



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Monthly news & updates

August 2020

Worship & Christian Education

Sunday Worship

Pastor Meagan is currently leading in-person worship in the church sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Service begins at 9:30 am. We continue to follow all CDC guidelines and state guidelines for Phase 4 of Restores Illinois. For more information about Sunday worship, please visit our [website](#).

Weekly Worship Bulletins

We continue to mail out hard copies of the weekly worship bulletins on Sundays to members who do not have email. If you have someone you would like to add to the list, please [email](#) and let us know. We will also email a link to a YouTube video of our Sunday services on Monday mornings.

Parish Events & Notes



Ministry During Covid-19

Flexibility Is Essential.

Since Covid-19 emerged, Pastor Meagan has needed to be extremely flexible in finding safe ways to interact and to worship with members. From working with council and staff remotely to finding cost-effective ways to arrange for the different types of contact and support members have needed throughout the pandemic,

August Church Council Meeting

Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 pm

Pastor Meagan's Vacation

Pastor Meagan has a planned vacation for mid-August but is waiting to finalize her trip until later in the month based on how Covid-19 continues to move through the country. She will keep the congregation updated as she makes her decisions.

Ministry

St. Cyprian's Food Pantry

Canned and non-perishable goods for St. Cyprian's Food Pantry can be dropped off at their location: 6535 W Irving Park Road, Chicago. The food pantry is open Monday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 to 11:00 am. **No open packages or expired food, please.**

Need Assistance?

If you need assistance, have questions or concerns, or would like a home visit, please get in touch with Pastor Meagan at pastormeagan@gmail.com, or email Dawn at the church office at acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

We are here to help you in any way that we can, so please do not hesitate to email.

Pastor has worked diligently to maintain our sense of community. She has developed and shared unique worship and faith formation opportunities including self-guided worship through Sunday morning meetups on Zoom, small group meditation services, and no-contact, in-person Sunday worship. She has arranged food drives to help those in our community hit hardest by the economic down turn and prayed with those who felt scared or lost. And all the while, Pastor continues to regularly check in with members through calls; notes and emails; and at-home visits like the one pictured above to Jenna O'Connell, her mom Diana, and grandpa Erv Siemers. Not only did Jenna graduate from 8th grade this year, but she was also supposed to celebrate her confirmation with her church family and friends. Wanting to do something special for Jenna, Pastor made a personal visit to drop off a gift to remind Jenna that she is loved. If you would like a visit, Pastor Meagan is more than willing to see members at home in their backyards to offer blessings and to-go communion cups.



From the Pastor's Desk . . .



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Normally, for the August newsletter I talk about taking my annual road trip, returning to school, the return of the program year in the church ... That is what I write about in a normal year, but I think we can all agree that 2020 is anything but a normal year.

I have hotels booked along the east coast for a vacation I should be taking in two weeks, but I will make the decision on whether we will go or not probably the day before the first hotel is booked. Kids are scheduled to return to school in a few weeks. We are not sure if that will actually happen in the buildings or virtually. Employers have needed to learn how to allow people to work from home while people have their kids around all day. If there is a silver lining to Covid-19, I think this is one of them.

We are learning the gift of flexibility and patience as we learn new behaviors like not shaking hands and wearing masks, as we adjust to changing work and school situations, as we live somewhere between phase 3 and

phase 4--and we now know what I mean when I say that. May we find patience in God. May we offer compassion and understanding that each of us is on the same journey but that we each have very different resources for the journey, and we each have very different needs. We are learning through real life situations what it means that God calls us to care for the least of these because we have been on both end of that need over the past five months: the one in need and the one offering support to someone in need.

We wake each morning thankful for another day, but most days we don't know exactly what to expect. Our routines are gone; our hobbies changed; our work and school situation is different. We find support through different means. And we are doing it. I don't know how much longer we will have to be flexible. I don't know what adaptations will be officially the new normal. I don't know, and that is OK. It is OK because God is with me on the journey.

Bellow is a link to *Our Daily Bread*, the prayer devotional booklet typically handed out in church. This is a different and flexible way to continue to read the devotional. This one is about being flexible in faithfulness.

<http://blog.truthnetwork.com/video/20/03/27/flexible-faithfulness-daily-devotion/>

In Christ,
Pastor Meagan

From the ELCA

All Creation Sings: A Supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Even in this time of change and challenge, we seek words and music that support and enrich the church's worship. We invite you to learn more about *All Creation Sings*, a new and timely collection of liturgy and song that supplements *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. This

resource will include two additional settings of Holy Communion; a contemplative service of word and prayer; additional prayers, thanksgivings and laments; and 200 hymns and songs. These prayers and songs concern not only the health of our planetary home and its various creatures but also the health of human beings in community. To explore a preview of this collection, visit augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings. You can also find more information at the [ELCA Worship blog](#). (Seeds Monthly: May 27, 2020)



Anti-Racism Pledge

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are also called to act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to anti-racist actions at ELCA.org/RacialJusticePledge.

Treasurer's Report

As of June 2020

	Year To Date (YTD)	YTD BudgetTrended	Variance
Offering Income	\$21,426.00	\$23,900.00	(\$2,474.00)
Other Income	\$21,457.28	\$12,800.00	\$8,657.28
Expenses	(\$52,097.46)	(\$56,147.76)	\$4,050.30
Net	(\$9,214.18)	(\$19,447.76)	\$10,233.58

Acacia Park Community Announcements

Ingie Vruno: Long-time Acacia Park member Ingeborg "Ingie" Vruno passed away on Sunday, July 12th at Bickford Senior Center in Oswego, IL. Ingie was a committed church member who for many years taught Sunday school as well as Vacation Bible School. She also supervised the church's nursery and served as a dedicated member of the Altar Committee. A luncheon and celebration of Ingie's life will be planned for later this year. (Ingie pictured far right with her daughter Gail Johnson in October 2019.)



Follow the ELCA on social media: Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and video across many platforms. Look for us at Facebook.com/Lutherans; [@ELCA on Twitter](https://Twitter.com/ELCA); [@ELCA on Instagram](https://Instagram.com/ELCA) and YouTube.com/ELCA. We are church together! Engage your faith through these online communities of Lutherans.

Prayer Requests



Allie: nurse at Lutheran General Hospital
Jackie: nurse
Susan Mari: medical student
Shar & George Wyatt: loss of loved one
Katie, Gene, Sean, Megan: grocery store employees
Kelly Smith: nurse
Diana O'Connell: 911 dispatcher
Rich O'Connell: firefighter
Sheri, Lauren, Dan, Kevin: Costco employees

Carlie Figliuolo: paramedic
Haley Stec: paramedic
Frank Stec: paramedic
Erv Siemers: health
Family of Doris Mellinger: condolences
Stewart: general prayers

J.: for the promotion she is seeking
Nettie Richards
Burse Wince
Bonnie Wince
Police and correctional officers: general prayers

If you have loved ones working in hospitals, grocery stores, or other essential-worker capacities, please share their names so that we may lift them up in prayer. You may also share other prayer concerns such as lost jobs, health, anxiety, etc. Email your prayer requests to: pastormeagan@gmail.com or acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com.

***Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.***

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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