

United in Faith Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

September

| 2026

| www.unitedinfaith.org

A Word from Pastor Sharei

Dear Friends,

As the calendar turns to September, we feel the gentle shift in the air signaling the arrival of fall. Yet after a summer where Chicago's weather felt unpredictable and unusual, this seasonal transition carries a deeper weight. It leaves many of us wondering what to expect, making our observation of the Season of Creation feel all the more potent and urgent as we confront the realities of a changing climate.

Throughout September, our theme will be Living Water. Together, we'll explore the sacred gift of creation, our call to faithful stewardship, and how God's grace flows through our lives like a refreshing stream—sustained by Christ's living water even in changing times.

cont.

Looking ahead, our calendar for the rest of the year is full of opportunities to put our faith into action and grow together:

- September: Season of Creation: Living Water worship series and God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, where we put our love for neighbor into practice.
- October: A new worship series titled From Mercy to Justice: Why Kindness Isn't Enough to Heal Broken Systems, featuring guest speakers from our partner organizations.
- November & December: Entering Advent with a collaborative series alongside other congregations titled Concentric Hope: Advent Circles of Joy and Sorrow.

In the midst of shifting seasons and uncertain weather, I pray you find dynamic hope in our worship and warmth in our community. Thank you for all the ways you bring faith, energy, and courage to United in Faith.

Peace,
Pastor Sharei

Girl Scouts at United in Faith

Hello everyone! We've had the summer off and are just about ready for another year of Girl Scouts!

Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 8th**. The Daisies & Brownies start at 6pm, and the Juniors, Cadettes, & Ambassador start at 7pm.

We have room for more girls in all of our troops — so if you know of any girls in the neighborhood looking to join a Girl Scout troop, please send them our way!

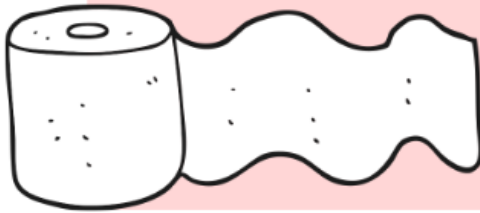
We have plans set for camping twice this year, Zoo Lights at one of the zoos, and service projects.

~ Janeen, Sharon, Catherine,
Michelle & Colleen

St. Cyprian's Non-food Monthly Donations: September 2026 — Toilet Paper

The Justice Ministry encourages UIF members to donate a highlighted item

each month. The food pantry only has funding for food items and clients still need to stretch their dollars to cover both food and all those daily necessities. This month we are asking for toilet paper. A donation box is available as you come in the back door, just at the end of the ramp.



Thank you to all who contributed diapers during August!



FAITHFUL LISTENING BOLD PROCLAMATION

interactive workshops for preachers and proclaimers
lay and rostered leaders



3
workshops



6pm CST
on Zoom



Thursdays
9/24 10/1 10/8

WORKSHOP THEMES

Week 1: Community (2hrs)

- How we relate to community.
- Self-care as Community Practice.
- Meaningful conversations.

Week 2: Gospel (1.5 hrs)

- The Gospel as narratives of oppressed communities.
- Lamentation.
- Communal proclamation.

Week 3: Kin-Dom (2 hrs)

- What is Kin-Dom?
- Prophets and proclamation.
- Creating Together.

FACILITATOR SHAREI GREEN

Sharei (she/her) is a Womanist theologian ordained minister of the ELCA. Sitting at the intersection of fat, Black, femme and queer, Sharei has committed herself to creating spaces of community healing and sabbath, especially for Black women/ femmes and all their intersections. She is the co-author of *God's Holy Darkness*, a children's book that deconstructs anti-Blackness in Christian theology by celebrating instances in the story of God's people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good, and holy.

REGISTER HERE

ATTEND ANY OR ALL SESSIONS

Workshops will be interactive, including small groups and discussions.





As we settle back into our autumn routines, we invite you to join us for a special afternoon of fellowship, creativity, and service on **September 13** – **God's Work, Our Hands**

After worship, we'll gather as a congregation — and as part of the larger ELCA community — to live out God's Work, Our Hands by creating fun and useful Bingo prizes for our neighbors at Central Baptist Village.

On September 13, we'll share lunch and fellowship together, then spend the afternoon putting our hands to work making fleece lap blankets and shawls, decorated journals, and other simple gifts.

But the greatest gift won't be the items we make—it will be our presence and participation. In October, we'll gather at Central

cont.

Baptist Village for an afternoon of Bingo with the residents. The date will be announced in mid-September. What a wonderful opportunity to share laughter, build relationships, and remind our neighbors that they are cared for and remembered!

There are many ways to participate!

Watch for sign-up sheets and contribute as you are able. You can:

- Bring a side dish, drink, or dessert for our lunch.
- Provide fleece fabric (fabric width × 1 yard for blankets or fabric width × $\frac{3}{4}$ yard for shawls).
- Help create the gifts and prizes on September 13.
- Join us for the Bingo afternoon at Central Baptist Village in October.

Whether you bring food, fabric, creativity, or simply yourself, you have a part to play.

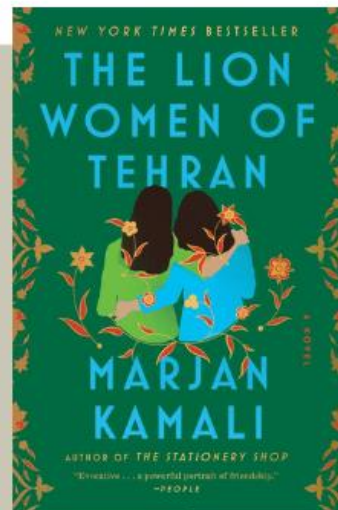
After a hot and hectic summer, September gives us a wonderful chance to reconnect with one another, strengthen our fellowship, and reach beyond our church walls to connect with our neighbors. Come enjoy a meal, share some laughter, put your hands to work, and make a difference!

We hope to see you all on September 13 for God's Work, Our Hands!

Book Club

Join in the discussion of *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali on Saturday, September 19 at 10:00.

Read the heartfelt, epic novel of friendship, betrayal, and redemption set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran.





**Autumn
FEST**
AT LOMC

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10,
2026**
10AM – 3PM

Activities

-  **PUMPKIN CARVING**
-  **CIDER PRESSING**
-  **WAGON RIDES**
- and so*
MUCH MORE!

 **LUNCH**
11AM – 1PM

 **WORSHIP**
3PM

*Bring your family and friends and join us
for a day of fall fun, food, and fellowship!*



Invitation to lead in worship

We are in need of greeters / ushers, readers & communion assistants. If you are feeling called to lead in worship, a sign up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall.

If you would like more info before signing up, please talk to Pastor Sharei.



September birthdays

Ray M	September 1
Peter H	September 4
Dave Q	September 4
Marty D	September 6
Gretchen Q	September 6
Ellen D	September 7
Jeanne R	September 8
Jacob K	September 17
Pam M	September 19
Loreen OS	September 28

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	31	1	2	3	4 6:30pm AA	5 9:30am AI-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
6 10:00am Season of Creation — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	7	8 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	9	10	11 6:30pm AA	12 9:30am AI-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
13 10:00am Season of Creation — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	14	15 10:00am Justice Meeting 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	16	17	18 6:30pm AA	19 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am Book Club 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
20 10:00am Season of Creation — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	21	22 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	23	24	25 6:30pm AA	26 9:30am AI-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
27 10:00am Season of Creation — Worship in person & livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	28	29	30	1	2 6:30pm AA	3 9:30am AI-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org



TO BE GOD'S HANDS, FEET
AND VOICE IN THE WORLD.



[View email in browser](#)

United in Faith Lutheran Church · 6525 W Irving Park Rd · Chicago, IL 60634-2416 · USA

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)