



Always being made New.

**Annual Report of the
Congregation**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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January 2018

Dear Members of United in Faith Lutheran Church,

The **United in Faith Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, February 25th, 2018, at 10:30 AM.** Please note, there will be one service at 9:30 AM. The meeting will immediately follow the service and a potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

Please *review the Annual Report* before the meeting so you are familiar with its contents. The Annual Report can be found on our website at www.UnitedInFaith.org under **Newsletter and Documents**. There will also be a limited number of Annual Reports available for pick-up in the Church Office. The Annual Report will not be mailed; however, you may *reserve a report* by calling the Church office at 773-283-2326 or emailing UIFAdmin@UnitedInFaith.org.

Please also review the enclosed information about proposed changes to the Constitution that will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting. *You must be present to vote.*

The 2017 Audit Report will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for all your work this past year. Your efforts are essential in supporting and fulfilling the purpose and principles of United in Faith Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Jewell".

Jeff Jewell, President
UIF Congregational Council

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**UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018
AGENDA**

- I. Meeting Called To Order
- II. Council VP: Physically count and Establish a Quorum
Count provided to Church Secretary for inclusion in minutes
Members Must Be Present To Vote!
- III. Devotions: **Pastor Carla**
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Approval of the February 26, 2017 Annual Meeting
- VI. Council President's Report to Congregation
- VII. Pastor's Report to Congregation
- VIII. Approval of the 2017 Audit Report
- IX. 2017 Treasurer's Report
- X. Approval of the 2018 Congregational Budget
- XI. Approval of Constitutional Revisions
- XII. Committee Reports
- XIII. Ministry Reports
- XIV. Nominating Committee:
 - A. Elections to Church Council
 - B. Representatives to the 2018 Synod Assembly
 - C. 2018 Nominating Committee
- XV. Old Business
- XVI. New Business
- XVII. Motion to Adjourn
- XVIII. Closing Prayer: **Pastor Carla**

*Congregational Council will meet following the conclusion of the Congregational Meeting
in the Resource Room for the Election of 2018 Congregational Council Officers.
Results will be announced and included in next month's newsletter.*

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
United in Faith Lutheran Church
February 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:31AM.

Quorum: A quorum of 57 voting members was established.

Devotions: Pr. Carla Thompson Powell.

“You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ.” We have what we need and are strong as we are. Encouraged members to compliment one another on our contributions to the church community.

Agenda: Joe Childress moved to accept the agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes: Annette Cameron moved to accept the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Council President’s Report: In packet. Annette Cameron moved to accept the report.. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: In packet. Annette Cameron moved to accept the report. Motion carried.

Auditor’s Report: Annette Cameron moved to accept the report as printed. Motion carried.

2016 Treasurer’s Report: Given by Ray Good. The report is in the packet pages 10-13. Finance and treasury is a team effort. Unrestricted income was 158,200. Weekly giving up by \$4800. Total \$229,300, which is 33,000 under budget. Administration was under budget in supplies. Plus copy machine and phone contracts helped keep costs down. Building costs for the year are under budget. New heating units will be needed soon. We received \$11,000.00 in special gifts plus \$21,000 toward a new organ. Investments were up by 17,500. Gain in educational fund as well. Net assets of the church increased by \$60,000.00.

Annette Cameron moved to accept the report for audit. Motion Carried.

2017 Budget: The budget was presented by Ray Good and put together by George Shultz. The budget was approved by the Church Council for consideration and approval.

The budget will remain the same as 2016. The budget includes additional expenses for maintenance and concerns for heating units. They will need to be replaced in the future, but probably not in 2017. The budget for outside musicians remains the same.

We are still budgeting to spend more than we take in and continue to rely on investment income, however, this does not always fill in the blanks.

Questions: Why are we not budgeting for new heating units? We are desperately in need of new units. 1 unit is over 30 years old.

Answer: The assumption is that a fundraiser would be needed to fund this scenario. It is not included in the operating budget, but we would explore other options should we need to fund it.

Question: Capital Appeals receipt and we got \$10,000.00 back. Where does that money go?

Answer: It goes back into the general fund to cover the possibility of going over budget. The finance committee is going to consider a fund for this money and what is going on with it.

Dave Quillin moved to accept the budget as is. Motion carried.

Annette Cameron moved to accept the committee and ministry reports both included in the annual meeting packet. Motion carried.

Dian Hoyem presented the Nominating Committee report.

Candidates for Synod Assembly Representatives (2 positions for 1 year term) are Janine Devine and Marty Devine. There were no nominations from the floor. Dennis Vogel declared nomination closed. Rich Guzik moved that the nominated slate becomes the elected slate. Annette Cameron Seconded. Motion carried.

Candidates for alternates to the Synod Assembly are Ray Good and Jackie Good. There were no nominations from the floor. Dennis Vogel moved to closed nominations. Motion carried. Dave Quillin moved that the nominated slate become the elected slate. Motion carried.

Candidates for the nominating committee are Dennis Vogel, Richard Guzik, and Elizabeth Wittman. There were no nominations from the floor. Dennis Vogel moved to close nominations. Motion carried. Richard Guzik moved that the nominated slate become the elected slate. Motion Carried.

Candidates for council were presented. There are 4 positions open on the Council for a 2 year term from 2017-2019. Candidates are Dave Quillin, Nancy Cieko, Tricia Dombroski, Lys Shradeja, Diane Hoyem and Pam Marino. There were no nominations from the floor. Dennis Vogel moved to close nominations. Motion carried.

Rich Guzik, Mickey Bligh, and Denise Boyer passed out and collected the ballots.

Dennis Vogel motioned for the ballots to be closed. Motion carried.

Denise Boyer, Mickey Bligh, and Dawn Kuswik provided the count for the teller's report.

Tellers Report

Number of Votes Cast: 57

Necessary for Decision: 30

Nancy Cieko Received: 52

Tricia Dombroski Received: 47

Pam Marino Received: 41

Dave Quillin received: 40

Dian Hoyem Received: 27

Lys Shradeja Received: 10

2 ballots were rejected because the number of candidates voted for exceeded the amount of open positions.

Based on the report from the counters, Dian Hoyem announced the following candidates elected to council: Nancy Cieko, Tricia Dombroski, Pam Marino and Dave Quillin

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor Carla:

1) We need to edit our constitution to realistically reflect what we are actually doing. We also may need to make it modeled more closely after the ELCA modeled constitution. Richard Guzik and Jeff Jewell have already volunteered to help. We are hoping to have purposed changes to present by September or October.

2) Our Sunday School room needs some rehabilitation. We need people to help with ideas to help us decorate the room and make it kid friendly.

Lys Shrajeda requested donations for Operation Christmas Child.

Food Pantry- Bonnie reported that they need canned hams and fixings for Easter Dinner. The list is in the newsletter. We need empty baskets, small toys and candy for the Easter Baskets. April 9th is a good day to bring donations and ham. We need volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Joe Childress moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Dombroski, Council Member

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Pastoral Annual Meeting Report – 2018

(Covering the Year 2017)

Ephesians 1:15-19 *“I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.”*

During 2017, we worked together on important efforts, studies, and opportunities. Every year, we strive to live even more fully into our call to be “God’s hands, feet, and voice in the world!” I am grateful to serve as your pastor and to strive to live out that call together. When people say, “So how do you like serving at this church?” I usually respond, “I’m having so much fun!” That’s so true – I love the opportunities for service, work, learning, and care that we engage in together. I love hearing the hearts of UIF’s people turned outward toward our neighbors. I love watching the interaction between different generations and different types of people. I love seeing how people learn from each other (especially when learning from those very different from themselves).

This year, we welcomed two new UIF members through baptism: Grace Jewell and Emilia San Miguel. I performed two weddings: one at UIF of former member Danny Barnett (who wed HongRui Guo) and one in Evanston of NLOB volunteer Chrissy Batorski (who wed Steve Peacock). We didn’t have any confirmands, and we didn’t welcome any new members through Affirmation of Baptism. During 2017, there were a number of UIF members who passed away: Lillian Bjork, Laurel Kenneally, Millie Halla, Joe Beckie, Adeline Demski, Marion Senf, Harriet Kurz. For some it followed a long illness, for others it seemed like a surprise. As usual, United in Faith came together to honor those who had passed in whatever way they could (sometimes a funeral home service, sometimes graveside, sometimes a memorial service, sometimes a meal).

During January 2017, Darryl and I were able to take a trip to the Holy Land through Good Shepherd Travel’s familiarization trip program. We shared some of our memories and experiences in two different presentations – one at United in Faith in March, and one at Mather More Than a Café (on Central) in October.

This year, I engaged with area community organizations, where I often have the opportunity to share with others the great work that is happening at United in Faith. About every two months, I attend the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce meetings, which has been a great way to introduce myself and make connections with business people in the area. In May, Joyce Csapo invited me to come speak to the Germania Club. I spent some time introducing myself and speaking about United in Faith, but I also spent some time sharing about a few notable women in the Reformation movement. In the fall, the Portage Park Village Interdependent Collaborative formed, overseen by the city’s Department on Aging. They plan to have regular meetings to start collaborating on ways to make sure this area’s seniors do not fall through the cracks with the help and care they receive. In December, I was invited to be one of the guest speakers for the Ministry in Context class at LSTC in Hyde Park, on the topic of Systems in Congregational Life.

We honored the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation throughout the year of 2017. In Lent, we centered our mid-week worship service on Martin Luther's Small Catechism (March & April). In October, we had a Reformation 500 book fair, at which a number of Reformation-focused books were available for purchase at a significant discount. We celebrated Reformation Sunday with a variety of special worship music from many different global Lutheran musical traditions. We challenged ourselves to do Acts of Kindness during the year as a way of honoring our commitment to making a difference in the world (a door was displayed for a few months as members added post-its to name each "act of kindness").

When our west building HVAC unit had to be replaced immediately, we got to work raising funds to cover the cost of that HVAC system. We nearly tuckered ourselves out with Fundraising Events throughout 2017, but by the end of the year, we raised approximately \$20,000 toward the cost of \$24,000. This is a massive feat for a small congregation, and even more impressive after having raised \$29,000 toward the organ in the prior calendar year. Good work, dear friends!

Study opportunities abounded in 2017, with different themes of prayer, spirituality, and justice. During April, a few of us met on Wednesdays and studied an ELCA "Faith, Sexism, Justice" study as a way of preparing for the development of a social statement on women and justice. In May and June between services, we looked at Julie Aageson's book Benedictions as we contemplated how so many things around us were holy if we paid close enough attention. We discussed Anne Lamott's book about prayer called Help Thanks Wow on Sundays in November.

Besides the large number of UIF members who regularly volunteer at St. Cyprian's Food Pantry, a number of volunteer opportunities gave kids and adults the chance to work with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Feed My Starving Children. A group of 15 members and friends gathered at the GCFD to help pack beans into smaller bags to be distributed to individual families. Approximately 10 UIF members and friends walked in the GCFD Hunger Walk in September along with St. Cyprian's Food Pantry walking group. A group of 15 members and friends also gathered at the Feed My Starving Children warehouse in Schaumburg to make food packs (highly nutritious and easy to fix meals to be shipped around the world). The great benefit of the FMSC volunteer day is that children as young as 5 can volunteer there.

During the summer, a few of us came together to plan out what would be needed for a Sunday School room renovation. A volunteer crew of painters (with a large number of teens!) prepped and painted the room. A carpet was bought in memory of Bob Wilk. A mural ("Our Hands Can Help") was designed, sketched, and painted by Jeanne Schira and her daughters, Jane and Judi. Sitting pillows were made by Janeen Devine and donated by a few others. Katie and Tricia worked on scaling back the supplies stored in the room (and moved some VBS materials to another storage area). What a beautiful collaboration this became! We also have a devoted group of Sunday school teachers who rotate teaching those younger disciples in that newly renovated room.

In fall 2017, three *Ministry in Context* students from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) began serving at United in Faith: Liz, Aaron, & Ruby. They began on Fall Kick-Off Day (Rally Day), have preached several times already, and have been familiarizing themselves with the people and the pace at United in Faith. In the new year, you will hear about their MIC Projects – each one of them will do a different project, seeking your input and participation. Details to come! Their MIC studies continue here through May, and all three of them expect to start Pastoral Internship at some point after that date (often a full-time, one-year immersion into congregational life and work – each of our MIC students may end up in a different variation on that – ask them about it if you are interested!).

Some of the bibliophiles in the congregation have been wishing and hoping for a **Little Free Library** box at our building. In 2017, we made this a reality. *Boy Scout Troop* 166 built the box and stand, *Girl Scout Troops* 20328 & 20528 painted the box and stand, and United in Faith members Joe & Denny installed the box and stand in December. Our first box was in front, because we hope people might pick a book up on the way to their bus stop on Irving Park! We plan to add another box in the back parking lot courtyard area (to be more accessible to those who come to the food pantry or scouting events). The Little Free Library has the motto: Take a book, leave a book. The books are always available for free anytime. Once you finish a book, you can return it or give it away to someone else. If you have books to donate, please bring them to church and add them to the box (or leave them in the office if the book box is full).

In November 2017, a group of council members and other congregational leaders gathered for a *Disaster Preparedness Workshop*. We were all struck by the fact that simple disaster preparedness isn't as hard as you think, but it does take planning and forethought. I hope that we will be able to put some of these suggestions into place here at UIF.

One of our most ambitious projects for 2017 will continue on in 2018. As a way of honoring our 20th congregational anniversary, we decided to put on twenty community projects. We've called them **20For20**. The plan: use some of our congregational money and energy and people power to bless community organizations and events in the wider neighborhood. Our thought was to have these projects occur throughout the year surrounding our 20th anniversary (roughly September 2017-October 2018). We hosted a Lifesource Blood Drive. We hosted a Reformation 500 book fair at Bethesda Senior Care, and we donated \$100 of books to their on-site library. We co-sponsored a Veterans Salute event at the Austin-Irving Chicago Public Library with the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce and the local American Legion post. We purchased food from Jimmy John's for a NorthWest Side Housing Center anniversary fundraiser, then donating the sandwiches to a lunch for the volunteers at St. Cyprian's Food Pantry.

Our fifth 20For20 event is scheduled for February 10, 2018. Join us for the Faith In Place Indoor Winter Farmers Market. We still have an ambitious plan to complete 15 more before the end of October 2018. Do you have ideas for other organizations, projects, or places we might engage? What community agencies touch your heart? Where do you hope to see us leave a legacy of blessing and support?

In addition to the enjoyable work I do at UIF, I also volunteer with several other organizations. I have recently started serving as an adult literacy tutor at District 214's Read to Learn weekly program. I am currently the president of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center board (LOMC is located in Oregon, IL). I serve as a member of the Professional Advisory Group for Advocate Christ Hospital's CPE program and as a member of the Advocate (system-wide) CPE Professional Consultation Committee.

I decided to include in my report a list of Continuing Education events that I participated in the last year, because I think it is vitally important that all disciples of Jesus are constantly learning and growing. This year, I took a week long class at Luther Seminary on Ministry & Science: Mental Health and Disabilities. I participated in a WomenPreach! Preaching weekend workshop in March. In April, I attended a workshop at the Metro Chicago synod by Partners for Sacred Spaces. Elderwerks offers a number of relevant continuing ed events, and this year I attended a couple (Hoarding and the Law & Types of Dementia). I was only able to attend one day of LSTC's Leadership Conference, which focused this year on "Public Leaders, Public Church."

Darryl and I also attended the “first-ever” ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta in August.

I give thanks to God for all the ways in which we serve, learn, and grow together, now and in the days/months/years ahead. May God grant you each with grace upon grace now and in the future.

With sincere hopes for peace,

Pastor Carla Thompson Powell

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Treasurer's Report 2017

	2017 Annual Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD % to Budget
<u>Unrestricted:</u>			
Income (excluding investment activity)			
From church operations	\$ 163,600	\$ 149,500	91%
Capital appeal (Building Fund)	12,000	7,125	59%
Total	\$ 175,600	\$ 156,625	89%
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Salaries and benefits	\$ 112,634	\$ 110,422	98%
Ministry	3,500	2,938	84%
Administration	29,530	24,402	83%
Building	73,460	47,475	65%
Benevolence	15,000	15,000	100%
Ministry Directors			
Outside musicians	21,650	20,925	97%
Other	10,250	5,264	51%
Total	\$ 266,024	\$ 226,426	85%
Income over (under) expenditures	\$ (90,424)	\$ (69,801)	77%
Special Gifts	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,727	9%
HVAC Fund	0	22,489	
HVAC purchase	0	(23,650)	
Investment income and changes in market value	15,000	42,095	281%
Increase (Decrease) in net assets	\$ (55,424)	\$ (27,140)	
<u>Educational Endowment</u>			
Investment income and changes in market value		\$ 36,146	
Scholarships paid out		5,150	
Increase (Decrease) in educational net assets		\$ 30,996	
<u>Increase (Decrease) in total net assets</u>		<u>\$ 3,856</u>	

- 2017 income including investments is \$8,120 higher than budget. Regular weekly giving was down \$4,084. Regular income compared to expense resulted in a loss of \$69,801 compared to a budgeted loss of \$90,424. Investment income of \$42,095 was up \$24,538 from last year. In addition estate gifts were down \$108,952 from 2016.
- Total expenses were \$39,598 under budget due to the following:
- Total building expense is at 65% of the annual budget excluding the purchase of a new HVAC unit for \$23,650. Gas and electric are under budget by \$7,038 and floor care was favorable by \$2,500. All other areas were favorable to budget. A fundraiser resulted in \$22,489 for the HVAC unit.
- Administration is favorable by \$5,128 with the largest variation in equipment of \$2,800 for a new phone system.
- Outside musicians were under budget by \$725 and Ministry directors were under by \$4,986.
- All other departments are at or favorable to budget for the year.

	Inc/(Dec)	
Cash and investments at year end:	December	from 2016
Cash and Money Market	\$ 29,958	\$ (41,095)
General investments	126,560	\$ 16,448
Education Endowment	299,819	\$ 28,171
Mission Endowment	264,970	\$ 864
	<u>\$ 721,307</u>	<u>\$ 4,388</u>

Treasurer's Report 2017

Run Date 1/5/2018
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001 United in Faith Lutheran Church
6525 W. Irving Pk. Rd.
Chicago IL 60634
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2017
Income & Expense Statement for Period 12 December
100 General Operating Fund

	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Prior Y-T-D</u>	<u>%</u>
000 Balance Sheet Accounts				
Sunday Offering	111,139.68	42.90	116,210.36	36.03
Simply Giving	12,115.66	4.68	11,322.65	3.51
Loose Offering	2,012.58	.78	1,818.97	.56
Total General Income	125,267.92	48.35	129,351.98	40.10
Initial Offering	279.00	.11	301.00	.09
Christmas	1,935.00	.75	1,593.00	.49
Ash Wednesday	325.00	.13	393.00	.12
Advent/Lent - Mid week, folders, suppers	1,614.00	.62	1,518.00	.47
Easter	1,557.00	.60	2,411.00	.75
Good Friday	102.00	.04	443.00	.14
Maundy Thursday	236.00	.09	324.00	.10
Thanksgiving	550.00	.21	255.00	.08
Other special income	78.88	.03	29.59	.01
Memorials	10,068.00	3.89	1,802.17	.56
Gifts for the organ	10.00	.00	20,591.29	6.38
Gifts for the new HVAC system - West bldg	22,489.45	8.68	.00	.00
Building Fund	7,125.00	2.75	9,926.00	3.08
Ministry giving	600.00	.23	600.00	.19
Special gifts	1,727.12	.67	110,679.44	34.31
Total Special Income	48,696.45	18.80	150,866.49	46.77
Market Change Allocation Advantage	38,965.00	15.04	15,072.00	4.67
Market Change-Education Endowment	36,146.00	13.95	15,553.00	4.82
Market Value chg.-stock hld.	773.00	.30	.00	.00
Interest & Dividend Income	2,357.27	.91	2,484.91	.77
Other Misc. Income	62.02	.02	397.64	.12
Wedding Fees	100.00	.04	.00	.00
Thrivent Choice-Grants	243.00	.09	544.00	.17
Fellowship Hall rental	40.00	.02	367.00	.11
Golden Diners	124.28	.05	340.85	.11
Outside group donations	755.00	.29	621.00	.19
Donation from St. Cyprians	5,552.75	2.14	6,984.00	2.17
Total Other Income	85,118.32	32.85	42,364.40	13.13
TOTAL INCOME	259,082.69	100.00	322,582.87	100.00

Treasurer's Report 2017

Run Date 1/5/2018
Time 15:22:29

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001 United in Faith Lutheran Church Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2017 Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 12 December ANNUAL EXPENSE REPORT

Description	Actual YTD Last Year	Actual YTD	Budget Annual	Var. Actual to Annual Budget Dollar
SALARIES & BENEFITS	105,872.83	108,693.08	112,634.00	-3,940.92
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	105,872.83	108,693.08	112,634.00	-3,940.92
MINISTRY				
Auto reimbursement	1,087.26	1,729.33	.00	1,729.33
Supply Pastor	723.92	870.76	1,000.00	-129.24
Continuing Education	41.82	956.19	1,000.00	-43.81
Conferences	590.00	525.00	500.00	25.00
Books	196.40	234.93	500.00	-265.07
Miscellaneous	170.38	351.15	500.00	-148.85
TOTAL MINISTRY	2,809.78	4,667.36	3,500.00	1,167.36
ADMINISTRATION				
Supplies	1,148.16	1,006.65	1,500.00	-493.35
Copier Supplies	293.55	.00	.00	.00
Postage	574.00	460.15	800.00	-339.85
Stewardship	1,307.28	344.68	1,000.00	-655.32
Books	.00	.00	100.00	-100.00
Equipment Maintenance	5.98	.00	400.00	-400.00
Software - Hardware	.00	651.22	.00	651.22
Internet Service	.00	.00	100.00	-100.00
Software Support & Training	2,041.31	1,704.00	1,700.00	4.00
Advertising	.00	.00	500.00	-500.00
Insurance	7,954.57	8,165.11	8,166.00	-.89
Telephone	2,569.14	2,421.48	2,580.00	-158.52
Lease Expense- Copier	3,612.02	3,270.84	3,264.00	6.84
Overage expense for copier	78.19	397.76	420.00	-22.24
Equipment not capitalized	.00	-.80	2,800.00	-2,800.80
Miscellaneous	10.00	89.95	500.00	-410.05
LBBrokerage fee / Bank Fee	5,491.00	5,891.00	5,700.00	191.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	25,085.20	24,402.04	29,530.00	-5,127.96
UIF BUILDING				
Permits & Fees	1,010.50	630.00	700.00	-70.00
Janitorial services	10,483.45	9,685.00	11,160.00	-1,475.00
Janitorial Supplies	1,561.71	945.43	1,800.00	-854.57
Snow Removal	660.00	420.00	1,500.00	-1,080.00
Floor Care	.00	.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
Exterminator	905.00	852.00	900.00	-48.00
Fire Extinguisher-Purchase/Mai	86.05	.00	500.00	-500.00
Electricity	13,512.70	12,306.46	16,000.00	-3,693.54
Gas and water	13,058.09	12,656.11	16,000.00	-3,343.89
Alarm	971.64	1,037.64	900.00	137.64
Miscellaneous	.00	.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Maintenance	14,079.85	32,364.49	20,000.00	12,364.49
Landscaping	.00	228.00	.00	228.00
TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSE	56,328.99	71,125.13	73,460.00	-2,334.87
Benevolence	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	.00
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES	205,096.80	223,887.61	234,124.00	-10,236.39
Worship Supplies - Altar Guild	1,270.34	337.21	1,200.00	-862.79
Books	914.31	1,159.79	.00	1,159.79
Musical Instrument Maintenance	1,165.28	576.00	.00	576.00
Outside Musicians	17,950.00	20,925.00	21,650.00	-725.00
Copyright Licenses	124.00	186.08	.00	186.08
Flowers	15.90	41.50	.00	41.50
Musical Instruments	28,000.00	.00	.00	.00
Decorative Arts	13.22	16.00	.00	16.00
Miscellaneous	58.25	.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00
TOTAL WORSHIP & MUSIC	49,511.30	23,241.58	24,550.00	-1,308.42
Supplies	.00	18.63	100.00	-81.37
Books	.00	.00	200.00	-200.00
Vacation Bible School	15.36	321.69	500.00	-178.31
Confirmation	186.72	.00	250.00	-250.00
Sunday school curriculum	51.95	346.58	300.00	46.58

Treasurer's Report 2017

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001 United in Faith Lutheran Church Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2017 Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 12 December ANNUAL EXPENSE REPORT

Description	Actual YTD Last Year	Actual YTD	Budget Annual	Var. Actual to Annual Budget Dollar
Campership	110.00	.00	.00	.00
National Youth Gathering	.00	.00	300.00	-300.00
Miscellaneous	.00	67.26	.00	67.26
TOTAL CHILDRENS MINISTRY	364.03	754.16	1,650.00	-895.84
Supplies	18.63	-20.00	.00	-20.00
Signage & banners	158.36	470.22	.00	470.22
Marketing Materials	291.50	368.95	.00	368.95
Advertising	247.12	150.00	.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	535.24	83.40	1,150.00	-1,066.60
TOTAL OUTREACH & HOSPITALITY	1,250.85	1,052.57	1,150.00	-97.43
Miscellaneous	.00	.00	500.00	-500.00
TOTAL SERVICE & MISSION	.00	.00	500.00	-500.00
Supplies	-680.43	-605.04	.00	-605.04
Fellowship	352.17	491.37	.00	491.37
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	-328.26	-113.67	.00	-113.67
STEWARDSHIP				
Supplies	.00	132.69	.00	132.69
Miscellaneous	.00	606.00	200.00	406.00
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	.00	738.69	200.00	538.69
FAITH DEVELOPMENT				
Supplies	.00	79.00	.00	79.00
Lutheran magazine	-13.44	-206.00	.00	-206.00
Book purchase/resale	59.95	-196.00	.00	-196.00
Christ in our Home	523.85	612.79	.00	612.79
Miscellaneous	.00	.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
TOTAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT	570.36	289.79	1,500.00	-1,210.21
RENEWAL				
Renewal	.00	.00	500.00	-500.00
TOTAL RENEWAL	.00	.00	500.00	-500.00
JUSTICE & PRAYER MINISTRY				
Prayer supplies	.00	.00	100.00	-100.00
Justice Programs	136.80	-165.73	100.00	-265.73
TOTAL JUSTICE & PRAYER	136.80	-165.73	200.00	-365.73
MEN IN MISSION				
Supplies	222.88	.00	.00	.00
Miscellaneous	.00	.00	200.00	-200.00
TOTAL MEN IN MISSION	222.88	.00	200.00	-200.00
GAY STRAIGHT TOGETHER				
Miscellaneous	327.00	250.00	700.00	-450.00
TOTAL GAY STRAIGHT TOGETHER	327.00	250.00	700.00	-450.00
Miscellaneous	211.02	141.90	750.00	-608.10
TOTAL SHEPERDS STAFF	211.02	141.90	750.00	-608.10
TOTAL MINISTRY DIRECTORS	52,265.98	26,189.29	31,900.00	-5,710.71
TOTAL MISSION INVESTMENT	257,362.78	250,076.90	266,024.00	-15,947.10
Luther North Donation	650.00	.00	.00	.00
UIF Scholarships	4,500.00	5,150.00	.00	5,150.00

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Year 2018 Budget

United In Faith Lutheran Church

Income is being budgeted at a lower level than 2017. Regular giving was down slightly in 2017 and is expected to stay at that level in 2018.

Investment income was a gain of \$42,098 in 2017. the budgeted gain for 2018 is \$20,000 or approximately 4.5% of our investable assets at the end of 2017.

Total expense in 2017 was \$39,590 favorable to budget excluding the cost of the new HVAC unit. The \$23,650 cost for the unit was paid for by donations of \$22,489. All areas were favorable to budget with the building department leading the way at \$25,985. This was due to lower than expected expense in maintenance, gas, and electric service.

The expense budget is \$13,893 greater than 2017 actual. Salaries and benefits are up \$6,373 due to increases in benefits and scheduled salary increases.

Ministry Directors are budgeted to increase spending by \$7,900 in 2018 as they are being encouraged to expand their ministries. these include Worship & Music, Christian Education, Youth, Faith Development, Church Health, Prayer, and Gay & Straight together.

The bottom line for 2018 is a net decrease in assets of \$68,369 and this is higher than the decrease budgeted in 2017 by \$12,945.

A large expense that is not in the budget is replacing our HVAC equipment.

We have been repairing the units as needed but all of the units are at least 17 years old and some are older. We replaced one in 2017 and may have to replace another in 2018. It is expected that we will have a fundraiser to pay for a new HVAC unit if required in 2018.

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2018 Budget Executive Summary

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	Incr (Decr) 2018 Budget vs 2017 Actual
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>\$ 183,600</u>	<u>\$ 151,227</u>	<u>\$ 175,600</u>	<u>\$ 24,373</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
SALARIES & BENEFITS	112,634	110,422	116,795	\$ 6,373
MINISTRY	3,500	2,938	3,500	\$ 562
ADMINISTRATION	29,530	24,402	27,614	\$ 3,212
BUILDING EXPENSE	73,460	47,475	70,560	\$ 23,085
	106,490	74,815	101,674	\$ 26,859
BENEVOLENCE	15,000	15,000	15,000	\$ -
SUB-TOTAL	234,124	200,237	233,469	\$ 33,232
MINISTRY DIRECTORS	10,250	5,264	7,900	\$ 2,636
PURCHASE NEW HVAC EQUIPMENT	-	23,650	-	\$ (23,650)
OUTSIDE MUSICIANS	21,650	20,925	22,600	\$ 1,675
				\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSE	266,024	250,076	263,969	\$ 13,893
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE	\$ (82,424)	\$ (98,849)	\$ (88,369)	\$ 10,480
CAPITAL APPEAL RECEIPTS	12,000	7,125	-	\$ (7,125)
GIFTS FOR HVAC	-	22,489	-	\$ (22,489)
INVESTMENT INCOME	15,000	42,095	20,000	\$ (22,095)
Total (Decrease) In Net Assets	\$ (55,424)	\$ (27,140)	\$ (68,369)	\$ (41,229)
Cash & Investments at End of period		\$ 421,489	\$ 353,120	
Education Endowment Investments		\$ 299,818		
Total Cash and Investments		\$ 721,307		

United In Faith Lutheran Church
Year 2018 Budget
Summary

	<u>2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Full year</u> <u>actual</u>	<u>2018</u> <u>Budget</u>
SALARIES & BENEFITS	112,634	110,422	116,795
<hr/>			
MINISTRY			
Salaries & Benefits			
Other Expenses			
Supply Pastor	1,000	871	1,000
Continuing Education	1,000	956	1,000
Conferences	500	525	500
Books	500	235	500
Miscellaneous	500	351	500
Total	3,500	2,938	3,500
Total Ministry			
<hr/>			
ADMINISTRATION			
Other Expenses			
Office / copier Supplies	1,500	1,007	1,500
Postage	800	460	800
Stewardship Envelopes	1,000	345	400
Books	100	-	100
Equipment Maintenance	400	-	-
Software / hardware	-	651	-
Software support & training	1,700	1,704	1,700
Communications	-	-	-
Advertising	500	-	500
Insurance	8,166	8,165	8,350
Telephone and communication	2,580	2,421	2,500
Lease Expense - Copier	3,264	3,270	3,264
Copier expense for usage	420	398	400
Computers/ New Phone System	2,800	-	1,800
Internet service	100	-	100
Thrivent brokerage fee	5,700	5,891	5,700
Miscellaneous	500	90	500
Total	29,530	24,402	27,614
Total Administration	29,530	24,402	27,614

	<u>2017</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Full year</u> <u>actual</u>	<u>2018</u> <u>Budget</u>
BUILDING EXPENSE			
Other Expenses			
Janitorial Supplies	1,800	945	1,800
Permits & Fees	700	630	700
Snow Removal	1,500	420	1,500
Floor Care	2,500	-	2,500
Exterminator	900	852	900
Fire Extinguisher maintenance	500	-	500
Electricity	16,000	12,306	14,000
Gas and Water	16,000	12,656	16,000
Alarm service	900	1,038	600
Maintenance	20,000	32,364	20,000
Roof Repair		-	
Cleaning Service	11,160	9,685	10,560
Miscellaneous	1,500	229	1,500
Total	73,460	71,125	70,560
Total Building	73,460	71,125	70,560
OUTSIDE MUSICIAN EXPENSE			
Outside Musicians	21,650	20,925	22,600
Total	21,650	20,925	22,600
BENEVOLENCE	15,000	15000	15,000
SUB-TOTAL	255,774	244,812	256,069
MINISTRY AREA EXPENSES	10,250	5,264	7,900
Purchase new organ	-	-	-
	10,250	5,264	7,900
TOTAL EXPENSE	266,024	250,076	263,969
INCOME	210,600	222,936	195,600
MISSION INVESTMENT	(55,424)	(27,140)	(68,369)

United In Faith Lutheran Church
Year 2018 Budget
Revenue

<u>Income Stream</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
General Income	140,000	125,268	132,000
Holidays	10,000	6,598	10,000
Memorials	6,000	10,068	6,000
Special Gifts	20,000	1,727	20,000
On-going investment income	15,000	42,095	20,000
Building Income	6,500	6,634	6,500
Thrivent Choice	600	243	600
Other	500	689	500
Total Income from operations	\$198,600	\$193,322	\$195,600
Capital Appeal / Ministries	12,000	7,125	0
Gifts for HVAC	-	22,489	0
Total	\$210,600	\$222,936	\$195,600
Education Endowment Income		36,146	
Grand Total		\$259,082	

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REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

Greetings! I would like to thank this congregation, the sitting Council and our church staff for the successful completion of a *dynamic* year in our church. Without everyone's consistent involvement, our church would not be what it is today.

Despite the financial burden of needing a new HVAC unit, it is perhaps because of it that we have grown closer as a congregation: participating in fun congregation activities such as a spaghetti supper, various dining out activities, cookie and plate sales, t-shirt sales, free trade product sales and Oktoberfest. These were not just fundraising opportunities, but also community-building exercises. At this point, we have been able to raise nearly all the funds, with your generous donations and simply by growing together as a community and having fun. This is truly an astounding accomplishment, and one in which we should all be proud.

This upcoming year we will be celebrating our 20 years as a unified congregation. This year will mark a year of service and celebration, as we further embark on our *20 for 20 Campaign*. We have partnered up with organizations in our local community who could use an UIF helping hand as our way of blessing our community with Christ's goodness. This seems a fitting way to celebrate our 20 years of involvement in the community, by doubling down on our mission to truly be "God's Hands, Feet and Voice in the World" - starting here, in our community. You are all welcomed to participate in any way possible, whether through brainstorming or hours spent volunteering; as there will be a variety of services that we will be providing to these organizations, and a variety of individual talents are desired and will be needed.

As a church, we must both be inward-reflecting and outward-facing, with reverie to the traditions and occurrences of our past, while keeping an opportunistic eye towards the future. This year, we should reflect on the lessons of our 20 years and project a vision of the next 20 years. To fulfill this goal, the Church Health Team is moving forward with a church health diagnostic for us to evaluate where we are, spiritually, so we can more strategically grow. Council has begun the process of writing a Missional Plan to guide our mission forward in a unified and coherent way. Also, any opinions of the congregation and church participants over the last 20 years will be welcomed as we continue our visioning process.

In 2017, a Constitution Committee was formed in order to recommend changes to our constitution in order to remain consistent with the ELCA model constitution and to remain current with new technologies and priorities. At the Annual Congregational Meeting, you will be asked for your vote to approve or decline the changes. In addition, we will be voting on new leadership with our congregation in our annual votes for new members to Council and to fill key leadership positions.

This is truly an exciting time to be a member in UIF Lutheran Church. I look forward to your continuing and enhanced support and involvement in our ministries, committees and community outreach activities, as we will someday be celebrating the accomplishments of our next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jewell
UIF Congregational President, 2017
United In Faith Lutheran Church

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EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

This committee has the responsibility of administering United in Faith's Educational Scholarship program. The distribution of all scholarship awards is respectfully kept confidential.

Luther North College Prep-

We have made a contribution of \$650 to Luther North College Prep. This school is closing this year so this will be our final contribution.

Student Scholarships-

Scholarships are offered to student congregation members who have a financial need and will attend either a Christian pre-school, grade school or high school, or any post-secondary school or have special education needs or gifts at any level of their education. Each applicant and their parent(s)/guardian(s)/care giver(s) must participate in the life of United in Faith.

This year, the committee reviewed the application information along with the level of family participation in church life and determined scholarships based on funds available and the number of applicants.

In the 2016-17 school year scholarships were presented to two students from two families totaling \$4,500.00. All scholarship checks are made out to the schools the students will attend.

Bonnie Maginnis
Dawn Constantino
George Schultz

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MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee is to provide annual distributions from the Mission Endowment Fund beyond the operating budget of this congregation to its ministry expressions as stated below:

Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or the synod as the committee determines.

- a. Minimum of 20% for ELCA Church-wide ministries as the committee determines.
- b. Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs or other ministry initiatives within the congregation.
- c. Remaining 40% distributed through any of the above categories, or
 1. Education
 2. Youth
 3. Worship and Music
 4. Capital project
 5. Missions – locals, regional and world projects
 6. Senior citizens

The Mission Endowment Committee, which consists of Bonnie Maginnis, George Schultz, and Ray and Jackie Good, meets periodically to discuss the distribution of funds. It was resolved by the committee that, in 2017, there will not be any distributions from the Fund.

We welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of this committee, or any suggestions for distribution of this money following the above guidelines.

The balance in the Fund is approximately \$264,000 at the end of 2017.

Bonnie Maginnis & George Schultz

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

It is so hard to believe that we are already weeks into 2018. On a positive note, we completed our task list for 2017 by the end of the summer, with the exception of the parking lot. We put forth a list, and worked on each one as our priorities for United in Faith. While we were doing this, we were very mindful of the costs, and our budget. We hope that you will agree that the Property Committee served the congregation well in 2017.

We started the year in 2017 with plans to improve our lighting and energy costs by having Verde Solutions replace our lights with energy efficient lighting. The cost was approved, and without any further delay, the project was finished by the end of February 2017. Some of the minor projects were to have the Coke machines removed from both buildings, and locks put on all thermostats with keys that were compatible with all covers. We also had the carpet cleaned in the Sunday School room before it was painted and decorated before the fall classes started. The roof over the west building needed some repairs this year, and we will continue to monitor the roof over the office area in the east building. This may be our next “big” project for 2019.

We also worked on a few larger projects for United in Faith. For starters, we hired a new cleaning service for our buildings, had most of the east building windows caulked with better caulking, and replaced the folding chairs in fellowship hall. We also replaced the heating unit in the west building, and did roof repairs on the west building. The HVAC unit was very expensive but the church raised money to fund this very expensive project. Our members were very generous to us, and we appreciate that everyone stepped up to help. We still have three more units in the east building that are old, but we will try to maintain all of these units to the best of our ability.

There is so much to do around UIF and money is limited. Here are the plans for 2018:

- New Rug/Runner Company
- Strip and Re-Wax Floors in East Building
- Evaluate All Roofs
- Evaluate All HVAC units in East Building
- Painting in some areas
- Parking Lot; reseal and stripe lines
- Place Carbon Monoxide detectors and Smoke Alarms throughout both buildings

There was an incident at UIF in early December which was very scary for Derek and all those involved with a carbon monoxide scare on December 7th, 2017. This incident involved one of our HVAC units and how it was (or wasn't) exhausting to the outside. Thank goodness so many people reacted so quickly, and that includes the Chicago Fire Department and People's Gas. We are just grateful that all those involved are safe. We know that God was watching over us, and His house, on this day.

The primary purpose of this Property Committee is to over-see the care and maintenance of our buildings and surrounding property, as well as general repairs that do not require the service of an outside contractor. Our members are Joseph Childress, Chairman, Robert Doyle, George Schultz, Harold Hoyem, Harold Edmonson, and Julie O'Donnell-Lozich.

Derek Sire has been in attendance at all of our meetings, and has been a great asset to this committee. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Derek for all that you do for our committee. Feel free to contact any one of the members if you have or want us to address an issue at UIF.

God Bless UIF in 2018

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

~1 Peter 4:10

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2017 CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

United in Faith Lutheran Church

The purpose of the Church Council is to oversee administrative functions of the Church and to guide the direction of the Church by consulting with Church ministries to help achieve their objectives.

The Council meets monthly. We hear the Pastor's report, and reports of the Treasurer, Ministry Director, Building and Grounds Property Committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Nominating Committee. We discuss and through consensus try to ascertain what actions will best serve the interests of the Church and its members. We advance ideas that may help carry out Christ's mission for our Church, to beautify the Church and grounds, and to be fiscally prudent. During Church Forums, we communicate concerns and activities of the Council to the Church members.

Council members are Pastor Carla Thompson Powell, President Jeff Jewell, Dave Quillin, Joseph Childress, Ray Good, Nancy Ciecko, Tricia Dombroski, Dawn Kuswik, Bonnie Maginnis, and Pam Marino.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

Nominations for all these positions will also be taken from the floor during our annual meeting. The list of candidates follows:

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—three positions for a two-year term 2018-2020

Dian Hoyem
Jeff Jewell
Dawn Kuswik

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL – Representative of the Ministry Directors - one position for a two-year term 2018-2020

Bonnie Maginnis

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—three to five positions for a one-year term 2018-2019

Joe Childress—Outgoing Council
Jane Schira
Terry Miller

DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY—two positions for a one-year term 2018-2019

Carolyn Doughty
Mary Haas

ALTERNATE DELEGATES—two positions for a one-year term 2018-2019

Janeen Devine
Marty Devine

Thank you to all who have assisted in any capacity this past year. We appreciate your willingness to serve. Please keep all those who serve our Lord in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,
2017 Nominating Committee
Richard Guzik
Dennis Vogel
Elisabeth Wittman

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SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS REPORT
Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report
“Yesterday, Today, & Forever”

June 9th to June 10th, 2017 - Tinley Park Convention Center

This year’s theme was *Yesterday, Today, and Forever* from Hebrews 13:8.

After devotions and the Order for the Opening of an Assembly, the parliamentarian was appointed, the agenda approved, and committees appointed. There were no resolutions at this year’s assembly.

The assembly then heard the keynote address by the Rev. Kathryn Mary Lohre, Assistant to the ELCA Presiding Bishop and executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations who spoke about the connections the ELCA has with Roman Catholics, Muslims, and Historically Black Churches. After her report, the assembly welcomed the Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima, Archdiocesan Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago, who brought greetings from Blase Cardinal Cupich, and spoke about the synod and archdiocese renewal of the covenant made between the two in 1989, and the joint service on Reformation Day that was held at Holy Name Cathedral.

After conducting conference meetings held over lunch, the assembly heard from partner ministries including Portico Benefit Services, ELCA Foundation, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the ELCA Credit Union, and synod treasurer, Yvette Newberry White gave her report. Later on Friday and during the plenary session, the budget was adopted as presented and *en bloc* motions relating to updating the constitution were adopted as presented.

Throughout Saturday’s plenary sessions, participants heard eight mission moments, coordinated by the synod’s Mission Interpreter Network, telling the story of congregations and partner ministries making a difference in their local communities, nationally, and around the world. We attended the Central Conference meeting, of which United in Faith is a part. Participants discussed what is being done by the congregations in our conference.

Friday we had the opportunity to attend two sessions of workshops or hearings, and the day ended with a celebration of Holy Eucharist. Devotions were also held on Saturday morning, and an update on the synod’s Million Dollar ELCA World Hunger Challenge (which has been met!), Bishop Miller gave his report on what the evolving nature of what congregational ministry looks like today as well as the importance of being *open congregations* and the importance of *pursuing justice* together with all people. We also heard the Churchwide office report which updated us on the larger work of the church.

Elections: **Mr. Terry Henderson I** was elected as Synod Vice President, and the **Rev. Erin Clausen** was elected as Synod Secretary. Vice President Nanette Dahlke chose not to stand for re-election after serving for 16 years, and secretary Rev. Steve Srock chose not to stand for re-election after serving for eight years. Both officers gave their final reports to the assembly and their service was thanked with acclamation.

The Assembly closed after prayer near noon on Saturday.

Also participating from UIF were Pastors Carla and Darryl.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Devine Family

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MINISTRY COORDINATORS

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

There are three **Congregational Areas of Commitment**:

Christian Formation, Outreach, and Inreach.

Each Area of Commitment has at least one event during the year to highlight its ministries. For Christian Formation it is Fall Kick-Off Sunday, for Outreach it is an event determined each year between October and December, and for Inreach it is Easter.

Each Area of Commitment has two Areas of Focus:

Christian Formation

Christian Education

Spiritual Growth

Outreach

Public Relations

Community

Inreach

Member Care

Congregational Care

The manager of each Area of Focus is a Ministry Coordinator so there are currently six Ministry Coordinator positions.

The Ministry Coordinators meet quarterly to provide communication and coordination of program scheduling and mission initiatives for their respective area of focus and plan the yearly church calendar.

A representative of the Ministry Coordinators also serves on council to keep the council up to date on Ministry activities.

Ministry Coordinators also approve the formation of any new Ministry or any Community or Fellowship Activity. If you feel called to start a new Ministry, or activate a Ministry that is currently inactive, or plan a new Community or Fellowship Event, please contact a Ministry Coordinator for information and forms to fill out.

Each Area of Focus may have several Ministries and each of these Ministries has a Ministry Director. The Ministry Director supports and carries out planning, programming and mission initiatives of this congregation in their specific ministry. Ministry Directors are each responsible to keep their Ministry Coordinator informed of their Ministries activities and planned events.

In 2017, each Ministry gave a temple talk on the purpose and/or mission of their ministry, the activities of the ministry, and when they meet.

Also in 2017, each Ministry held a fund raiser to raise funds for the **new HVAC unit** purchased for the West Building. After a kick off Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Council, the following fund raisers have been held with more to come:

Buona Beef Day

Fair Trade Coffee Sale

Candle Sale

Octoberfest

Bake Sale

Pizza & pie Sale

Tote Bag sale

T-Shirt sale

Cookie Walk

Shepherd's Staff

Justice

Music and Worship

Stewardship

Vacation Bible School

Church Health Team

Sunday School & VBS

Marketing

Decorative Arts

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CONFIRMATION
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

There were no confirmation students this year.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

Generally speaking, Sunday School meets each year **at 9:30 am** on the Sundays between Labor Day to Memorial Day on which we have two services. All children ages 3-8 are invited to come and be a part of this learning experience.

During the last school year, damage to the **Sunday School room** meant that class moved to the resource room. This summer, a wonderful group of volunteers worked together to rehab the room and make it a great learning environment for our children. The room is truly beautiful and a lot of people helped to contribute. The Property committee replaced the ceiling tiles and cleaned the carpet. Then, a group of **volunteers** (SO MANY PEOPLE) worked to clean out the room, another prepped and painted it, and another moved the furniture back in. We are also *grateful* for the contributions of pillows for the children to sit on, carpet donated in honor of Bob Wilk, and a mural designed and executed by Jean Shira. The children **love the new room** and enjoyed their classes during the first half of their school year. The Children's ministry team is so thankful for this *group effort* in helping to make the Sunday School room a safe, warm, and happy place for them to learn about God, prayer, and all he has in store for them.

Sunday School is *truly a team effort*. Katie Jewell works with our teachers to prepare a teaching schedule that everybody is happy with! We appreciate the **teaching talents** of Bonnie Maginnis, Terrie Wilk, Julie O'Donnell-Lozich, Mary Haas, and Dawn Kuswik. It is a true blessing to have this many teachers.

This year, we started using a new curriculum for our lessons. The Lessons are designed by the **Children's Illustrated Ministry**. They are easy to execute, require little preparation and include beautiful coloring sheets. The theme for the fall Sunday School lessons was learning how to have *love and compassion for all of God's people just like God does for us*.

Besides their scheduled time in Sunday school, we also are reaching out in a variety of other ways to educate our children. We have *Children's bulletins available* for each service that also harken back to the scripture we study each week. We are also providing activities and booklets for special occasions like Advent and Lent. The children get to take them home and share the lessons with their families.

We welcome all and any input for the Sunday School program. We invite all who are interested in helping us to educate our children to participate in this fun ministry.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

This year we had a lot of fun being God's Heroes!

The motto for the week seems quite perfect for us at United in Faith. We are all charged to:

DO GOOD! SEEK PEACE! GO AFTER IT!

As we wrap up another church year, we can all look back and reflect on how we have just that -- Done Good, Sought Peace, and Gone After It. Have *you* stepped forward to take on these challenges? Did you dive in head first? Or are you watching from the sidelines?

Attendance grew slightly again this year to *22 children!* Each day at VBS, they participated in a Bible story, crafts, games, and a service project. They made beautiful sun catchers and mosaic tile decorated table decorations for Assisted Living residents, crafted Thinking of You cards for our shut-ins, packed personal care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, and baked cookies to raise funds for the new HVAC unit. Additionally, 8-10 year old group painted small serving plates, also for the HVAC fund. We raised over \$200 using the talents God gave these children! They were certainly **Doing Good** and **Seeking Peace!**

Each year I am *amazed* by the support VBS receives from our members. You allow us to welcome children from the community into our church for a week. From financial support, to the time and creativity of the station leaders, to the time the UIF teens give, I am thankful.

VBS couldn't happen without each of you. The congregation of UIF knows how to "**Go After It!**" and I am excited to see what we can do in 2018.

Katie Jewell

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TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

Guiding Principle: *Continue to Strengthen Faith.*

Several years ago a number of persons at United in Faith gathered together on Tuesday nights at about 7:15 pm to read the Bible and discuss it. Some of us had read the Bible through at least once, others only recalled selected isolated passages from church service or had no clue what was in the Book.

We began, years ago, with the Acts of the Apostles and continued to the end of the book. We then moved on to Gospels and part way through the book of Mark we noticed that the Source was heavy on Parables and we had read most of them in Matthew. So, we decided to go ahead and start again, but this time back at the beginning - with Genesis. We finished Genesis and moved on to Exodus. Over the summer of 2016, we took a break and started up again in September. As Moses continued his journey, we followed it on a map and played: *Where Is Moses Now?* We were in awe of the journey they made and how far they traveled on foot. Once Moses and his family got settled, the book turned to the building of the Arc of the Covenant as well as the temple. The instructions were very detailed. In December, we decided to switch things up a little bit and read the Psalms. From January to May, we enjoyed reading the Psalms. One of the best parts of the group is that we are reading several different translations of the Bible - from the Tanakh to the traditional NRSV version. It helps us to widen our understanding and to gain a different perspective on how the scripture is speaking to us.

In May, we decided to go on hiatus to participate in some of the other great activities and book studies we have going on at United in Faith. The Bible Study may return in the Spring of 2018, but that is TBD. We are all still as passionate as ever about learning God's word and all it has to teach us, however, we are looking for a new way to connect with the rest of our community in the pursuit. We welcome all suggestions for possible courses of study.

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WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The Worship and Music Ministry works in collaboration with Pastor Carla to **plan** and **facilitate** worship services throughout the church year. Music planning for worship services begins with the traditional planning meeting in which Pastor Carla provides the themes for each given Sunday, and music is chosen for the **traditional services**. Then the chairperson, Jane Schira, draws themes, inspiration, and direction from that meeting to work with Richard Trost, and Pastor Carla to plan **contemporary worship**. *Many thanks* to the worship planners: Lois Cornils, Denise Boyer, Janeen Devine, Katie Jewell, Elisabeth Wittman, and Richard Trost who all *volunteer* their time.

We have a **bell choir** that rings periodically due to the leadership of Denise Boyer. Our **traditional choir** is directed by Lois Cornils who uses a variety of music from our choral library, and makes every rehearsal rewarding and fun. New members are always welcome.

The year 2017 has been an exciting year at United in Faith. For our traditional services there has been a conscious effort to choose hymns written by Martin Luther. One of the highlights last spring was on Pentecost Sunday when Katherine Ciecko came to our worship services and did fire spinning. Since Reformation Sunday fell on the fifth Sunday of the month, it was a combined service. To celebrate Reformation 500, we made it extra special by using hymns from a variety of times, places, and cultures. There was much positive feedback about this service.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered this past year in the following capacities:

- Worship service planning
- Worship assistants
- Communion assistants
- Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Decorative Arts
- Greeters
- United in Faith Choir and Bell Choir
- All the musicians who lead us in worship at the traditional and contemporary worship services.

Thanks to everyone for your time and energy, and we look forward to working together in the coming year.

Yours in Christ,
Jane Schira

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PRAYER MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

“Be anxious about nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgivings, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God surpassing all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:6-7**

United in Faith has Guiding Principles, among which are *Pray and Listen for God’s Guidance*. To that end, several people come to church at **7:00 PM** on the **first Thursday of each month** to pray together. This ministry was founded by Gary Constantino several years ago, but as you know, as of 2015 Gary is now talking with God person-to-person and can no longer lead the Prayer Ministry. For the past two years, Tricia Dombroski and Mary Haas have served co-chairs of the Prayer Ministry.

We invite our community to share their requests with the Prayer Team in several ways. There is a *Prayer Weaving* in the Sanctuary where we encourage people to write their requests on small piece and “weave them into the wall hanging. Requests can also be made by writing them on the back of church attendance sheets, calling the church office, or talking with a member of the prayer Team.

If there is a need to keep the prayer private, we have a place for that too. There is a beautiful wood box that is called the “*God Box*”. We invite all who feel called to keep their concerns private to write a prayer and put it inside the box. We never read the concerns, but we do pray over the box at our monthly meetings and do a burning of the paper slips when the box is full.

On the first Thursday of every month, we invite the community to join us to pray over the needs of the community. During our prayer meetings we collect and pray over each concern in the prayer weaving. We follow each petition with “Lord, in your mercy” to which the group responds “Hear our prayer.” After praying over these concerns, we then move to personal prayer requests or unwritten requests from those present and praying that night.

This is truly a time for us to reflect and share the concerns on our hearts in the midst of God’s loving care. Each person is given the time that they need to share and communicate their prayer needs. When everybody has said the prayers on their hearts, we then turn our attention to the God Box. We put our hands on the God Box and pray for the intentions written within. If the weather permits, we then take the messages out of the box, being careful to not read them as they are private messages to God, and put them into a tin to burn in the parking lot to symbolically send the message to God.

Gary taught us that there are several ways to pray: we can pray in the *quiet of our hearts*, we can pray *with others*, we can write down our prayers for them to be *prayed aloud during worship* service, we can *write a message to God* and put it in the God Box. All of these ways are marvelous ways to **have conversation with our God**. As Gary would say, “Prayer is the Ultimate Wireless Communication”.

We welcome more people to the Prayer Group at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month.

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MARKETING

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The purpose of MARKETING is to focus our efforts to invite the community to come to the different activities we plan through our ministries. This will tell our neighbors who we are and what we as a congregation consider an important part of our congregational identity, and most importantly, who this God is that we worship and serve. We strive to make sure that our community knows ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Most activities that were planned during 2017 at UIF had publicity released about it. Press releases were sent to approximately 40 churches of various denominations in the Dunning neighborhood. Press releases were also sent to the major newspapers, neighborhood newspapers and TV stations. This was done through email and snail mail. Flyers were distributed to stores and other locations throughout the neighborhood. Banners were hung in front of church letting the neighborhood know this is United in Faith Lutheran Church, as well as the info about the event being planned. Neighborhood blogs and the alderman's newsletter had announcements posted as well.

Several people helped with developing a process to follow. Bonnie Maginis has offered her knowledge and guidance this year. Tricia Dombrowski has taken on the responsibility of posting on the blogs. Pr. Darryl continues to create the banners we have used this year. Joe Childress has faithfully put up the banners in front of the church, and changed them when needed. Of course, Rich Guzik, Dave Quillin and Pr. Carla take care of posting the events on UIF's Facebook and Twitter pages. Pr. Carla also makes the postcard invites for several activities. Gretchen Quillin has proofed the press releases before they are sent out. And, to all of you, THANK YOU for helping us let our congregation's presence be known in the community, for inviting a friend on your Facebook and Twitter pages, and your personal, one-on-one invitations to family and friends to come be a part of this wonderful congregation!

We have done our planning via email. If anyone has more ideas of where to send or post information, or would like to be part of the planning, please let me know!

Submitted by,
Carolyn Doughty, Chairperson

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FACEBOOK & TWITTER

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The year 2017 has been a great year for the Social Media Ministry! The ministry consists of three lay members, Gretchen and Dave Quillin and Rich Guzik as well as Pastor Carla. The ministry is responsible for United In Faith's presence and content on Facebook and Twitter.

As of December 2017, we have 161 "likes" on **Facebook** which is up from 146 likes last year. This means that 161 people can see what UIF is up to. Pastor Carla has continued to keep us active on Facebook – using this platform to not only talk about events and happenings at UIF, but to provide things to think about during the week through spiritual and inspiring messages.

If *you* are not yet following us on Facebook you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/UIFLC/>.

As of December 2017, we have 100 followers on **Twitter** (up from 98 last year) and we have sent a total of 1,124 tweets (up from 1,097 tweets last year). We primarily use this platform to tweet out portions of the sermon each week. If you are a Twitter user or want to become one, you can follow UIF directly at **@uiflc** or by following **#uifsunday**. We would also encourage you, if you are a Twitter user, *to tweet your thoughts on UIF either during church (yes, that is ok) or during the week.*

A huge *thank you* to Gretchen and Dave Quillin, Rich Guzik, and Pastor Carla for contributing to our continued online presence! This is *another way* to help us *be God's hands, feet and voice* in the world!

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UNITEDINFAITH.ORG

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2017 WEBSITE Annual Report

With outreach to the community as its main purpose, the website introduces the viewer to both religious and secular activities at United in Faith. The website is in a continuous state of change. Past events and activities are removed and upcoming activities and events are added as they are solidified and the webmaster is notified. Worship, Bible Studies, activity-rich ministries, Congregational Forums and Meetings, and the current major United in Faith activities are highlighted on the Home page.

Several internal changes have been made to the website to reduce its footprint.

Please note that the website is as current as the information that you supply. Please keep those updates coming and thank you for keeping our window to the community open, up-to-date and informative.

Richard E. Guzik
Webmaster

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GAY STRAIGHT TOGETHER MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The purpose of the Gay and Straight Together Ministry is to reach out to the LGBT Community, remind them that they are loved by God, and to invite them to worship and do ministry with us side-by-side.

We began the year joining with the Worship and Music Committee organizing our Annual RIC Sunday Celebration. The entire ecumenical Welcoming community nationwide joins together to celebrate our unity, generally on the last Sunday in January.

Otherwise, we have been a quiet ministry during 2017. However, we are making plans for 2018. We have continued our desire to present TRANSGENDER: THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE III. This program will discuss the “next step”—what we can do as individuals and as a congregation, to help with the acceptance of transgender folks. We are also planning to be a part of a postcard writing campaign being led by *ReconcilingWorks*. RWKs’ goal is to collect several thousand postcards to be given out at the ELCA Youth Gathering being planned for next summer. The message will be an affirming message saying that we are ALL loved by God—something a “questioning” teen needs to hear. We are going to invite the congregation to be a part of this project.

We do hold face-to-face meetings, but the better part of the planning happens via email. Please let one of the GSTM members know if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

PEACE and JOY to all,
Carolyn Doughty, chairperson (car072848@att.net), Mary Haas, Gretchen Quillin,
Jane Shira, Pastor Carla

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JUSTICE MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The Justice Ministry seeks to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by working toward the vision of true peace and justice that God promised. Justice is the manifestation of our faith. We heed the Lord's call through the words of **Micah 6:8** to engage in justice work:

*“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”*

As a congregation that welcomes the diversity of all people, justice issues come to our doorstep. Our work brings us over the doorstep and into our community.

We encourage fair trade, raise awareness of world and local hunger and poverty, advocate for justice issues through offerings of letters and lobbying, and are alert to current events that require immediate action or advocacy.

Justice events held during the year:

- An offering of letters for Bread for the World.
- Fair Trade products sale
- Fair Trade Fundraiser to benefit the HVAC fund
- A study of Faith Sexism and Justice: Conversation Towards a Social Statement
- A viewing of *Miss Representation* which explores how women are portrayed in the media
- Creation of the Luther Door for individual posting of Acts of Kindness performed
- Sponsoring Sunday morning projects such as decorating cards for Phil's Friends (given to cancer patients)

Planned for 2018:

- Fair Trade product sale at the Faith in Place Winter Indoor Farmers Market at UIF

Members of the ministry include: Denise Boyer, Carolyn Doughty, Bonnie Maginnis, Pam Marino, Pr Carla Thompson Powell, Jane Schira, and Elisabeth Wittman. Everyone is invited to participate in our meetings and events.

Go forth and do Justice!

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marino, Convener

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COMMUNION VISITATION MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

Communion Visitation - *bringing the church to members and friends* who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship services on a permanent or temporary basis, and *enabling all to remain connected* to the ministry of United in Faith.

Communion Visitation ministry activities demonstrate all of our **Guiding Principles**: proclaiming Jesus is Lord and *Savior*, reflecting God's *love*, praying and *listening* for God's guidance, continuing to strengthen *faith*, including *all* in God's work and ***meeting people where they are***. Our main activity is visitation during which communion is given, printed devotionals are provided, and information regarding United in Faith is shared. In some cases, telephone calls are routinely made instead. Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters may also be mailed. Those visited are included on the *Prayer Weaving*. In these ways, we are being "*God's hands, feet and voice*" as we care for each other.

Approximately **100 visits** - most on a regular monthly basis - were made to **17 individuals** during the year. In addition to regular monthly visits, visits are made as needed to others in situations such as hospitalization. Visits were made by Bernice Malmanger, Pamela Marino, Terrie Miller, Barbara Patrick, and Barbara Piggott.

Anyone with a passion for helping those unable to attend worship services stay connected to United in Faith is invited to join us in our "caring, communing, listening, loving and providing" ministry. You can **become involved** in a number of ways:

- ***become a visitor*** - a wonderful opportunity to share your faith, listen to life stories, pray with others, sit and visit awhile, bring the bread of life and cup of blessing;
- ***notify*** the church office when you or someone else is no longer able to attend worship on a permanent or a temporary basis so a visit can be scheduled if it is desired;
- ***pray*** for those visited (all are listed on the Prayer Weaving) as well as for those who are doing the visiting; and,
- ***telephone, send a card or visit*** someone who is unable to come to church.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marino, Director

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SHEPERD'S STAFF MINISTRY
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

The Shepherd's Staff Ministry was formed to maintain communication with all church members and to assist the Office Administrator with any assigned tasks. Shepherd's Staff will contact any visitors, members who have regularly missed worship and fellowship, and maintain communications with members who are unable to attend services. Shepherd's Staff also maintains background checks for all volunteers for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Youth and Confirmation. They also send birthday cards and anniversary cards to all members and make sure any members that are hospitalized or ill receive a card. They also maintain the One Call Now program to notify members by phone and/or email regarding any member news or church activities.

In 2017 Shepherd's Staff also sponsored a Bunoa Beef Day that raised \$200 for the new HVAC fund.

Bonnie Maginnis
Mickey Bligh
Dian Hoyem

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STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The congregation of UIF is a generous one! Thank you for all the gifts you bring to the ministries and vision of United in Faith.

One of the most visible reminders of the Stewardship Ministry is the **offering envelopes**. Last year, we made the switch from monthly mailed envelopes to an annual box of envelopes. Please always fill in the lines on the outside of the envelopes to help the Counters ensure your donated funds are allocated in accordance with your wishes.

This year the Stewardship Ministry partnered with the Sunday School program to provide **piggy banks** to our young people. All of the Sunday School children received piggy banks that have four slots each. The slots are designated for saving, spending, investing, and donating. We blessed the banks during worship, and the kids received a Sunday School lesson on what it means to be stewards of their money. We will continue to provide banks as we get new young people into the Sunday School program.

In September, the Stewardship Ministry hosted an **Oktoberfest** to raise funds for the HVAC Unit. We had a great time while enjoying dinner, Black Forest cake, soft pretzels, and a few drinks (for some of us). We raised over \$1,400, making it a night to remember!

Thanks to all of you who turned in a written **faith promise**. As of the beginning of December, we received 23 forms, which is down from last year's 29 promises. We encourage every family unit to complete a faith promise form as a way for you to be deliberate about giving your time, talents, and treasure. Additional faith promises forms are available in the Stewardship mailbox. Please complete your faith promise form if you haven't done so already.

If you have any feedback or ideas for us, please share them with the members of the Stewardship Ministry: Denise Boyer, Nancy Ciecko, Richard Guzik, and Gretchen Quillin.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Quillin, Chair

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COFFEE HOSTESSES
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

The Fellowship Ministry oversees our Sunday morning coffee hour. Volunteers are asked to sign up to bring desserts each Sunday during the year so members can enjoy some fellowship and coffee between services. Volunteers will set up, serve and clean up afterwards. *Thank you* to all the wonderful people who volunteer.

Bonnie

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GREETER MINISTRY
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

Many of you are too young to remember the sign that read "*We Need You*". That was way back in 1945! Well, we do need your help in **welcoming folks into the United in Faith family** each and every Sunday, at the 8:30 AM service and at the 10:30 AM service, as well as during the summer months at the single 9:30 AM service.

It's a great way to begin your morning -- giving **hugs**, getting **hugs**, a **smile**, even a grin is good! "*Welcome to United in Faith*, it so good to have you join us this morning." Tell them who you are...if you don't know them, ask for their names, and make sure to say, "Hello!"

It is much easier to get greeters for the 8:30 AM service than for the 10:30 AM service; we really need everyone to step up and take a couple of months at a time. Seems like we no sooner end a month, that a new one appears.

Thanks for all you do for us and for your **Church Family**, and thanks for all you will (continue to) do in the future.

Love,
Annette

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

There are so many important roles at United in Faith for Volunteers that it's hard to keep a completely accurate list at all times.

At present, Bonnie Maginnis is coordinating Fellowship Providers and Annette Cameron is coordinating Greeters. Derek and Pastor Carla coordinate the schedule of Ushers, Assisting Ministers, and Communion Assistants for both services. Most months, we put out a schedule grid WAY in advance so that people can mark down their availability (or lack of availability). Often, Derek and Pastor Carla fill in the blanks in time to post it in the upcoming month's newsletter. If you are scheduled for a date you cannot attend, please try to get someone to fill in for you and mark it on the sign-up sheet by entrance to the sanctuary.

We are so grateful to everyone who signs up ahead of time, to everyone who jumps in at the last second when someone is absent, and to everyone who serves faithfully to make United in Faith's worship life and fellowship richer.

Thank you for everyone who steps up when there are gaps in the worship schedule (when not assigned or someone is sick). We are so grateful for the willing servants of God who jump in wherever needed in worship leadership.

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ALTAR GUILD
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

The primary purpose of the Altar Guild is to prepare the altar for worship services and specially to see to the preparation of Holy Communion.

The paraments are changed in accordance with the liturgical calendar. Those who serve in the Altar Guild do so in numerous ways, one of which is seeing to the cleaning of the paraments and laundering of sacramental linens. The supplies such as wine, grape juice, bread, and candles are also purchased as needed. Gluten and dairy free wafers are available for persons who suffer allergic reactions to wheat or dairy.

Another concern is the care of the Baptismal Font, and preparing it for the Sacrament of Baptism. The Altar Guild is also responsible for replacing votive candles.

A *thank you* goes to Steve Chobot for keeping the Sanctuary Lamp burning and to Joe Childress for changing the banners in accordance to the liturgical calendar. Joe has also been a big help by purchasing and pick up supplies for the guild as needed, such as wine and appropriate candles.

To our faithful members, a big *thank you* goes out: Adrienne Childress, Bernice Malmanger, and Sue Wilfong. *Thank you* goes out, as well, to Carolyn Doughty, Fran Johnston, and Judi Schira for cleaning up the communion after the second service.

The Altar Guild is always looking for members who would like to join us. It doesn't take much time and the rewards are uplifting!

Yours in Christ,
Kim Childress

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DECORATIVE ARTS
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

We are the people responsible for decorating the Sanctuary for various seasons and holidays.

We continue to add new items to our inventory for the Sanctuary. This year, 20 purple lace crosses were added to hang for the season of Lent. We hope the symbolism is respectful for that period of time.

We continue to have a small, yet loyal group, who is willing to give of their time and talents to make our worship space more aesthetically pleasing. If you have a suggestion to offer for making our space more welcoming, please contact Lys Shradeja.

In 2017, Decorative Arts has also been able to make Fidget Pillows for local nursing homes. Though none of us really knew what we were doing, we did manage to finish 4 tops for a great cause. We hope to possibly continue these efforts. These pillows form objects of activity for people with dementia or Alzheimer's to occupy their hands and calm them. When we have these workdays, the fabrics and trims are already provided; what is needed is more people to pitch in and sew a few seams or a button (as well as enjoy one another's company)! Please contact Lys Shradeja for details of date, time, and place for this in the coming year.

Continued thanks to: Linda Smith, Carol Arnswald, Lori Ann Powrozek, Joe Veal, and Joe Childress.
No ministry can function without people who are willing to help and give of themselves.

Respectfully submitted,
Lys Shradeja

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CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

The Church Health Team continued their work to get and keep United in Faith healthy. The focus for this year was once again Passionate Spirituality and particularly our Passion for Devotions. Our work included:

- Publishing a **Devotional** written by a member of the congregation in the monthly newsletter as available
- Using *Luther's Small Catechism* for Lent weekday services
- Studying *Benedictions: 26 Reflections, Helping to Discover God's Presence in* *Everyday Life* between services in May and June
- Selling coupons for Lou Malnati's frozen pizzas and Baker Square Pies as a fundraiser for the HVAC fund
- studying Anne Lamott's book *Help, Thanks, Wow* between services in November

In November, the team met with our **Natural Church Development** (NCD) coach, Dave Daubert, to explore another tool for advancing our spiritual growth. The team decided to pursue this tool, REVEAL, and will begin implementation in the first quarter of 2018. We will continue to use the NCD 3 Colors of Ministry to enable individuals to explore and discover their gifts.

Plans for 2018 include:

- Continuing **devotions** written by members of the congregation in the newsletter (if interested, please contact a member of the team; we welcome your thoughts)
- Educating ourselves and the congregation on the **REVEAL tool**, sponsoring a congregation wide survey assessment, implementing steps based on the results of the assessment
- Holding a **3 Colors of Ministry Gifts Assessment class** *as needed*

The members of the team during 2017 were Rich Guzik, Jeff Jewell, Pam Marino, Kerry Montes, Gretchen Quillin and Pastor Carla Thompson Powell. Nancy Ciecko will join the team in 2018.

Thank you to the congregation for your support and continuing efforts to keep United in Faith healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marino

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 166
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Troop had an active program in 2017. We currently have 9 registered youth participating in the program.

We had the honor of bestowing the Eagle Scout Award on one of our Scouts this year. Our Scouts participated in the district ski trip, Klondike Derby, did an ice skating outing, participated in the district first aid meet, did numerous Archery events, became proficient in orienteering, conducted an Eagle Service project for Cornerstone Community Outreach, enjoyed the Bristol Renaissance Faire, and held their annual overnight film fest on New Year's Eve here at UIF.

Some of our Scouts serve as officers in the Natcha Alluns Chapter of the Order of the Arrow (the national camping society of the BSA). A number of our Scouts also participate on the ceremonial teams of Owasispe Lodge.

The Troop spent numerous weekends under canvas throughout the year and the Scouts continue to hone their skills with Dutch Oven cooking.

We attended Camp Blackhawk at Owasispe Scout Reservation during the summer; were the Scouts earned the merit badges: Archery, Camping, Canoeing, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, Rifle Shooting, Small Boat Sailing, Wilderness Survival. On top of that, *our Scouts earned the **Baden Powell Award** for each week*, went lake tubing, rode horseback, played ukulele at the Don Ho Memorial Beach Party, learned to rappel, and of course, absorbed several Monster Shakes in town. In addition, we had Scouts from Beloit, Wisconsin, join us at camp this year.

Our Scouts constructed the **Little Library** – which the Girl Scouts painted – that now stands at the entrance to United in Faith.

The Troop has begun reviewing the new BSA program which will allow girls to join the ranks of the Boy Scouts beginning in 2019.

The Troop continues to clean-up the parking lot on a regular basis.

Boy Scouting is for boys age 11 (6th grade) through 17. Troop 166 meets every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, in the west building. Perspective members can stop in on any scheduled meeting to see the program in action or for more information, contact Eric Friedl at (773) 685-4333; email to Eric_Friedl@comcast.net.

In addition to sponsoring the Troop; United in Faith continues to provide monthly meeting space for the Indian Trails Roundtables (a meeting for leaders to exchange ideas, pickup the latest information, and learn new skills).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew C. Witt
Charter Organizational Representative

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GIRL SCOUTS IN AND AROUND UIF

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

This year we have 9 Daisys, 14 Brownies, only 12 Juniors, 12 Cadettes, 2 Seniors, and 4 Ambassadors.

- The Daisy & Brownies are from age 5 thru 8 years old. They meet on Thursday evening from 6-7:30 pm. They enjoy everything we do.
- The Juniors are ages 9 & 10. They meet on Tuesday evening from 6:45 until 8:30 pm.
- The Cadette are ages 11-13. They also meet on Tuesday evening from 6:45 until 8:30 pm.
- The Senior & Ambassador are 14-18 years old and also meet on Tuesday.

For January, we begin and end taking cookie orders. We also had a Song & Dance Workshop for the girls in our neighborhood. We had over 70 girls in attendance. Everyone had a great time. In February, we had our neighborhood Bowling Party for 100. During March, we had Girl Scout Sunday here at United in Faith. We served coffee "And" to our congregation. In April, the girls went roller skating. May was camping for our Daisy & Brownies. We had our ending ceremony in May too. The girls received all their badges, and awards!

We had a couple of months off and by September, we were anxious to get back to a routine. The Juniors, Cadettes, seniors, and ambassadors went to camp in October. The older girls had a rainy weekend, however, the following weekend was a little better, but they did leave earlier to get home because of the rain.

October: we sold candy, nuts and magazines from October 1st to the 20th. The order came in on November 11th, which was the same day that we had our Spaghetti Supper. That day, we had such a nice crowd! We made enough to make two more camping trips for the coming year. It will be so nice for the girls. They look forward to camp *every time* we go.

We made up 176 health kits for those who are homeless, and for battered women. Thanks to all of our congregation for their help with gathering our health kit supplies. We really appreciate *all your help* during *the whole year*.

Badge work, crafts, trips, Christmas crafts, Outings, parties during the year, pizza, zoo lights, and ice skating with hot chocolate..

Thanks for allowing us to meet here year after year. We all appreciate that: especially the girls and leaders.

Love, and Thanks

Annette, Leaders and all our girls.

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GOLDEN REBELS
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The Golden Rebels are a splinter group formed in July when the Golden Diners program at United in Faith was canceled by the City.

Some of the seniors went to a location of Golden Diners that has remained open, while 9 to 11 of us stayed and continue to play Bingo and cards every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to approximately 1:30 or 2 p.m. We bring our own lunches, tea and cookies are provided for energy. Anyone over 60 is welcome to join us in the Resource Room for fun and fellowship.

We especially miss our longtime friend and leader of the group, Harriet Kurz, who passed on Thanksgiving. She was a special lady and her absence leaves a void in our hearts.

Respectfully,
Lys Shradeja

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NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report

New Life for Old Bags (NLOB) is a collaboration of folks working together to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The creation of each mat takes 80 volunteer hours and repurposes 500-700 used plastic bags. The handmade mats provide the homeless *with some cushion, water resistance, and love*.

NLOB was founded in Chicago in February of 2010 and has its headquarters at United in Faith (UIF). It has grown, and now we have Chicagoland Chapters at Bethesda Home and Retirement Center, Midwest Buddhist Temple, Friendship Village in Schaumburg, LaGrange Park, Plano, and Plainfield. There are also "chapters" all over the United States such as Wooster, Ohio and Las Vegas, Nevada, and beyond.

NLOB is very grateful to UIF for providing office space for what we like to call our "international headquarters" and space for monthly NLOB work day parties (which, also, serve as the training grounds for new "chapters").

By the end of 2017, NLOB volunteers will have donated over **316,560 hours** (*50,000 of those given in 2017*), creating about **3,957 mats** (614 of those made in 2017), sharing love with local homeless by giving them a mat to sleep on, while *repurposing over 2.7 million plastic bags to date* (keeping them out of landfills and water sources).

UIF has provided us with a home office, storage space, resources, and support that has allowed us to continue to grow, collaborate, serve the homeless, benefit the environment, develop relationships, and build community. In addition, we were happy to be able to give back to UIF this year in September by providing a donation in the amount of \$750 to assist with fundraising efforts towards the replacement of the HVAC system in the west building. Thank you.

Christina Batorski
NLOB Board President

Mary Moy
NLOB Board Vice President

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SENIOR CLUB
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The United in Faith Lutheran Senior Club meets every third Wednesday of the month, except for Dec. and Jan. We keep looking for new members; However, all our older members have passed away or have moved into Senior living outside of Chicago. There are only four members left. You need a lot more people to have a good program.

We do go out to *Bakers Square* on our *Wednesdays*. We get **free pie** on that day. Getting together, seeing what is happening with each other; it's great. Hopefully, this will continue; though one never knows.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to join us at Bakers Square, *please do!* Check the monthly newsletter and calendar for updates.

Love,

Annette

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ST. CYPRIAN'S FOOD PANTRY
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2017 Annual Report

2017 has been an exciting year at St. Cyprian's Food Pantry and we would like to thank all of our generous supporters at United in Faith. Fund raising is up for the year and we currently have an abundance of non-perishable food available for our clients for the holidays.

Early in 2017 our new Pantry Director was able to complete cleaning out all of the cabinets and shelves so she could organize non-food items to determine exactly what non-food items were available for immediate distribution to clients. She also started a regular program of sending thank you notes to donors and also publishing a **newsletter**.

For **Easter**, 103 dinner baskets were distributed to clients and each basket included a ham. 153 children's Easter baskets were also distributed.

The Pantry Director attended the **Hunger Summit and Lobby Day** in May in Springfield where she was able to network with other food pantry directors and met the co-chairs of the Hunger Caucus, Sen. Don Harmon and Se. Mio Nibo.

In June, the pantry was inspected by the Greater Chicago Food Depository and they were pleased with the amount of food our clients were able to take home. We were cited for missing signage and no thermometers in the freezers and refrigerators - which was immediately remedied. They were also concerned about damage to the floor in the meat room and missing ceiling tiles. The ceiling tiles were missing because of replacement of the lighting in the building which has been completed. The floor will be repaired during Christmas break.

The pantry hosted the monthly **Portage Park Chamber of Commerce** meeting in July, which increased awareness of the pantry by neighborhood businesses.

School supplies were distributed in August and left over school supplies were donated to two local schools for their immediate use.

The pantry again took part in the Greater Chicago Food Depository **Hunger Walk** in September. Thanks to Joan's organization the pantry had 37 walkers who earned the pantry \$444 in food credit along with \$100 credit from online donations.

The pantry again held a **Shoe Drive** and as of December 14th, 1500 pairs of shoes have been collected which will be picked up in December.

For **Thanksgiving**, we distributed 101 bags of food to clients for their Thanksgiving dinner.

For **Christmas**, we have 207 requests for food and 125 requests for Christmas gifts for kids.

The pantry applied for and was approved for the **SNAP Outreach Network**. This required approval and inspection of our facilities by the Greater Chicago Food Depository. In January, trained pantry volunteers will be able to assist clients without access to computers to apply for SNAP benefits with the State of Illinois.

The Food Pantry is grateful to United in Faith for the *new Heating & Air Conditioning unit* installed in the West Building this past summer. It sure makes a more comfortable environment for both clients and volunteers.

St. Cyprian Food Pantry

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Why we give

Our financial generosity is an expression of our love for God and for our neighbor and for ourselves. We are new people in Christ: compassionate and eager to participate in God's work in the world. A critical component of what we do together is the offering made by you and your congregation that is shared with synods and churchwide ministries. We call this Mission Support, which makes it possible for ELCA members from Alaska to the Caribbean to be responsive as one church to exciting new opportunities for ministry.

Who we are

We are a church that is deeply rooted – and always being made new. While the ELCA is still comparatively new as a church body, our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. Our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16th century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the Scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God's steadfast love and mercy. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the world who meet us at Christ's table of grace.

What we celebrate

Together we accompany our nearly 10,000 congregations as they develop mission plans to engage with their communities, whether it be in supporting their local evangelism and outreach efforts, sustaining local homeless shelters and food pantries, or responding anywhere else congregations see a need. We are also committed to growing courageous, wise and faithful leaders. And through The Lutheran World Federation, ELCA members are engaged in a global communion of 143 member churches in 79 countries all over the world. The ELCA is the federation's only member church from the United States.

Your support makes all ELCA ministries possible here at home and abroad. Your undesignated gifts to ELCA ministries through Mission Support are used where needs are the greatest, and gifts also make it possible for synods and churchwide ministries to keep ongoing commitments to ministry partners.

Our strategic approach

ELCA churchwide ministries has two strategic priorities, which help shape our decisions and activities:

- Accompany congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission
- Build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace

Our nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and churchwide ministries engage in mission together and this is made possible through financial giving. Together we do God's work in the world in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone

What is Mission Support?

Mission Support is the portion of regular offering that your congregation shares with your synod and churchwide ministries for God's mission beyond your congregation. This support is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA, providing a significant portion of budgeted support that enables the start of new congregations and renewal of existing ones. These funds also provide the staff and resources to develop new leaders, support churches around the world, work for justice, end poverty and so much more.

Mission Support is a small percentage of your weekly offering. Many synods encourage congregations to set a goal of 10 percent or greater, while the rest of your offering (nearly 90 percent) remains within your congregation. You help pay for local ministries, outreach, salaries, utilities and the building, ensuring your congregation's vital presence in your community.



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