



*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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

**Connect**

**Wonder**

**Celebrate**

**Share**

April 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have so much to celebrate! In October we started a year long capital campaign to raise \$24,000 to fix our roof, replace the front doors, and do some waterproofing in the basement. It didn't take us a year to reach our goal; it only took us five months! If all pledges are fulfilled, we completed our challenge! This spring the church council will look at contracts for doors and waterproofing (the roof was done in the fall). We will take care of our building as we continue to care for each other and the ministry of Acacia Park Lutheran Church. Thank you to all who planned, supported, or attended any of the fundraisers. Thank you to all who made pledges and donations. We have a lot to be proud of.

Even though we rallied together and reached a goal in an impressively short time, we are still adjusting to sharing space with our new ministry partners, New Life. We care deeply for each other and support one another through our life struggles and celebrations, but there can still be times we feel that we are not enough. Lent can put this feeling front and center as we do self-reflection and personal examination of our relationship with God. Even when things are going well we can find faults; even when we are experiencing joy we can feel sadness or worry. This is the jarring feeling I often have during Holy Week. For three days we talk about death, and then suddenly on Easter morning we are excited, joyous, and full of praise. Easter is a day of celebration because our God defeated death, but to move so quickly from one feeling to another sometimes feels too fast. I know for me I have to sit near the cross of Good Friday before I can even begin to wrap my head around an Easter morning sermon. The quick turnaround is too much. I know we feel this way at different points in our lives, at

different points in our faith journey. This feeling reminds me of a poem one of my former congregations would read weekly during worship.

When I Say I am A Christian

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes"  
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble -  
needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are far too visible  
but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache  
which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority  
I only know I'm loved

Wimmer, Carol. "When I Say I Am A Christian." *Hi-Call Gospel Magazine*, Nov. 1992.

Lord Jesus, I want to trust you from now on. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life. Make me be the person You want me to be. Thank you for enabling me to trust you in these uncertain times. Amen.

Blessings,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

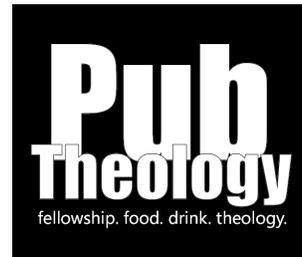
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE  
APRIL 14 - 21, 2019



*April 14th*--Palm Sunday . . . . . 9:30 am  
*April 18th*--Maundy Thursday . . . . . 6:00 pm  
*April 19th*--Good Friday . . . . . 6:00 pm  
*April 21st*--Easter Sunday . . . . . 9:30 am

**PUB THEOLOGY**

We will meet on *Thursday, April 25th* at Kären Tompkins' home, 2801 Briarwood Dr. West, Arlington 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, April 28th* 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.

Parish Events and Notes

**EASTER FLOWERS**



We invite you to participate in decorating the church for Easter. This year, you may dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one or to honor a friend or family member. Your name and all those being honored or memorialized will be included as an insert to the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please complete the Easter Flower Dedication form found in the weekly bulletin. Additional copies are on the table in the vestibule. Place your completed form along with your payment in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. Order flowers *now through Sunday, April 14th*.

**FLOWER PRICES**

DAFFODILS, HYACINTHS and TULIPS in 4-inch pots are \$7.00 each.  
EASTER LILIES in 6-inch pots are \$16.50 each.

**PASSION READERS PRACTICE**

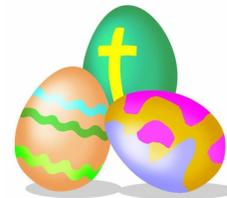
There will be a practice on *Saturday, April 6th*, from 9:00 to 10:00 am for everyone who volunteered to participate in the Passion reading on Palm Sunday. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Scripts will be available.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The church council meets on *Thursday, April 11th* at 7:00 pm.

## EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Make sure to mark your calendars, and join us on *Easter Sunday, April 21st* at 8:30 am when we host an Easter Continental Breakfast. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of the Sanctuary before and after service beginning April 7th. Everyone is welcome!



## COFFEE AND . . .

In April, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on *Sunday, April 14th* in conjunction with The Night Ministry food prep and on *Sunday, April 28th* in conjunction with Bible study. 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](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

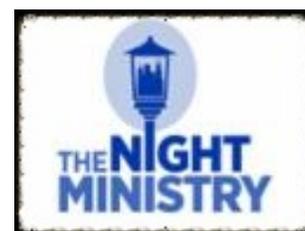
## Serving the Congregation and Larger Community

### 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, April 14th* with The Night Ministry. We need volunteers to help prepare the sandwiches and pack the dinner bags after worship 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.



## From the ELCA

### PRAYER VENTURES: SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYERS EVERY DAY, ALL YEAR LONG



When it comes to prayer, there is no shortage of people and situations to include in our prayerful conversations with God. Sometimes it helps to have a little prompting though - reminders of special concerns of the church and world, ELCA programs and ministries, special occasions in the church calendar or ideas for ministries to remember in prayer that might otherwise slip by us.

ELCA Prayer Ventures offers such prayer suggestions for every day of the year. Prayer Ventures can be used for personal prayer, adapted for use in worship, posted online or shared with members. They are posted for download a month in advance at [ELCA.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures](http://ELCA.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures). It's free and fresh each month!

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

Easter is Sunday, April 21st.

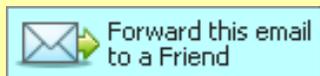


Connect

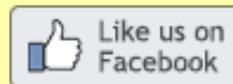
Wonder

Celebrate

Share



Forward this email  
to a Friend



Like us on  
Facebook

*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.*