



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

March 2018

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First, I want to share that at the end of February my sister and I went to the hospital and settled my mom's outstanding medical bill in full. We had enough in donated money to also pay for the labs and specialist. I want to thank you all for the support, both financial and emotional, given to me and my family. Now that the financial concerns are worked out, we can begin to focus on the grief process. I am so blessed to have so many caring people in my life, these past few months would have been much harder without the support from all of you.

Also, I want to remind everyone that we are now in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday was a hard day for me. I personally do not need to be any more aware of my mortality, and with the Parkland, FL shooting that afternoon, I found it hard to get through the service. But that is the focus of Lent; isn't it? It is to look into the depths of our souls and pray to God for help, for support, for comfort. During Lent we will look at how God calls us to examine ourselves and at the same time names us and claims us, claims our dust, claims our hurt, claims our anger, claims our sinful nature. In the end, God claims us just as we are, but we need Lent to become comfortable with the person we are, the person God loves completely. We need Lent so that on Easter morning (April 1st) we can shout out how amazing it is that God gave us Jesus who in turn gave his life for all of us, the deserving parts of us and the undeserving parts, and for that we sing praises.

Part of our reflection time during Lent will be spent in a book study on Wednesday nights reading Danielle Steel's book *A Gift of Hope*. The book is about her grief journey after her son died and the homeless ministry she started in his memory. Please join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays during Lent for soup, fellowship and discussion.

In Christ,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

### Worship and Christian Education

#### CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



A special time for children will be offered on **Sunday, March 11th** 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.

#### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

We are looking for students who are interested in preparing for First Communion. If your child or grandchild is interested, Pastor Meagan will be leading a one-day class on **Saturday, March 17th** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to prepare those wishing to make their first communion. For more information or to include your child or grandchild in the class, please call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com). First Communion Sunday is April 8th.

**LENTEN EVENTS--Wednesdays through March 21st**

6:00 pm: Soup Suppers at the church. A sign-up sheet for providing pots of soup each Wednesday continues to circulate before and after Sunday worship.



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 are 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 Taize worship.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES



#### March 25th through April 1st

March 25th--Palm Sunday . . . . 9:30am

March 29th--Maundy Thursday . . . . 7:00 pm

March 30th--Good Friday . . . . 7:00 pm

April 1st--Easter Sunday . . . . 9:30 am

### YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, March 25th** 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

#### EASTER FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Easter flowers will be available before and after service beginning **Sunday, March 4th through Sunday, March 18th.**

**Daffodils, hyacinths and tulips are \$12.00. Lilies are \$14.00.**

The flowers will decorate the church on Easter Sunday and can be taken home after service.



#### BRAINSTORM WITH US!

Right after service on **Sunday, March 4th** 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 *The Serpent's Tale* by Ariana Franklin. We will meet to discuss the book **Tuesday, March 13th** at 7:00 pm at the church. Snacks will be available; please bring your own drink. Any questions, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

### Life Passages

Congratulations to **Tim and Stacey Jones** who welcomed their son Timothy David Israel Jones on January 31, 2018.

Long-time church member and Sunday school teacher **Betty Kasdorf** passed away on February 4, 2018 in Wisconsin. A memorial service for Betty is planned at the church followed by a buffet luncheon in Riedesel Hall on **Saturday, April 7th** beginning at 1:00 pm. Pastor Meagan will lead service. If you plan on attending, please R.S.V.P. by April 1st to Joan Foster at 516-384-6775 or [jmbohan0801@gmail.com](mailto:jmbohan0801@gmail.com). All are welcome.



### Serving the Congregation and Larger Community

#### 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.**

#### THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will once again be "taking it to the streets" to serve a meal to the homeless on

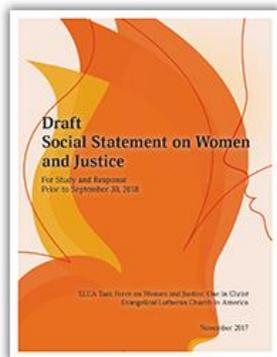
**Sunday, March 18th** with [The Night Ministry](#). We need volunteers immediately following worship to help prepare the sandwiches and pack the dinner bags as well as volunteers to drive and help distribute food. If you or anyone you know is interested in going to the location to hand out food and visit with the recipients, please contact Karen Lanners at 773-439-9893. 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.



### From the ELCA

#### WOMEN AND JUSTICE: JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The ELCA task force on Women and Justice: One in Christ has released "Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice." **Your voice and response are needed.**



The draft is in two sections: basic theses and fuller explanations, which speak about how sexism harms us all in church and society. The task force wants to hear from you about the content of the draft and this innovative format. Find the draft, supplementary materials, information on ordering a paper copy, and the response form at [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://ELCA.org/womenandjustice). Respond to the draft on your own; study it with a group, or attend a synod hearing (email [womenandjustice@elca.org](mailto:womenandjustice@elca.org) to find a hearing in your area).

### Fundraising and Service Projects

#### AMAZONSMILE

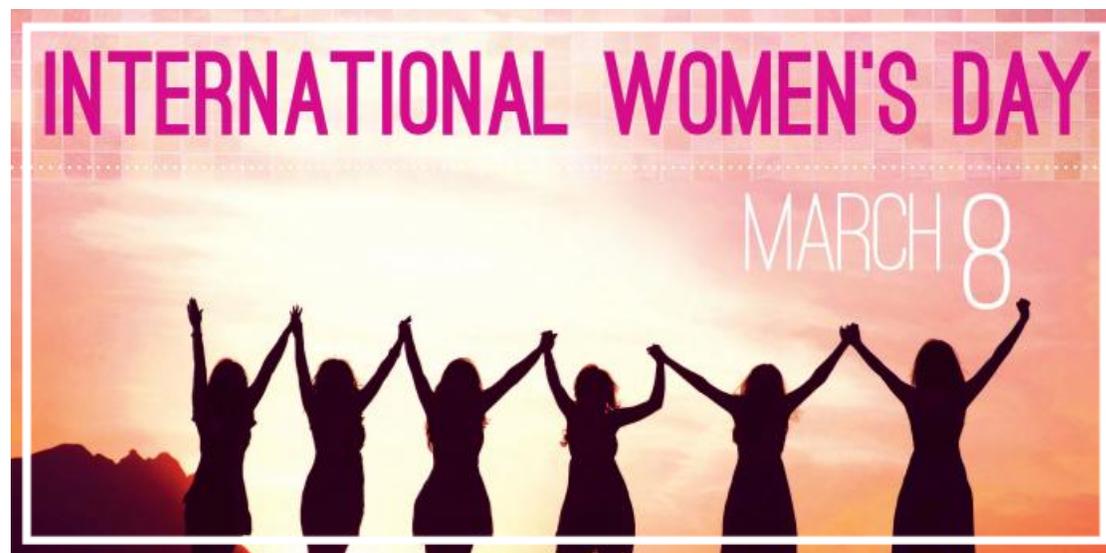
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Acacia Park Lutheran Church every time you shop and at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience--including Amazon Prime member benefits--at Amazon.com. 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://amazonmile.com> to get started shopping.



### Sending Out Our Thanks

**THANK YOU** to Lynn Pecaro for arranging and hosting our Wine and Paint Party Fundraiser in February. The event raised \$109 to benefit the church.

### Celebrate the Women in Your Life!



Connect

Wonder

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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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