

September
2025

United in Faith News

SEPTEMBER

*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

Seasons of Creation: Living God's Economy of Grace

September brings us into the *Season of Creation*, when Christians around the globe pause to remember that the gospel is not just for people—it's good news for all of creation. This year, we'll walk through four weekly themes: *Gift Economy*, *Reciprocity*, *Interdependence*, and *Hope for Creation*. Together they invite us to imagine our lives not as consumers of the earth, but as grateful participants in God's abundance.

Week One: Gift Economy

Robin Wall Kimmerer, in *The Serviceberry*, writes about the difference between the market economy and what she calls the gift economy. In a gift economy, the earth's blessings—water, berries, sunshine, air—are freely given, not bought or sold. The only proper response is gratitude. Scripture reminds us the same: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24:1). What would it look like to treat each breath, each meal, each sunrise as a gift instead of a commodity?

Week Two: Reciprocity

Gifts ask for response. Creation gives to us, and we're invited to give back—not with guilt, but with joy. A garden watered, a bird feeder filled, a river prayed for, a neighborhood shared with care—these are acts of holy reciprocity. We love because God first loved us; we give because the earth has already given so much.

Week Three: Interdependence

The serviceberry is a perfect teacher here. Its fruit feeds birds, people, and even the soil. Creation thrives because everything is connected. Interdependence isn't weakness—it's God's design. In the body of Christ, no one part can say to the other, "I don't need you." The same goes for forests, rivers, bees, and us. We flourish together, or not at all.

Continued on next page

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**

Week Four: Hope for Creation

Headlines about climate change, droughts, and fires can make hope feel scarce. But our faith is rooted in resurrection. God brings life where we only see death. Hope for creation doesn't deny the challenges—it trusts that God's renewing Spirit is already at work. Planting a tree, reducing waste, praying with gratitude—these are small seeds of hope that God multiplies.

This September, let's practice living in God's gift economy. Let's be people of gratitude, reciprocity, interdependence, and hope. The earth is still singing God's song. Our call is simple: join the chorus.

Pr. Jeanie



God's work. Our hands.



ACACIA PARK, RESURRECTION, SHEPHERD'S
HEART AND UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCHES WILL JOIN HANDS ON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 10 AM
TO ASSEMBLE BLANKETS FOR PHIL'S FRIENDS
ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

MORE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES OF THIS NEWSLETTER

United in Faith Lutheran Welcome Statement

United in Faith **openly welcomes and values every person who walks through our doors**, regardless of race, nationality and ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation & gender identity, marital status, social and economic situation, ability, cultural reality, & need.

Further, United in Faith supports efforts to share with all: God's gifts of love, acceptance, & grace; invites all people, **uniquely created by God**, to **experience the word of God, communion, & promise of the risen Christ**; and encourages all people to participate fully in the ministries of this congregation, which are based on its core values.





We hope everyone had a good summer!

The UIF Girl Scout troops will have their first meeting of the year September 2! The Daisies and Brownies meet from 6-7:30 and the Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors meet from 7-8:30. Our troops cover grades K through 10, we are open to new girls at all levels, but especially the Daisies and Brownies.

Hope we see some new faces!

Janeen, Sharon, Catherine, Michelle and Colleen.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...

We are always looking for more smiling faces to welcome our neighbors. There are **SIGN-UP SHEETS** on the table under bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. *You can sign up for a number of volunteer opportunities.... like be a greeter, or an usher or help with coffee hour.* **Thank you for giving extra time to greet our families and friends.**



St. Cyprian's Food Pantry

Please consider a special donation to the Pantry this month. Like all non-profits, the Pantry experiences a summer lull in giving that consistently straps their cash flow.

If you plan a gift later in the year, please consider giving that in September.

PET BLESSING

Our Annual Pet Blessing will be held on Saturday, October 4th at 10:30 pm in our back parking lot. Please bring your pet (furry or not) and join us for this very enjoyable short service/blessing of all God's creatures.

Also, we ask that you keep your pet on leash or in it's cage/home. Thanks!



God's work. Our hands.



**ACACIA PARK, RESURRECTION, SHEPHERD'S
HEART AND UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN
CHURCHES WILL JOIN HANDS ON**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 10 AM

TO ASSEMBLE BLANKETS FOR PHIL'S FRIENDS

ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

4307 N. ORIOLE - NORRIDGE

**PHIL'S FRIENDS IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES HOPE AND SUPPORT TO
THOSE AFFECTED BY CANCER.**



Phil's Friends: Bringing Hope in the Face of Cancer

Phil's Friends is a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing hope and encouragement to individuals and families affected by cancer. Founded in 2006 by Phil Zielke, himself a two-time cancer survivor, the ministry grew out of Phil's own experience of how faith, prayer, and community can sustain people through some of life's hardest moments.

The heart of Phil's Friends' mission is to remind people battling cancer that they are not alone. Volunteers prepare and send hand-packed *Care Packages* filled with practical items and comforting gifts, along with personal notes of encouragement. In addition, thousands of *Cards of Hope* are written and mailed each week, offering words of love, scripture, and prayer to patients across the country.

Phil's Friends also provides spiritual support through ongoing prayer, hospital visits, and a network of caring volunteers who walk alongside individuals and families during treatment and recovery. Everything they do is rooted in the belief that Christ's love is a source of hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Through Phil's Friends, God's people become visible hands and feet of encouragement—reminding those who suffer that they are loved, prayed for, and never forgotten.

We will gather with neighboring congregations to prepare blankets in support of this national ministry. Please join us on Saturday September 6th at 10am at Acacia Park Lutheran Church, located at 4307 Oriole Ave, Norridge, IL



IN PERSON COFFEE HOUR

Join us at 9:00 am for coffee fellowship with all your United in Faith friends!

As always we will need volunteers for future coffee hours so make sure to sign your name on the sign up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall. We are so looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!! Come join us!!



September 4 Pete Herberg, Dave Quillin

September 6 Marty Devine, Gretchen Quillin

September 7 Ellen Devine

September 16 Nathan Dombroski

September 17 Fran Johnston, Jacob Kuswik

September 19 Pam Marino, Kim Childress

September 28 Loreen O'Donnell-Stellplug



THE SEASON OF CREATION *September 2025*

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 its wellbeing. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and the sisters and brothers who share it. This year,

We will also share an outdoor **Pet Blessing** service at 10:30 pm on Saturday, October 4 as part of UIF commemorating the Season of Creation.





Superdawg®



St. Cyprian's Food Pantry 2025 Donation Week

Monday, September 8 – Sunday, September 14



St Cyprian Ecumenical Food Pantry
6535 W Irving Park Rd
Chicago IL 60634



Eat at either drive in location:

6363 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL
(773)763-0660

333 S. Milwaukee Avenue
Wheeling, IL
(847)459-1900

Photocopies of this coupon will be accepted — so share with your family, friends and neighbors!!

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON WHEN PLACING AN ORDER



Superdawg®



****All major credit cards accepted****

Monday, September 8th thru Sunday, September 14th

Superdawg will donate **20%** of total sales back to
St. Cyprian's Food Pantry
for every order placed with this coupon!



SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	2 6:00pm Girl Scouts	3 10:00am Justice Meeting	4 9:00am Food Pantry	5 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit	6 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am God's Work—Our Hands 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
7 Season of Creation—PRAY 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	8 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	9 6:00pm Girl Scouts	10	11 9:00am Food Pantry	12 6:30pm AA	13 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
14 Season of Creation—LEARN 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	15 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group 6:30pm Worship Planning	16 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	17	18 9:00am Food Pantry	19 6:30pm AA	20 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
21 Season of Creation—ACT 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	22 9:00am Food Pantry	23 6:00pm Girl Scouts	24	25 9:00am Food Pantry	26 6:30pm AA	27 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org
28 Season of Creation—ADVOCATE 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	29 9:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	30 6:00pm Girl Scouts	1	2 9:00am Food Pantry	3 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit	4 9:30am Al-Anon 10:30am Pet Blessing 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- https://siawso.org

Worship Schedule

September and October

10:00 am
WORSHIP
SERVICE
WILL ALSO BE
LIVESTREAMED



SEPT 7 - PENTECOST 13 Season of Creation — Pray 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship	Oct 5 - PENTECOST 17 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship
SEPT 14 - PENTECOST 14 Season of Creation — Learn 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship	Oct 12—PENTECOST 18 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship
SEPT 21 - PENTECOST 15 Season of Creation – Act 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship	Oct 19—PENTECOST 19 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship
SEPT 28 - PENTECOST 16 Season of Creation —Advocate 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship	Oct 26—REFORMATION 9:00 Coffee and Juice 10:00 in person & on-line worship

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Chicago, IL 60634



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