



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

November 2019

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November is a time to reflect and give thanks. On social media you will have friends that share something they are grateful for each day of the month. This is not a hard challenge, if one takes time to reflect it is easy to come up with a list of 30 items for which to be thankful. We see God's blessing everywhere, including when times are tough. We see the way God liberates us from struggles, the way we feel God's presence each moment of our life, the way we see the light that shines in the darkness, and we know that light is God working in this world.

November is also the month we talk about stewardship. Stewardship and giving thanks go well together. When we talk about stewardship we talk about action. Stewardship is how we care for God's creation, how we use all that God entrusted in our care - our time, talent, and treasures. Through stewardship we are called to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church. Christians live lives of constant thanksgiving. It is mentioned throughout the Bible. We sing hymns lifting up praise and thanksgiving, and each week before we receive communion we say the following:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Our thankfulness should be so transparent, so frequent, so full that those who encounter us would know that there is something special about us, that we exude something different. Because we are so full of thanks it just overflows. We give thanks for all that the Lord has done. This month we are so full of thanksgiving that we have many ways for you to participate in

stewardship. At the beginning of the month, we give thanks for all the saints and how they blessed us and shaped us. Bring photos or trinkets of loved ones and former church members for the memento table on All Saints Sunday so that we can have the presence of all who blessed us in worship.

Next, fill out your pledge card and consider giving a little more than you did last year. Even an extra \$5 a month adds up for running the church. That extra amount could buy enough paper to print bulletins for the year; it can help pay for staff salaries; it helps us help others through The Night Ministry and Gods Work. Our Hands. Sunday.

Finally, consider participating in the church Advent Food Drive. We are collecting non-perishable food to donate to St. Cyprian's Food Pantry at the end of the month. A list of items we are collecting is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and on our website. Flyers are also available in the vestibule. We will make collection boxes in worship, and we will present our collection of thanksgiving each week in November when we place the items on the altar as a way to show our gratefulness, a way to be a blessing, and a way to help us see all for which we are thankful.

I am blessed to be your pastor. I feel blessed each time I walk through the doors of Acacia Park Lutheran Church. My heart is so full of thanksgiving that I get to praise God and be in a relationship with each of you. I hope to see you at church during this month as we celebrate everything for which we are grateful!

In Christ,

Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Treasurer's Report (as of September 30, 2019)

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD Budget Trended	Diff Act/ Budget
Offering Income	\$36,470.37	\$33,712.50	\$2,757.87
Other Income	\$17,642.70	\$19,293.75	(\$1,651.05)
Expense	\$82,193.00	\$80,674.67	(\$1,518.34)
Net	(\$28,079.93)	(\$27,668.42)	(\$411.52)

Stewardship

At Acacia Park, stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to grow in our relationship with Jesus and our neighbors.

Our 2020 Stewardship Campaign is right around the corner. Please consider these ways, big and small, that you can help:

- Participate and commit to being involved. Can you commit your time? Even if that time is attending a Sunday morning worship service, the time to do that is now.
- Contribute to the congregation--whether it is through acts of service or financially, the congregation needs your support.
- Pray for our congregation, our church, and our church leaders.

2020 pledge cards are included with your three-quarter year contribution statements, which you will find in box in the Narthex. Please take some time to prayerfully consider what you can commit to the church in 2020, and then return your pledge card by **Sunday, December 8th** at

the Stewardship Luncheon. You can place your pledge card in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church.

Worship and Christian Education

KIDS TIME

A special time for children will be offered on *Sunday, November 10th* and *Sunday, November 24th* during worship and will be led by some 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.



YOU AND THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

On *Sunday, November 24th* immediately following worship, our Bible study group will meet in the downstairs lounge. Please mark your calendars, and plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

Parish Events and Notes

CHILI COOK OFF AND BINGO

On *Saturday, November 2nd* from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, we will be holding our annual Chile Cook Off Fundraiser. This year, we're planning to add bingo to the mix. We'll have chili samples, toppings, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages. If you prefer, you can BYOB beer and wine. Admission is \$10 for cooks; \$15 for non-cooks, and \$30 for families of four--\$5 for each additional family member. There will be raffles, prizes for the best chili, and BINGO! Everyone receives a free bingo card. Be sure to invite your friends and family. All are welcome! For more information or to enter you chili in the contest, call or email the church at 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

On *Sunday, November 3rd*, remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BERNICE ALEXEYUK

Long-time Acacia Park member Bernice (Bea Alex) Alexeyuk passed away on Saturday, October 19th in Mendota, IL. A memorial service for Bea will take place on *Saturday, November 16th* at 10:30 am at All Saints National Catholic Cemetery, 9201 W Higgins Road, Chicago. All are welcome.

COFFEE AND . . .

In November, *Coffee and . . .* will take place on *Sunday, November 24th* 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.

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on *Thursday, November 28th* for the Thanksgiving holiday.

RIDESHARE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Acacia Park Church member Wanda Nagel is looking for a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help, please talk to Pastor Meagan either before or after service or email her at pastormeagan@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club selection is "The Gift of the Magi," a short story by O. Henry. You can find this short story online by clicking [here](#). We will meet on **Tuesday, December 3rd** at 7:00 pm at the church to discuss the story, see the video adaptation, and celebrate the season. If you would like to bring a treat to share, that would be great! Questions? Please call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.



Serving the Congregation and the Larger Community



ADVENT FOOD DRIVE FOR ST. CYPRIAN'S
During the month of **November**, we are having an Advent Food Drive to benefit [St. Cyprian's Food Pantry](#). Add an item to your Advent Food box each day through November 24th. Items can be dropped off at church on Sundays in November. For the full list of items for the Advent Food Drive, please visit our website: acaciaparkchurch.com.



THE NIGHT MINISTRY
We will be serving a meal to the homeless with [The Night Ministry](#) on **Sunday, December 1st**. 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.

For more information on either of the above service projects, please call or email the church office at: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the Sunday service schedule. We need members and friends who would like to serve as ushers or greeters. If you are interested in volunteering, please call or email the church office: 708-453-3662 or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

From the ELCA

VETERANS DAY 2019



Each year, the nation pauses to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of military veterans. This year, Veterans Day is **Monday, November 11th** and presents an opportunity for congregations to pray for those who have lived part of their vocation in military service. One widely used, treasured resource prepared for spiritual care and support of military members, veterans and their families is the *Prayer Book for the Armed Services*. The prayer book is available at augsborgfortress.org for \$8.00 per copy and can be shipped to service members stationed internationally.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS--COOKIE AND CRAFT SALE



Please plan on joining us from 9:00 am to noon on *Saturday, December 14th* when we will once again hold our annual Cookie and Craft Sale just in time for the holidays. We are looking for volunteers to bake and/or help with the setup and the cleanup for this fun and delicious fundraiser. Please consider volunteering. This year, we will again be providing tables to craft vendors for a small donation. Vendor application forms are available in the vestibule or from the

church office.

In Our Prayers

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 3RD

We remember the faithful at rest in the Lord. Our congregation lifts up the lives lived among us of:



Vic Schaedel
Bernice (Bea Alex) Alexeyuk

They now enjoy the sight of God's face forever with all who have gone before. We pray that their families and friends, and all of us who lift up our beloveds in love and memory will be comforted in the sure and certain promises of life eternal and our communion with the saints of every time and place.

Sending Out Our Thanks

LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who put together Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief's Ingathering last month. We were able to donate 24 care kits which will provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting and the chance to regain dignity to families struggling in situations of fear and uncertainty.



BISHOP CURRY'S VISIT

Special **THANKS** to Bishop Yehiel Curry for his visit to Acacia Park on Sunday, October 27th in honor of Reformation Sunday and our 91st anniversary. (Photo courtesy of Bishop Curry.)



THANKSGIVING IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH . . .

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

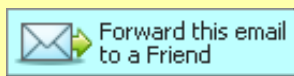


Connect

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Share



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](tel:708-453-3662)

Celebrate with us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Church office hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.