



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

March 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month begins the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday takes place on March 6th at 7:00 pm with a soup supper beginning at 5:30 pm. This marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday our foreheads are marked with an ashy cross, and we are reminded of our mortality with being told, "you are dust and to dust you shall return." We hear these words because we are connecting to the resurrection. We are reminded of our death at the beginning of the season, but we are also reminded that this journey to the cross is not a journey to an end, but a journey to a new beginning.

The 40-day season of Lent derives its name from the Latin word for "lengthen." During Lent, the days grow longer as the world prepares to reawaken into spring. Lent begins in the darkness and death of winter. Lent recalls the 40 days and 40 nights Noah and his family spent on the ark, the 40 years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness, and the 40 days of prayer and fasting that Jesus spent in the desert. Lent leads us into spring with warmer weather, longer days and the promise of new life. Lent is also a time for us, followers of Christ, to reflect, pray, fast, and take time to meditate on the love of Jesus and to sit in joyful anticipation of the resurrection. During Lent the people of God are called on to reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The season begins with a reminder of our mortality and ends with a promise of eternal life. What seems like a journey to an end is actually an invitation to make each day a new beginning, one in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

Over the next 40 days you are invited to partake in a spiritual journey to the cross, and this journey begins on Ash Wednesday. With an ashy cross on our forehead, we long for the spiritual Easter feast to come.

I look forward to being on this 40 day journey with you this year.

Worship and fellowship opportunities during Lent:

Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 pm - Soup and salad dinner and fellowship

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday worship

Sunday, March 10, 9:30 am - Worship with Dylan Moss receiving his first communion

Sunday, April 14, 9:30 am - Palm Sunday worship

Thursday, April 18, time TBD - Maundy Thursday worship

Friday, April 19, time TBD - Good Friday worship

Sunday, April 21, 9:30 am - Easter Sunday worship

Blessings,

Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Worship and Christian Education



ASH WEDNESDAY: SIMPLE SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 6th** from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for a simple supper of bread, soup, and salad. Our simple meal will be followed by worship, imposition of ashes and holy communion at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

FIRST COMMUNION

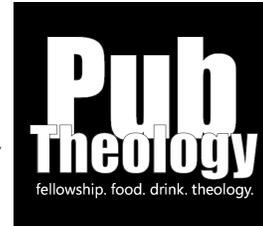
Join Dylan Moss on **Sunday, March 10th** as he makes his First Communion, and then please stay to celebrate with him after service at a cake and coffee reception.

YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, March 10th** our Bible study group will meet in the downstairs lounge immediately following worship. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

PUB THEOLOGY

We will meet on **Tuesday, March 19th** at 7:00 pm (weather permitting) at Marcia Walther's home, 4116 N Octavia Ave, Norridge 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 for more information.



THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

This year, we will again present "The Passion According to Matthew" on **Palm Sunday, April 14th** during worship. We are looking for eight volunteers for to participate in this traditional reading. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Pastor Meagan either before or after service, or call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

Parish Events and Notes

"FAT SUNDAY" PANCAKE BRUNCH

On **Sunday, March 3rd**—right before Ash Wednesday—we'll be hosting a "Fat Sunday" Pancake Brunch after worship. All proceeds will go toward our Raising the Roof and Opening the Doors Capital Campaign. The cost is \$5.00; children three and under are free. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for a delicious brunch of pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee along with the chance to win some great raffle prizes. All are welcome!



INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

During worship on **Sunday, March 3rd**, we will install three new members of the church council to their elected positions. Welcome Katie Dupree, Patti Dupree and Mike Miskawitz.

BOOK CLUB



Our next Book Club selection is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. We will meet to discuss the book **Tuesday, March 12th** 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on **Thursday, March 14th** at 7:00 pm.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Make sure to mark your calendars and join us on **Sunday, March 31st** immediately following worship when we host our first Town Hall Meeting of 2019.



COFFEE AND . . .

In March, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on **Sunday, March 10th** in conjunction with Bible study and **Sunday, March 31st** in conjunction with our Town Hall Meeting. If you would like to volunteer to bring a treat to share on any of these dates, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or 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.**

LISTENING DEVICES

We now have six listening devices available to help amplify the service. Please see an usher before service begins to borrow one.

From the ELCA

"JOURNAL OF LUTHERAN ETHICS" EXPLORES TODAY'S ISSUES THROUGH LENS OF FAITH



Many voices online today express sentiments on current events and moral issues, but it's hard to find sources you can trust. One of the most dependable, according to many church leaders, is the "Journal of Lutheran Ethics," now in its 17th year as a ministry of publishing.

The "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" is a free, online, bimonthly source for people who want to probe social and moral questions in church and society from a perspective of faith. The articles are written by scholars, pastors and experts in their fields with a broad spectrum of readers in mind. Each issue includes articles on a particular theme and reviews of recently published books related to theology or social issues. Recent issues have focused on theological education, interreligious dialogue, economics and racism. Check out the "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" at ELCA.org/jle and sign up to receive emails alerting you to each new issue.

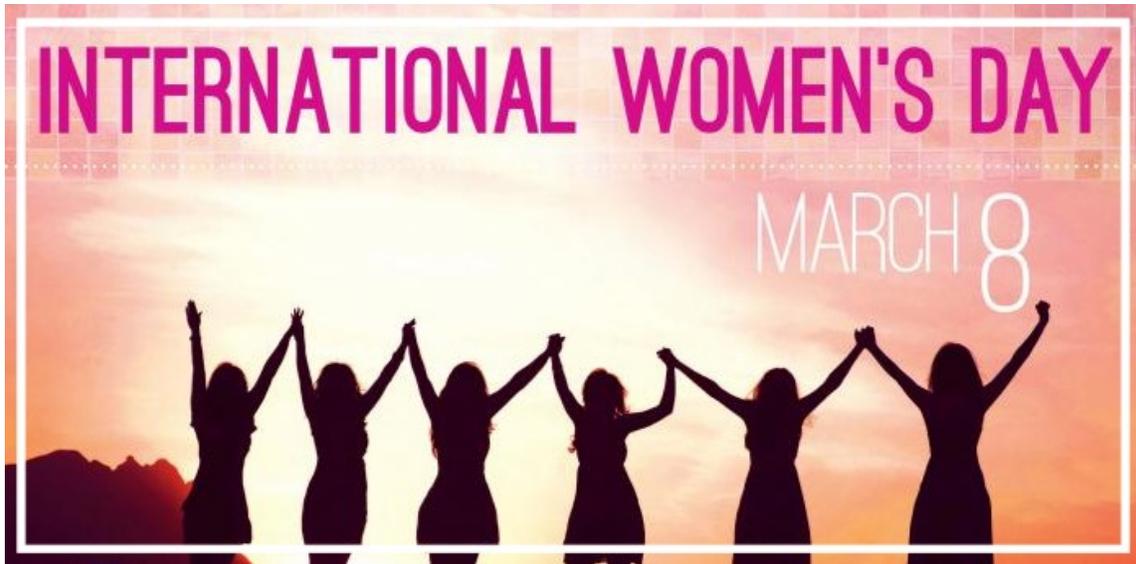
Fundraising

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.



Celebrate the Women in Your Life!

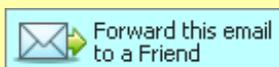


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Connect with us on the web or by email by clicking:

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.