



# United in Faith News

## Why are we Here?

We are to be  
God's hands, feet  
and voice in  
the world.

## Guiding Principles

- + 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

## A Letter from Pastor Sharei

Greetings, Beloveds!

Grace and peace to you in this season after Epiphany. Epiphany is a season of revelation, of light breaking in, of God showing up in places we didn't expect, and of clarity arriving slowly, over time. It feels especially fitting that this is the season in which I begin my ministry with you.

As I step into this role, I do so with gratitude, humility, and a deep sense of hope for what God is already unfolding among us. Beginnings are sacred and a little tender. They invite us to pay attention, to notice where the light is showing up, to listen for what God might be revealing, and to trust that we do not walk this path alone.

This season reminds us that faith is not static. We are continually being called deeper into love, into justice, and into the shared work of building God's kindom together. As we get to know one

Meet people where they are

another, my prayer is that we remain open to learning, to change, and to the Spirit moving in ways both quiet and bold.

I am honored to be joining you in this moment, and I look forward to discovering, together, how God's light will continue to shine through this community.

With gratitude and hope,  
Pastor Sharei

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## Updates in Our Community

### **Girl Scouts of UIF**

Cookies are in! You will soon see Girl Scouts all over selling cookies—out cookie sales help our troops fund their adventures and support our council (including our beloved camps). If you would rather not eat the cookies yourself, you can still help by donating cookies. Cookies get sent to Service Members, local organizations and First Responders. I'm happy to get cookie for you if you're looking!

Our troops have been busy with activities and badge work. We had our Cookie Rally at the Chicago Wolves, some of us went to see "Elf" in Palatine on a snowy afternoon. We have started planning for camping in the spring and a possible overnight here at church. Our troops are slowly growing, but we always have room for more!

Janeen, Sharon, Catherine, Michelle, Colleen and Dawn.

### **No Human being is Illegal**

Our identity at United in Faith is rooted in the commitment that we are to be God's hands, feet, and voice in the world. This is not just a slogan, but the lens through

which we view our mission and our presence in the city, especially when our neighbors experience violence and injustice. Recently, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry issued a statement mourning the death of Renee Nicole Good and calling for a thorough investigation into the actions of federal law enforcement. And before the dust could settle on this tragedy, we heard news of the shooting of Alex Pretti. These tragic events, as well as those that are not being reported around the country and right here in our city, remind us that our work for justice is not only necessary but urgent. It echoes the words found in Micah 6:8 (IB): Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what "good" is, and what YHWH needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.

When we follow this mandate, our guiding principles come to life in tangible ways. We act as God's voice by "doing justice" and echoing the call to denounce language that dehumanizes immigrants (and all people) who are beloved children of God. We serve as God's hands by "loving kindness" and supporting efforts that accompany immigrants. Finally, we move as God's feet by "walking humbly" alongside our siblings in Christ, standing in solidarity with those impacted by fear and uncertainty. As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we remain committed to upholding the basic human rights and safety of all families, and we encourage everyone to look for ways to get involved in the movement for justice within our local area.

You can read the full [Bishop's Statement](#) for more information on the ELCA's response.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2025

[Click Here](#)

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## **Announcements**

### **United in Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

All members of United in Faith are invited to the **annual meeting!**

## **Sunday, February 22, 2026 @ 11:00 AM**

This is an important meeting of our membership to review past activities, look to the Future and to elect new council members, synod voting members and a nominating committee.

Please plan to attend!

[Click here to access the meeting packet.](#)

### **Monthly Non-Food Donations**

This year, the Justice Ministry encourages UIF members to donate a highlighted non-food item each month. The food pantry only has funding for foods items and clients still need to stretch their dollars to cover both food and all those daily necessities. This month we are asking for feminine hygiene products — tampons and pads.

A donation box is available as you come in the back door, just at the end of the ramp.

Thank you to all who contributed diapers during January!

### **Book Club**

A real treat awaits us in March as we discuss our book club selection with the author! Read *God's Holy Darkness* and join us on **Saturday, March 21st at 10:00** as the author, our very own Pastor Sharei, leads the discussion.

In *God's Holy Darkness*, Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick deconstruct anti-Blackness in Christian theology by celebrating instances in the story of God's people when darkness, blackness, and night are beautiful, good, and holy. From the darkness at the beginning of creation to the blackness of the sky on the day when Christ's birth was announced to the shepherds, children learn that blackness is something to celebrate as an important element of the life of faith. Lush and vibrant illustrations by artist Nikki Faison underscore the mystery and beauty of these wondrous acts of God's holy darkness.

— Augsburg Fortress

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# Birthdays and Anniversaries



## Birthdays

2/20 - Joyce Csapo

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# Calendar

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>6</b> 6:30pm AA 7:00pm Girl Scout Service Unit 286	<b>7</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 10:00am NLOB 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>9</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>13</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>14</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>21</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship in person and livestreamed 11:00am ANNUAL MEETING 11:00am Coffee Hour 1:30pm Girl Scout Thinking Day	<b>23</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Ladies Discussion Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00am Food Pantry	<b>27</b> 6:30pm AA	<b>28</b> 9:30am Al-Anon 4:00pm Survivors of Incest- <a href="https://siawso.org">https://siawso.org</a>

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Contact Us



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