



September-October 2016

Volume 107, Issues 9-10

Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church, est. 1905

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Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Spotlight on

Unity's Mission Support

*Our Assembly Tithes to the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod and
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

September Spotlight— College Chaplaincy

The 26 colleges and universities of the ELCA include Augustana, Rock Island and Carthage, Kenosha, and are dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and the development of the whole person in body, mind and spirit. At ELCA colleges and universities, students are educated for a sense of calling or vocation, opening the path toward a meaningful life of contribution to the common good through whatever career they choose. We also support chaplaincy programs through the Metropolitan Chicago Synod at Northwestern University, University of Chicago, and South Loop Campus.

October Spotlight – Growing Stewards

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "stewardship?" Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? What about love? That's why the ELCA developed "Stewards of God's" Love, a stewardship ministry for congregations. Rooted in a holistic biblically based approach to stewardship, "Stewards of God's Love" challenges all Christians to reimagine the ways in which they steward God's resources — time, talents and treasures — in response to God's commandment to love God and our neighbors in all aspects of our lives, and for growing stewards.

Growing Our Faith



Season of Pentecost – Year of Luke

As autumn begins, many congregations return from the more relaxed, if not scattered pace of summer to the demands of fall—the beginning of a new school year, the annual stewardship campaign, and soon enough, preparations for the holidays. As family calendars fill up and household budgets get stretched, the church hears Jesus' call to a costly discipleship that demands hard choices be made with our time and our money.

The gospel reading for the first Sunday in September concludes, “So therefore, none of you

can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions” (Luke 14:33). The gospel reading for the last Sunday in October reaches its climax when Zacchaeus the tax collector pledges half his possessions and fourfold repayment of those he has defrauded and Jesus declares, “Today salvation has come to this house. . . . For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost” (Luke 19:8-9). In the weeks between these two bookends, we are called to follow as the Gospel of Luke explores the dangers of wealth and the temptation toward self-righteousness.

. (Sundays & Seasons)

Our Faith in Action

The Gallery at Unity

September 11

Opening of “Postcards From Unity”

Unity & Friends pictures and art from summer 2016

October 16

Opening of “Tree of Life”

A Juried Chicago Show on ancient religio-secular symbol

November 27

Opening of “Jean Yves”

The return of 20 year old Haitian talent

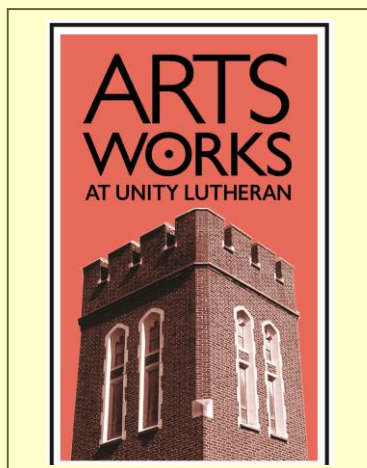
Brought to you by ArtsWorks

Baptism

Sunday October 23

We look forward to the baptism of 3 month old Alex Mekels. Alex lives in the neighborhood and his mom, Laura, has Lutheran background. Family plans to attend this milestone day.

We welcome you wherever you are on your spiritual journey: returning, longtime member or questioning.



God Talk On Tap

Sunday September 11, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Lady Gregory's on Clark at Berwyn

Join Lutherans, Presbyterians, and friends for casual faith conversations over drinks and appetizers. (Drinks and apps are on your own.)

Our Faith in Action



Moral Mondays

Monday September 12, Chicago Temple (77 W. Wash.),
12:30pm Rally begins inside Chicago Temple,
1:00pm March and Action, 2:00pm End

The next Moral Monday is a national day of action called by Reverend Barber of North Carolina, founder of Moral Mondays. Our demands are: Raise the minimum wage in Illinois to \$15/hour; Override veto of SB250 to give voting access to the disenfranchised; and pass a fair and fully funded budget!

Growing Our Faith

Prayer Breakfast

Saturdays Sept 24 and Oct 29, 10:00am

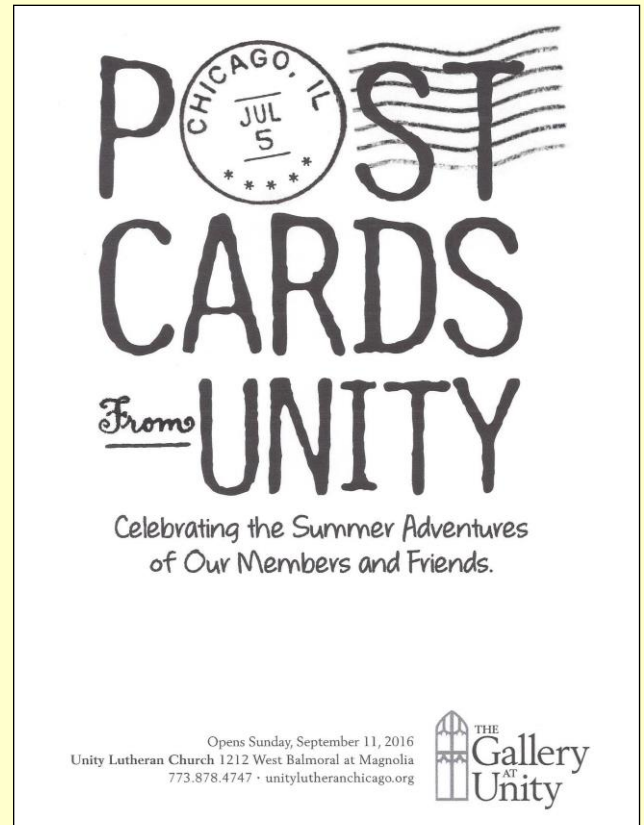
A monthly ministry of Unity that begins with brunch and conversation, and offers prayers for the church, the world, and people in need. All welcome to join in this ministry and gathering of the church.

RefugeeONE

September-October COLLECTION
Winter Essentials:

RefugeeONE WILL ACCEPT:
Blankets and comforters (Twin, Full or Queen)
Hats, gloves, scarves
Welcome Kits ([see page 3](#))
Coats, Boots, Financial donations

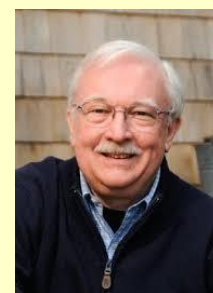
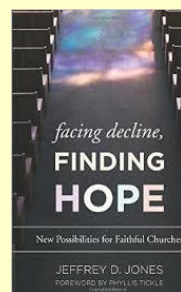
DELIVER to RefugeeONE, 4753 N. Broadway, #401: October 24-27, 2016 Mon. & Tues. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wed. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Book Discussion

Sunday November 6, 11:45am

Reading: "Facing Decline, Finding Hope" by Jeffrey Jones. There's so much to love - the connection between honest personal spiritual vitality and congregational vitality... deep biblical insight... But my favorite thing, he proposes new questions entirely - and they're exactly the questions we need (Brian McLaren). Join the discussion!

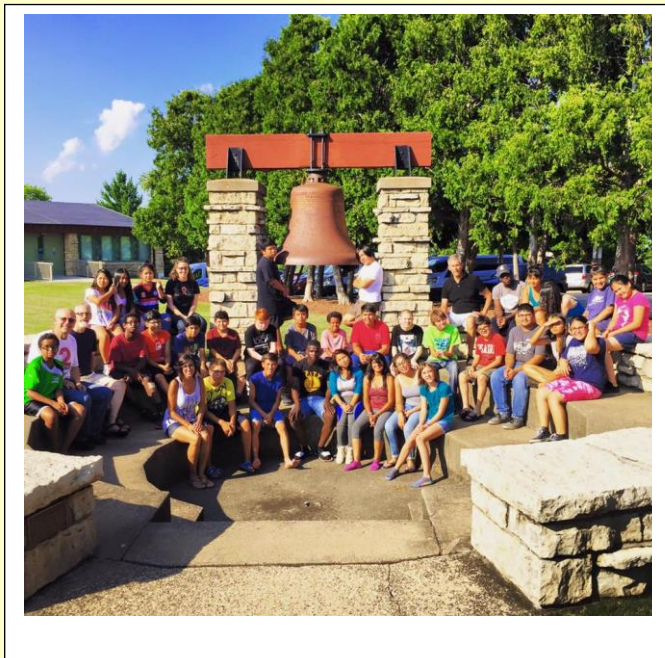


Unity is a [Reconciling In Christ](#) congregation. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome within the gathering and membership of this congregation and encouraged to share in its sacramental and community life.

Growing Our Faith

2016 Edgewater Youth Coalition Mission, Service, and Learning Trip

On Saturday, August 6, 32 youth and five adults headed out to Dubuque, IA. The Youth Coalition comes from the Edgewater Congregations Together Youth Group (Unity, Immanuel, and Ebenezer Lutheran Churches), North Shore Baptist Church, and the Ebenezer Lutheran Tutoring program.



During the trip, youth participated in team building exercises at Four Mounds high/low ropes course, led worship on Sunday morning and VBS in the evenings at their host church, and had fun exploring Dubuque. During the week, the youth did conservation projects, served a meal to homeless community members and people in transitional housing, worked in the community garden, and cleaned/organized items in the thrift shop at the Dubuque Rescue Mission; and learned about the sustainable/ecological farming and living at New Hope Farm (a Catholic Worker Farm outside of Dubuque) and worked on the farm.

On Wednesday evening, the youth went to a Westminster Presbyterian member's farm outside of town for a bonfire with s'mores and a hayride and they ended the trip on Thursday with a closing worship service with communion.

Every night, the youth gathered together for worship and to discuss the week's theme: "living out your calling" based on Matthew 4:12-23. They learned what it means to be "called" by God: to follow Jesus in his way of life that is centered around loving God by loving our neighbors and being good stewards of all God's creation. After large group worship and discussions, youth broke into small groups to further discuss how they were living out their calling each day on the trip and reflect on their experiences.

This was an incredibly powerful event for youth in our congregations and community, as they developed relationships with other youth from their community in a positive and safe space, grew in their faith understanding, practiced service and led worship, worshipped together, experienced a new setting, and had the opportunity to travel to a new place. We hope to return to Dubuque for another mission, service, and learning trip soon.



Ngbarezere "Fridz" with Steve from Ebenezer

Thanks to Pastor Emily and her connections in Dubuque, and to Pastor Fred for co-leading.

**September - October 2016
Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

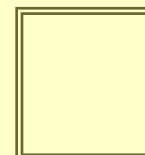
[Visit us on the web: unitylutheranchicago.org](http://unitylutheranchicago.org)

**1212 West Balmoral
Chicago, IL 60640
773.878.4747**

**Unity's vision
is to be an urban green space
welcoming everyone into a holy encounter
where we are changed
that all may be fed as Jesus feeds us**

Core Values:

- +Welcoming Everyone + Weekly Worship
- +Caring Community +Children & Youth
- +Gospel of Jesus +Experiencing God
- +Engaging Our Neighbor
- +Putting our Faith into Action Courageously



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