



acacia park

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Monthly news & updates

February 2020

Worship & Christian Education

Kids Time: February 9th and 23rd

Children will be dismissed before the sermon to participate in faith formation activities including a story and theme for the day as well as a related art project. All children ages three through 6th grade are welcome.

Bible Study: February 23rd

Our Bible study group will meet in the downstairs lounge immediately following worship. Please plan on joining us in fellowship, study and discussion.

Parish Events and Notes

Council Meeting: February 13th

Church council meets at 7:00 pm.

Book Club: February 18th

The next Book Club selection is *The Healing* by Jonathan Odell. We'll meet at 7:00 pm in the downstairs lounge to discuss the book. Bring a snack to share if you like and your own drink.



Pasta Dinner Party Fundraiser

*Saturday, February 8th
5:00 to 9:00 pm*

Join us for all-you-can-eat pasta, salad, bread and desserts. BYOB beer and wine. Be sure to stay with us for some great after-dinner entertainment by The Twilights, playing music from the 50s and 60s and more. We'll have prizes and raffles throughout the evening.

Coffee and . . . February 23rd

We'll meet in conjunction with our Bible study group in the downstairs lounge.

Ministry

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.**

This is an all-ages event. Please invite your friends and family.

\$5.00 suggested donation.

Ash Wednesday: Simple Supper and Worship Wednesday, February 26th

We'll gather beginning at 5:30 pm for a simple supper of bread, soup and salad followed by worship, imposition of ashes, and holy communion at 7:00 pm.

From the Pastor's Desk . . .



2019 was an amazing year for Acacia Park Lutheran Church. We increased in so many ways. Our average attendance is up! Our pledged giving for 2020 is more than it was last year! We replaced the front doors and fixed the roof! We did an amazing job with our budget, ending the year with a budget that has a much lower deficit than we did last year (we are so, so close to being in the black...)! We have been "graced" by many new faces and friends from Grace Lutheran, Elmwood Park! We were blessed to be the recipients of a large financial

continuing what Grace Lutheran did for decades--sharing the gospel and the good news of God's love for all)! We continue to serve the community through service projects and the council is exploring new opportunities of giving for this year! We have not touched our endowment in about a year! You called me to lengthen our contract another two years so we can continue this journey of ministry together!

And, you know, I can look at this list and be proud. We did this. I am a part time pastor, so it definitely wasn't all me. It was you, and it has been a true blessing to be on this journey with you. I am praying that God continues to increase our relationships within the community, the congregation, New Life, and my relationship with each of you. It is through relationships that we can grow in faith, we learn to trust more, and we want to be Christlike for each other and others.

I am excited to see where God takes Acacia Park in 2020!

gift from Grace Lutheran, Elmwood
Park (thank you for trusting us with

In Christ,
Pastor Meagan

Treasurer's Report

Highlights from the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

We ended the year at a loss but less than anticipated. Actual expenses were slightly over budget, due primarily to unanticipated repairs to and expenses for equipment and fixtures. The 2020 income budget includes an increase in pledges as well as income from New Life as they have added space. However, our other space usage partner, Prestige Tile and Grout, will be leaving us at the end of the first quarter to move to their own building. We thank them and wish them well. The 2020 expense budget is slightly higher in two areas: Buildings and Grounds and Music and Worship. Our successful Capital Campaign for building repairs allowed us to replace the education building roof and add new front doors. We will also be addressing the water leak problem in Riedesel Hall in 2020.

2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

Held Sunday, January 26th

The following people were elected to the church council for the 2020-2023 term:

Karen Lanners
Kären Tompkins (2nd term)

They join current council members Katie Dupree, Patti Dupree, Mike Miskawitz, Dagny Bloland, Linda Engler, Marion Engler and Bruce Leckie.

A note of THANKS goes out to Linda Lowery and Sondra Wince who step down from the church council this month after many years of dedicated service. Thank you both for your time and many talents! Special thanks to Linda for serving as council secretary.



Pastoral Acts in 2019

We baptized three, confirmed one, had one communicant, and experienced the loss of one long-time member. Our average Sunday attendance increased by six over 2018 attendance.



From the ELCA

Ask your senator to support the Dream Act of 2019

From now through spring 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court is deliberating on several lawsuits stemming from termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Lutherans have long supported young people who have come to the United States, known as

"Dreamers." ELCA Advocacy activity has supported the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019, which passed in the House and includes a path to citizenship for DACA recipients. Learn more about this issue at elca.org/advocacy and [use this letter template](#) in urging your senators to stand alongside young adult immigrants by supporting legislative protection for DACA recipients.

Psalm 24:7 Lift up your heads, O gates, that the king of glory may come in.

Acacia Park Lutheran Church | acaciaparkchurch.com

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

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