



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

**Connect Wonder Celebrate Share**

**June 2018**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I was planning for summer worship, which is often less formal, I came across this short worship service in *Sundays and Seasons*, a worship planning resource:

"Summer often brings vacations, travels, and opportunities to step out of the busyness of our daily lives. We visit with family and friends, encounter new places and experiences, and enjoy rest and relaxation. Scripture tells us of many travelers and journeys. Abraham set off with a promise and little else. The Israelites began their forty-year trek with excitement but soon complained and grumbled when the way became difficult. Mary and Joseph had little control over their destination or departure date. The magi rerouted their trip after visiting Herod. Jesus and his disciples wandered through towns and countryside. Paul ventured out with zeal and purpose, finding welcome in some places and hostility in others.

This service progresses through the stages of many journeys: Plans and Preparations, Setting Out, On the Road, When the Way Becomes Hard, and Joyful Homecomings. Whatever our travels of life, God remains our steadfast guide and companion."

I am sharing the first two meditations, Plans and Preparations and Setting Out. Over the summer we often go on vacations, and in June we are still organizing the plans. We are a little excited and nervous for the plans we have for the warmer and longer days.

Also, in our church community we are in discernment and preparation mode for a different kind of journey for Acacia Park. We are about to embark on a space sharing journey with New Life Covenant for the next year, and we have to make our plans and preparations for this next journey of Acacia Park.

Remember too that the suggestion box in the back of the church is there for any and all questions or comments you may have about this next journey for Acacia Park, one that we begin with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in prayer.

#### PLANS AND PREPARATIONS

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-17 Put on the armor of God

Dialogue and Prayer

What should we pack as we begin our journey?  
What should we bring along?  
The word of God to illumine our path.  
The light of Christ to show us the way.  
The gifts of the Spirit to share with those we meet.  
The love of God to be our compass and guide.  
Let us pray. God of our salvation,  
you are the source of all our beginnings.  
As we plan for our journeys,  
strengthen us through your word.  
Orient our lives toward Christ,

the bright Morning Star.  
Send your Holy Spirit as our companion along the way.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.  
Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate (ELW 514)

## SETTING OUT

Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 God calls Abraham and sends him out

## Dialogue and Prayer

God called to Abraham:  
"Go! Set out! And I will bless you."  
God calls to us:  
"Come! Feel the water on your head!  
Hear the promise of new life.  
Spread my word through all the world."  
Let us pray. God of beginnings,  
you called Abraham and Sarah,  
leading them to unknown places.  
In the waters of baptism, you claim us  
and send us out as your children.  
Wash us with your grace  
and shower us with your Spirit,  
so that we journey into the world  
overflowing with your love.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.  
Hymn: I'm Going On A Journey (ELW 446)

In Christ,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

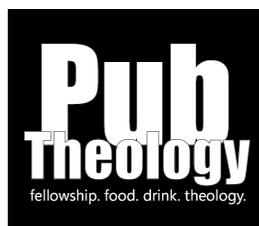
## Worship and Christian Education

### CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

A special time for children will be offered on **Sunday, June 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



We will meet on **Tuesday, June 19th** at 7:00 pm at Pastor Meagan's home, 4519 N Meade Ave, Chicago 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, June 24th** immediately following worship, our Bible study group will meet. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS?

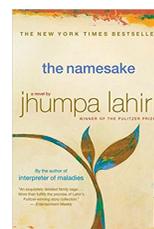
Is there a hymn you love that we haven't sung in a while? Is there one you always wanted to try, but the congregation never sang it before? Is there a song you could sing week after week and never grow tired of it?

Through the **month of June**, please share these hymns with Pr. Meagan by filling out the hymn request forms at the back of the church. You can place them in the offering plate or hand them to Pr. Meagan after service. You may also email the information to [pastormeagan@gmail.com](mailto:pastormeagan@gmail.com) or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

## Parish Events and Notes

### BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. We will meet to discuss the book on **Tuesday, June 12th** at 7:00 pm at the church. Snacks will be available. Please bring your own drink. Questions? Call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).



### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on Wednesday evening, June 13th at 7:00 pm.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Congratulations to our 2018 high school graduates: Billy Tompkins, Jake Berry and Frank Stec. Best of luck to you in your future endeavors!

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

On **Sunday, July 8th** immediately following worship, Pastor Meagan will lead a class for anyone wishing to formally 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.

### 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, June 24th** 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.



#### 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.**

#### OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the Sunday service schedule. We need members and friends who would like to serve in any of the following capacities: assisting minister, reader, acolyte, altar preparation, and counter. If you would like to be added to the service schedule, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

### From the ELCA



#### ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

From June 27th to July 1st, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA will gather in Houston for a week of faith formation--the ELCA Youth Gathering. They'll engage in the theme "This Changes Everything" guided by Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." The days will be filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, with the goal that every young person will grow in faith and be challenged and inspired to live their faith in daily life.

Explore all the aspects of the ELCA Youth Gathering program at [ELCA.org/Gathering](http://ELCA.org/Gathering).

### Confirmation Class 2018



#### CONFIRMATION DAY

On **Sunday, May 20th**, we celebrated the confirmation of two of our young members, Megan Pecaro and Ryan Farenkopf. With great happiness guests and church members alike joined them in affirming their baptisms and bearing witness to the Spirit's work in and through us. Congratulations Megan and Ryan!



#### CONFIRMATION CLASS SERVICE PROJECT

On **Saturday, April 28th**, the confirmation class volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, a Christian non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food to developing nations. Meagn (*left in blue*) and Ryan (*right in gray*) along with Thomas Tompkins (*center, pouring*) spent the day packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world.

## Memorial Gifts

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

**Nancy Komada  
Linda Lowery  
Marcia Walther**

## 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.



### 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!**

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17th.



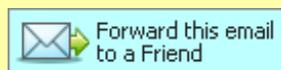
**Proverbs 20:7** The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

**Connect**

**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.