



*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Illinois*

## Monthly news & updates

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March 2021

### Worship & Christian Education

#### Sunday Worship

**Anytime:** Self-guided communion worship through the YouTube worship video.

**9:15-10:30 am:** Zoom worship where we can experience the self-guided worship together.

**10:30-11:30 am:** Fellowship time in break-out rooms

1. Room one for fellowship
2. Room two for text study and discussion of the worship experience

#### Zoom Bible Study

Tuesday, March 30th at 7:00 pm. (Via Zoom)

### Parish Events & Notes

#### Church Council Meeting

Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 pm

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

### Preparing for Holy Week

**No Maundy Thursday Service**  
**Virtual Good Friday Service**  
**Easter Sunday Service**

The plan for Easter Sunday (April 4th) is to have a service in the sanctuary with CDC guidelines while also livestreaming via Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook (granted technology wants to work with us). Of course, it's subject to change based on vaccination and infection rates.

### Ministry

If you would like to contact us, please email Pastor Meagan at [pastormeagan@gmail.com](mailto:pastormeagan@gmail.com), or call/email the church office at 708-453-3662 & [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com).

## The Prince(ess) returns

Dear Acacia Park party people,

To say I'm returning is an inaccuracy, but it's a catchy headline that I'm sure made some of you read the first few lines of this letter. If that's true, than I'm happy knowing that I was important enough to scroll down the email for (we're going for user engagement here people).

As someone who was born and raised by Acacia Park it isn't lost upon me that this is a cyclical moment in my life. Most of you reading this were around for when my mom was pregnant with me and some of you have probably met me in passing. Make no mistake, however, I do consider myself to be Acacia Park royalty. Whether it's my mother's position with the counsel or my Grandmother's status as [legend](#), I seem to find myself just as involved in Norridge Institutions as the women before me.

My main goal while I'm here with you all is to give everything a nice facelift (a real classy one like whoever's doing Lynda Carter's). I'll try to be as prompt as I can be with Office Communications and I hope that, with feedback, we can all get the look and feel we want this church to have to itself and to guests.

Your Dearest,  
James

## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Beloved,

At the beginning of Lent we heard God claim Jesus in his baptism and God called him, "my beloved." During this season of the calendar year, we tend to feel a little more tired and run down. Our energy is lower which causes us to not feel as good emotionally. During these colder months when we are just longing for spring to fully kick in, it is good to have the reminder that we are beloved.

When Ingrid, my oldest daughter, was baptized her Godmother made her a banner that had the passage from Isaiah in which God is reminding Israel that they are a loved community. God told the Israelites, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

You are God's and you are beloved. I feel the need to keep reminding people of that right now. In my other jobs, chaplain and therapist, I keep encountering people that feel they are at the end of their ropes. The heaviness of the past year is taking its toll. I am hearing a lot of hurt, anger, exhaustion, despair. It is normal for these emotions to heighten in us toward the end of winter, but this year the emotions feel more extreme. We are all just plain exhausted and we are not getting our souls refilled, and this is when people need faith.

We need to be reminded that someone calls us by name and claims us as their own. You belong to God. We need to feel like someone cares for us and our loneliness, our sorrow, our hurt. You are beloved.

If the rest of the winter is weighing on you and you feel you have nothing else to give, first, know that you are not alone. These feelings are heightened right now. And, also know that God is with you, God named and claimed you, God considers you beloved. (And, so do I).

There are some numbers we have hanging around the church in case you feel the need to reach out to a professional. I will share them below. And, also remember, that I am a licensed therapist and I offer 3 sit downs with each of you and if you find that you have more to sort through I will give a referral.

You have support around you, even if it doesn't feel that way. This is part of our Lenten journey, to find our way back to God. May you use this season of Lent to hear God's voice that is claiming you as Beloved.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Meagan

**National Suicide Hotline:** 1-800-784-2433

**Depression Hotline:** 1-630-482-9696 (not 24 hours)

## Prayer Requests

*Please keep the following people in your prayers . . .*

Bonnie Cousins  
Katie Dupree  
Linda Engler  
Marion Engler  
Frank Gondela  
Dorothy Hauserman  
Ruth Igoe  
David & Ann Jones  
Nancy & Bob Komada

Helen Lanners  
Elsie Michelsen  
Everly Ramirez  
Nettie Richards  
Ringelstein Family  
Erv Siemers  
Bonnie Wince  
Sondra Wince  
Shar and George Wyatt

. . . and essential workers, health care workers, police officers, correctional officers, and the more than 429,000 Americans lost to Covid-19.

Acacia Park Lutheran Church | [acaciaparkchurch.com](http://acaciaparkchurch.com)  
4307 N Oriole Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706  
708-453-3662 | [acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaparkchurch@gmail.com)

*Church office hours: Will be updated and shared in the Sunday Bulletins*

