

MAY  
2023

# United in Faith News

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



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



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

## Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

I grew up in a singing church. One where the lyrics and the melodies insinuated theology (God talk) into my very soul. Songs that became ear worms and float into my daily life under my breath and into my day. One of those songs is *"I love to tell the story."* Do you know it? Can you hear it?

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

We are telling the stories of Resurrection at United in Faith! Over the coming months we will gather one on one and in groups to talk of many things. We will share our stories about how God has enlivened the last 25 years at United in Faith. We will envision God's work in us for the next 25 years. We will explore this community of faith and the communities we live in. We will discover the God in our midst and the God drawing us out into the world.

Maybe we will even sing together, share more songs that draw our stories out and give them life. Hum the familiar melodies and flow into the heart filling words of our shared faith. And as we go, I expect we learn new songs that express the work God is doing in us now and calling us toward for tomorrow.

We have several things planned for May:

- Lunch and Messy Church reflection after church on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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**

(continued on next page)

## From The Desk of Pastor Jeanine, Continued..

- Storage room organizing and the monthly book club on May 3<sup>th</sup> starting at noon with book discussion at 3pm.
- The Transition team will begin meeting this month!
- Random calls from me!

WE have much to do, much to share and much to sing about!

I hope this month brings you beautiful flowers and lilting songs to usher in the Risen Christ!

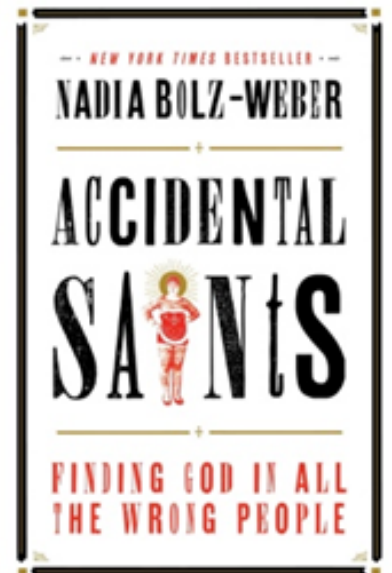
Blessings,  
*Pr. Jeanie*

## BOOK CLUB

May's book club is reading **Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People**.

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ELCA pastor who doesn't fit in the box. She has challenged the church to recognize that few of us do and all of us need to know the transformative love of God in our lives.

Join us, Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, as we discuss this book and what it has meant for the Lutheran church since it was published in 2015.



## COFFEE HOUR

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

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

United in Faith Lutheran Church  
Treasurer's Report – March, 2023

	Three Months Ended <u>3/31/23</u>
<u>Unrestricted:</u>	
Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 23,358
Expenditures	<u>66,294</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	( 42,936)
Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ <u>9,472</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	(33,464)
<u>Educational Endowment:</u>	
Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 9,968
Scholarships paid out	<u>0</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	9,968
<u>Harriet Kurz Endowment:</u>	
Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	\$ 9,219
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	<u>198</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	9,417
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	<u>\$ (14,079)</u>

Comments:

2023 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$7,687 in March and lower by \$42,936 YTD .

Income includes \$1,727 in Special Estate gifts from:  
Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January

General Investments returned a gain of \$3,216 for March & a gain of \$9,472 YTD.  
Educational Investments returned a gain of \$3,085 for March & a gain of \$9,968 YTD.  
Harriet Kurz Endowment returned a loss of (\$6,142) for March & a gain of \$9,417 YTD.

Total expenses for March are favorable to budget by \$7,309 and \$9,967 YTD due to Salary & Benefit costs being lower than budget by \$12,449 YTD and the YTD Building costs being higher than budget by \$3,456. .

**THANK YOU...**

A special thanks to Audit Committee members Rich Guzick and Janeen Devine for having audited the 2020, 2021, & 2022 United in Faith's financial records in March 2023. They found that the financial records present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial condition of United in Faith as of the end of each of the 3 years audited.

## After 25 Years.....

As many of you may know, a committee has been busy at work sorting out the records of the eight predecessors as well as the 25 years of records for United in Faith's own history. Several gaps in our UIF records have been identified and we are looking for **YOUR HELP** in trying to locate the materials that are needed to have a fuller representation of our history.

There are three areas we are focusing on, although if you have materials that do not fit into these categories, we would still like to hear from you. The three things we are looking for are: *Newsletters*, Sunday Bulletins (and special services if you have them) and committee files. We do not need all years for the *Newsletters* and Bulletins, but for several years there is nothing or just a few on file: Bulletins: 1999-2006 and 2010-2013; *Newsletters*: 1999-2006, 2010-2013. For other years, we are missing a significant number of issues as well. If you have copies of either *Newsletters* or Bulletins, we are asking you to donate them to become part of the UIF Archives. We can provide more information on the exact issues needed, or you can turn them over and we will return any copies we already have on file.

The other group of records, committee files, have mainly remained in the hands of those who participated in that work. No one has ever requested those records to be turned over for the historical record. We have a strong collection of committee records from the early days of UIF, 1998-1999, but the remaining years are hit-and-miss. Again, you can offer your records and we can determine what years are already on file and return what is not needed for the archives.

We do have full finding aids or guides not only for UIF records, but for all records of the eight predecessors. Copies of these guides are available in the UIF administrative office. Every folder, volume, etc. can now be easily located as needed. For the predecessors, if you have materials you believe should also be in the archives, we are ready to accept them! Since we realize so many saved items could relate to your family's history, once again, you can request that materials already represented in the archives be returned to you.



For more information or clarification,  
contact Elisabeth Wittman, 773-685-1843;  
[e.wittman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e.wittman@sbcglobal.net)

If you want to give your offering to United in Faith online, now is your chance.

Go to <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/uif>  
and create an online giving account.

Just follow the instructions. It is very simple to do.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.... WANNA HELP?

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

Jeanne will send you the Worship Lessons and Prayers for the Church the week before you are assigned. All you have to do is read! Simple, right!?! The sign up sheet for both Assisting Ministers and Coffee Hour are on the table in the fellowship room.



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

FINALLY, we need help on Saturday, May 13 at 12:00 noon with a Spring Organizing event. Meet at church to help organize the back storage room and other areas of the church. It's kind of a Spring Clean. Call the church office for more information.



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Each year the generosity of Illinois congregations provides services to tens of thousands of people statewide through LSSI. Together we offer whole person care in a myriad of ways: through mental health counseling, foster care, substance use services, affordable senior housing, services for at-risk families, residential support for adults with developmental disabilities, home care, and programs for current and formerly incarcerated individuals.



These services remain exemplary expressions of our common call to serve our neighbor, in Christ's name and on Christ's behalf.

This year we are happy to introduce a new initiative called "Expansion of Our Hearts." In his book *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*, theologian Henri Nouwen wrote:

"One of the most powerful experiences in a life of compassion is the **expansion of our hearts** into a world-embracing space of healing from which no one is excluded..."

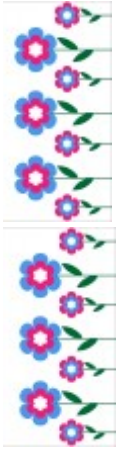
Please prayerfully consider asking your members to expand their hearts by giving generously this year to LSSI. **Each synod will have \$5,000 available from an anonymous donor to match gifts given by congregations and individuals for Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday.**

Thank you for all you do to support the people served by LSSI. Together we are Christ to our neighbor.

In Christ,  
Bishop Yehiel Curry  
Bishop Stacie Fidler  
Bishop S. John Roth  
Mark Stutrud, LSSI president and CEO

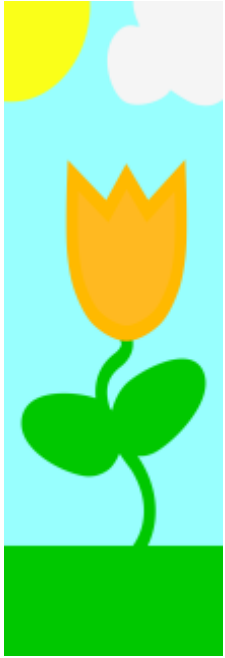


# MAY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>1</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>2</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>5</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>6</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am NLOB Regular Work Day 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>7</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>8</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>9</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Ministry Directors Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>12</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>13</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 12:00 pm Spring Organizing 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 3:00 pm Book Club 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>14</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>15</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>16</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 7:00pm Church Council Meeting 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>19</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>20</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>21</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>22</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 6:00pm Brownies/Daisy 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>26</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>27</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 1:00pm Ladies Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
<b>28</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	<b>29</b> 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	<b>30</b> 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>2</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>3</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am NLOB Regular Work Day 4:00pm Survivors of Incest

## MAY 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE



<i>May 7</i> <i>Easter 5</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<i>May 14</i> <i>Easter 6</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<i>May 21</i> <i>Easter 7</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed
<i>May 28</i> <i>PENTECOST</i>	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In-Person Worship Service & live streamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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