



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

February 2018

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, flowers, sympathy cards, gifts, and financial donations made to my mom's fundraiser to help pay for her medical bills. December was a hard month with the death of both my grandma and my mom in one week. I appreciate the care and support my family and I received from all of you at Acacia Park over the past few weeks. As a pastor, I know death does not have the final say. As a grief counselor, I know that grief is a journey that takes you all over the place. As a person living in this world and walking through the grief process of losing my last grandparent and my last parent in the same week, I know that it is hard, even with all the skill and knowledge I have; this is why I am so grateful for all the support and care these past few weeks. Thank you again.

Lent begins this month. In fact, Ash Wednesday is the same day as Valentine's Day. Please take note of all the worship dates and times for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. During the Lenten season we will meet on Wednesdays to discuss a book by Danielle Steel called *The Gift of Hope*. It is a memoir about a homeless ministry Danielle Steel started shortly after her son died. Each week we will read a chapter or two. Then we'll gather together for soup and a discussion about how a small group of people made a huge difference for a large group of people, and how Danielle's grief was transformed during the process.

In Christ,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

### 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting

**THANK YOU** to everyone who turned out for our 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28th and made it a success.

Our church council election took place for new council members. Bruce Leckie was elected for the 2018-2021 term. He joins current council members Karen Lanners, Linda Lowery, Sondra Wince, Marion Engler, Marcia Walther, Linda Engler, Dagny Bloland, Kären Tompkins and Ann Jones.

Acacia Park Church has many on-going activities and volunteer opportunities in which you can take part, including

Sandwich prep and food distribution for The Night Ministry  
You and the Word Bible study  
Pub Theology  
Book Club  
Fundraising/service project planning meetings  
Annual Cookie and Craft Sale

We also continue to come up with new and interesting fundraising events: on February 17th, for example, we will host our first ever Wine and Paint Party fundraiser. Why not invite your friends and family, and plan on participating in this event?

Please remember that we need your help, support, attendance and ideas. Together we can accomplish many things.

## Worship and Christian Education

### CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

A special time for children will be offered on **Sunday, February 18th** 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.



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on **Wednesday, February 14th** at 7:00 pm for worship, imposition of ashes and holy communion as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

### LENTEN EVENTS--Wednesdays, beginning February 21st through March 21st

**6:00 pm: Simple Soup Suppers** at the church. Sign-up sheets for providing pots of soup each Wednesday will be circulated during worship beginning Sunday, February 4th.



**6:30 pm: Discussion of A Gift of Hope** by Danielle Steel.

Each Wednesday, we will read and discuss a few chapters of this book in which Danielle Steel shows us how she transformed the pain of losing her son into a campaign of service that enriched her life beyond what she could have imagined. A limited number of books will be available courtesy of Eisenhower Public Library for members to borrow from the church office. Please remember to add your name to the book sign-out list when borrowing a book.

**7:00 pm: Close discussion with Tazi worship.**

### YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, February 4th and on Sunday, February 25th** immediately following worship, our Bible study group 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.

### PUB THEOLOGY

Join us in an informal setting for fellowship and conversation on topics of faith, spirituality, current events, and just about everything in between. Our February date is yet to be determined. Anyone wishing to host Pub Theology this month can call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com) for more information.

## Parish Events and Notes

### WINE AND PAINT PARTY

On **Saturday, February 17th** from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, we will host a Wine and Paint Party at Acacia Park. Bring your favorite bottle of wine to enjoy with friends while you paint your own stemless wine glass, share some snacks, and learn some fun painting techniques. The cost is \$10.00 per person which includes one stemless wine glass and paint. Each additional wine glass or glass item is \$3.00. All proceeds benefit the church. Please RSVP by February 10th to Lynn Pecaro: 708-867-3028.



### BOLD WOMEN'S DAY

Observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February, Bold Women's Day celebrates all Lutheran Women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



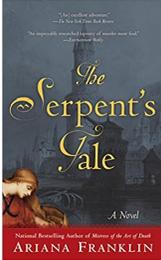
**BOLD  
WOMEN'S  
DAY**

Celebrate the bold women in your life.  
**Sunday, February 25**



Bold Women's Day is an initiative of Women of the ELCA. To help you "Find Your Bold," visit [welca.org/bwd](http://welca.org/bwd) for resources and materials including suggestions for quiet contemplation, the remarkable story of Katharina von Bora Luther's bold life of faith, and two, three-session Bible studies: "Act Boldly for Mission" and "Act Boldly for Health."

### BOOK CLUB



Our next Book Club selection is *The Serpent's Tale* by Ariana Franklin. We will meet to discuss the book **Tuesday, March 13th** at 7:00 pm at the church. We still have a few books available for church members to borrow from the church office courtesy of Eisenhower Public Library. Any questions, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

### 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.**

#### THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will once again be "taking it to the streets" to serve a meal to the homeless on **Sunday, February 18th**. 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. We continue to collect donations for The Night Ministry of gently-used, clean coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, boots, and socks. The collection bin is in the Narthex.



### Programs of Interest In and Around Our Community

#### @ EISENHOWER LIBRARY

**Know Your Matcha Tea:** You've heard that matcha tea is packed with antioxidants, boosts metabolism, and burns calories, but what's the difference between the matcha mix you buy at the grocery store and true, high-grade matcha? Sheila Duda from Tea Lula will mix different grades of matcha and show you how to get the most health benefits from matcha tea. **Sunday, February 25th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm.**

Visit [www.eisenhowerlibrary.org](http://www.eisenhowerlibrary.org) for more program information or to register.

#### @ ST JAMES CHURCH

**Mid-Winter Feast:** a delicious five-course, five-star banquet feast with table service. This annual celebration is a perfect time to gather with family and friends! Entertainment provided by The Anthony Deutsch Jazz Trio. \$49.00 per person; advance tickets required. Call the church office at 773-631-7666 for tickets and/or additional information. **Friday, February 9th, 6:15 pm.**

#### @ 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, February 3rd, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

### Fundraising and Service Projects

#### 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://amazon.com> to get started shopping.



### Sending Out Our Thanks

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped the confirmation class in January by donating cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Soup donations will be taken to St. Cyprian's Food Pantry for distribution to those who are hungry and in need of a meal in our community.

A **THANK YOU** also goes out to all who donated warm winter coats during the month of January for the girls and young women at Harbour House in Des Plaines.

To Mike Miskawitz and Ruth Igoe who are stepping down from the church council, a big **THANK YOU** for your years of service and dedication to the council.

And finally, **THANK YOU** to everyone who recently helped with putting together 117 care kits for people at risk in and around our community. There is a box in the Narthex filled with the completed kits. Please take some with you to hand out to those in need.



Care kit volunteers. This event was sponsored in part through Thrivent Financial.

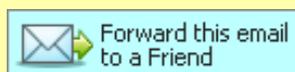


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**Connect** with us on the web or by email by clicking:

[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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