

JULY
2024

United in Faith News

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



July ★★



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

2024 METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

In Jesus' Name. Proclaim the Gospel. Make Disciples. **Do Justice**

This year's assembly focused on the last portion of the Synod's mission statement: Do Justice. The featured speaker, Tonika Lewis Johnson, delivered a keynote titled *The Art of Change: Disrupting Urban Inequity and Segregation with Art*, drawing on her renowned work in photography and community engagement in Chicago. Her address resonated deeply with attendees, highlighting pressing issues within urban landscapes. She also spotlighted the Folded Map Project, underscoring efforts to bridge geographic and racial divides within Chicago through innovative community initiatives.

The assembly included breakout sessions that catered to diverse interests and concerns. George participated in an AI-focused discussion, exploring the implications of artificial intelligence, while Pam engaged in the Civic Life and Faith session which reviewed the draft social statement which discusses the role of religious communities in civic responsibilities. Pastor Jeanne attended the Social Trends session, examining current social issues and their impact on communities and churches.

Resolutions were presented regarding:

- >reinvestment in the Synod - using financial resources to work towards our siblings and our congregations having equal access - to address issues noted in the keynote address
- >the Palestinian/Israeli conflict
- >affirming the Synod's Reconciling in Christ status

A memorial was presented For an End to the Occupation, Restoration in Gaza, and Justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

Minor amendments were made to the Synod constitution.

A budget was presented and approved.

(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

Elections were held for delegates to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly and positions on the Metro Chicago Synod Council and the Committee on Discipline. The attendees experienced a transition to an electronic voting system, marking a significant change in how decisions were made. While this move aimed to streamline processes and enhance efficiency, there were a couple of glitches reported during the assembly.

Overall, the assembly served as a platform for insightful discussions and strategies to address societal challenges, featuring a range of perspectives from prominent speakers and interactive sessions tailored to attendees' interests and concerns. Additionally, it served as a platform to reconnect with former acquaintances, including Dale Tippet Jr, our former band member, who served as the Assembly music leader.

George Schultz

Pamela Marino

Pastor Jeanne Reardon

Portions of this report were created by AI

Links to Synod Resolutions:

Reinvestment Resolution

<https://mcselca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-synod-assembly-resolution-reinvestment-REVISED-1.pdf>

Memorial on Middle East

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lgPchLj_vPIGK5s_lpvlg7n2nugzO9J/view

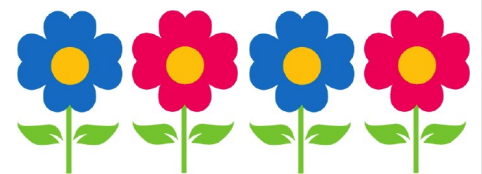
Resolution on Middle East

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10LNoQSSYIKhZ24S8y6CBZ8jTXeipkAaM/view>

Small Church Reality (breakout group I attended)

<https://faithcommunitiestoday.org/>

MONDAY LADIES DISCUSSION GROUP



A Ladies' Discussion Group started at UIF June 7, 2021.

We are a group of ladies who started at Mather's More Than a Café, weekly discussing different topics suggested by the participants. Some of the topics we discuss would be: where would you like to go? how are you keeping your brain active? In this group we don't discuss religion or politics and we are not a gossip group.

When the pandemic came, Mather's closed for good leaving our group in limbo. We have now restarted at UIF. We meet the first three Mondays of the month from 1-3 PM. We welcome any females 60 and over to join us. UIF Covid-19 protocols apply.

For more information contact Dian Hoyem, 773-685-0549, handdhoyem@sbcglobal.net, or just show up. We'd love to have you.

ELECTION YEAR PREPARATION

Government is intended to serve God's purposes by limiting or countering narrow economic interests and promoting the common good. ... Governing leaders are to be held accountable to God's purposes: "May [they] judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. ... May [they] defend the cause of the poor of the people" (Psalm 72:2).

(ELCA social statement Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, 11)

Are you like many who are pessimistic about our democracy and its survival? About the state of the nation with polarization and corruption and lacking confidence about keeping the government functioning? Do you ask what has Congress done for us recently? Perhaps you are in the majority that feels exhausted and angry. A partnership among WBEZ, the Chicago Sun Times and the University of Chicago's Center for Effective Government, along with support from the Pulitzer Center developed The Democracy Solutions Project. The intent is to inform Chicago area residents not just about the votes they will cast but about the institutions of democracy itself with a hard look at what's working and what isn't. The goal is for us to understand how we fit into the broader context of our democracy and help us to make choices at the ballot box and in our everyday life. Prepare yourself for your journey to the ballot box in November by reading the solutions-oriented reporting and analysis at wbez.org/democracy.

To learn what it means to be Lutheran in a crucial election year consider this six session online series by the United Lutheran Seminary focusing on major issues including race, sexism, climate, abortion and corporate responsibility. Register at www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu **Kindling Faith: ELCA Social Statement**.

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civil life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters. Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience, and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major issues and questions of contemporary life. See elca.org/civicsandfaith for the draft statement and study materials. Feedback to the task force is open until the end of September.

THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

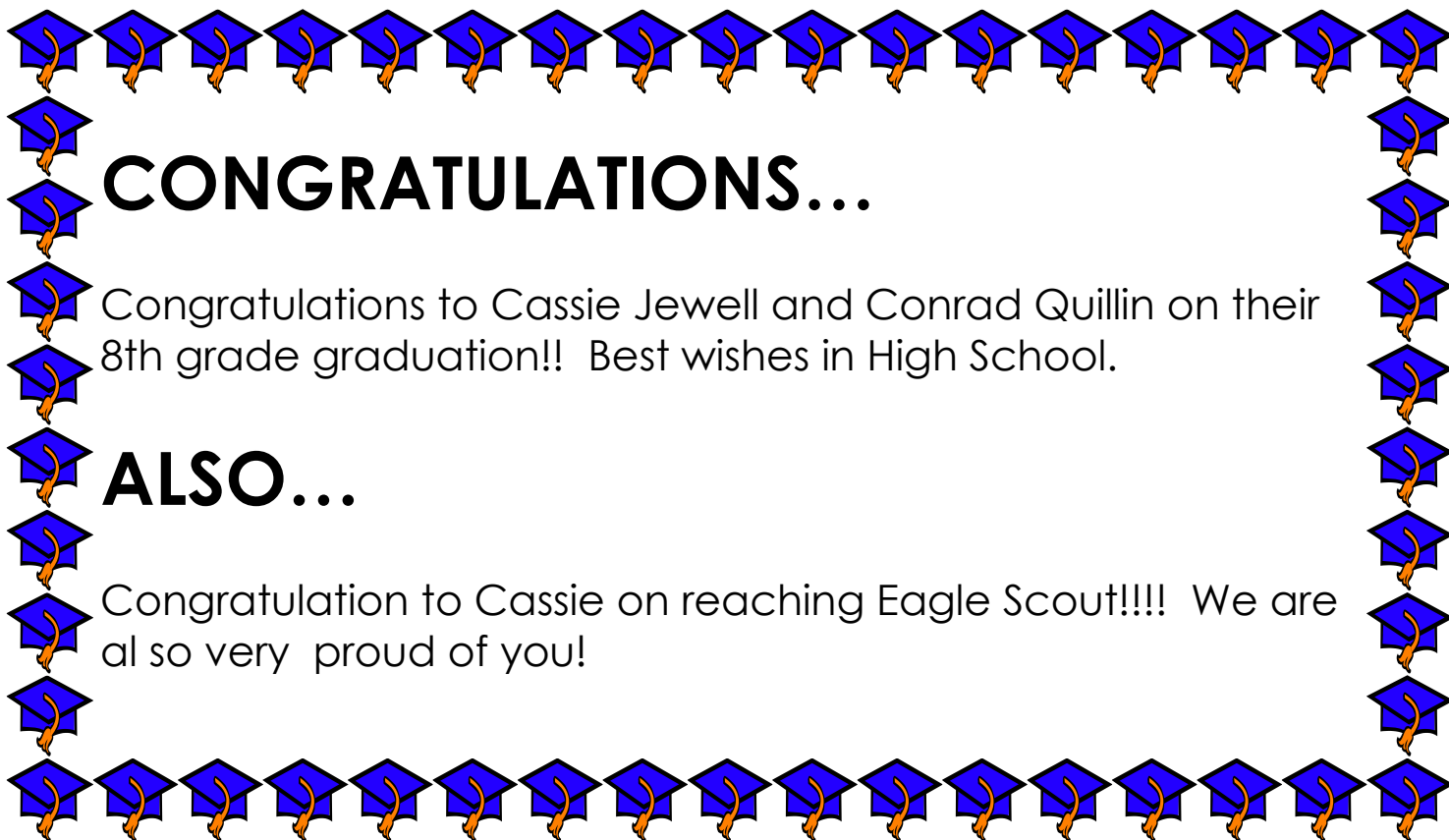
JOIN US ON

Our July book selection is ***Black Earth Wisdom: Soulful Conversations with Black Environmentalists*** by Leah Penniman. Join us as we learn of ancestral and ancient practices of listening to the earth for guidance.

In *Black Earth Wisdom*, author Leah Penniman shares the experiences, perspectives and stories of 16 Black environmentalists to get at the heart of Black people's spiritual and scientific connections to our planet...Penniman argues that Black cultural heritage is rife with 'ecological humility.' This concept posits that humans are family members of the life around us, rather than masters of it. And as we begin to appreciate Earth through the lens of members of the Black community, it becomes easier to recognize nature as not just land, water or resource, but 'teacher, text and kin.'" Jennifer Winger, *Nature Conservancy Magazine*



Book discussion Saturday, July 13 at 10:00
You are invited!



CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Cassie Jewell and Conrad Quillin on their 8th grade graduation!! Best wishes in High School.

ALSO...

Congratulation to Cassie on reaching Eagle Scout!!!! We are al so very proud of you!

Gratitude Journal

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

I thank you, Lord God, for the fruitfulness and abundance of our land and the marvelous blessings of my life. May I use these gifts wisely, with care for the natural world and for the benefit of others. Amen. Martin Luther

The Stewardship Ministry has compiled a "Gratitude Journal" that will be made available for everyone on a table outside the sanctuary. It is meant to be a daily journal where you can spend five minutes a day thinking of the things for which you are grateful. There will be prompts to help you get the ball rolling such as: Things I love, What brings me joy, and What positive things have happened in the course of my day.

Studies have shown that expressing gratitude can improve sleep, mood, and immunity. It can also help build and maintain relationships with others. We hope you all will take advantage of this opportunity to focus on your blessings.

One last note, this isn't a test or a questionnaire for use by the church. This is strictly for your own personal use. We hope you will find it helpful to you. Please contact the office if you'd like to have a gratitude journal sent to you.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS (NLOB)

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS WILL MEET ON EVEN MONTHS ONLY.

Please join us for our regularly scheduled, in person, monthly NLOB Work Day **Saturday, August 3 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 feel free to bring a snack to share.

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

REMAINING NLOB WORK DAYS IN 2024

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

- Saturday, August 3, 2024
- Saturday, October 5, 2024
- Saturday, December 7, 2024



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

On multiple occasions there has been a variety of items/bags dropped off in the church office. While that is fine, we need you to *please include a note on the things you leave* so that we can direct your generous gifts to the appropriate person/s.



However, if you have items for St. Cyprian's, please drop them off at St. Cyprian's on Monday or Thursday from 9:00 until 11:00 am or place them on the RED CART in the fellowship hall.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS FOR ST. CYPRIAN'S IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OUTSIDE ESPECIALLY FOOD ITEMS. THANK YOU.

Your help is so very much appreciated!



VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED...

Volunteers are always needed for coffee hour and to serve during our 10:00 am Sunday services.

Please look for the sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall and sign up to be an assisting minister, communion assistant, acolyte or for coffee hour.

Your help is very much appreciated! Thank you 



July 1

July 8

July 9

July 12

July 16

July 19

July 29

July 30

Scott Schultz

Gayle Guzik

Adrienne Childress

Conrad Quillin

Dennis Vogel

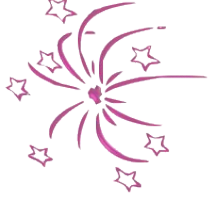
Colleen Haas

Carolyn Doughty

Dawn Kuswik



July 2024



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

JULY WORSHIP



Continue to check the website at www.unitedinfaith.org for updates

JULY 7 Pent 7	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In Person Worship and livestreamed
JULY 14 Pent 8	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In Person Worship and livestreamed
JULY 21 Pent 9	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In Person Worship and livestreamed
JULY 28 Pent 10	9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM In Person Worship and livestreamed

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor

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