



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

**Connect**      **Wonder**      **Celebrate**      **Share**

April 2018

Friends in Christ,

This is not an April Fool's joke! Jesus Christ is risen today! At church today we will sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!" We end our journey to the cross to find it empty on Easter morning and not just the cross is empty but also the tomb. Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

In Lent, the Old Testament readings focused on covenants God made with God's people throughout history. For the seven-week-long Easter season, our first lesson readings will not come from the Old Testament, but instead they will come from the book of Acts. By listening to the Acts of the Apostles, the church understands that the resurrection continues in the life of the church, with the power of the Spirit seen now in the followers of the risen Christ. We read through the book of Acts as a reminder of how the church formed and what was important to the early followers of Christ. **\*\*Spoiler Alert\*\*** It is love; it is community; it is hope.

Today is the big day. Today is the day we open up that lock box that has been in front of the altar for six weeks, holding our rejoicing under lock and key. We open it and let the Alleluias spring forth. We go back home, and we celebrate with a big feast or go out for a nice lunch. We watch kids hunt for eggs and baskets, and we celebrate the living Lord. But Easter doesn't end after today, even if you go to bed with a belly ache full of chocolate and buttery goodness and then need a down day to recover from the rejoicing. The Easter season lasts for 50 days, so we, the church, can shout out the Easter proclamation that Jesus Christ in his resurrection brings all of creation along with him into the resurrection. Jesus brings each of us--no matter our back ground, no matter our current state, no matter the sins we carry--he brings each of us salvation. In Jesus Christ, all of creation is redeemed. And for that we shout Alleluia!

In Christ,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

### Worship and Christian Education

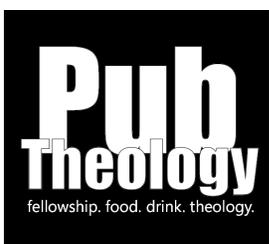
#### EASTER SUNDAY

Please join us for worship on **Sunday, April 1st** at 9:30 am when Pastor Meagan will lead us in the joyous celebration of Easter. After service, anyone who has purchased Easter flowers may take them home.

#### FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, April 8th**, please join us for worship to celebrate with Gabriella Ryan as she makes her first communion. A reception for Gabriella will immediately follow service in Riedesel Hall. Everyone is welcome.

#### PUB THEOLOGY



We will meet on **Thursday, April 19th** at 7:00 pm at Diane Huske's home, 8208 W Eastland Ave, Norridge for fellowship and friendly discussion of topics including faith, spirituality, current events, and just about everything in between. If you would like to bring an appetizer or treat to share, that would be great! All are welcome. Call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com) for more information

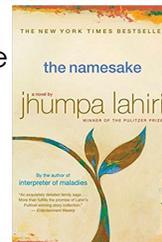
### YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, April 29th** immediately following worship, our Bible study group will meet. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

### Parish Events and Notes

#### BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. We will meet to discuss the book in early June. Books will soon be available from the office for church members to borrow courtesy of Eisenhower Public Library. Watch the weekly bulletin inserts for more information. Any questions, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).



#### Life Passages

Barbara Modic, (nee) Vruno, daughter of long-time church members **Ingie and Joseph Vruno** passed away March 27, 2018 after a long illness. A funeral service for Barbara will be held at Acacia Park the week after Easter. Pastor Meagan will lead service.

### Serving the Congregation and Larger Community

#### VOLUNTEER FAIR



Looking for interesting volunteer work and a chance to give back to the community? Visit [Eisenhower Library](#) on **Saturday, April 21st** from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm to discover not-for-profit and service organizations that are looking for any amount of help that you are willing to give. By sharing your time and talents, you can make a difference in the community.

#### THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will once again be "taking it to the streets" to serve a meal to the homeless on **Sunday, April 22nd** with [The Night Ministry](#). We need volunteers immediately following worship to help prepare the sandwiches and pack the dinner bags as well as volunteers to drive and help distribute food. If you or anyone you know is interested in going to the location to hand out food and visit with the recipients, please contact Karen Lanners at 773-439-9893.



#### ST. CYPRIAN'S FOOD PANTRY

Canned and non-perishable goods for [St. Cyprian's Food Pantry](#) continue to be collected. Food donations may be left in the bin in the Narthex. **No open packages or expired food, please.**

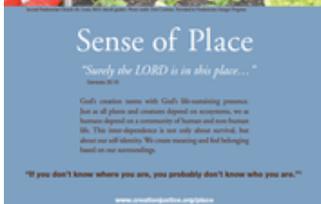
#### SPRING CLOSET CLEANING CLOTHING DRIVE

We are looking for clean, gently-used women's business clothing suitable for job interviews, women's dress shoes, and toiletries to be donated to Harbour House, an emergency shelter and housing support for young women ages 12 to 21. Please place your donations in The Night Ministry bin in the Narthex.

### From the ELCA

#### PREPARE FOR EARTH DAY SUNDAY

Each year, Creation Justice Ministries provides a toolkit to celebrate Earth Day Sunday. The Bible is full of beautiful language and theology for celebrating God's creation, yet



in the busy rhythm of the liturgical year, it can be challenging to find time to focus on the theme of creation as a congregation. Earth Day Sunday provides just such an opportunity.

This year, Earth Day conveniently falls on **Sunday, April 22nd** with the theme "Sense of Place." The resource provides reflection material about living in harmony with local ecosystems and watersheds, rightly sharing places with a diversity of people and respecting the history of your place. The resource is written to be useful year-round. Find the

## Fundraising

### AMAZONSMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Acacia Park Lutheran Church every time you shop and at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience--including Amazon Prime member benefits--at Amazon.com. You'll also have the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Acacia Park. Log on at <https://amazonmile.com> to get started shopping.



### APRIL MOVIE AND PIZZA FUNDRAISER



In April, we will be hosting a movie and pizza afternoon at the church. This event is to raise funds for necessary church building repairs. We will be showing the movie **The Shack** and providing pizza. Folks can bring appetizers, beverages and desserts to share. A good-will offering will be collected to help with roof and gutter repairs and with replacing the front doors. Everyone is welcome.

### Save the District 80 Band Program

The Norridge District 80 Band Program has been an integral part of the community for decades. Thousands of students have participated in this amazing program and have enjoyed having this special experience. Sadly, the District 80 school board has elected to discontinue band in its schools. Please help continue this phenomenal program and support the cause. Please don't let the music die. Donations are being collected at [YouCaring.org](http://YouCaring.org).

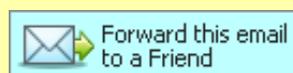


**Connect**

**Wonder**

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**Share**



**Connect** with us on the web or by email by clicking:

[acaciaparkchurch.com](http://acaciaparkchurch.com)

[acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com)

**Share** your thoughts with us by phone:  
**708-453-3662**

**Celebrate** with us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

**Church office hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.**

Acacia Park Lutheran Church, 4307 N. Oriole Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706

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