

August  
2025

# United in Faith News

# AUGUST



*Why are we  
Here?  
We are to be  
God's  
hands,  
feet and  
voice  
in the  
world.*



Love your neighbor.  
Seek justice, love kindness, walk humbly.  
Be the church.  
Be God's hands and feet and voice in the world.

These are the mantras of United in Faith this summer—the things we repeat to orient our hearts and guide our actions. There's a lot of noise out there. Static designed to distract us, confuse us, even divide us. Voices that suggest the Gospel is outdated or naïve. Agendas that say some lives matter more than others. Narratives that imply Jesus didn't really mean it when he said: "Love your enemies." "Blessed are the peacemakers." "The last shall be first."

So, as a church, we return to the text. We return to Jesus' own words in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... Whatever you did for one of the least of these siblings of mine, you did for me."

These are not poetic metaphors. They're marching orders. A call to see Christ in the face of every person—especially the ones our culture would rather ignore. Especially the ones we're told don't belong.

Because we read this text, because this book lights our path, we know the truth:  
**No one is expendable. No one is disposable.**

And we remember that "those people" aren't separate from us. They are us. And Jesus is in our midst.

Maya Angelou once said, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time." Jesus has shown us who he is—a healer, a teacher, a challenger of systems, a lover of the least, and the embodiment of love itself. And our faith reminds us who we are: the Body of Christ still alive and active in the world.

At United in Faith, we've long determined that our community will be known as "God's hands and feet and voice in the world."

So even as the static gets louder, and the world pulls us in every direction, we will keep showing up.

We will keep loving.  
We will keep listening.  
We will keep being the church.  
With faith and courage,

**Pastor Jeanie**

At  
United in Faith,  
The Guiding  
Principles are:

+

Jesus is  
Lord and  
*Savior*

+

Reflect  
God's *Love*

+

Pray and  
*listen* for God's  
guidance

+

Continue to  
strengthen  
*faith*

+

Include *All*  
in God's  
*work*

+

Meet people  
*where they  
are*

**Summer is in full swing so now is the time to help support local farmers and purchase fresh and tasty produce by visiting a nearby Farmers Market. Here is a list of some nearby Farmers Markets for your convenience.**

Horner Park Farmers Market  
2741 W Montrose  
Sundays 7 am - 2 pm  
June 7 thru Oct 25  
(Free yoga at 10 am)

Logan Square Farmers Market  
Kedzie between Logan Blvd & Fullerton  
Sundays 8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
May 11 thru Oct 26

Roscoe Village (Hamlin Park)  
3035 N Hoyne  
Sundays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
June 8 thru Oct 26

Independence Park  
3945 N Springfield  
2nd and 4 Sundays  
June 8 thru Oct 26

Portage Park/Jefferson Park  
4100 N Long  
Sundays 10 am - 2 pm  
June 8 thru Oct 26

Eli's Cheesecake Factory  
6701 W Forest Preserve Dr  
Thursdays 7 am - 1:00pm  
June 13 thru Aug 29  
(Complimentary breakfast 8 to 10 am  
with \$10 purchase)

Park Ridge Farmers Market  
15 Prairie Ave  
Park Ridge  
Saturdays 7:00 am thru 1:00 pm  
Thru end of Oct

Oak Park Farmers Market  
460 Lake St  
Saturdays 7 am thru- 1 pm  
May 17 thru Oct 25  
(Don't miss delicious fresh made donuts)

Note: Link cards accepted at most of these markets and be sure to visit the Snap/Link booth, they will match your purchases dollar for dollar up to \$25 per swipe.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL...**

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the summer! **The Food Pantry** is hoping to once again assist our client families with school aged children to get some school supplies for the coming year. Helpful items would be: #2 pencils, blue or black pens, 24 count boxes of Crayola crayons, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, folders with pockets, glue sticks, rulers and scissors. Plain colored backpacks are always wonderful too! School supplies are already out in stores as school starts in August now. School supply lists can easily reach \$100 when you factor in everything, so it really is appreciated if we can help families stretch their funds a little with some of the basic items that are needed. **THANK YOU ALL!**

# CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD

There Is No Second Nature

-The Nature Conservancy [nature.org](http://nature.org)

## HELP WANTED

*Volunteers  
Needed*



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Seeking worship leadership volunteers (Door Usher/Greeter, Assisting Minister). The Door Usher/Greeter will hand out bulletins and invite people to sign in. The Assisting Minister will read the lessons and lead the prayers (Sundays & Seasons prayers are available for use if desired).

Also seeking: counters (usually on a weekday, 1-2 times a month), communion set up people (need is weekly, could offer a volunteer rotation) and coffee hour server.

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE CLIPBOARD ON THE TABLE OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY!!**

## FOCUS ON HUNGER & DISASTER RELIEF: IN WHAT WAYS WILL YOU SERVE?



When the dust settles & headlines change, we - as Lutheran Christians through **Lutheran Disaster Response** and with our trusted partners - stay to provide **ongoing assistance & hope** to those in need of continuing aid.



**ELCA World Hunger**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Your Gifts to ELCA World Hunger help our church creatively and courageously find solutions to **Hunger** and **Poverty** in over 60 countries and the United States. Together, we work towards a just world where all are fed.



**Will you help with your gift today?**

**GIVE** online at [elca.org/Donate](http://elca.org/Donate)

**Learn ways to ADVOCATE**

**GIVE** by phone at **800-638-3522**

at [elca.org/advocacy](http://elca.org/advocacy)

**GIVE** by mail with a stamp to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

## United in Faith Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report – June, 2025

Six Months  
Ended  
06/30/25

Unrestricted:

Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 57,200
Expenditures	<u>155,140</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	\$ (97,940)
Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 16,234
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ (81,706)

Educational Endowment:

Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 17,733
Scholarships paid out	<u>(12,000)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ 5,733

Harriet Kurz Endowment:

Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	\$ 34,460
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ <u>34,460</u>
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	\$ 41,513

Comments:

2025 income from church operations excluding Special Gifts is lower than spending by \$14,111 in June and lower by \$99,909 YTD.

Income includes \$1,969 in Special Estate gifts from:

Anita Perske - \$1,439 in January 2025

Anita Perske - \$ 530 in March 2025

Investments returned a gain of \$33,626 for June & a gain of \$50,694 YTD.

Educational Investments returned a gain \$11,249 for June & a gain of \$17,733 YTD.

Total expenses for June are favorable to budget by \$5,244 for June and are favorable to budget by \$17,140 YTD due to the Salaries YTD costs being lower than budget by \$7,361; the Ministry YTD costs being \$567 lower than budget; the Administrative YTD costs being \$77 higher than budget, the YTD Building costs being higher than budget by \$4,145; & the Ministry Directors' YTD costs being lower than budget by \$13,434.

## Book Club: The Serviceberry, August 9, 2025, 10am

What is a Serviceberry? It is a bush or shrub with edible purple berries that come in nine varieties. The author of this book, Robin Wall Kimmerer, is a Native American botanist and professor, who uses this lesser known berry to explain the gifts of plants and how to receive them.

The Serviceberry, argues that we should move away from an economy and life built around exploiting the natural world to a gift economy based on mutual flourishing and gratitude. The serviceberry is a common tree and is an example of how one plant provides nourishment for people, deer and for birds who spread serviceberry seeds, while the trees sustain bees who pollinate their flowers and microorganisms around its roots.

Plants have a delicate relationship with their surroundings. We can learn a lot from plants, and we should show our thanks for their gifts to us. She suggests to us a more generous and gracious way of life and thinking.

This book, published in 2025, is 128 pages and includes lovely illustrations. (Kimmerer's Braiding Sweetgrass is a larger work and highly recommended reading.) Please join the book club for an interesting discussion with many life lessons from plants that relate to many facets of modern life.

Sponsored by the UIF Justice Ministry, All Are Welcome!

## HELP NEEDED FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILY...

Can you please help with school supplies for the Venezuelan family that we have been supported through Shepherd's Heart. Please see the list below for suggestions. Must have items by August 15. Thank you.

### Kindergarten Supply List

- 1 **Plastic** pencil box - Standard Size: 8.75" x 6" x 1.75" (write name on it- no zipper pouches)
  - *Needs to include: 4 sharpened Ticonderoga pencils, 1 eraser, 1 box of Crayola crayons, 2 glue sticks, and 1 Fiskar scissors (In the pencil box)*
- 3 additional boxes- 24 count Crayola crayons (1 box-for each Quarter)
- 1 pack of Crayola markers (name on box)
- 1 \*NEW\* Primary journal with space on top for pictures (no spiral notebooks- write name)
- 1 RED 2 Pocket Vinyl/Plastic durable folder with **three prongs** (write name)
- 6-8 ct. or more Elmer's Glue Sticks
- 1-Pack Ticonderoga pencils (pre sharpened)
- 1 -8 Pack Expo (BLACK ONLY) dry-erase markers
- 1 sock any color (to use as eraser for dry-erase boards)
- 1 Watercolor Crayola paint set (write name)
- 1 PlayDoh pack (PlayDoh Brand)
- 1 Headphone set - label with child's name. Take out of the packaging!
  - *No Bluetooth or earbuds (any corded style that is comfortable for your child - labeled and in a Ziplock bag) Please make sure they fit!*

## SEASON OF CREATION – Sundays in September 2025

As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. This global celebration began in 1989 with the Ecumenical Patriarchate's recognition of the Day of Prayer for Creation and is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community.

We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with the creation's wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the sisters and brothers who share it.

This year, we share special Sundays that focus on :

September 7 - PRAY

September 14 - LEARN

September 21– ACT

September 28 - ADVOCATE

October 5—BLESS



We will also share an outdoor Pet Blessing service on Sat., October 7th at 3:00 pm, as part of UIF commemorating the Season of Creation.

## NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

Please join us for our regularly scheduled, in person, monthly NLOB Work Day this Saturday, August 2, 2025 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at United in Faith Lutheran Church located at 6525 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. Parking is available in the lot behind the church building.

Please note, we CANNOT accept straight plastic bag donations as we do not have the capacity to store them.

REMAINING NLOB WORK DAYS IN 2025:

1st Saturday of the EVEN months from 10am to 12pm

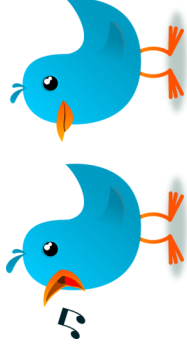
- Saturday, October 4, 2025
- Saturday, December 6, 2025



August 7 Jeaninne Kosner  
August 11 Cathy Downing-King  
August 26 Kenneth Ricker  
August 28 Patrick O'Donnell  
August 30 Ardelle Wray  
Karine Kuswik



# AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>4</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group 7:00pm Worship Planning	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>8</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>9</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am Book Club 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>11</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Ministry Directors via Zoom	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>15</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>16</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>18</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>22</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>23</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>25</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>29</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>30</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>31</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am Forum/Pot Luck						

## August



## Worship Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
10:00 am

### **AUGUST 3**

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour  
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

### **AUGUST 10**

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour  
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

### **AUGUST 17**

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour  
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

### **AUGUST 24**

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour  
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

### **AUGUST 31**

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour  
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6525 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60634



**Rev. Jeanine Reardon**

Pastor

Email: [pastor@unitedinfaith.org](mailto:pastor@unitedinfaith.org)

Phone: **773.283.2326**

**Jeanne Rice**, Church Administrator

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