



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect Wonder Celebrate Share

December 2017

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Christmas season is full of time with family and friends. It seems we don't have a moment to breathe between the shopping, the baking, and the events. I wanted to share the Advent and Christmas worship schedule for Acacia Park and some local churches. This way you can find a way to pause and take a break in the presence of God at moments that work for your schedule.

Christmas season worship plans at Acacia Park Lutheran Church:

Advent 1: December 3rd: 9:30 am worship, Hanging of the Greens service. Plan a little extra time for this worship service. We will learn about the items we decorate the church with, bless the items, and decorate the church both during and after the worship service.

Advent 2: December 10: 9:30 am worship. Mark 1:1-8. Regular worship service.

Advent 3: December 17: 9:30 am worship. John 1:6-8; 19-28. Regular worship service.

Christmas Eve: December 24: 9:30 am worship. Traditional candlelight service.

New Years Eve/Christmas 1: December 31: 9:30 am worship. Regular worship service with favorite Christmas hymns.

Epiphany: January 6: 9:30 am worship. Celebration of the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles which include the Magi's adoration of the Christ child.

Christmas season worship services at local congregations:

United in Faith Lutheran Church: 6525 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

- Sunday, Dec 24, 11 pm Christmas Eve service
- Monday, Dec 25, 10 am Christmas Day service

St. James Lutheran Church: 7400 W. Foster Ave., Chicago

- Sunday, Dec 24, 4:30 pm Candlelight Service
- Monday, Dec 25, 10 am Christmas Day Service

In Christ,

Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Stewardship 2018

At Acacia Park, stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to grow in our relationship with Jesus and our neighbors. Please consider these ways, big and small, that you can help:

- Participate and commit to being involved. Can you commit your time? Even if that time is attending a Sunday morning worship service, the time to do that is now.
- Contribute to the congregation--whether it is through acts of service or financially, the congregation needs your support.
- Pray for our congregation, our church, and our church leaders.

2018 pledge cards have been distributed. Please take some time to prayerfully consider what you can commit to the church in 2018, and then return your card by **December 17th**. You can place your pledge card in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church.

Worship and Christian Education

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

A special time for children will be offered on **Sunday, December 10th** during worship and will be led by one of our lay leaders. Children will be dismissed right before the sermon to participate in faith formation activities designed just for them. In addition to a story and theme for the day, there will be a related project for all participants. All children ages 3 through 6th grade are welcome.



PUB THEOLOGY: BASEMENTS TO BACKYARDS

Pub Theology is taking December off. We will meet again in the New Year.

YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, December 31st** immediately following worship, our monthly Bible study group entitled "You and the Word" will meet. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

If you are interested in receiving daily Bible readings from the ELCA through your email, click [here](#) to subscribe. Select the "Subscribe or Unsubscribe" option to the far right, and follow the directions.

Parish Events and Notes

POINSETTIA SALE



Poinsettias will again be available for the holidays. Sign-up sheets will be circulated before and after service beginning **December 3rd through the 17th**. Delivery will be on December 23rd, and you can take your flowers home after service on December 24th.

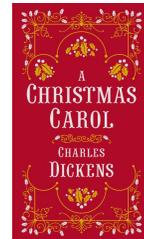
Four-inch pots are \$8.00. Six-inch pots are \$15.00

BRAINSTORM WITH US!

Right after service on **Sunday, December 3rd** we will meet to discuss ideas for possible fundraising and service projects. If you know of a need in the community that we might address or have an idea for raising funds, then please come share it with us. Or perhaps you may just want to listen and become inspired. Either way, please plan to stay for this meeting.

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*--commonly known as *A Christmas Carol*--by Charles Dickens. We will meet to discuss the book **Monday, December 4th** at 7:00 pm at the church. Questions? Please call or email Dawn at 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.



GRIEF & THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP

Acacia Park is hosting Grief & the Holidays, a workshop for people anticipating the holiday season after the death of a loved one, on **Thursday, December 7th** from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. This presentation will explore strategies for coping with memories, feelings and activities associated with the holiday season.

The event is sponsored by Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Grief & Loss Services. There is no charge for the workshop. Donations are welcome. **Registration is preferred.** For further information or to register, please call 847-653-3141.

COOKIE AND CRAFT SALE

From 9:00 am to noon on **Saturday, December 16th**, we will once again hold our annual Cookie and Craft Sale just in time for the holidays. We are looking for volunteers to bake and/or help with the setup and the cleanup for this fun and delicious fundraiser. Please consider volunteering. Cookies can be dropped off on Friday evening, December 15th, between 6:00 and 7:00 pm and again on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 am. All proceeds will go to the church.



OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the church office will be closed **Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st**. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Serving the Congregation and Larger Community

ST. CYPRIAN'S FOOD PANTRY

Canned and non-perishable goods for the 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.**

WARM COATS AND COLD WEATHER ITEMS

During the month of **December**, we will be collecting clean, gently-used warm coats along with cold weather items including hats, gloves, scarves and socks for distribution through The Night Ministry and **One Warm Coat**. A bin has been placed in the Narthex for your donations.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY



On **Sunday, December 3rd**, we need volunteers to help prepare 150 sandwiches and pack meal bags immediately following worship. Meal bags will be dropped off with The Night Ministry for later distribution. In January, we will resume joining The Night Ministry on location to hand out food, coats and cold-weather items, and to visit with the recipients.

ADVENT TREE

The ornaments on this year's Advent tree benefit the **ELCA's Good Gifts Program**. If you would like to purchase an ornament for yourself or for someone else, please remove the ornament from the tree; place the donation amount in a pew envelope, and write your name, the dollar amount and the type of ornament you have chosen on the envelope. Put your completed envelope in the offering plate. If it's to be a gift, there are gift cards and envelopes under the tree. If not, take the ornament home with you to hang on your tree!

Programs of Interest In and Around Our Community

@ EISENHOWER LIBRARY

A History of Handel's Messiah: In 1742, proceeds from the premiere of Handel's *Messiah* freed 142 men from debtor's prison. That tradition continues today. *Too Hot to Handel*, a jazz reinterpretation, was recently streamed to prisons across the United States. Marge Skelly, who performed in *Too Hot to Handel*, presents the history of this beloved composition. **Thursday, December 7th, 7:00-8:30 pm.**

Visit www.eisenhowerlibrary.org for more program information or to register.

@ ST JAMES CHURCH

Daniel Souvigny, Concert Pianist: Daniel Souvigny is 16 years old and already is a nationally acclaimed pianist in the classical, jazz and ragtime genres. The concert is free. A free-will offering will be received. St. James is located at 7400 W Foster Ave, Chicago. Parish office phone: 773-633-9159. **Saturday, December 2nd, 11:00 am.**

@ UNITED IN FAITH

New Life for Old Bags work days are the first Saturday of each month at United in Faith Lutheran Church, 6525 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago. Bring friends and treats to share while making mats for the homeless. **Saturday, December 2nd, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

Fundraising and Service Projects

AMAZONSMILE

If you haven't logged on to AmazonSmile yet, getting started is easy!

You can order as you normally do on Amazon; however, you must logon at <https://amazonsmile.com>.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

To select our church as the charity you want to support, type "Acacia Park Lutheran Church" in the search bar; click "Search," and APLC will pop up under "Results." Then click the yellow "Select" button, and you're ready to shop! Every order processed on AmazonSmile thereafter will result in a donation to Acacia Park. There is never a charge to the buyer. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Acacia Park.



SPAGHETTI DINNER AND DANCE

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or volunteered for our Spaghetti Dinner and Dance Fundraiser on November 11th. We raised close to \$1,400, almost doubling our original goal of \$715! So in addition to the family farm that we set out to fund, we will also be purchasing two irrigation ditches for farm fields and sending two women to agricultural school.



During the dinner, we served approximately 60 guests a delicious, home-cooked meal of spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, bread and butter, and a variety of drinks and desserts. Once dinner was finished, we were

treated to an amazing show by Nick Psychogios--Chicago's own Piano Man!

The evening ended with a raffle drawing for our two grand prizes: a fat-tire mountain bike and a zero-gravity lounge chair. Thomas Tompkins won the mountain bike, and Everett Sporong was the happy recipient of the lounge chair.

A special note of thanks goes to Patti Mann, who applied for Thrivent Action Team funding for this project. Through Patti's request, Thrivent Financial supplied the necessary seed money to get our fundraiser up and running. Thank you Patti!

Another note of thanks goes out to Mike Miskawitz for arranging Nick Psychogios' performance at the fundraiser. Thank you Mike!



More photos of this very special event can be found on our web site:
acaciaparkchurch.com.

Blessings and Thanks

REV. MEAGAN SHERMAN-SPORRONG INSTALLED AS PASTOR

On October 22nd, Rev. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong was installed as the new pastor at Acacia Park Lutheran Church. The Rev. Sarah Stumme (*pictured on the left*), Associate to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA presided during the service. Immediately following worship, Pastor Meagan was honored at a luncheon to welcome her and her family to our community of faith. Pastor Meagan is in the process of meeting and getting to know everyone in the Acacia Park family. Her regular office hours are Thursdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by to say hello!



THANK YOU to everyone who donated food during the month of November to St. Cyprian's Thanksgiving Food Collection.

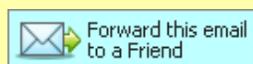


Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share



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

acaciaparkchurch.com

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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