



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At Acacia Park Lutheran Church, we welcome you!

Connect

Wonder

Celebrate

Share

January 2020

From the Pastor's Desk:

The New Year often makes me reflective. I not only look to clear my mind by doing a review of the last year and setting goals for the year to come, but I also look to clear my soul. There is a little bit of a drop in joy coming out of the Christmas season and knowing that the real and harsher part of winter is still to come. I often find myself spending January trying to fill my soul with art. My family goes to the theater or movies more often. We take advantage of the museum free days and head out to see art. I also find myself reading more, looking for art in the written word that may move me and get deeper in touch with God and the Holy Spirit that dwells within me. This year, a colleague of mine wrote this poem, and it reminded me that there is so much to be grateful for and yet so much to ask for God's support in for the year to come.

By Emily Zeig Lindsey

God of the past, God of the present, God of the future years,
we are facing a new year.

We celebrate with joy the good times from last year
and the memories that will delight us for years to come.

We reflect on the hardships, the unexpected changes, the setbacks,
and we give thanks for your presence in our struggles.

Be with us in the year ahead.
Give us courage to face any challenges.
Give us love and laughter to lighten our days.
Give us measures of peace, light, and hope

that we may share these gifts with others.

Help us to make meaningful resolutions.

Help us to listen more carefully to one person in our family.

Help us to get to know one person better in our church family.

Help us to grow in one aspect of our Christian faith.

Help us to put our faith into practice each day.

Remind us that with every step we take into the new year,
you go with us. Amen.

Blessings in the New Year!

Pr. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Worship and Christian Education

KIDS TIME

A special time for children will be offered on **Sunday, January 12th** and **Sunday, January 26th** 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.



BLESSING THE DOORS AND PAVERS

On **Sunday, January 26th**, Pastor Meagan will offer a blessing during worship for the new front doors of the church and the pavers in the courtyard.

Parish Events and Notes

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The church council meets on **Thursday, January 9th** at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Acacia Park's annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 26th** immediately following worship. We will hear about our activities during the year 2019; we will have reports from the pastor, president, and treasurer; and we will adopt a new budget for 2020. Please join us for this important day in the life of ministry at Acacia Park!

COFFEE AND . . .

In January, Coffee and . . . will take place on **Sunday, January 26th** in conjunction with our Annual Congregational Meeting. 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.

Serving the Congregation and the 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.**

From the ELCA

CENTRAL CONFERENCE POTLUCK SUPPER

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod Central Conference Potluck Supper will be Tuesday, January 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Redeemer Church, 6740 W North Avenue, Chicago. Please bring a dish to share (store-bought or homemade). It would be helpful for people with food allergies to



include a list of ingredients in your dish. Please be prepared to share with other participants something that you are excited about (past or present) within Acacia Park's congregation.

Acacia Park is one of 15 ELCA churches in the Central Conference, and Pastor Meagan is dean of the conference.

Memorial Gifts

A memorial gift was received by Acacia Park from Nancy Komada in memory of **Bernice (Bea Alex) Alexeyuk** to be used for the church courtyard. Thank you, Nancy.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS--PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER



Please plan on joining us on **Saturday, February 8th** for a Pasta Dinner Fundraiser! Join us for a home-cooked meal of pasta and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert table, and a variety of beverages. You may also bring your own beer and wine.

Then stay with us for some great after-dinner entertainment by The Twilights, playing music from the 50s and 60s and more. This is an event you won't want to miss!

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

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD Budget Trended	Diff Act/ Budget
Offering Income	\$44,823.37	\$41,204.17	\$3,619.20
Other Income	\$23,167.18	\$23,581.25	(\$414.07)
Expense	\$98,392.57	\$98,602.37	(\$209.80)
Net	(\$30,402.02)	(\$33,816.95)	(\$3,414.93)

Sending Out Our Thanks

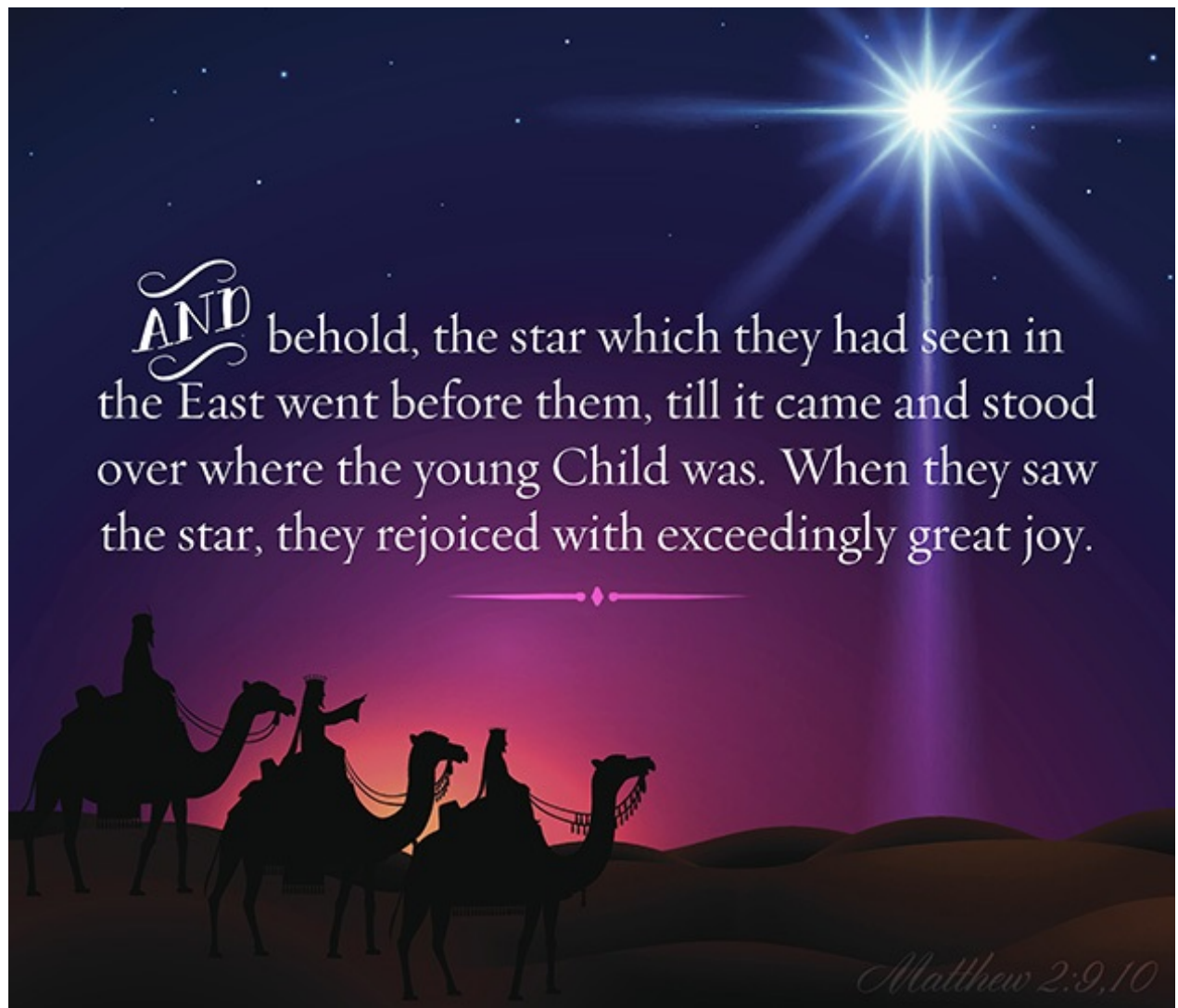
ANNUAL COOKIE AND CRAFT SALE

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended and/or volunteered for our Cookie and Craft Sale. Hundreds of cookies were baked and then sold on December 14th. We also had a banner year for craft vendors. Eleven different vendors arranged for tables and sold a variety of home-made crafts, including jewelry, key chains, gift baskets, wreaths, holiday floral arrangements, picture

frames, metal works, essential oil blends and hand-decorated bottles. More photos of this event can be found on our website: acaciaparkchurch.com.



EPIPHANY IS MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH.

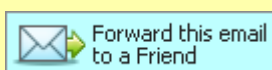


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Share



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

Celebrate with us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

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

Acacia Park Lutheran Church, 4307 N. Oriole Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706

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