

MAY  
2024

# United in Faith News

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



From the desk of . . .  
**Pastor Jeanine**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

At  
United in Faith,  
The Guiding  
Principles are:

+  
Jesus is  
Lord and  
**Savior**  
+  
Reflect  
God's **Love**  
+  
Pray and  
**listen** for God's  
guidance  
+  
Continue to  
strengthen  
**faith**  
+  
Include **All**  
in God's  
work  
+  
Meet people  
**where they  
are**

## **Spring is in full swing here at United in Faith.**

We are replacing two of our four roofs; tuckpointing failing mortar and replacing bricks; planning a refresh to the interior office spaces and lounge; gathering in small groups and as a congregation to continue to explore our future ministry on Irving Park Road; and temporarily installing cicadas.

**We celebrate Christ alive** and at work in our hearts, in our space and in this place.

The Holy Spirit is blowing through our doors and sweeping us into our neighborhood. The transition team is listening for the threads that bind us and energy that guides us. Please see their article in this newsletter!

This Easter Season Jesus has been guiding us to our mission in the world. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) He is sending us out into the world to continue that mission of love. Pentecost will soon be upon us and there is no greater expression of the Spirit in our midst. As a congregation, we will murmur with hope **Come Holy Spirit**. As a congregation, we will speak with conviction **Come Holy Spirit**. As a congregation we will shout with joy **Come Holy Spirit**. Opening ourselves to the joy of the season and to the winds that bring life and abundance.

**Please join us in worship this month and be caught up in  
the whirlwind on new life!**

# THE CICADAS ARE COMING!

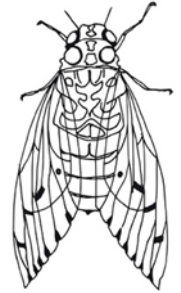
Following a 17-year hiatus, Chicago's massive cicada emergence for 2024 is closer than you may think.

## THEY ARE COMING TO UIF TOO!

This month we will paint and install 7 plaster cast sculptures of 18-inch cicadas. This part of a larger installation in the Chicago area supporting a roof deck garden at the Insect Asylum. Please see their work at <https://www.theinsectasylum.com/cicadafest2024>.

If you are "artistic" or can follow instructions, alert pastor!

Our choir (7) cicadas will join 1,000 others to decorate the city this month!



## MAY BOOK CLUB



The next book club is scheduled to meet on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 am. The book that was chosen is *The Sacred Pulse: Holy Rhythms for Overwhelmed Souls* by April Fiet.

April Fiet invites us to examine the frantic patterns of our lives to reclaim the deeper, sacred pulses that pattern our days. Through stories, scripture, and practical guidance for daily living, she lays out twelve rhythms—including gardening, handcrafts, friendship, and holidays—that are both sustainable and sustaining. *The Sacred Pulse* shows us how to strip away all the competing beats we have settled for so we can tap into the joyful, holy rhythms of life.

If you are weary and worn out, or simply in need of refreshing, this book can help to restore your soul. All are welcome. Please join us.



## COFFEE HOUR

Join us every Sunday at 9:00 am for our Coffee Hour. It's a wonderful time to catch up with old friends or even make new ones!

We are always looking for volunteers to help. The sign up sheet is on the big table in the fellowship hall.

## United in Faith Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report – March, 2024

Three Months  
Ended  
03/31/24

Unrestricted:

Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 24,094
Expenditures	<u>81,352</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	\$ ( 57,258)
Investment Income and changes in market value	18,932
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ ( 38,326)

Educational Endowment:

Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 19,347
Scholarships paid out	<u>0</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ 19,347

Harriet Kurz Endowment:

Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	\$ 6,116
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	<u>19,310</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ <u>25,426</u>
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	\$ 6,447

Comments:

2023 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$27,898 in March and lower by \$57,258 YTD .

Income includes \$4,784 in Special Estate gifts from:

- Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January 2024
- Dorothy Goos - \$ 3,057 in February 2024

Investments returned a gain of \$16,922 for March & a gain of \$44,358 YTD.

Educational Investments returned a gain of \$10,918 for March & a gain of \$19,347 YTD.

Total expenses for March are favorable to budget by \$35,075 and is favorable to budget by \$41,489 YTD due to the Administrative YTD costs being lower than budget by \$338, the YTD Building costs being lower than budget by \$36,296 due to the roof repair project delay, the March Quarterly Benevolence (\$3,750) not being paid until April & the Ministry Directors YTD costs being lower than budget by \$2,041.



## TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Greetings from the Transition Team! We are hard at work getting us to the point where we can put the paperwork together to call a new pastor. As we have started this work, with the guidance of Pastor Jeanne, we decided that we wanted to better understand who we are as a church. That started with the Transition Team talking about our experiences at United In Faith and then a congregational forum was held March 10th where the Team together with other members reviewed the history of UIF.

Through those conversations, the team discovered that we think there are still some unresolved issues around conflict and transition that we, as a church, need to acknowledge and discuss. Working through this process, we believe, will not only make UIF a healthier place but also put us in a great position to welcome a new pastor.

In our last meeting, we set some goals for the Transition Team to address these issues:

- Learn how to engage in healthy conflict and forgiveness
- Examine how we help the blessings of our community flow so that the workload is better shared
- Be a place where youth organizations and others can have a space when they need it
- Engage in a fuller processing of leaders who have left and for the synod which includes grieving, honoring and truth telling

In order to accomplish these goals, you will see things like:

- + Preaching on these topics
- + Cottage meetings with intentional conversations
- + Public events to lament and give joy
  - Forums after church to include
  - Updates from the transition team (5th Sundays)
  - Metro Chicago Synod Representative Presentation
  - Conflict workshops
  - Sunday school class on forgiveness

We are excited to accomplish these goals and see United In Faith continue to grow. We believe that this will help us bring the right pastor for us. We ask for Christ's guidance in this process and for your prayers as well. While the Transition Team is leading these efforts, success requires the help of all parts of the Body of Christ.

In Christ,  
The Transition Team

## LSSI Challenge!



It is not too late to donate to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois! The UIF challenge continues through Pentecost, May 19th. Your donation will be matched by UIF. Look for the designated envelopes and join this fund drive for our partner agency!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.... WANNA HELP?

**PLEASE sign up to be an assisting minister. The job is easy.**

Jeanne will send you the Worship Lessons and Prayers for the Church the week before you are assigned. All you have to do is read! Simple, right!?!

**The sign up sheet for both Assisting Ministers and Coffee Hour are on the table in the fellowship room.**



**ALSO... do you like to garden?** We have opportunities to garden in both the front and back of the church. Please call the church office for more information.

## NEW PHONE DIRECTORY

Please make sure to pick up a copy of the new church phone directory.

They are available on the table outside of the sanctuary.



## Mother's and Father's Days?

One year, on the Friday before Mother's Day someone said, "Happy Mother's Day," but quickly retracted it because she found out I was not a mother. But I had a mother! And I am certainly happy I had her! Same for my dad - I can always celebrate the days that celebrate them.

Also, you yourself may not be a parent, but have nurtured a child not your own. And likely someone nurtured you as a parent would. We need to remember these special relationships and take time to honor them, just as we honor a Mother or Father. Whether or not these are your relatives or people you never lived with, they have nurtured you in a significant way.

In our world, now and perhaps always, family roles may not be as "traditional" as TV or Hollywood would have us believe. Imagine your life without your non-traditional parent person! Maybe they don't even realize what a difference they have made for you or you only realize that now.

Let us be grateful for all nurturing people in our lives. And let us be nurturers in return to those who need that from us. After all that is likely what Mom, Dad and other nurturers taught you!

Elisabeth Wittman, for the Justice Ministry

# Girl Scouts at UIF

Well, here we are, almost done with another year of Girl Scouts at United in Faith!



The older girls camped in the fall, and worked on cooking and carpentry, did some crafts, played some games and did some service projects. We are working on a date to go somewhere to use our cookie funds. Maybe Medieval Times?

The Brownies worked on their Snacks badge and Cybersecurity and did a little sewing. They are planning on visiting the Chicago Botanic Gardens soon.

And of course we sold cookies! (We do have some cookies left --not lots but if you ate all of yours and you just can't wait until next winter--we can help you out!)

As always Great Thanks to UIF for allowing us to be here as our home base!

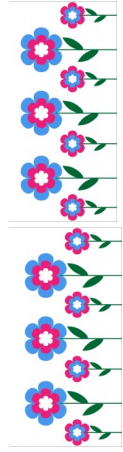
*Janeen, Sharon, Catherine, Michelle, Cathy and Kathy and our girls*

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\* Due to a surplus of donated items, St. Cyprian's is accepting **ONLY non-perishable food or monetary donations.** \*  
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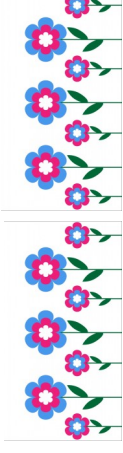


# May 2024

1	Diane Doyle
3	Peg Sullivan
3	Dave & Gretchen Quillin anniversary
4	Harold & Dian Hoyem anniversary
11	Rich & Gayle Guzik anniversary
17	George Schultz
17	George & Pam Schultz anniversary
19	Stanley Kuswik
20	Barbara Piggott
30	Marty & Janeen Devine anniversary

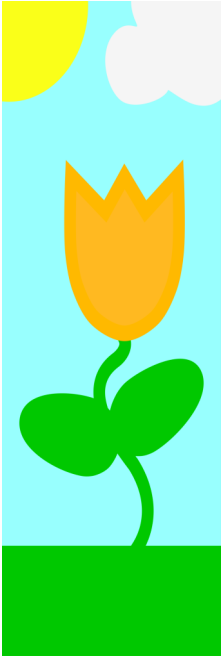


# MAY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>2</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>3</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>4</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>5</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>6</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>7</b> 10:00am Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 10:00am Justice Team 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>9</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Private Event 6:30pm AA	<b>11</b> 7:00am Private Event 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>13</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>14</b> 10:00am Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts	<b>15</b> 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>16</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>17</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>18</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am Book Club 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>19</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>20</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>21</b> 10:00am Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 6:45pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>24</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>25</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>27</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>28</b> 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>29</b> 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>30</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	<b>31</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>1</b> 9:30am AI-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>

# MAY 2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE



<b>May 5</b> <i>Easter 6</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<b>May 12</b> <i>Easter 7</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<b>May 19</b> <b>PENTECOST</b>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<b>May 26</b> <b>HOLY TRINITY</b>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 6525 West Irving Park Road  
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