



*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



*At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!*

**Connect**

**Wonder**

**Celebrate**

**Share**

July 2018

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month I attended the annual synod assembly for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, the synod to which Acacia Park Lutheran Church belongs. The synod has close to 200 congregations within its boundaries that cover four Illinois counties including Cook, Lake, DuPage, and Will, meaning that the congregations in the synod span from the Wisconsin border to just south of Tinley Park and as far west as Elgin. Bishop Miller is the synodical bishop of the area, and he and his staff support the pastors and congregations in the synod as well as the vision plan for the future of the wider church. The synodical staff works hard to help congregations with call processes or making decisions about starting a new ministry or selling a building or any other number of issues that may come up for a congregation. The synod helps us keep our connection to the wider church and shares information from the presiding bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Eaton.

The annual synod assembly is a time for all the congregations in the synod to come together and share what ministries are taking place in their congregations by hearing about Mission Moments. This year we heard about quilting groups, youth art camps, and campus ministries at The University of Chicago and Northwestern University. The assembly is also a time for the synod to pass a budget and hear reports from the bishop and the synod council about things they did this year and their hopes for next year. We also hear reports from Churchwide staff in the presiding bishop's office, and this year our synod was praised for raising over one million dollars for the world hunger campaign. We here at Acacia Park received a special thank-you letter and certificate in the mail for the way that we contributed to meeting that goal. The certificate is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

There is voting that happens at synod assemblies. Some years we vote for a synodical bishop (that will happen next year) or synod council positions. This year we voted on who would represent the synod at the Churchwide Assembly, a meeting that happens every three years where each of the 65 synods of the ELCA sends delegates to a meeting for the entire ELCA to make big decisions for the entire denomination. This larger meeting takes place next summer in Milwaukee.

I typically enjoy attending synod assembly. It is nice to see colleagues and former parishioners. It is amazing to hear about ministry going on in the synod and the wider church, and it is important to know that our little church here on Oriole Ave in Norridge IL is part of something much larger. I enjoy hearing about what is important to our area and the resolutions that come up for a vote and discussion. Resolutions are essentially statements made by the synod that are passed on to the wider church that influence the way we understand scripture or the way we want the ELCA to be involved in influencing policy, or sometimes they are even political statements that are informed by our faith.

Here is a recap of the resolutions passed at last month's Annual Synod Assembly, which can also be found at <http://www.mcselca.org/assembly/>:

**Gun Violence Policy:**

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod be encouraged to study the ELCA's current policies, messages and statements on gun 51

violence; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod engage with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, and other ecumenical and interfaith partners, to develop a constructive and practical plan of action to address the issues of 56 gun violence; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Bishop and Synod Council to ask the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Church Council, to develop a social message on gun violence and public policy on guns, and in view of the urgency of the situation, to suspend the usual procedures as allowed in the "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing 64 Social Concerns."

**Illinois Poor People Campaign:**

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, endorse the Illinois Poor People's Campaign (ILPPC) as soon as feasible; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA, with the support of the current Metropolitan Chicago Synod ILPPC volunteers, use its various communication formats to invite congregations, individuals, affiliate organizations, and ministry partners to join the ILPPC; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council establish a Mission on the Margins Endowment Fund Grant Process by which Metropolitan Chicago Synod congregations and affiliated ministries may participate actively in the ongoing, future work of the Illinois Poor People's Campaign.

**Protecting the rights of Palestine children:**

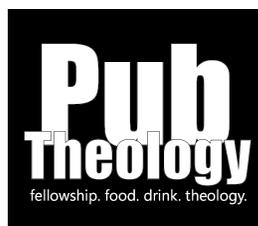
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting the Assembly call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military court system; respect and ensure the absolute prohibition against torture and ill treatment in accordance with international law, specifically the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and call on the government of the United States to fully implement and enforce the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting the ELCA presiding bishop and the bishops and staff of every ELCA synod to advocate with elected officials, encouraging them to ensure that United States taxpayer funds, including the over \$3 billion annual foreign aid to Israel, do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law, including, but not limited to: cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, stress positions, hooding, death threats, coerced confessions, and denial of parents or legal counsel during interrogations; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to request that the Peace Not Walls Strategy consider creating a resource enabling congregations to learn more about the lives of Palestinian children—especially the treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military courts, the Lutherans in the six congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and how Israel is spending U.S. foreign aid dollars; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting the Assembly to encourage ELCA members to contact their members of Congress in support of legislation that prohibits U.S. foreign aid to be used in ways that violate human rights for Palestinian children, like H.R. 4391, 115th Congress, which requires the Secretary of State to certify that United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law.

In Christ,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

**Worship and Christian Education**

**PUB THEOLOGY**



We will meet on **Tuesday, July 24th** at 7:00 pm at Karen Lanners' home, 5018 N Odell Ave, Harwood Heights 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, July 8th and Sunday, July 29th** immediately following worship, our Bible study group will meet. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

**HOLY BAPTISM**

On **Sunday, July 29th**, we will celebrate Holy Baptism and welcome a new member into the body of Christ, Timothy David Israel Jones. Timothy is the son of Tim and Stacey Jones.

**Parish Events and Notes**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed on **Wednesday, July 4th**.

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

On **Sunday, July 8th** immediately following worship, Pastor Meagan will lead a class for anyone wishing formally to become a member of Acacia Park Lutheran Church. Call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com) with any questions.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on **Wednesday, July 11th** at 7:00 pm.

### LITTLE FREE LIBRARY DEDICATION

On **Sunday, July 22nd**, we will officially dedicate our Little Free Library! We'll gather outside in front of the church (weather permitting) immediately following worship for a special dedication ceremony led by Pastor Meagan. Refreshments will be available.

## Serving the Congregation and Larger Community

### THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will once again be "taking it to the streets" to serve a meal to the homeless on **Sunday, July 15th** with [The Night Ministry](#). We need volunteers 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.



### DIAPER DRIVE FOR ST. CYPRIAN'S

During the **month of July**, we will be collecting diapers (any style/size), diaper wipes, and pacifiers for St. Cyprian's Diaper Drive. Please place your donations in the bin in the Narthex.

### 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.**

## From the ELCA

### LUTHERANS RESTORING CREATION

Twenty-five years ago, the ELCA adopted the "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" social statement. Our observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation continues to acknowledge that we are a church always in renewal, always learning and growing--including how the church cares for creation, the world we live in and humanity. Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grass-roots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. Learn more, explore resources and events, and join the network at [LutheransRestoringCreation.org](http://LutheransRestoringCreation.org).



## Memorial Gifts

The following member has given a memorial gift in loving memory of **Doris Balder** to be directed toward the church courtyard and landscaping. Thank you for your kind and generous donations.

**Diane Huske**

## 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.



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS--PANCAKE BREAKFAST!



We will be holding a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on **Sunday, August 5th** in Riedesel Hall immediately following worship. All proceeds will go toward replacing the front doors of the church. We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, food prep and serving. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

**Please make sure to tell your friends, family and colleagues about this event!**

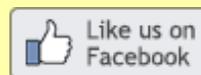
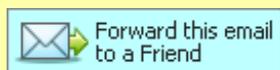


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**Wonder**

**Celebrate**

**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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