue to make offerings to the Capital Appeal Permanent Fund, for this we are truly blessed.

WHLC remains on solid financial footing with working capital sufficient to meet our obligations.

Please let me know if you have questions.
Barb Waymire





It takes a village, and what a family village we have at WHLC!
We would like to thank the following individuals who
graciously offered their assistance to provide a wonderful
luncheon in honor of Keith Eakins.

Food Donations:

Linda Anderson
Cindy Ambroson
Jan Belken
Sharman Blake
Julie Borseth
Inez Boyken
Sue Crum
Dianne Greenfield
Elaine Hites
Carol Huisman
Delores Koch
Dana Leahy
Amy Morris
Carol Popken
Cheryl Rigler
Ann Rowland
Linda Rye
Kathy Safris
Paula Virtue
Barb Waymire
Cheryl Wheeler
Mary Wilke-Adair
Donna Yeager

Set up & Kitchen Helpers:

Linda Anderson
Cindy Ambroson
Sharman Blake
Julie Borseth
Inez Boyken
Quent Boyken
Sue Crum
Dianne Greenfield
Elaine Hites
Zach Meyer
Chuck Safris
Paula Virtue

Laundry:

Sharman Blake
Dianne Greenfield

We are truly a family here at WHLC!
Gratefully, Sharman and Linda

Fellowship Lunch in Memory of Dorothy Meier

A beautiful lunch was held for the family and friends of Dorothy Meier. Her daughter, Janene, (Dennis), from Minneapolis, sons, Joel and Steve, both from Arizona, and three grandsons were in attendance.

Helping with this fellowship were Cindy and John Ambroson, Inez and Quent Boyken, Sue Crum, Linda Fasse, Dianne Greenfield, Dana Leahy, Zach Meyer, Chuck and Kathy Safris, Sharman Blake and Linda Anderson.

We served delicious salads made by Kathy Safris, Amy Morris, Mary Wilke-Adair, Marilyn Warling, Dianne Greenfield, Sue Crum, Cheryl Wheeler, Theresa Harms, Paula Virtue, Inez Boyken, Donna Yeager, and Sandee Myers.

And to top off every lunch is our spread of tasty desserts. They were made by Cindy Ambroson, Georgann Johnson, Carol Popken, Cheryl Rigler, Dana Leahy, Linda Fasse, Jeri Spizale, Maren Steensen, Elaine Hites, Marilyn Penberthy and Gayla Russell.

We cannot have a funeral luncheon without the help of so many of the members of WHLC who volunteer their time and talents.

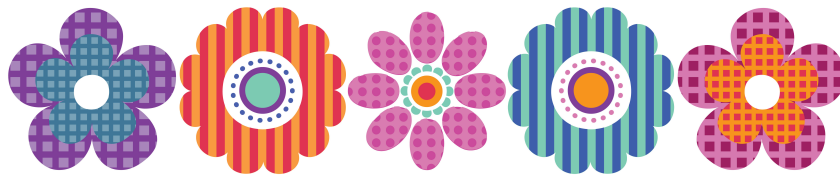
Blessings to each and everyone of you, Sharman Blake and Linda Anderson





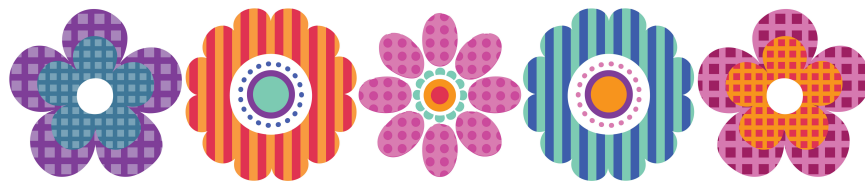
**Sympathy to Edna Eakins and Linda Russell,
as Keith Eakins died Sunday, March 17.**

The funeral was on Friday, March 22 at WHLC.



Sympathy to Ann Stoen and Tracey Hirst on the death of Ron Stoen.

The funeral was at WHLC on Wednesday, March 27.



**Sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy Meier,
who died Saturday, March 9.**

Her funeral was at WHLC Friday, April 5.



- 1 Beth Olkiewicz, Ellen Roose, Taylor Santi
- 4 Ryland Boyken, Dana Leahy
- 5 Ellen Graham
- 6 Julie Borseth, Olivia Charlton, Al Schornack, Megan Seifert
- 7 Marilyn Colby
- 10 Marilyn Warling
- 11 Patrick Baldus
- 12 Henry Fergus
- 16 Gregg Gustafson, Maren Steensen
- 17 Sue Crum, Matthew Eakins, Karen Jansen, Hannah Parker
- 18 Judi McGowan
- 21 Liz Nelson
- 22 Gale Russell
- 23 Debra Goss
- 24 Darrell Klooster, Dorothy Nicolet
- 25 Mike Johnson
- 26 Julie Swanson
- 27 Jan Grannes, Stephanie Opsal
- 30 Linda Lundgren, Bob Prigge

This
Month's
Birthdays



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

WHLC THANK YOU'S

THANKS from the HEART

To my WHLC Family,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, both before and after my surgery. I know they helped in my healing. Thanks to Pastor Chris for his visit and the beautiful prayer shawl he delivered from you ladies who make them. Thanks for all the cards, phone calls and meals that have come, as well. I believe we have the best church family anywhere! Love in Christ, Harriet Lewis

I can't believe I just hit my six week mark following my knee replacement surgery! Because of ALL of your prayers, cards, meals, errands and taking care of me at the recent events at church making sure I "iced my knee"; my road to recovery has gone smoothly. The WHLC family is indeed a blessing not only to me but to many who are facing medical challenges.



May the Easter blessings continue to reach all of you!

Linda Anderson



I wish to thank everyone for the cards and get well wishes. I am doing well at home with exercise and rest.

Your kindness is very much appreciated.
Sincerely, Jan Grannes



Thank you to Dan Goss for cleaning up the pews, sharpening pew pencils and organizing the pew papers/ envelopes. We appreciate you, Dan!