

August
2022

United in Faith News

AUGUST



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



From the desk of . . .

Pastor Carla



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God is Doing A New Thing – Pastor Carla Thompson Powell

It's that time of year again. Back-to-school. Even if you aren't in school and don't have anyone in your immediate family about to start school, it's impossible to miss the signs that it is nearly time for school to start. Between back-to-school sales. More traffic at school buildings. Crossing guards. Summer out-of-town travel slows. For me, back-to-school has always been a time to re-establish routines. Even without school-age kids in my home, fall feels like a good time to settle into new routines and new patterns.

This year at United in Faith, we are marking "A New Beginning" with a new venture starting on August 7th from 4-6pm: Messy Church. We'll have a Messy Church event every six weeks (September 18 God's Work Our Hands; October 30 Who Am I?; December 11 God's Topsy Turvy Kingdom), each time on a Sunday from 4-6pm (with a free simple meal included).

Messy Church is sometimes called a "fresh expression of the church." Our first Messy Church event focuses on "A New Beginning," based on the theme scripture passage, Isaiah 43:18-19. Here is The Message translation of those verses: "*Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.*" To delve deeper into this Isaiah passage, we'll make backpack or suitcase tags, try new foods and games, create a coffee filter butterfly, build new structures, and explore finger labyrinths. Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.

Messy Church's motto is "Church, but not as you know it". If you have attended church for a long time, Messy Church may not look like church to you. At Messy Church, all ages meet together to learn about Christ through games, crafts and activities, music, and storytelling from the Bible. At the end, we gather for a simple meal to build relationships with each other, God, and the world.

(OVER)-->

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**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR CARLA, CONTINUED..

The global Messy Church movement is based on five values:

- Creativity
- Hospitality
- All-ages
- Christ-centered
- Celebration

These values easily go hand in hand with United in Faith's six guiding principles:

- Jesus is Lord & 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

How can you personally help to make Messy Church successful?

You can volunteer to "staff" a table. Most of these activities are decided and planned by a team ahead of time. The activity may run more smoothly with a volunteer to answer questions, refill supplies, or assist those who might need help. Each activity location will have some discussion questions, and volunteers are encouraged to mention these questions for reflection all throughout (or after) the activity.

You can invite someone to join you at a Messy Church event. This is a very kid-friendly event, but all ages and generations are expected and invited to participate. Church life is one of the few places where all generations interact on an informal basis, and people of all ages can learn with and from one another in Messy Church events.

You can bring a food item to help support the Messy Church simple meal. You could also help to serve the meal if you don't want to be hands on at a table.

You can pray for Messy Church and for all the people that might attend on August 7th. Pray that God's message of love and grace is visible. Pray that new people would hear our invitation and feel moved to attend. Pray that people of all ages learn from and listen to one another.

Pastor Carla



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
10:00- 3:00
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY



If you or someone you know needs help,
 contact NAMI HelpLine
 Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. ET

1-800-950-NAMI (6264)
 or
helpline@nami.org

HELP WANTED



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

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

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

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



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



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

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

Will you help with your gift today?
GIVE online at elca.org/Donate
Learn ways to ADVOCATE
GIVE by phone at **800-638-3522**
 at elca.org/advocacy
GIVE by mail with a stamp to:

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

United in Faith Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report – June, 2021

	Six Months Ended <u>06/30/21</u>
<u>Unrestricted:</u>	
Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 64,973
Expenditures	<u>121,196</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	(56,223)
Investment Income and changes in market value	<u>25,556</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ (30,667)
<u>Educational Endowment:</u>	
Investment Income and changes in market value	26,596
Scholarships paid out	<u>(10,000)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ 16,596
<u>Harriet Kurz Endowment:</u>	
Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	20,802
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	<u>33,056</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ 53,858
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	<u>\$ 39,787</u>

Comments:

2021 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$17,115 in June and lower by \$77,932 YTD without Special Estate Gifts.

Income includes \$21,708 in Special Estate gifts from:

Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January

Dorothy Goos - \$19,981 in March

General Investments returned a gain of \$874 for June & a gain of \$25,556 YTD.

Educational Investments returned a gain of \$665 for June & a gain of \$26,596 YTD.

\$2,000 in Scholarships were paid out of the Educational Endowment Fund in February.

\$8,000 in Scholarships were paid out of the Educational Endowment Fund in April.

Harriet Kurz Endowment returned a gain of \$4,922 for June. & a gain of \$53,858 YTD.

Total Expenses for six months are higher than income by \$77,932 but are \$15,045 under budget due to a \$5,363 payment offset from Johnson Controls due to the faulty HVAC Compressor, the second Quarter \$3,750 Benevolence payment not being made yet, and six months Electricity costs being lower than budget by \$2,228.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

Please join us for our regularly scheduled, in person, monthly NLOB Work Day this Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at United in Faith Lutheran Church located at 6525 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago.

Parking is available in the lot behind the church building.

Please feel free to bring a snack to share. Please note, we CANNOT accept straight plastic bag donations as we do not have the capacity to store them.

As of June 2, 2022 we're at:

5,975 mats approx. completed
4,182,500 repurposed bags approx.
478,000 hours of volunteer work
87 new mats completed since 4/30/22!

REMAINING NLOB WORK DAYS IN 2022:

1st Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm

- Saturday, October 1, 2022
- Saturday, November 5, 2022
- Saturday, December 3, 2022



SEASON OF CREATION – Sundays in September 2022

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

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

This year, we share special Sundays that focus on :

September 4 - OCEANA

September 11 - FAUNA & FLORA

September 18 - STORM

September 25 - COSMOS



We will also share an outdoor Pet Blessing service on Saturday, October 1st at 3:00 pm, as part of UIF commemorating the Season of Creation.

CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD

There Is No Second Nature

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



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

August 7	Jeaninne Kosner
August 12	Joe Childress
August 13	Violet Swanson
August 26	Kenneth Ricker
August 27	Annette Cameron Evan Powell
August 28	Patrick O'Donnell
August 30	Karine Kuswik Ardelle Wray

Ice Cream Party!

Sept. 11 immediately after Service

GET EXCITED!

Invite your friends to join us for an Ice Cream Sundae or Float!

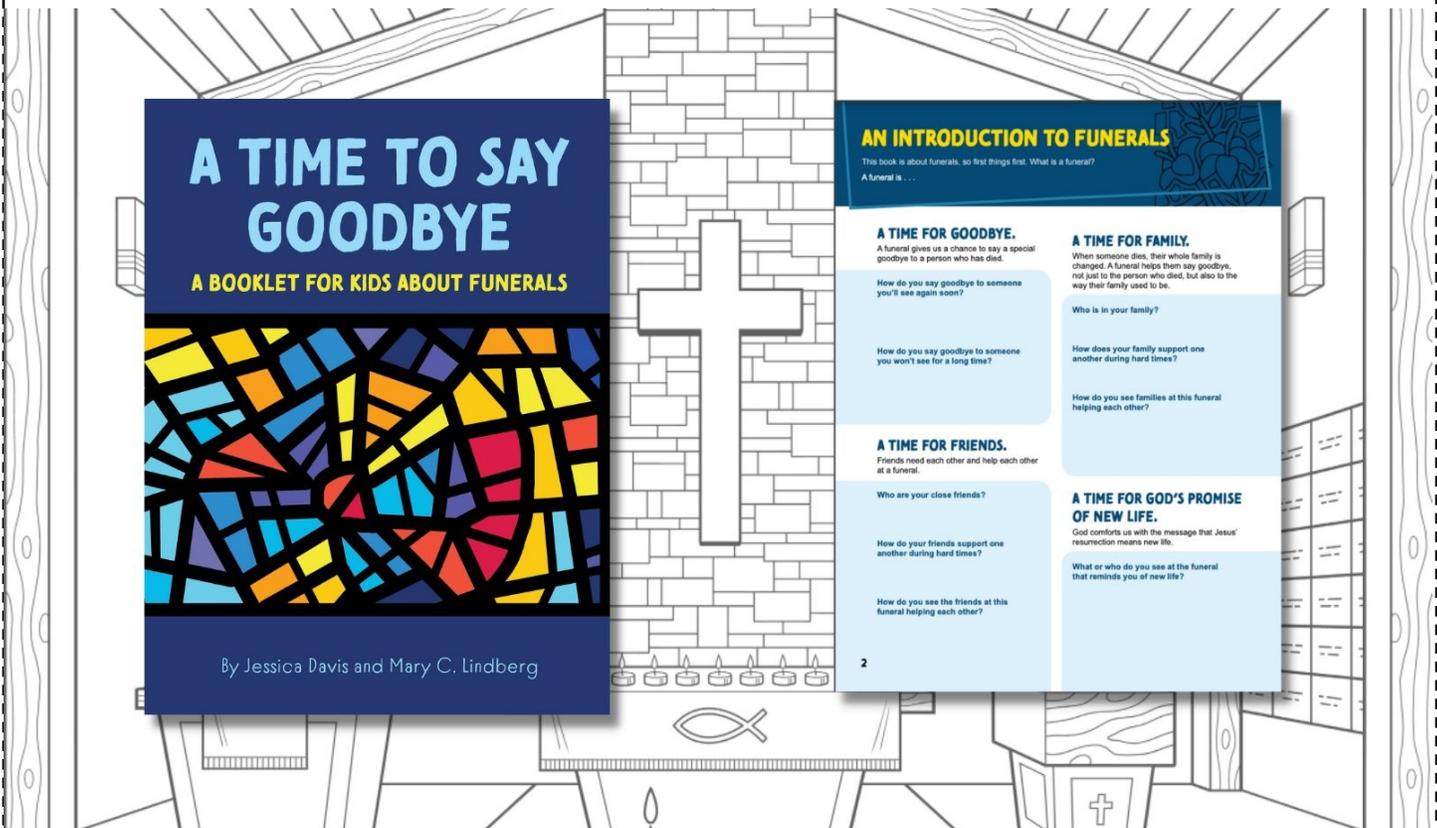
Ice Cream Party! will be in UIF parking lot, weather permitting. (may the only sprinkles be the candy toppings!) Please look for the sign up sheet at UIF on the sign ups table. We need volunteers to serve and to donate supplies. Thank you for making Ice Cream Party! a sweet success.



Attention folks with kids in their lives...

Augsburg Fortress recently released a booklet entitled "A Time To Say Goodbye" (a booklet for kids about funerals). Pastor Carla has ordered about 10 copies to have on hand in her office if your child/grandchild/niece/nephew/neighbor might appreciate the opportunity for such a booklet at a time of losing a loved one. (I recommend for readers ages 7-14, though there are some seek and find pictures that could be valuable for younger. It uses liturgical language, but it's not necessarily only Lutheran.)

A Time to Say Goodbye (written by Jessica Davis and Mary C. Lindberg) "is a resource to help kids understand what happens at a Lutheran funeral and explore the emotions they may experience during the service and when a loved one dies. This resource includes content that engages kids in the service by explaining the service, what they might see in the church building, and gives examples of how to remember the loved one who has passed. Using the funeral service in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as a guide, this resource will help guide discussion and learning during difficult times." (from augsburgfortress.com)





WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?

The tag line for the global Messy Church movement is “**Church, but not as you know it.**” If you have attended church for a long time, Messy Church may not look like church to you. At Messy Church, all ages meet together to learn about Jesus through interactive games, crafts and activities, music, and storytelling from the Bible. A foundational ingredient of Messy Church is to gather around a table for a snack or meal and build relationships with each other, God, and the world. Messy Church USA reminds us that Messy Church is not necessarily a stepping stone into an existing Sunday morning worship service, but it is a worship experience in its own right.

August 7, 4-6pm, A New Beginning – Isaiah 43:18-19 *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; can’t you see it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* (looking forward to beginning of school year, and Messy Church itself is new to us!)

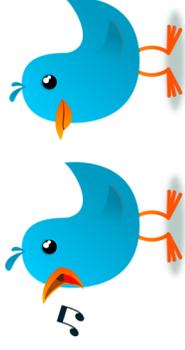
September 18, 4-6pm, God’s Work Our Hands – Matthew 22:38-39 [Jesus] *“said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (active service projects; loving God & other people)*

October 30, 4-6pm, Who Am I? – Psalm 139:14 *“I praise you [God], for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”* [Wear a costume if you want to.] (focus on self-discovery and self-expression)

December 11, 4-6pm, God’s Topsy-Turvy Kingdom, Luke 1:46b-55, Mary’s Magnificat (Advent season focus)



AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Fifth Sunday 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am Forum	1 9:00am Food Pantry	2 10:00am Rebels Bingo	3 8:00pm Evening Prayer - UJF Facebook and YouTube	4 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	5 6:30pm AA	6 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am NLOB Regular Work Day 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
7 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 4:00 PM MESSY CHURCH	8 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	9 10:00am Rebels Bingo	10 8:00pm Evening Prayer - UJF Facebook and YouTube	11 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	12 6:30pm AA	13 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
14 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	15 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	16 10:00am Rebels Bingo 7:00pm Church Council Mtg - Choir Room	17 8:00pm Evening Prayer - UJF Facebook and YouTube	18 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	19 6:30pm AA	20 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
21 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	22 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	23 10:00am Rebels Bingo	24 8:00pm Evening Prayer - UJF Facebook and YouTube	25 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	26 6:30pm AA	27 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
28 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	29 9:00am Food Pantry	30 10:00am Rebels Bingo	31 8:00pm Evening Prayer - UJF Facebook and YouTube	1 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Rebels Bingo	2 6:30pm AA	3 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest

August



Worship Schedule

September



AUGUST 7

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

4:00 PM Messy Church: A New Beginning

AUGUST 14

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

AUGUST 21

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

AUGUST 28

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 4

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 11

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

11:00 AM Kick-Off Ice Cream Party!

September 18

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

4:00 PM Messy Church: God's Work Our Hands

September 25

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour

10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6525 West Irving Park Road
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Pastor

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On the Web at: www.unitedinfaith.org

Twitter: [UIFLC](#) | **Facebook:** [UIFLC](#) | **Instagram:** [UIFLC](#)

United in Faith Lutheran Church
CORRECTED Treasurer's Report – June, 2022

	Six Months Ended 06/30/22
<u>Unrestricted:</u>	
Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 112,927
Expenditures	148,244
Income over (under) expenditures	(35,317)
Investment Income and changes in market value	(48,293)
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ (83,610)
 <u>Educational Endowment:</u>	
Investment Income and changes in market value	(53,986)
Scholarships paid out	(11,000)
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ (64,986)
 <u>Harriet Kurz Endowment:</u>	
Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	(40,015)
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	(19,340)
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ (59,355)
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	<u>\$ (207,950)</u>

Comments:

2022 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$16,429 in June and lower by \$100,739 YTD without Special Estate Gifts.

Income includes \$65,422 in Special Estate gifts from:

- Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January
- Marion Hanson – \$63,695 in February

General Investments returned a loss of (\$16,739) for June & a loss of (\$48,293) YTD.
 Educational Investments returned a loss of (\$17,508) for March & a loss of (\$53,986) YTD. \$8,000 in Scholarships were paid out of the Educational Endowment Fund in June, for an \$11,000 YTD Scholarship total.
 Harriet Kurz Endowment returned a loss of (\$11,602) for June. & a loss of (\$59,355) YTD.

Total Expenses for six months are higher than income by \$100,739 and are \$7,814 over budget due to increased heating costs. Also, a \$2,747 donation was made to Lutheran Disaster Relief 's Ukraine Assistance program. 2nd Qtr Benevolence (\$3,750) will be paid in July.