



# acacia park

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Monthly news & updates

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March 2020

### Worship & Christian Education

#### *Kids Time: March 8th and 22nd*

Children will be dismissed right before the sermon to participate in faith formation activities designed just for them. All children ages three through 6th grade are welcome.

#### *Bible Study: March 29th*

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 & Notes

#### *Council Meeting: March 12th*

Church council meets at 7:00 pm.

#### *Coffee and . . . March 29th*

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

Midweek  
Lenten  
Worship

### Wednesdays

#### *March 4, 11, 25\* & April 1*

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm for midweek worship lead by Pastor Meagan. We'll meet in the downstairs lounge for lunch and Gospel discussion.

Please bring your own brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. For questions or more information, call or email the church office at 708-453-3662 or [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

left in the bin in the Narthex. No open packages or expired food, please.

*\*Please Note: we will not meet on Wednesday, March 18th.*

## From the Pastor's Desk . . .



During the month of March we will journey through Lent. This is the season we take the time to reflect and find our way back to our center. We pray, and we confess that we are sinful in nature, and we look for ways that God is active in our lives and in the world through fasting or meditation. We do this for the discipline that Lent calls for. We fast so we can hear God; we go without so we can reflect on the way God provides for us; we pray more so we can strengthen our relationship with God.

We do similar in worship. We go back to the basics. During worship in this Lenten season, we will engage in a more traditional service, one with which many of us are more familiar. This will allow for more reflection on the elements of worship and may help us focus on the purpose of Lenten worship - remembering that we are dust and to dust we shall return, remembering our baptism and whose we are, and

comes with Easter. Each week we will remove some of the light in the sanctuary, a kind of reverse Advent. We will live into the darkness each week while at the same time we will be reminded that we are people of hope that long for the light.

As I was preparing for Lent this year, I came across the Lenten devotional below. As we enter Lent, the church has historically called its members to self-reflection, prayer and fasting. Fasting is not only refraining from physical food, but eliminating practices that will in turn bring us closer to God. I hope these words will inspire your Lenten discipline:

- Fast from judging others;
- Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
- Fast from fear of illness;
- Feast on the healing power of God.
- Fast from words that pollute;
- Feast on speech that purifies.
- Fast from discontent;
- Feast on gratitude.
- Fast from anger;
- Feast on patience.
- Fast from pessimism;
- Feast on hope.
- Fast from negatives;
- Feast on encouragement.
- Fast from bitterness;
- Feast on forgiveness.
- Fast from self-concern;
- Feast on compassion.
- Fast from suspicion;
- Feast on truth.
- Fast from gossip;
- Feast on purposeful silence.
- Fast from problems that overwhelm;

remembering our call to live a life  
striving for justice and peace.

Worship will also be a weekly  
reminder of the darkness of this world  
and the promise of the hope that

Feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety;

Feast on faith.

--*Author Unknown*

In Christ,

Pastor Meagan

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## Treasurer's Report

*As of January 31, 2020*

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD BudgetTrended	Diff Act/Budget
Offering Income	\$3,103.00	\$3,983.33	(\$880.33)
Other Income	\$2,700.00	\$2,133.33	\$566.67
Expense	(\$9,714.17)	(\$9,357.96)	(\$356.21)
Net	(\$3,911.17)	(\$3,241.29)	(\$669.88)

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## Pasta Dinner Party

*Held Saturday, February 8th*

The turnout was great--more than 60 people! The food was excellent--pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, beverages and desserts. The entertainment was outstanding--thank you Mike Miskawitz and The Twilights. And the evening was a fun-filled time for all including dancing, raffles and prizes! For more pictures of this event, visit our website: [acaciaparkchurch.com](http://acaciaparkchurch.com).





## Prayer Ventures

ELCA Prayer Ventures is a resource that provides a prayer for every day of the year. These petitions are offered as a guide for your own prayer life, as we pray for the needs of the world and give thanks for the ministries of the ELCA.

Download the full month of daily prayers at [elca.org/resources/prayer-ventures](http://elca.org/resources/prayer-ventures).

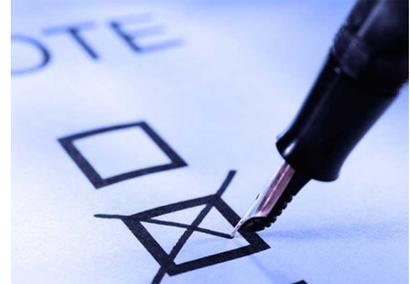
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## It's Time to Make Your Voices Heard!

### *Early Voting Begins in March*

The Norridge Village Hall will again be offering early voting for the upcoming Illinois General Primary Election on March 17th.

Early voting begins on March 2nd and continues through March 16th. Dates and times for early voting are as follows:



March 2nd through 7th and March 14th and 16th

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

March 9th through March 13th

9:00 am to 7:00 pm

March 8th and March 15th

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Anyone living in Suburban Cook County can vote at Norridge Village Hall for early voting.

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*Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

Acacia Park Lutheran Church | [acaciaparkchurch.com](http://acaciaparkchurch.com)

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