



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

July 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Synod Assembly happened at the beginning of June. It was a busy assembly as the voting members elected a new synodical bishop. After serving as the bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod for 12 years, Bishop Miller will retire at the end of August and Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry will be installed as Metro Chicago's new bishop. His six-year term begins officially on September 1, 2019.

Installation Date Bishop-elect Curry's installation as bishop will happen on Saturday, October, 19, 2019. Time and location will be shared as they become available. Once we know the time and location, I will organize a carpool for some of us from Acacia Park to attend the installation.



Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry

We did more at Synod Assembly than vote for a new bishop. We also passed resolutions, heard from ministry partners, and got updates from the wider church. The resolution that was passed is called: Resolution on Dealing With Depression and Intentional Death (or Suicide) in Our Churches. I shared a few months ago that in January my uncle died by suicide, and over the years I presided over the funeral of two deaths by suicide. I am sure many of us know someone who died by suicide, or we ourselves had suicidal thoughts (which is nothing to be ashamed of). Below is the wording of the resolution that affects many of us:

RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES

WHEREAS, life expectancy in the United States is decreasing (partially resulting from intentional death) and intentional death in the United States is increasing;
WHEREAS, Jesus commands us in John 13:34-35 to love one another;
WHEREAS, Jesus requires us to care for our neighbor in Luke 10:36-37;
WHEREAS, depression that has lasted over two weeks has become a clinical problem (clinical depression) which almost always requires medical intervention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation be made aware of the ELCA's commitment to suicide prevention to help in combatting their depression before thoughts of suicide occur; and that the framers of this motion assemble a packet of appropriate resources to be assembled and sent to each congregation;

RESOLVED, that each congregation be made aware of the ELCA's commitment to suicide prevention;

RESOLVED, that each congregation have the "National Suicide Prevention Lifeline" contact information (1-800-273-8255) posted in conspicuous places;

RESOLVED, that each congregation will, in some way, address the issue of recognizing depression and loneliness amongst their members; and

RESOLVED, that each congregation will in some way develop resources for family and community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one through suicide.

Submitted by: Dupage Railroad Safety Council, Mr. B Bernhard F Biederman, Member
 Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Lincolnshire, Illinois
 Dr. Lanny F. Wilson, MD, Chair

You will see posters with emergency numbers posted in the bathroom stalls and on the information bulletin board in the Narthex. There are also pocket cards for you to take for yourself or to share with someone on the sinks in the bathrooms and on tables around the building. I am glad we had this conversation at Synod Assembly. Mental health is something we all need to pay attention to, both in ourselves and in others. Depression and suicidal thoughts do not discriminate; all income classes, races, and genders are susceptible to these ideas and thoughts, and when this happens to someone in our community we are called to care for them, to love them, and to support them. Please know that I am always available to talk to - just call me or email me, and we can set up a time to have coffee or a meal together.

Let us pray,

Holy and heavenly God, we come with open hearts and minds to your feet to lay our burdens down. We thank you for your constant, unwavering, and eternal love, the power of your grace, and the hope we find in your presence. We bring thoughts and prayers this morning for all those affected in any way by suicide. God, wrap them in your embrace, might they feel your presence, your grace and your love. Make us an instrument of your love, Lord. Might those who are directly affected by suicide know that they are surrounded by a community of those who pray to reflect your love and light on all. We pray for strength for the journey and we pray your will be done. Amen. (<http://www.soulshopmovement.org/resources/prayers/>)

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	\$18,187.36	\$18,729.17	(\$541.81)
Other Income	\$10,183.43	\$10,718.75	(\$535.32)
Expense	\$46,639.84	\$44,819.26	(\$1,820.58)
Net	(\$18,269.05)	(\$15,371.34)	(\$2,897.71)

Worship and Christian Education



PUB THEOLOGY

We will meet on **Tuesday, July 16th** at Mike and Sue Miskawitz's home, 4140 N Overhill Ave, 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, July 28th** for our next meeting of "You and the Word" Bible Study. We will gather in the downstairs lounge after worship for fellowship, study and discussion. 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.

Confirmation Class 2019

CONFIRMATION DAY AT ACACIA PARK

On **Sunday, June 9th**, we celebrated the confirmation of one of our young members, Thomas Tompkins. With great happiness guests and church members alike joined him in affirming their baptisms and bearing witness to the Spirit's work in and through us. Congratulations Thomas! May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you each and every day.



**Photos courtesy of Patti Mann.*

Parish Events and Notes

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on **Thursday, July 4th** for the Independence Day holiday.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on **Tuesday, July 9th** at 7:00 pm.

POTLUCK DINNER AND GAME NIGHT WITH NEW LIFE



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 14th** when we will be hosting a potluck dinner and game night along with New Life beginning at 5:00 pm at the church. Acacia Park will bring drinks, ice and desserts. New Life will provide dinner. A sign-up sheet is available before and after service. Everyone is welcome!

COFFEE AND . . .

In July, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on **Sunday, July 14th** in conjunction with our Night Ministry food preparation and on **Sunday, July 28th** 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.

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.

Serving the Congregation and Larger Community



ST. CYPRIAN'S FOOD PANTRY

We continue to collect canned and non-perishable goods for [St. Cyprian's Food Pantry](#) 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 preparing and serving meals for guests of [The Night Ministry's](#) Health Outreach Bus on **Sunday, July 14th**. We need volunteers to make sandwiches and pack 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

"DIGNITY AND GRACE IN THE FACE OF MENTAL ILLNESS"



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half of Americans will be affected by a mental illness at some point in life. The ELCA has been partnering with organizations that focus on mental health and supporting the development of mental health ministries, including through a new grant program. A recent *Living Lutheran* cover article looks at some of these ministries and how the church is building on its 2012 social message "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness." To read the full article, please click [here](#).

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.

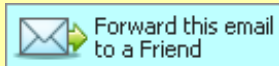


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Connect with us on the web or by email by clicking:

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

