



*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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

**Connect**

**Wonder**

**Celebrate**

**Share**

June 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each month I attend two meetings at the synod office. For support I attend the interim pastor meeting. My last two calls were interim calls, and my call here at Acacia Park is a term call with my contract ending in September with the option for renewal. I have been part of this group for four years, and they have become a support system. The other monthly meeting I attend is for the synod deans. Last year at the synod assembly I became the dean of the central conference, a group of 15 congregations that work together at times, and the pastors reach out to each other for fellowship and support. Each month all the deans for all the synod conferences meet to talk about the path of the synod, goals for congregations, and our general well being as pastors.

One thing that has become common in both meetings is that more and more we are having conversations about congregations moving from having full-time pastors to part-time pastors. Acacia Park began the shift with Pastor Marcus when he was a part-time interim, and you continued the part-time trend when I was called here on a part-time basis.

This has become a topic at my meetings because congregations and pastors are in a time of transition and adjustment to what it means to have a part-time pastor when for decades nearly all congregations operated with full-time staff. This is not an easy shift. Congregations got used to having pastors "on call" 24 hours a day; lay leadership got used to having a pastor in the office all week; pastors got used to full-time salary and benefits and the expectation of a full-time call for their entire career. New pastors cannot have the same expectations, and many congregations are shifting their expectations on a pastor when they go from full-time to part-time calls.

One of the aspects of the shift is that congregations are now encountering bi-vocational clergy. This means that a part-time pastor also has another job and at times another career alongside their career as clergy and their call to pastor a congregation.

I recognized this shift happening a few years ago, and I realized I am early in my career and frankly a woman clergy person, so I decided after receiving three part-time calls in a row I would return to school to become a licensed therapist. When I started at Acacia Park a year and a half ago, I recently graduated from my master's program in counseling, and I was in the middle of a postgraduate fellowship with Rainbow Hospice. My time with Rainbow ended around the same time my mom and grandma died, and I decided to delay my job search in therapy to heal my heart from the deaths.

Recently, I felt ready to find a job in therapy while still feeling called to Acacia Park as your pastor. Last month I made the decision to accept a part-time job offer to The Place For Children With Autism as a therapist. I will be a bi-vocational pastor and therapist with two part-time jobs, something that most new clergy will have to consider as congregations begin to consider their pastoral needs compared to their budgets and cut staff hours. Being bi-vocational is exciting for me, and it is a benefit to you. I am still available every day, just not the hours I am with clients. And you get the benefit of having a pastor that is also a licensed therapist, so when you need support or find the need to talk out a situation with your pastor, you know that I am not only capable of handling a variety of situations, but I am trained to handle them as well.

Once I finish my training at The Place with Children with Autism I will share it with the congregation. I will still have office hours on Wednesdays, lead worship every Sunday, and be available by appointment on other days of the week. Please pray for my family as we adjust to me working more, and I will keep the people of Acacia Park in my prayers as you adjust to my new schedule as well.

Blessings,

*Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong*

#### Treasurer's Report (as of April 30, 2019)

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD Budget Trended	Diff Act/ Budget
Offering Income	\$15,895.78	\$14,983.33	\$912.45
Other Income	\$8,550.67	\$8,575.00	(\$24.33)
Expense	\$38,325.26	\$35,855.41	(\$2,469.85)
Net	(\$13,878.81)	(\$12,297.07)	(\$1,581.74)

#### Worship and Christian Education

##### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

*June 9th* is Confirmation Sunday for Thomas Tompkins. Celebrate with us as we join our young confirmand in affirming our baptisms and bearing witness to the Spirit's work in and through us. There will be a reception for Thomas immediately following worship. All are welcome!



### PUB THEOLOGY

We will meet on **Tuesday, June 18th** at Linda Engler's home, 4345 N Oleander, Norridge for fellowship and friendly discussion of topics including faith, spirituality, current events, and just about everything in between. If you'd like, bring an appetizer or treat to share. Everyone is welcome!



### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Please join us on **Sunday, June 30th** for our next meeting of "You and the Word" Bible Study. We will gather in the downstairs lounge immediately following worship for fellowship, study and discussion. Please note: Bible study will meet this day in conjunction with *Coffee and . . .*

For more information on either of these events, please call or email the church office at:  
708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

## Parish Events and Notes

### MID-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Mid-year contribution statements will be available beginning **Sunday, June 2nd**. Please be sure to pick yours up either before or after service.

### FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST

If you would like to order geraniums to help decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost, a sign-up sheet is available before and after service through **Sunday, June 2nd**. Four-inch pots are \$5.00, and 6-inch pots are \$8.00. Flowers can be taken home after service on June 9th.

### BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is *The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece* by Jonathan Harr. We will meet to discuss the book on **Tuesday, June 4th** 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 **Thursday, June 13th** at 7:00 pm.

### COFFEE AND . . .

In June, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on **Sunday, June 30th** in conjunction with Bible study. If you would like to volunteer to bring a treat to share, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

### MARKETING TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are in search of a few volunteers for our new Marketing team. The team will work primarily on promoting church events and happenings on social media. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Katie Dupree at 773-759-4050 or [kate.dupree@gmail.com](mailto:kate.dupree@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 the first Sunday of each month. Food donations may be left in the bin in the Narthex.

*No open packages or expired food, please.*



### THE NIGHT MINISTRY

We will be taking a break during the month of June but will return to our monthly Night Ministry food preparation and meal delivery schedule in July. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Lanners at 773-439-9893.

## From the ELCA

### CENTRAL EUROPE TEACHING PROGRAM



Do you know someone who might be interested in teaching in Central Europe? ELCA Global Mission volunteer teachers serve in partnership with companion churches in Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. The assignment includes:

- Teach in a bilingual junior/senior high school. Emphasis is for conversational English teachers but math, science, and geography teachers are needed also. All instruction is in the English language.
- Interpret and implement national and school mandated curriculum through personalized lesson plans
- Prepare students for the end-of-school comprehensive final exams in the fifth year.
- Participate in a mid-academic year review to assess performance
- Interpret the mission and ministry of our companions back to the ELCA through newsletters and blogs to ELCA congregations and members.

To learn more and to apply, visit <http://bit.ly/ELCACentralEuropeTeach>.

## Memorial Gifts

The following memorial gifts have been received by the church:

from Patti Mann in celebration of **Claire Porter** to be used for the Building Fund,

from Linda Lowery in memory of **Victor Schaedel** to be used for the Building Fund,

from the children of **Victor and Lorraine Schaedel** in loving memory of their parents.

## 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.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 16th.

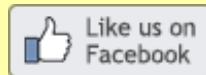
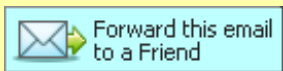


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Wonder

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

