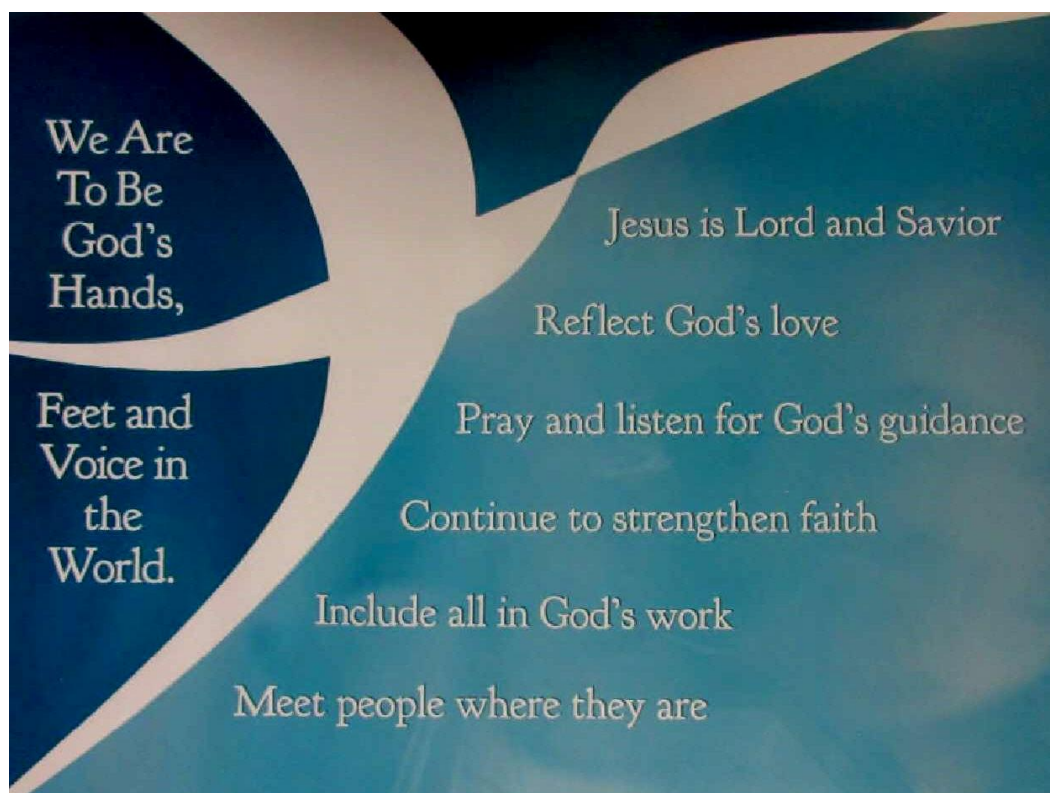


UNITED IN FAITH

ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

FOR 2025



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January 18,2026

Dear Members of United in Faith Lutheran Church,

Enclosed is a statement detailing your contributions for 2025. We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity toward United in Faith's ministry!

The United in Faith Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 22,2026, at approximately 11:00 a.m., immediately following our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Annual meetings are important to the life of our congregation, and we ask that all of our members plan to attend. After the meeting, we will have a potluck, and if it's anything like the potluck at the end of December, you will not want to miss all the delicious food!

Please review the Annual Report packet before the meeting so you are familiar with its contents. The Annual Report packet is expected to be available by Sunday, January 24, 2026, on our website at unitedinfaith.org under the tab About Us / Governing Documents & Policies.

You will not receive a printed copy unless you request one from the church office by calling 773-283-2326 or emailing admin@unitedinfaith.org. Requested packets will be printed and available to be picked up before the Annual Meeting. If you cannot pick up the packet yourself please indicate that during your request, so we can determine how best to get it to you.

Thank you for your hard work this year in making United in Faith successful. Your energy and commitment are evident and essential in our efforts to achieve our goal of being God's Hands, Feet and Voice in the World.

In Christ,

Gretchen Quillin
2025 Congregation President

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**UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026
AGENDA**

- I. Meeting called to order
- II. Confirm Quorum: Council VP
- III. Devotions: Pastor
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Approval of 2025 Congregational Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Annual Meeting held February 23, 2025
 - b. Pastoral Call Vote Meeting held December 14, 2025
- VI. Council President's Report to Congregation
- VII. Pastor's Report to Congregation
- VIII. Audit Committee Report
- IX. 2025 Treasurer's Report
- X. Approval of the 2026 Congregational Budget
- XI. Ministry and Committee Reports (Found in the Annual Report)
- XII. Nominating Committee Report
 - a. Congregational Council: 3 positions (2-year terms) and Council Ministry Director Representative (2-year term) 1 position
 - b. 2026 Synod Assembly Voting Members: 1 male, 1 female (if possible), plus alternates
 - c. 2026 Nominating Committee: 3-5 positions
- XIII. Old Business
 - a. None
- XIV. New Business
 - a. None
- XV. Motion to Adjourn
- XVI. Closing Prayer: Pastor

The 2026 Congregational Council will meet following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting for election of Congregational Council Officers. Results will be included in next month's newsletter.

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UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 AM

Quorum: A quorum of 25 voting members was established.

Devotions: Pr. Jeanine led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Adoption of Agenda: Under new business add section b. Global Refuge. Denise Boyer moved to accept the agenda as amended. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2024: Gayle Guzik noted corrections to be made. In the paragraph that begins: Amendment in audit procedure...In the second line strike "open conversation on" Insert: amend. After that sentence insert a new sentence: "The motion was seconded". In the first line of the next paragraph strike "open conversation on". Insert "amend". After that sentence inset a new sentence: "The motion was seconded. Dave Quillin moved to accept the minutes as amended. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed.

Constitutional Vote Meeting Minutes held June 30, 2024. Dave Quillin moved to accept minutes as written. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed.

Call Committee Vote Meeting Minutes held November 10, 2024. Denise Boyer moved to accept the minutes as written. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed

Council President's Report: It is in the annual meeting packet. Gretchen Quillin said it has been a busy and interesting year. She thanked the congregation for showing the love of God to each other. She also thanked those who served with her this past year, the transition team, and Pr. Jeanine.

Pastor's Report: It is in the packet. She can see "the light at the end of the tunnel". She is grateful for God's mission in the church and grateful for everyone.

Audit Committee Report: The audit committee report is in the packet.

2024 Treasurer's Report: Peter Herberg gave the report.

We had an income of \$95,088. Special Gifts of \$542,666. This gives us a total of \$637,754. Expenses were \$448,429 leaving a balance of \$189,325. This gives us an increase of \$287,868. There was no motion taken.

2025 Proposed Budget: Peter Herberg gave the report:

The proposed budget is \$100,800 is \$5,721 higher than actual 2024. Special gifts is \$150,000 due to United in Faith's estimated continued final distribution from the Harriet Kurz Estate.

Investment income assumes a 6% return. The \$82,320 investment income budget is higher than last year due to higher investment balances at the beginning of 2025.

The expense budget is \$341,261 which is \$82,456 lower than last year's budget due to the new roof, carpeting & painting projects completed in 2024.

Salaries and Benefits are budgeted higher due to synod guidelines. The 2025 budget assumes a full time Pastor for the entire year to reflect the congregation's guidelines for the permanent Pastor position. 2025 reflects a modest increase for our employees.

The increase in the 2025 Administration budget is due to a 9.6% increase in Insurance costs caused by higher building replacement estimates.

2025 Maintenance Expense line is far higher than the 2024 budget due to the new carpeting & painting expense. The 2025 maintenance budget was left at \$20,000 in case other repair expenses come up in 2025.

The 2025 Outside Musicians budget has increased to \$25,000 as we look to hire a pianist.

The 2025 proposed budget results in a total net decrease in Total Assets of \$8,141.

Dave Quillin moved to accept the proposed budget as the actual budget. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed

Committee Reports: found in the annual meeting packet

Ministry Reports: found in the annual meeting packet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: given by Gretchen Quillin: She thanked this year's nominating committee: Rich Guzik, Peter Herberg, Dave Quillin.

For Church Council:

Two year term: 2025-2027 4 positions

Denise Boyer
Bonnie Maginnis
Pam Marino
Richard Guzik

There were no nominations from the floor. Dave Quillin moved to accept the nominated slate as the elected slate. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed

Nominating Committee:

One year term: 3-5 positions

Mary Haas
Julie Lozich
Elisabeth Wittman

There were no nominations from the floor. Denise Boyer moved to accept the nominated slate as the elected slate. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed

Synod Assembly: Voting Members: 1 female, 1 male (if possible)

Janeen Devine
Mary Haas

There were no nominations from the floor. Denise Boyer moved to accept the nominated slate as the elected slate. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed

Alternate for Synod Assembly: 1 female, 1 male (if possible)

Harold Edmonson
Elisabeth Wittman

There were no nominations from the floor. Peter Herberg moved to accept the nominated slate as the elected slate. Denise Boyer seconded. Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Philanthropy Task Force. The Task Force will take a percentage of money from the Harriet Kurz Estate and give to a charity of the Force's choosing. Most of the money for the Task Force has been collected. Eventually volunteers will be needed for this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Updated Welcome Statement. Denise Boyer presented this. The Welcoming Statement will be updated to conform to the ELCA's. In the first paragraph after gender identities add and gender expressions then marital status... After the paragraph supports efforts...add another paragraph: commits to racial equity and anti-racism. In the last paragraph change core values to purpose and guiding principles.

Katie Jewell moved to approve the welcome statement as amended. Rich Guzik seconded. Passed.

- b. Global Refuge organization: The Council has approved a \$5,000 donation to this organization.

Motion to Adjourn: Mary Haas moved to adjourn. Kim Childress seconded. Passed.

The meeting was closed with Pastor Jeanine leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dian Hoyem, Secretary pro tem

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Pastor's Annual Report - 2025

2025 was a full year. A busy year. A year of showing up—sometimes with energy and enthusiasm, sometimes a little tired, sometimes unsure—but still showing up. Together.

God kept meeting us right where we were. In hospital rooms and kitchens. Around soup pots and prayer tables. In worship circles, pickleball courts, council conversations, and long emails about logistics. Not always where we planned to be—but faithfully, lovingly present nonetheless.

Pastoral Care: The Holy Work of Showing Up

Pastoral care in 2025 took many forms. There were home visits, hospital rooms, phone calls, office conversations, funerals, baptisms, and the kind of check-ins that don't make headlines but hold people together. Some were scheduled. Many were not.

Alongside care within our congregation, we were also invited—more than once—to respond quickly and compassionately to needs beyond our walls. Most notably, United in Faith responded generously to support a Venezuelan family navigating harassment, housing instability, and the everyday stress of uncertainty. Through grocery cards, rent assistance, school supplies, and partnership with other ministries, you showed up with care that was practical, relational, and deeply faithful.

This, friends, is what it looks like to be church.

Worship: Gathering, Even When Life Is Full

Worship remained the heartbeat of our shared life. We gathered on Sundays and midweek evenings, in seasons of quiet reflection and joyful proclamation. When illness or travel required flexibility, others stepped in with grace, ensuring that worship continued to be a place of welcome and steadiness.

Lent invited us into Holden Evening Prayer—simple, beautiful, and grounding. Sitting in the round, sharing joys and concerns, many of us found that this quiet rhythm became a gift at the end of long days.

Holy Week and Easter, Advent and Christmas, Seasons of Creation and ordinary Sundays—all of it reminded us that worship doesn't exist apart from real life. It meets us inside it.

The band brought their hearts and dedication through Lois's treatment and ongoing recovery. And music continued to be a steady anchor throughout the year, offered with flexibility, creativity, and deep care.

Faith Formation: Soup, Joy, Prayer, and Honest Conversation

Some of the most meaningful moments this year happened around tables.

During Lent, Soup and Conversation invited us to explore *The Book of Joy* alongside the wisdom of the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Joy turned out to be slippery. Not a feeling we could manufacture, but something that often showed up right alongside suffering. Over five weeks, trust deepened, conversations grew braver, and laughter—along with excellent soup—found its way into the mix.

Midway through the year, we re-engaged our Prayer Ministry. A small but faithful group began meeting weekly to pray for one another, for the congregation, and for a world that often feels overwhelming. No fancy language. Just steady, honest prayer—the kind that knits us together over time.

Outreach & Justice: Loving Our Neighbors, Practically

United in Faith continued to live into its calling to be God’s hands, feet, and voice in the world.

Support for St. Cyprian Pantry took many forms—fundraisers with local restaurants, logistical problem-solving behind the scenes, and the joyful success of the *Empty Bowls* fundraiser, which raised over \$5,000 to address food insecurity in our neighborhood. Katie and Janeen mustered their Girl Scout troops, provided warm hospitality and demonstrated how they get things done.

In September, *God’s Work. Our Hands.* brought us together with partner congregations at Acacia Park. We assembled fleece blankets for Phil’s Friends, prayed over each one, and shared stories—reminding us that ministry is often born where compassion and collaboration meet.

We also engaged in honest discernment about ministries that may be changing or ending, including *New Life for Old Bags*. Naming fatigue, honoring what has been, and asking faithful questions about what comes next is holy work, even when it’s tender.

Congregational Life: Joy, Movement, and Milestones

Not everything was heavy.

Pickleball happened. (Repeatedly.) There was laughter, light-hearted competition, minor injuries, and a surprising amount of joy. Potlucks, shared meals, prayer gatherings, and simple moments of fellowship continued to nurture connection.

We welcomed new faces, new voices, new talents and a new member. We celebrated milestones—including Lenore’s 101st birthday—and gave thanks for and to beloved members preparing for new chapters. These moments reminded us that church is not static. It is a living, breathing community, shaped by seasons of arrival and departure.

And in the gardens, new shoots and branches will join the rocks in hope. Judy and Elisabeth brought their dedication and green thumbs to the greenery around the building. Together we roped all sorts of folks to move soil, and shrubbery and ROCKS. I can’t wait to see how God’s abundance will grow in those spaces.

Leadership, Transition, and Trusting What’s Next

As the year unfolded, important conversations emerged about leadership, structure, and shared responsibility. With fewer people doing more, we began asking faithful questions: Where are the gaps? Who tends them? How do we lead together with clarity rather than exhaustion?

Alongside these conversations, the call process moved forward with hope. And with it came the tender awareness that change is always coming. Endings and beginnings often travel together.

Waiting, Watching, and Wondering

As the year drew to a close, Advent invited us—once again—to slow down just enough to notice God’s movement among us. Waiting. Watching. Wondering. These simple postures gave us practice for the kind of readiness this congregation is stepping into.

2026 has brought a new pastor to United in Faith. With her is new energy, new questions, and new opportunities to love boldly. Advent reminded us that preparing the way is not about having everything figured out—it’s about making space. Space for God. Space for one another. Space for what is being born.

So as I look ahead for you, I do so with gratitude and trust. God has been faithful to this community—again and again.

I am deeply grateful for you and for the ministry we have shared. I have loved being your pastor. I have been changed by you, by our work together. Many of you know that these reports are not my favorite partly because they never capture all the work or the hearts that do the work of the church. These snapshots of this year are only a few of the memories and accomplishments that I cherish. I trust and I know that God is not finished with you yet.

*In hopeful and expectant ministry,
Pr. Jeanie*

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2025 Council President Report

February 22, 2026

This year, the congregation said goodbye to our interim pastor, Jeanine Reardon. Pastor Jeanie was here for almost three years as we reflected on our future and prepared to find and welcome a new permanent, full-time pastor. She cared for us and made sure that our time between pastors was time of continued forward motion. Pastor Jeanie also brought pickleball to our fellowship space, showing us yet another great use for our space. We are incredibly appreciative of the work that Pastor Jeanie did for *and* with us.

After a thorough search, the Call Committee brought Sharei Green to the congregation, and in December, the congregation voted to approve Sharei as the Pastor at United in Faith. We are excited to welcome Sharei. I truly hope you take the time to get to know her. Please join me in thanking the Call Committee for their important work: Dave Quillin (chair), Kim Childress, Janeen Devine, Jeff Jewell, Katie Jewell, Bonnie Maginnis, and Pam Marino.

In October, the Harriet Kurz Community Grant (HKCG) Program gave out its first grant to sponsor the Empty Bowls fundraiser for St. Cyprian's Food Pantry. The event raised over \$5,000 for the food pantry to assist them with feeding their clients. Grant applications are available for additional projects and organizations. In 2026, the HKCG Program has a budget of \$20,000 to distribute thoughtfully into our community. A member of the United in Faith community must provide a referral, and if you are aware of any local groups and/or projects that need a little seed money, please contact Katie Jewell for information and an application! Getting to know our community better is one of our goals for the coming year, and we have a great opportunity to make an impact beyond United in Faith in memory of Harriet Kurz, who left us a substantial amount of money when she passed.

Although 2025 did not bring major upgrades to our buildings, maintaining our facilities and property is a challenging and often underappreciated task. I am incredibly grateful for all the efforts of the Property Committee members: Harold Edmonson, Mary Haas, Harold Hoyem, Julie Lozich, and George Schultz. Though I can't thank you all by name, please know that I do extend my gratitude to all of you for the time, talents, and treasures that you lovingly pour into this dynamic and exciting congregation. It has been an honor serving as your Council President the last two years.

Gretchen Quillin
Council President

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Treasurer's Report 2025

| United In Faith Lutheran Church Summary-Income and Expenditures December 2025 | | | | Current Month 2025 Actual | YTD Actual | YTD Actual % to budget |
|---|---|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | 2025 Annual Budget | | | | |
| Unrestricted: | | | | | | |
| Income (excluding investment activity) | | | | | | |
| | From church operations | \$ 100,800 | | \$ 11,848 | \$ 109,713 | 109% |
| | Special Gifts | 150,000 | | - | 2,673 | 2% |
| | Total | \$ 250,800 | | \$ 11,848 | \$ 112,386 | 45% |
| Expenditures: | | | | | | |
| | Salaries and benefits | \$ 148,350 | | \$ 11,972 | \$ 135,342 | 91% |
| | Ministry | 4,550 | | 0 | 2,883 | 63% |
| | Administration | 43,561 | | 1,760 | 43,943 | 101% |
| | Building | 77,300 | | 6,485 | 103,007 | 133% |
| | Benevolence | 15,000 | | 3,750 | 15,000 | 100% |
| | Ministry Directors | | | | | |
| | Outside musicians | 25,000 | | 3,250 | 19,206 | 77% |
| | Other | 27,500 | | 1,616 | 8,157 | 30% |
| | Total | \$ 341,261 | | \$ 28,833 | \$ 327,538 | 96% |
| | Income over (under) expenditures | \$ (90,461) | | \$ (16,985) | \$ (215,152) | |
| Investment income and changes in market value | | | | | | |
| | General Investments | \$ 22,391 | | \$ 3,830 | \$ 41,544 | |
| | Harriet Kurz Endowment | 41,160 | | 3,248 | 75,610 | |
| | Total Investment Income | \$ 63,551 | | \$ 7,078 | \$ 117,154 | |
| | Increase (Decrease) in unrestricted net assets | \$ (26,910) | | \$ (9,907) | \$ (97,998) | |
| Educational Endowment | | | | | | |
| | Investment income and changes in market value | \$ 18,769 | | \$ 1,564 | \$ 38,733 | |
| | Scholarships paid out | - | | - | (12,000) | |
| | Increase (Decrease) in educational net assets | \$ 18,769 | | \$ 1,564 | \$ 26,733 | |
| | Increase (Decrease) in total net assets | \$ (8,141) | | \$ (8,343) | \$ (71,265) | |
| Comments | | | | | | |
| 1 | a. 2025 church operations income excluding Special Gifts is lower than spending by \$16,985 for the month. and is lower by \$217,825 YTD. | | | | | |
| | b. Income includes \$2,673 in estate gifts from: | | | | | |
| | Anita Perske - \$ 1,439 in January, 2025 | | | | | |
| | Anita Perske - \$ 530 in March, 2025 | | | | | |
| | Rev. Barthel - \$ 704 in September 2025 | | | | | |
| | c. Total investment income returned a gain of \$7,077 for the month & a gain of \$117,154 YTD | | | | | |
| | d. Educational Endowment Investments returned a gain of \$1,564 for the month & a gain of \$38,733 YTD | | | | | |
| 2 | a. Total expense is unfavorable to budget by \$568 for the month & is favorable to budget by \$13,723 YTD | | | | | |
| | b. Building Exp. Is unfavorable to budget by \$477 for the month & is unfavorable to the budget by \$25,707 YTD. | | | | | |
| | c. Janitorial Supplies expense (\$671) is for 2 pallets of rock salt. | | | | | |
| | d. Gas & Electric are unfavorable to the budget by \$1,160 in December & are unfavorable to budget by \$8,363 YTD. | | | | | |
| | e. Outside Musicians (\$3,250) includes payments to Tim & Kurt for November services. | | | | | |
| | f. Worship & Music Misc Expense (\$834) is for a new Sanctuary laptop. | | | | | |
| | g. Scholarships (\$12,000) were paid out in June. | | | | | |
| 3 | Family Crisis fund at the end of the current month is \$12,881.77 | | | | | |
| 4 | YTD contributions to St Cyprians are \$7,689 | | | | | |
| | Cash and investments at year end: | Dec. 2024 | 12/31/2025 | Chq from 2024 | | |
| | Cash and Money Market | \$ 89,868 | \$ 63,211 | (26,657) | | |
| | General investments | 117,139 | 156,495 | 39,356 | | |
| | Education Endowment | 312,682 | 336,318 | 23,636 | | |
| | Harriet Kurz Endowment | 686,731 | 580,858 | (105,873) | | |
| | Mission Endowment | 255,444 | 251,781 | (3,663) | | |
| | | \$ 1,461,865 | \$ 1,388,664 | \$ (73,200) | | |
| | Check total | \$ 1,461,865 | \$ 1,388,664 | \$ (73,200) | | |
| | | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ (0) | | |

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Year 2026 Proposed Budget United in Faith Lutheran Church

Income-

The 2026 budget for Total Income from Operations, \$101,200 is \$8,513 lower than actual 2025 due to St. Cyprian's rent payment catch-up in 2025.

The 2026 budget for Special Gifts is \$600,000 due to United in Faith's receiving a large distribution from the Harriet Kurz Estate.

Investment income assumes a 6% return. The \$120,000 investment income budget is higher than the 2025 budget due to higher investment balances at the beginning of 2026 and the addition of the large Harriet Kurz Estate distribution.

Expense-

The actual Expenses for 2025 were above budget in all areas except for Salaries, Ministry, Outside Musicians & Ministry Directors. Yet Total Expenses for 2025 is \$13,723 lower than the Total 2025 Budget. The 2026 budget for Expenses is \$409,011 which is \$67,750 higher than the 2025 budget (\$341,261) due to a projected Office HVAC replacement (\$30,000), higher projected costs in the Ministry, Administration, Building and Outside Ministry areas as well as an increase in the Outside Musicians area for performance raises and an additional pianist.

Salaries and Benefits are budgeted higher in the 2026 budget due to synod guidelines. The 2026 budget assumes a full time Pastor for the entire year. 2026 also reflects modest increases for our employees as well as a reserve, if needed (\$12,091), for an additional day per week (\$232.52) for the office administration position.

The increase in the 2026 Administration budget is due to a 5.4% increase in Insurance costs caused by higher building replacement estimates & a 66.4% increase for the Thrivent Brokerage Fee due to a larger investment pool.

Change in Net Assets-

As a result of the above, the 2026 proposed budget results in a total net increase in Total Assets (bottom line) of \$412,189. This compares to the 2025 budget decrease of (\$8,141) and the 2025 actual net decrease of (\$71,265).

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| United In Faith Lutheran Church | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--------------|
| | | | 2026 Budget | |
| | | | Executive Summary | |
| | | | | 1/20/2026 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | 2025 | 2025 |
| | | | Budget | 12 Mo Actual |
| | | | | 2026 |
| | | | Budget | Budget |
| INCOME | | | | |
| | | | | |
| INCOME FROM OPERATIONS | | | \$ 100,800 | \$ 109,713 |
| SPECIAL GIFTS | | | 150,000 | 2,673 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | \$ 250,800 | \$ 112,386 |
| | | | | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| | | | | |
| SALARIES & BENEFITS | | | 148,350 | 135,342 |
| | | | | |
| MINISTRY | | | 4,550 | 2,883 |
| ADMINISTRATION | | | 43,561 | 43,943 |
| BUILDING EXPENSE | | | 77,300 | 103,007 |
| | | | 125,411 | 149,833 |
| | | | | |
| BENEVOLENCE | | | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| | | | | |
| SUB-TOTAL | | | 288,761 | 300,175 |
| | | | | |
| HARRIET KURZ GRANTS | | | 20,000 | - |
| | | | | |
| MINISTRY DIRECTORS | | | 7,500 | 8,157 |
| | | | - | - |
| OUTSIDE MUSICIANS | | | 25,000 | 19,206 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | | | 341,261 | 327,538 |
| | | | | |
| INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE | | | \$ (90,461) | \$ (215,152) |
| | | | | |
| INVESTMENT INCOME AND MARKET CHANG | | | 82,320 | 155,887 |
| | | | | |
| LESS: SCHOLARSHIPS PAID OUT | | | - | 12,000 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TOTAL AS | | | \$ (8,141) | \$ (71,265) |
| | | | | |

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| United In Faith Lutheran Church | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|---------------|
| 2026 Budget | | | | |
| Revenue | | | | |
| | | | | 1/20/2026 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | 2025 | 2025 | | 2026 |
| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>12 Mo. Actual</u> | | <u>Budget</u> |
| Income Stream | | | | |
| | | | | |
| General Income | 85,500 | 88,418 | | 85,500 |
| Holidays | 2,000 | 1,407 | | 2,000 |
| Memorials | 2,000 | 375 | | 2,000 |
| Building Income | 7,700 | 15,416 | | 7,700 |
| Gifts for HVAC | 3,000 | 1,995 | | 3,000 |
| Other | 600 | 2,103 | | 1,000 |
| | | | | |
| Total Income from operations | \$ 100,800 | \$ 109,713 | | \$ 101,200 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Special Gifts | 150,000 | 2,673 | | 600,000 |
| | | | | |
| Investment Income and Mkt Change: | | | | |
| General and Mission Endowment Funds | | 41,544 | | |
| Market Change - Stock Holdings | | - | | |
| Harriet Kurz Endowment | | 75,610 | | |
| Educational Endowment | | 38,733 | | |
| Total Investment Income | 82,320 | 155,887 | | 120,000 |
| | | | | |
| Grand Total | \$ 333,120 | \$ 268,273 | | \$ 821,200 |
| | | | | |

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**United In Faith Lutheran Church
2026 Budget
Expenditures**

1/20/2026

| | <u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u> | <u>2025</u> <u>12 Mo</u> <u>Actual</u> | <u>2026</u> <u>Budget</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SALARIES & BENEFITS | 148,350 | 135,342 | 150,668 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| MINISTRY | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Auto Allowance | 1,500 | - | 1,500 |
| Supply Pastor | 1,000 | 711 | 1,000 |
| Continuing Education | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Synod Conferences | 500 | 1,172 | 1,200 |
| Books | 250 | - | 250 |
| Miscellaneous | 300 | - | 300 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total | 4,550 | 2,883 | 5,250 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total Ministry | 4,550 | 2,883 | 5,250 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Outside Sevices - Payroll | 1,056 | 1,104 | 1,056 |
| Office / Copier Supplies | 750 | 496 | 750 |
| Postage | 500 | 291 | 500 |
| Stewardship Envelopes | 280 | - | 280 |
| Books | 100 | - | 100 |
| Attorney Fees | - | - | - |
| Software - Hardware | - | 565 | 200 |
| Internet service | 400 | 418 | 400 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Software Support & Training | 2,900 | 2,930 | 3,000 |
| Communications | - | 60 | 100 |
| Insurance | 15,375 | 15,381 | 16,206 |
| Telephone and communication | 7,000 | 6,637 | 7,000 |
| Lease Expense - Copier | 3,400 | 3,050 | 3,400 |
| Overage expense for copier | 300 | 284 | 300 |
| Equipment | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 500 | 706 | 500 |
| Thrivent brokerage fee | 10,000 | 12,022 | 20,000 |
| Total | 43,561 | 43,943 | 54,792 |
| Total Administration | 43,561 | 43,943 | 54,792 |

BUILDING EXPENSE

Other Expenses

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Equipment | - | 1,775 | - |
| Permits & Fees | 1,000 | 40 | 1,000 |
| Janitorial Services | 12,600 | 12,600 | 12,600 |
| Janitorial Supplies | 1,000 | 1,965 | 1,000 |
| Snow Removal | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Floor Care | - | - | - |
| Exterminator | 1,000 | 1,008 | 1,000 |
| Fire Extinguisher maintenance | 1,000 | 266 | 1,000 |
| Electricity | 16,000 | 19,501 | 20,000 |
| Gas and Water | 17,000 | 21,862 | 24,000 |
| Alarm service | 1,200 | 1,593 | 1,200 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,500 | 1,465 | 1,500 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Maintenance | 20,000 | 22,471 | 20,000 |
| Landscaping | 2,000 | 2,611 | 2,000 |
| New Roof & Brick Work | - | 12,850 | - |
| New Office HVAC | - | - | 30,000 |
| Total | 77,300 | 103,007 | 118,300 |
| Total Building | 77,300 | 103,007 | 118,300 |
| <u>OUTSIDE MUSICIAN EXPENSE</u> | | | |
| Outside Musicians | 25,000 | 19,206 | 35,000 |
| Total | 25,000 | 19,206 | 35,000 |
| <u>BENEVOLENCE</u> | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 313,761 | 319,380 | 379,010 |
| <u>HARRIET KURZ GRANTS</u> | 20,000 | - | 20,000 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 333,761 | 319,380 | 399,010 |
| MINISTRY AREA EXPENSES | 7,500 | 8,157 | 10,000 |
| SCHOLARSHIPS PAID OUT | - | 12,000 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 341,261 | 339,538 | 409,011 |
| INCOME | \$333,120 | 268,273 | 821,200 |
| MISSION INVESTMENT | (8,141) | (71,265) | 412,189 |

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| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 11/18/2025 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2025 | 2025 | 2026 |
| MINISTRY | Subcategory | | | Budget | 10 months | Budget |
| Worship & Music | | | | | | |
| | Worship Supplies — Altar Guild | | | 1,400 | 776 | 1,400 |
| | Miscellaneous | | | 1,300 | 2,780 | 1,300 |
| | Books | | | | 69 | |
| | Musical Instrument Maintenance | | | | 850 | |
| | Copyright License | | | | 170 | |
| | Music supplies | | | | | |
| | Decorative arts | | | | 66 | |
| | Flowers | | | | 322 | |
| | Total | | | 2,700 | 5,033 | 2,700 |
| Christian Education / Children's Ministry | | | | | | |
| | Sunday School | | | 250 | - | 250 |
| | VBS | | | 250 | - | 250 |
| | Church school | | | - | - | |
| | Miscellaneous | | | 150 | - | 150 |
| | Total | | | 650 | - | 650 |
| Outreach & Hospitality | | | | 800 | | 3,300 |
| | Signage & Banners | | | | - | |
| | Harriet Kurz grants | | | 20,000 | - | 20,000 |
| | Supplies | | | | - | |
| | Total | | | 20,800 | - | 23,300 |
| Fellowship | | | | 500 | | 500 |
| | Supplies | | | | 540 | |
| | Special events | | | | 100 | |
| | Total | | | 500 | 640 | 500 |
| Stewardship | | | | 250 | - | 250 |
| Faith Development | | | | 1,000 | | 1,000 |
| | Lutheran Magazine | | | | (142) | |
| | Christ in our home | | | | 396 | |
| | Supplies | | | | - | |
| | Lay Leadership | | | | | |
| | Book Sale | | | | | |
| | Total | | | 1,000 | 254 | 1,000 |
| Church Health Team | | | | 700 | - | 700 |
| Justice & Prayer | | | | 150 | - | 150 |
| Gay & Straight Together | | | | 300 | 100 | 300 |
| Shepherd's Staff | | | | 100 | - | 100 |
| Website | Charged to Administration internet service. | | | 350 | - | 350 |
| | Register URL (for 4 years) | | | | | |
| | Storage on Server | | | | | |
| | Church Calendar | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | 27,500 | 6,027 | 30,000 |

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AUDIT COMMITTEE UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

January 21, 2026

UiF AUDIT – 2025

To: Church Council, United in Faith Lutheran Church

We have audited the financial records of United in Faith Lutheran Church (UiF) for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Our audit consisted of examining all disbursements of \$500.00 and above, select cash receipts, bank reconciliations and payroll tax records. We believe that examining records within the above parameters allowed us to decide if the financial records are free of material misstatements.

We have audited three areas: receipts, disbursements and payroll. Our audit results are as follows:

Receipts:

Select deposits during 2025 were compared to the bank statements, deposit slips and the counter sheets. All deposits were in agreement with the counter reports. Bank reconciliations were reviewed for accuracy and completeness and were found to be in order.

Disbursements:

All disbursements over \$500.00 were examined for approval of invoice/expenditure, agreement with check for amount paid, and proper coding in the ledger. All payments appear to be proper.

Payroll:

Payroll expenses were reconciled to the budget detail report and the tax reports. There are no material differences.

Recommendations:

None at this time.

Summary:

The Audit Committee of UiF believes that the financial records present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial condition of United in Faith Lutheran Church as of December 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Boyer

Janeen Devine

Richard Guzik

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EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Education Scholarship Committee has the responsibility of administering United in Faith's Education Scholarship program.

The distribution of all scholarship awards is kept confidential.

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/guardian/caregiver must participate in the life of United in Faith.

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

A scholarship in the amount of \$12,000 was awarded for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Education Scholarship Committee would welcome new members. If interested please see George Schultz or Bonnie Maginnis.

George Schultz
Bonnie Maginnis

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MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2025 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 ministry expressions as stated below:

Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or 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 and George Schultz, made the following distribution in 2025:

\$5,000 in February - Global Refuge

Additions to the fund were:

\$720 in January – Anita Perske

\$265 in March – Anita Perske

\$352 in September – Rev. Bartel

The balance in the fund at the end of 2025 is \$251,781.

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

George Schultz

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THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Report

When I think about a new year, I think of the word “fresh”. A fresh start, full of resolutions, promises, new ideas, goals, and exciting new changes. That is exactly how 2025 started at United in Faith. We started the year with freshly waxed and polished floors, new carpet, freshly painted walls in the lounge and office areas. The appearance of UIF was looking “fresh” and clean again; very inviting to new people coming into our building.

We didn’t plan on doing too much in 2025, but we knew we had a few issues to tackle, some we were aware of, and some we were not. We didn’t realize that the small hot water tank in the sacristy needed to be replaced until it started leaking. Why did we think a hot water heater should last over 27 years? We gave two of our pianos a refresh with a professional tune-up and now it’s just music to our ears when we hear them. Steve was gifted a new salt spreader in February even though we really didn’t have much snow in 2025, but we are ready for the snow of 2026! The barrel roof above the sanctuary and fellowship hall was addressed as possible “weather related damage” to our insurance company but they reviewed the evidence twice and denied the claim for a new roof, so we went ahead and silver-coated the entire roof to give us an extra 5-7 years before we need to think about a replacement. We had our first leak in one of the corners of the barrel roof that came in right where we display our Christmas tree each year. The leak was repaired and we contracted with APR to do the barrel roof in the fall once we knew the insurance claim was denied. Even our new roofs on the east (front) and west building have been experiencing leaks since they were replaced but we were told that it might have been a drain issue.

The Property budget for 2025 was increased due to the rising costs of gas and electricity. We also made sure there was money in our budget for landscaping which was very desperately needed from construction damage to the rear courtyard in 2024. Two new carbon monoxide detectors were purchased and installed in the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Sound planning for the acoustics in the sanctuary were discussed after an expert from Wheaton came out to evaluate the space. He suggested that the least costly remedy for the sound issue was to carpet the sanctuary to absorb the sound so that it won’t bounce off the bare walls and floors. And speaking of floors, we had the tile floor in the front corridor professionally steamed cleaned and sealed since we had never had this done since that tile was installed 27 years ago. Our rear doorbell was replaced (again). The first aid kit in the kitchen was fully replenished by Mary Haas so please feel free to use it before you call 911.

Since our Com Ed bill continues to increase we have entertained the idea of using solar panels on our roofs. We are good candidates for that but there is a hefty “upstart” cost to this. We most likely would recoup all money put into the solar within 7-10 years which got us thinking about how many of us would still be here, so we tabled the idea for later. In the meantime, we are looking into good programmable thermostats as recommended by Com Ed with the incentives of rebates.

Our office copy machine was going out of warranty on the lease, so we received quotes from Gordon Flesch Company for both a new (leased) copier and new telephone system. We contracted with T-Mobile to eliminate the landline with Comcast and install “radio” wireless for the alarm company. There are many technological changes for UIF moving into 2026.

The sewer drain in our parking lot was rodded and cleaned out thus opening up a Pandora’s Box. The water in the west building was not backing up, and everything was draining but the plumber ran into a blockage somewhere in the line under the floors in the west building. He installed an exterior clean out and he will be back in the spring to try the electric rod again through the new clean out. There is always something that needs to be repaired or replaced at UIF and our HVAC units are no exception. It appears that we will need to replace the old HVAC unit on the east (front) building that heats the office area. This unit is currently our oldest unit and thankfully not as large as the other units we own. Enterprise will be providing us with an estimate soon.

At the end of the year, an accident occurred in our parking lot which caused some damage to our brick building both on the interior as well as the exterior where the impact occurred from a vehicle that was driven by an elderly woman from a group that meets here at UIF once a week. We have an estimate for the repairs, and her insurance company will be responsible for the cost to fix the masonry in the spring when the temperatures exceed 45 degrees for the mortar to set properly.

Taking care of United in Faith is an endless job. There's always something that needs to be addressed; something that needs attention and someone to make sure things get done. This past year it was an entire team of people who did this for UIF. We personally thank Jeanne Rice, our church administrator, for being here when work is being done and people need to be let in for estimates. Jeanne, without hesitation, puts her work aside to help the Property Committee when we can't be there. We are forever grateful for Harold Hoyem who has been on this Property team for over 27 years! Harold has retired from Property but only because he moved out of the area. We will truly miss Harold and his eagerness to always help out at UIF. The heart of our property team for the past few years was Pastor Jeanine Reardon. She was a wealth of information when it came to our buildings. She went above and beyond her job description for UIF. Most of the work done here in the last few years would not have happened without Pastor Jeanine. She saw what needed to be done since we appeared to be content with the status quo. We didn't think we needed to spend money but then realized we were happy with what we did with all the beautiful renovations/improvements. We thank Pastor Jeanine for being persistent to the changes that we seemed somewhat reluctant to do. We needed that nudge that she gave us, and we will always be grateful for her as our interim pastor.

For a second year in a row, we nominate Harriet Kurz as our "angel" of the Property Committee since she continues to make miracles happen with her generosity, which makes our decisions for expensive repairs and improvements easier on our budget.

As we make a "fresh" start to 2026, we warmly welcome our new Pastor Sharei Green and hope she will join us on the Property Committee with her fresh ideas and insightful vision. We are blessed to have her at United in Faith!

Property Committee

George Schultz, Harold Hoyem (retired), Mary Haas, Harold Edmondson, and Julie Lozich

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2025 Annual Report

The 2025 Nominating Committee consisted of these members:

Mary Haas
Julie Lozich
Elisabeth Wittman

These are the nominees for:

Church Council – 2 year term 2026-2028 – 3 positions:

Adrienne Childress
Kim Childress
Peter Herberg

Church Council Ministry Director Representative – 2 year term 2026-2028 – 1 position:

Katie Jewell

2026 Nominating Committee – 1 year term – 3 to 5 positions:

Gretchen Quillin
Denise Boyer
Janeen Devine
VACANT
VACANT

2026 Synod Assembly Voting Members – 1 female & 1 male (if possible):

Maya Powell
Elisabeth Wittman

2026 Synod Assembly Alternates - 1 female & 1 male (if possible):

George Schultz
Pam Marino

Thank you to all who have agreed to be nominated. Your participation in our church life is important and appreciated.

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SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Report

The 38th Annual Metro Chicago Area Synod Assembly was held at the Q Center in St Charles Illinois on May 30 to 31, 2025. The Assembly was sponsored by Advocate Health Care who presented about the great work they are doing in multiple medical facilities in the area.

One of two workshops we attended was “Changing Church for a Changing World”, led by our former Pastor, Carla Thompson Powell. (Their 33rd wedding anniversary was this weekend.) The workshop was modeled after the story of some mice searching for cheese. In this context, the ‘cheese’ was ‘what brought us into church today’? The challenge is “Can we risk doing something different if we were not afraid”. Change Happens. The Good News is unchanging but the ways to show God in the world is constantly changing. Find out what lights up a person, try something new. Ask and learn about others. Value Children, don’t just ask them to sit quietly. Our new commandment is to “Love One Another”. We love them as we engage with them.

The other workshop was titled “Gathered, Re-Membered and Sent”. This workshop talked about how different cultures perceive the worship of The Creator. We are reminded that we see the Gospel through the lens of our personal history, but that limits our view. When exclusion happens, there is evil. We are called to contextualize the Gospel in a way that does not make others invisible.

We saw several videos about what other congregations were doing: St. Paul in Villa Park collects food for the Food Pantry during the annual Fourth of July Parade. People push grocery carts in the neighborhoods and folks put nonperishable items or money into the carts. In another video we saw how several congregations, each with few members, work together to share Pastors by alternating worship times.

At this Assembly we had the responsibility to elect the bishop of the Chicago Metropolitan Synod. On the first ballot, a large number of pastors were nominated. Only six got more than 9 votes, included in that number was our interim Pastor Jeanie Reardon with 20 votes. A second ballot was held and the pastors with more than 9 votes dropped to five candidates; Our Pastor Jeanie Reardon went up to 24 votes, but Bishop Curry went from 224 votes in the first ballot to 271 votes. Tension mounted as a third ballot was announced. If a fourth ballot was required each candidate would need to make a 5-minute speech to the assembly, but at the third ballot, even though our Pastor Jeanie got 26 votes, Bishop Curry won with 265 votes. In the third ballot only 259 votes were necessary for Bishop Yehiel Curry to be elected for his second 6-year term.

Also, there were ballots for Synod Council Vice-President and Synod Council Secretary as well as members of the Synod Council. Terry Henderson was re-elected to Synod Vice President and Erin Clausen was re-elected to Synod Secretary. (Some may remember that Pastor Erin Clausen was an intern at United in Faith years ago.) The members of the Synod Council stood unopposed so were re-elected by acclamation.

In attendance there were 261 Lay Voting members and 178 Rostered Voting members for a total of 439 voting members. There were also many guests who did not vote.

There were Resolutions and Memorials approved to be sent forward to the Church Wide Assembly for consideration. They will meet July 28 to August 2, 2025.

On behalf of your members who attended, we found the Assembly very interesting. We learned about some of the fantastic things going on in our synod. Our recommendation is, if you are asked to be a voting member for the Synod Assembly, consider saying, “yes”.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Haas and Janeen Devine

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CALL COMMITTEE

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Report

The Call Committee was formed by a congregational vote on November 10, 2024. The committee members were Dave Quillin (Chair), Bonnie Maginnis, Janeen Divine, Katie Jewell, Jeff Jewell, Pam Marino, and Kim Childress.

Over the course of the call process, the committee prayerfully reviewed many pastoral candidates and interviewed seven. Through discernment and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the committee unanimously brought forward Sharei Green as the candidate we believe is best suited to serve United In Faith at this time. Sharei is a first-call pastor with a background in marketing, and we believe her skills, leadership style, and vision align well with the current needs and future direction of our congregation. On December 14, 2025, the congregation voted to call Sharei Green as the next pastor of United In Faith. This vote formally concluded the work of the Call Committee.

We ask the congregation to unite in support of Pastor Sharei as she begins her ministry among us. The Call Committee also extends its sincere thanks to the congregation for its prayers, encouragement, and trust throughout the call process.

In Christ,

Dave Quillin
Call Committee Chair

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WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Report

For a couple of years, we were blessed with the leadership of Pastor Jeanine Reardon. She attended most of the Worship Planning meetings while she was with us. Her insight into the Gospel readings was a very helpful guide as we planned music for upcoming Sundays. It has been difficult saying good-bye to Pastor Jeanie. We will remember all that we did together and learned from her along the way.

We have a small but active Worship and Music Ministry. We have people who regularly volunteer to act as worship assistants, communion assistants, or both. People on the Altar Guild set up the elements for communion and clean up afterward each Sunday. Many thanks to Gretchen Quillin for baking the bread we share for communion. The altar guild also sets up paraments, banners, and decorations for each season of the church year. They greatly appreciate the pulley system devised and installed by the late Joe Childress to hang and change the long, seasonal banners. Many thanks to the Worship Assistants and the Altar Guild.

On most Sundays we continue to record our worship services to be livestreamed on Facebook and shown on YouTube. Thanks to Dave and Gretchen Quillin for their work on this important area of outreach. A consultant was hired to advise us regarding things we could do to improve the acoustics in the sanctuary. One of the consultant's findings was that carpeting the sanctuary would greatly improve the acoustics, and that of the sound quality of the weekly livestreams. We have considered using carpet tiles like we had installed in other areas that were remodeled. I expect there will be more discussion about this idea after the new pastor settles in.

This past year Lois Cornils, our organist/pianist and choir director, experienced a serious health scare and had to take time off for medical treatment and healing. We were happy to welcome her back in the beginning of last December. We are grateful for her return and pray for continued good health. Our other professional musicians are Tim Stine, an excellent guitarist, and Kurt Lubbe, a great drummer. Lois and Kurt are with us every other Sunday on an alternating basis. Some services are led by just guitar, drum, and vocals alternating with services led by piano, vocals, and guitar. In my opinion, it would be great if we'd hire a part-time pianist who sings, to play and sing with the volunteer vocalists on band-led Sundays.

As always, we appreciate feedback from the congregation about what you like and/or dislike about our current worship services. Thanks to all the people who served as worship assistants and on the Altar Guild this past year. Also, many thanks go out to our worship and music planners: including Lois Cornils, Denise Boyer, Janeen Devine, Katie Jewell, and Elisabeth Wittman who all volunteer their time. Thanks to Dave Quillin for helping lead the congregation along with the band and I, and Dave and Gretchen for their work with the sound system. We are looking forward to a new year with a new pastor, and the journey yet to come.

Yours in Christ,
Jane Schira

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ALTAR GUILD
United In Faith Lutheran Church
2025 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. Additional responsibilities include: Seeing to the cleaning of the paraments and laundering of sacramental linens. The supplies such as wine, grape juice, bread, and candles are 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 the Worship Committee for changing the paraments & banners during the year. We would also like to thank Gretchen Quillen for baking the communion bread every week.

Another thanks to Adrienne Childress, Judy Schira, Elfriede Reiss and Pastor Reardon for setting and cleaning up for communion on a weekly basis.

Respectively submitted in Christ,
Kim Childress

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SOCIAL MEDIA UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 Annual Report

In 2025, we continued to livestream most worship services and then later upload them to YouTube. This year, Cassie Jewell and Maya Powell periodically assisted with livestreaming responsibilities. Our Social Media Ministry team is looking for people to help with running our social media accounts (post relevant events and topical information to the Facebook and Instagram accounts), as well as the worship livestream. We appreciate all the likes and shares that we get. If you haven't already, please follow our pages and interact with our posts. This is important and helps us reach people beyond our followers. Often, livestreamed services and social media posts are the first interaction people have with United in Faith, and it's essential that we show others how our amazing in-person community can extend to others online.

If you would like to join us in this vital external-facing ministry or have any ideas for us, please share them with the members of the Social Media Ministry: Dave Quillin and Gretchen Quillin.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Quillin, Chair

UNITEDINFAITH.ORG United in Faith Lutheran Church 2025 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. The website was redesigned this year by Gretchen Quillin to a more current and modern design.

Worship, ministries, and the current major United in Faith activities are highlighted on the Home page. Please note that the website is as up-to-date as the information that YOU supply. Please keep those updates coming and Thank You for keeping our window to the community open, UpToDate and informative.

The Website Team now consists of Richard Guzik and Gretchen Quillin.

Richard E. Guzik
Webmaster

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JUSTICE MINISTRY

2025 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 projects during the year:

- >Monthly newsletter articles on Caring for God's World
- >Saturday morning Book Club discussions
- >Our updated Welcome Statement reflecting new requirements by Reconciling Works to be designated as a Reconciling in Christ congregation was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. Our status with Reconciling Works has been updated.
- >Discussion of the proposed changes to the ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust
- >A Calling Party event to discuss the power of calling representatives to express our opinions on timely issues. Training, scripts and practice were included.

Planned for 2026

- Continue Caring for God's World newsletter articles
- Continue spotlight on racism along with other Justice issues
- Continue Book Club Saturday afternoon discussions
- Presentation on Transgender
- Initiate a monthly collection for the Food Pantry of items not available from the Food Depository. Each month will have a featured item or category.

Members of the ministry are: Denise Boyer, Bonnie Maginnis, Pam Marino, Pr Jeanie, Lois Cornils 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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**OUTREACH MINISTRY
UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Annual Report**

During 2025, it was decided that Outreach and the Harriet Kurtz fund should work in partnership. The year was primarily spent developing the Harriet Kurtz Community Grant Program and Outreach took a pause.

Looking forward to 2026, we are eager to begin engaging in more Outreach opportunities, honoring the gifts we have in our congregation and in the surrounding community, to bring us together with our neighbors and for us all to grow in relationship.

If you are interested in joining the Outreach Ministry, contact Katie Jewell or the church office.

Katie Jewell

**PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE
UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Annual Report**

Harriet Kurtz Community Grant Program

The Harriet Kurtz Community Grant (HKCG) Program was formally established in 2025. There are 3 congressional members as well as the Pastor serving on the committee. Our mission is to provide small seed-money for larger projects that benefit the community. Projects do not need to be run by members of the congregation, but all proposals should be sent to the committee by a member of UIF. In this way, we expand our reach into the community, but also stay connected to our roots.

The “Empty Bowls” fundraiser on October 26, 2025 was the first project supported by the HKCG Program. Local artist donated handmade bowls, local restaurants and individuals donated soup, and our community came together for a free soup supper. Tickets were available for purchase for those wanting a bowl. The event hosted over 100 guests for the meal and raised nearly \$5000 for St. Cyprian’s Food Pantry.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a grant, please contact Katie Jewell, Janeen Devine, or the church office.

Katie Jewell

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COMMUNION VISITATION MINISTRY UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2025 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, 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 there 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 or delivered. 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.

Members of this ministry are Pamela Marino and Elfriede Reiss. In addition to regular monthly visits, visits are made as needed to others in situations such as hospitalization. Pastor Jeanie also makes these special visits.

Regular monthly visits were made to three persons and going forward there will be two. The number is fluid due to the loss of those being visited (death, health, moving) and the return to church by some. At times communion is brought to those unable to attend each Sunday on an ad-hoc basis by a congregant.

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 (listed on the Prayer Weaving and in the Sunday bulletins) 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, Ministry Director

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STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2025 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.

Thanks, also, to those of you who turned in a written faith promise. As of January 1, we received 9 forms, which is a significant decrease from last year's 14 promises. We encourage every family unit to complete a faith promise as a way for you to be deliberate about giving your time, talents, and treasure. Additional faith promises forms are available if you need one. This year, the level of giving noted on faith promises for 2026 is about \$68,800 for 9 families. This is a slight decrease from last year, which was a significant decrease from the year before.

Please remember that you can donate online using your banking account or credit card. When you give online, your money goes immediately to UIF, so you won't have to wait for the church to deposit your checks. Visit <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/uif>. On your first visit, you will have to create an online giving account, but this makes it very easy to complete subsequent online gifts. Your gifts of time and talent are just as important to God's community as your treasure. This year, our ministries continued to do great work, but there's always room for more people! Talk to anyone on the Stewardship Ministry if you have questions. We can get you in touch with members of the various ministries. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

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

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Quillin, Chair

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**VOLUNTEER COORDINATION
UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Annual Report**

Thank you to all the wonderful people who had volunteered and: baked for us; and/or provided for Coffee Hour; and/or were Assistant Ministers; and/or were Communion Assistants; and/or were Ushers; and/or were Greeters. YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

If you wish to volunteer, there are sign-up sheets on the table outside the worship room.

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**CHURCH HEALTH TEAM
2025 Annual Report**

The members of the Church Health Team are Jeff Jewell, Pam Marino, and Peter Herberg. Continuing coaching and consulting is provided by the Rev Dave Daubert who has been involved with this team since its inception.

With the intense work involved in the process to call a new pastor by the congregation, Transition Team and Call Committee this team suspended its work for the duration. Reactivation of this ministry will be considered in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marino

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GIRL SCOUTS REPORT

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Report

The Girl Scout troops at United in Faith are alive and thriving! This year we have 22 girls spread between all of our troops. There are 5 each of Daisies and Brownies, 6 Junior Girl Scouts, 4 Cadettes and 2 Senior Scouts. We are still a little smaller than we were before Covid, but we have added new girls this year. Our troops are considered “Community” troops in that we accept girls from anywhere, not just a particular school or church; in fact the girls in our troops come from over 8 different schools. Even though they come from different schools and grade levels, they have formed some strong bonds of friendship-it is really wonderful!

Some of the things we have done since January of 2025 have been: selling cookies, participating in Girl Scout Sunday, planting tomato and cucumber seeds to distribute to folks at St. Cyprian’s, the older girls went camping (over a scorching weekend), made centerpieces for the Pantry’s Empty Bowls event and had one Senior assist at the event, and assembled hygiene kits that were given to LSSI.

There were also Girl Scout Service Unit events held here for other troops in our neighborhood. We had our Thinking Day event in February and Juliette Low Rally in October where we assembled over 60 “Birthday in a Bag” kits for St. Cyprian’s families. We also hosted a Textile Arts day for some of the older girls where they learned about knitting and crocheting and tried both.

We have a lot going on, and it doesn’t always happen just on Tuesdays! Our girls have been learning a lot of different skills and having a great time thanks to our wonderful leaders and thanks to UIF for hosting us and letting us try new things!

Our current Girl Scout leaders include: Colleen Dolan and Dawn Kuswick, Daisies and Brownies. Catherine Marks and Michelle Anderson lead the Junior the Junior troop. And Sharon Kells and Janeen Devine have the Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts.

We are always ready to add girls to our troops!

Janeen Devine UIF Girl Scouts.

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UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

New Life for Old Bags (NLOB) is a completely volunteer run group working together to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The creation of each mat takes 80 volunteer hours and repurposes 700 used plastic bags. The handmade mats provide the homeless with some cushion, water resistance, and love. Completed mats are shared with non-profit organizations who directly work with homeless populations for distribution in the City of Chicago and local suburbs.

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 Chicago East Campus at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 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 "main campus" and space for monthly NLOB workday parties which also serve as the training grounds to teach new volunteers about our project.

We continued in person monthly workdays in 2025 every other month. We met on the first Saturday of each even numbered month from 10am to 12pm. While we do not have as many volunteers who come in person, we do have many volunteers working on the project at home and dropping off their completed work during these monthly workdays. *For 2026, we are in discussions about potentially ending our monthly workdays at UIF due to lack of participation and should have a decision by February 2026.* If we continue in 2026, we will maintain the same frequency of meeting of every other month, only meeting on the even months in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

By the end of 2025, NLOB volunteers will have donated 592,480 hours (32,400 of those hours were given from 1/1/25 to 12/31/25), creating a total of 7,406 sleeping mats (405 of those mats were made from 1/1/25 to 12/31/25), sharing love with local homeless by giving them a mat to sleep on, while repurposing over 5.1 million plastic bags to date (keeping them out of landfills and water sources). NLOB has continued our collaboration with Chicago Lights out of 4th Presbyterian Church in Chicago and the Homeless Outreach Group at Cityline Bible Church both of which serve the homeless among other populations in need throughout the City of Chicago and directly deliver our completed mats to homeless individuals.

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.

Thank you.



Christina Batorski Peacock
NLOB Board President

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St. Cyprian's Ecumenical Food Pantry United in Faith Lutheran Church 2025 Annual Report

We have passed our inspections, with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, twice this year. This inspection is now done on the computer and the information was lost the first time. The inspector looks for things like making sure our refrigeration units have thermometers and are numerically labeled. Food is kept 6 inches off the floor and varmint free. Required paper and signage is current completed. Paul Bucko passed his test and is now a certified Foodservice Manager with state of Illinois and the city of Chicago. The pantry now has three certificates.

Our flyer about the pantry is now written in Spanish. We are working on a Polish version. We are very blessed with volunteers; an average of 30 people on Monday and Thursday. Wednesday, clean up and delivery day, we usually have 6 volunteers.

We are making deliveries on every other Wednesday to between 10 and 14 homes. We are looking for more delivery persons.

We have special volunteers from Activision on Central and Envision Unlimited on Natchez. We will not be having a school supply day. Too many of our fellow organizations are passing out book bags and equipment. People are still giving us supplies and we will pass them out but we will not have an organized day.

Our Rescue Food program is doing very well. Jose and Carlos pick up donations from Jewel every Monday and Thursday. The program has given us the following: 5325 lbs. of dairy, 10,023 lbs. of meat, 13,799 lbs. of mixed food items, 675 lbs. of nonfood items, 1500 lbs. of prepared perishable food items. The United States Post Office collected over 800 pieces of nonperishable food items, this year. We sent thank you notes to Jamel Martinez, the manager of our Roger McCauliff branch and Louis DeJoy, the Washington D.C. Manager. They were very pleased with our acknowledgement of their service. The Post Office tries to collect food for us every year.

We have had very profitable fund raisers. We started the new year with our Hawaiian event at the Moose. We gained \$2410. At Buona Beef we earned \$246, Pot Belly netted the pantry \$619., and Super Dawg supported us with a donation of \$160. Our Empty Bowl fundraiser was extremely successful. Pastor Janine collected beautiful bowls from artists in our area which were sold for a donation. On a Sunday we also gave away bowls of soup at a wonderful get together, enjoying soup made by volunteers and community restaurants. We cleared \$5080.62. The Funds2Organization paid us for our 142 bags collected shoes. This fund raiser brought us \$1645. A special thank you to Pastor Jason and his parishioners for storing the collected bags at Montrose Baptist Church.

We are now using PayPal to collect donations. It has proven to be very helpful. Our holiday give aways were very successful. We gave away 73 Easter baskets, hand made by Joan. For Thanksgiving we gave away extra food for the holiday to 152 families. This Christmas we gave 103 children from 54 families two gifts each, one item that the child wanted and another that Mom thought the child needed. United in Faith, Portage Park Elementary School, and Thorp Elementary School were very generous with their donations. We also shared holiday food with 157 families.

Our number of guests for 2025:

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
| January 1017 | May 960 | September 780 |
| February 1068 | June 1086 | October 885 |
| March 1180 | July 868 | November 1016 |
| April 1023 | August 723 | December 631 |

Remember December is only 6 weeks.

The average is 937 people per month.

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END OF

UNITED IN FAITH

ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

FOR 2025

**WE USED
TO BE A
PRINTING
COMPANY**



**...THEN WE
CONVERTED!**

**United in Faith Lutheran Church
6525 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60634**

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