

August
2023

United in Faith News

AUGUST



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



From the desk of . . .

Pastor Jeanine



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

In June and July, we have considered the currency of relationship. How relationship flow to connect us with each other, our neighborhood, and our ministry. In August and September, we turn to being well.

“Wellness: Being healthy physically, socially, economically, ecologically, and spiritually within a church, the neighborhood, the town/city, nation, or the earth, especially as the result of deliberate effort. Sustainable wellness requires regenerative and recirculatory flow of material, human, financial and natural resources.”

Being healthy doesn't just happen. It requires deliberate effort. Over the next weeks we will assess our health, personally and congregationally, and how our health contributes to the health of our community. Such exploration stirs things up, it provides energy for others and in turn that energy flows back to invigorate us.

In August we will continue to build relationships to increase our social health. So that we can build relationships across differences without fear or defensiveness. Freeing us to live into loving our neighbor as ourselves. We will explore the economics of being healthy in this place, and how God's divine economy can more fully be claimed in our expression of God's work here.

In September, we will celebrate The Seasons of Creation in worship and step outside and into the forest preserve. As we consider the ecological health of the intersection of Irving Park Road and United in Faith, we will seek ways to actively increase our health and decrease our ecological footprint.

Throughout all these conversations and interactions we will seek God's direction for us. Listening for God's voice and the voice of our neighbors.

Pastor Jeanine

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**



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

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

This is the telephone help line for the Chicago chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Health. This organization started in 1979 and has been supporting individuals and groups with mental illness assistance and resources. The help line is the heart of their program and can be used to find emotional support and help to find resources for treatment, housing, legal and more. Callers may be the person in need, or you can call on behalf of a loved one. When you call, you will be talking to a mental health professional. Calling hours are seven days a week: M-F, 8am-9pm, S-S, 8am-5pm. Your call is both free and confidential.

NAMI also provides classes, training and support groups. Go to the NAMI Chicago website: <https://www.namichicago.org> To find out more call the help line number. Other information you will find on the website includes information: symptoms, types of disorders and fact sheets for in-patient, out-patient and community-based supports. You may get the information you need there, or it will prepare you for calling the help line.

Another important resource began this year **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** is the three-digit dialing code that will connect callers in crisis to trained counselors that will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. Just as you might call 911 for medical or safety assistance, call 988 for mental illness assistance.



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

CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD

There Is No Second Nature
-The Nature Conservancy nature.org

HELP WANTED

*Volunteers
Needed*



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

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

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

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



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



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



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

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

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

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

Six Months
Ended
6/30/23

Unrestricted:

Income (excluding investment activity)	\$ 49,002
Expenditures	<u>126,928</u>
Income over (under) expenditures	\$ (77,926)
Investment Income and changes in market value	19,318
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ (58,608)

Educational Endowment:

Investment Income and changes in market value	\$ 18,814
Scholarships paid out	<u>0</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets	\$ 18,814

Harriet Kurz Endowment:

Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value	15,448
ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value	<u>4,745</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets	\$ 20,193
<u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u>	<u>\$ (19,601)</u>

Comments:

2023 income from church operations is lower than spending by \$12,306 in June and lower by \$77,926 YTD.

Income includes \$1,727 in Special Estate gifts from:
Anita Perske - \$1,727 in January 2023

Investments returned a gain of \$13,041 for June & a gain of \$39,511 YTD.
Educational Investments returned a gain of \$11,551 for June & a gain of \$18,814 YTD.

Total expenses for June are favorable to budget by \$3,836 and \$17,327 YTD due to Salary & Benefit costs being lower than budget by \$10,319 YTD, the Administrative costs being lower than budget by \$2,183, and the YTD Building costs being lower than budget by \$2,561.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

Please join us for our regularly scheduled, in person, monthly NLOB Work Day this Saturday, August 5, 2023 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at United in Faith Lutheran Church located at 6525 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. Parking is available in the lot behind the church building.

Please note, we CANNOT accept straight plastic bag donations as we do not have the capacity to store them.

REMAINING NLOB WORK DAYS IN 2023:

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

- Saturday, October 7, 2023
- Saturday, November 4, 2023
- Saturday, December 2, 2023

As of July 26, 2023 we are at:

6,455 mats

4,518,500 repurposed bags

516,400 hours of volunteer work

56 new mats completed since June 1, 2023!



SEASON OF CREATION – Sundays in September 2023

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

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

This year, we share special Sundays that focus on :

September 3 - FOREST

September 10 - LAND

September 17 - WILDERNESS

September 24 - RIVER



We will also share an outdoor Pet Blessing service on Sat., October 7th at 3:00 pm, as part of UIF commemorating the Season of Creation.



Girl Scouts at United in Faith will return when school begins in the fall. We have troops for every level, K-12th grade and we meet on Tuesday evenings. We have room for more girls, so if you know anyone that might be interested, send them

over! We are still collecting travel sized toiletries, so if you have any from summer travels; we can use them! This past year, we assembled 176 hygiene kits with your help.

Several of the Junior Girl Scouts are working on their Bronze Award, and are collecting children's books for St. Cyprian's. I like to get books to any children I see coming through the line and we are running low. We will have a box in the Fellowship Hall soon for any books you might care to donate. We could especially use board books, picture books, and easy readers. We are seeing families that are not native English speakers, and easy books are helpful for building language skills. Thank you!

Janeen



August 7 Jeaninne Kosner

August 11 Cathy Downing-King

August 26 Kenneth Ricker

August 28 Patrick O'Donnell

August 30 Ardelle Wray
Karine Kuswik



AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	2	3 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	4 6:30pm AA	5 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am NLOB Work Day 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
6 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Anti-Racism Discussion 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	7 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	8 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	9	10 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	11 6:30pm AA	12 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
13 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Anti-Racism Discussion 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	14 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	15 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo 7:00pm Church Council	16	17 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	18 6:30pm AA	19 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
20 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Anti-Racism Discussion 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	21 9:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Ladies Discussion Group	22 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	23 10:00am Justice Team	24 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	25 6:30pm AA	26 9:30am AI-Anon 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest
27 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Anti-Racism Discussion 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed	28 9:00am Food Pantry	29 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	30	31 9:00am Food Pantry 10:00am Golden Rebels Bingo	1 6:30pm AA	2 9:30am AI-Anon 10:00am NLOB Work Day 1:00pm Knitting Group 4:00pm Survivors of Incest

August



Worship Schedule

September



AUGUST 6

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
9:00 AM Anti-Racism Discussion
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

AUGUST 13

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
9:00 AM Anti-Racism Discussion
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

AUGUST 20

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
9:00 AM Anti-Racism Discussion
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

AUGUST 27

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
9:00 AM Anti-Racism Discussion
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 3 - FOREST

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 10 - LAND

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 17 - WILDERNESS

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

September 24 - RIVER

9:00 AM In Person Coffee Hour
10:00 AM Worship in person and Live Streamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6525 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60634



Rev. Jeanine Reardon

Pastor

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