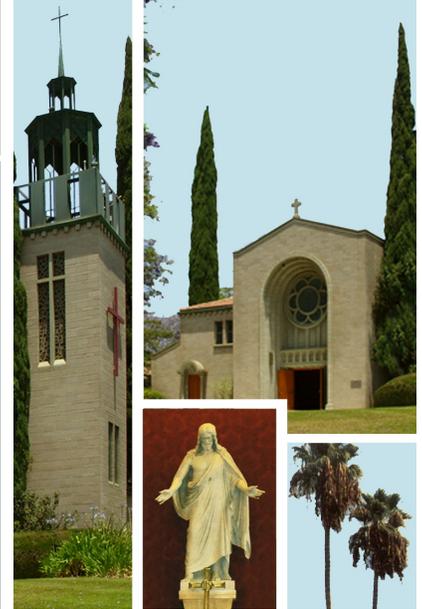
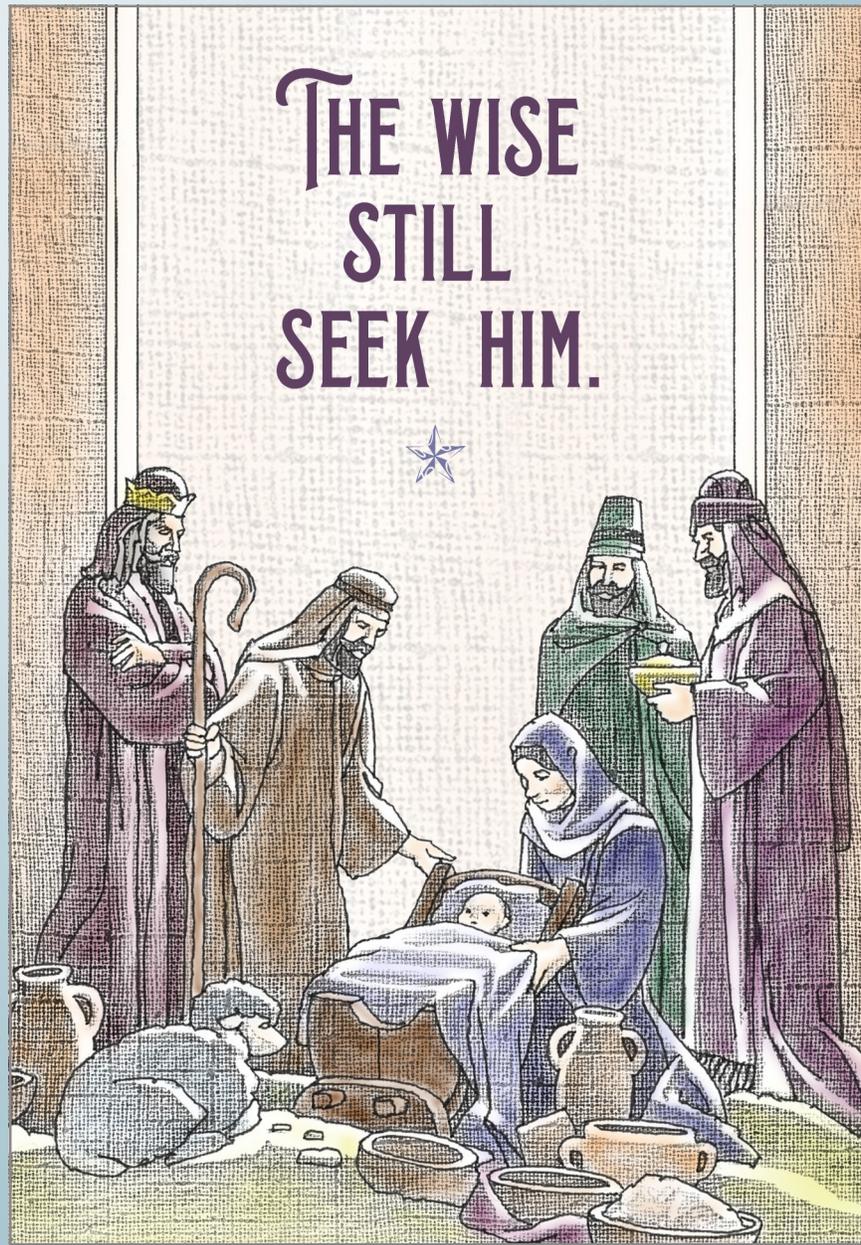


The Messenger

January 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for

EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



JANUARY'S FEATURES

Looking Ahead
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Eden's Mission: . . . "to love God and all people in Jesus Christ, drawing others into a relationship with him, working together to expand his reign of hope, justice, and peace in our community, and the world."

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Looking Ahead:

January 1: New Year's Day
January 6: Epiphany



January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January Food Drive:



Rice



Pastor: kekrog@earthlink.net
Office: 951.684.3336
E-mail: info@edenlutheran.org

Signup for email updates!

Sign-up now to receive Eden's Lutheran's announcements, news, and worship information:

<https://edenlutheran.org/signup-for-email-updates/>



Dear Eden Family,
 I sincerely thank each of you for your incredible generosity this holiday season, which has filled our hearts with so much joy. We are grateful for every blessing; special thanks to Pastor Kim, Lynnea Dunaj, Pat Sinclair, Erv, and Joan Seidel for everything you have done and continue to do for the foster children and my girls.

With gratitude,
 Eva Gutierrez & Family

Dear Eden Family,
 Thank you for your cards and kind words on the passing of my Mom. They continue to provide comfort during this difficult time.



Sincerely,
 Dave Grefe and Family

Council's Corner

October 2025

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President



Merry Christmas! I hope you have a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and happiness.

Our meeting was held November 18th. Members present: Lynnea Dunaj, Harvey Clark, Chuck Wilson, Pat Sinclair, Gary Hudson, and Martin Silveira. Members absent: Katie Williams and Pastor Kim.

The year is winding down but Eden is gearing up for a busy 2026. The council opted out of the bishop's proposal to join a Co-op with other congregations. This program would have rotating pastors and deacons that serve several churches within the group. Eden has decided to continue with our search for a full-time pastor. The Synod wanted further clarification on our Mission Site Profile (MSP), which we had previously submitted. This clarification was presented at the end of November. Synod has committed to giving its approval in December for publication in January. Synod has searched for a bridge pastor for Eden and Pastor Woody Dale will begin on February 1st. Although we will give a going away potluck for Pastor Kim on December 28th, she has graciously decided to extend her stay through January. Thank you, Pastor Kim. The congregation has enjoyed your time with Eden, and we will miss you. You have been a blessing for us all. The council continues to work on several other issues as the following committee reports show. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Finance Report-Chuck Wilson: The endowment fund shows an increase at the end of the third quarter from \$523,444.00 to \$602,658.00. The security cameras have been installed by Safe-T-Security, our alarm company. A follow-up check on the sinkhole repair will take place after the incoming rainstorm. A motion was made to take no action on the electrical repair until information from a second vendor can be obtained and reviewed. A motion was approved to accept the \$15,000 donation for organ repair. A motion to approve up to \$500 to David Christiansen from the Christmas organ concert was also approved.

Music and Worship-Harvey Clark: A table for remembrance candles and the baptismal font were placed near the front of the altar. Three deceased members were recognized on All Saints day and a baptism was also held. St. Lucia day will be December 7th. Advent begins November 30th and the Saint James setting will be used. Christmas carols will be sung during Advent. December 6th will be the organ concert and on the 21st we will have a children's program in place of the sermon. Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 PM and communion will be by intinction. Pastors last day will be December 28th. A meeting will be

Church COUNCIL

held with Trinity to discuss the availability of Deacon Brenda assisting with some services after Pastor Kim leaves. Lynnea Dunaj will begin discussing our needs with the bishop. The Haugen setting will be used for the Epiphany service on January 11th. Ash Wednesday will be held at Trinity. The MSP status was discussed citing frustration in getting it approved. David Christensen pointed out that children had messed with the underpart of the organ and had pulled his music from the organ area. Harvey will investigate putting a locked door on the side of the organ.

Evangelism and Outreach- Lynnea Dunaj: The NOW's group used the Fellowship Hall for their regular meeting. An all-day Al-Anon luncheon and fundraiser for 80 guests was held in the Fellowship Hall, and they look forward to having additional events at Eden. Pastor Kim held a new membership meeting. The Getsemani church hosted their Thanksgiving event in the Fellowship Hall on Thanksgiving Day. The sack lunch program continues. Eden donated cooking oil to Trinity's food pantry and collected canned vegetables for November. Flyers and programs have been prepared for the Christmas organ concert which is free to the community to attend.

Service and Fellowship- Nancy Liverman: The new member reception was celebrated with a pie social. Pat Sinclair will set up an Angel tree in the narthex. Service and Fellowship will provide refreshments for the organ concert. Luther Glenn farm animals will be at Eden on December 7th and animal food is being requested. A potluck will be held on Pastor's last day, December 28th.

Property Report- Lynnea Dunaj: The sinkhole is repaired but the gutter replacement work will be completed after the incoming rainstorm. Cameras have been installed and have motion sensor lights. A ring type doorbell and signage have been placed at the church double door entry. The bid for electrical work within the sanctuary has been tabled pending a second vendor review. Currently, an electrical current is not running to the front area of the church which affects the sprinkler system. We are trying to fix this project in-house.

Security Report- Gary Hudson: There were no alarm activations for November. Security cameras have been installed around the church campus. A ring type doorbell has been installed at the front church double door entry. The doors are closed and locked at 10:15 during Sunday service. The Alarm.com application has been installed on the church computers. There were two trespassing incidents reported for November. The Police Department responded both times.

Preschool Report- Pat Sinclair: We have a total of 21 full-time students. The Trunk or Treat event was a big success. The fire alarm inspection was on October 27th, and we did not pass

due to the earth fault alarm going off, Dar and Lynnea will meet with the fire alarm service to correct the alarm problem. The kitchen stove hood maintenance was completed at a cost of \$450. A request will go to El Shaddai and the Getsemani church to split the cost three ways. The annual family feast will be held on November 20th. The preschool children will be helping to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary on December 1st. The slate of officers for 2026 are: President, Pat Sinclair, Vice President Erv Seidel, and Secretary, Nancy Liverman. A motion and approval were made to have the church pay all maintenance invoices up front to avoid any late payments. Then the treasurer will meet with the preschool board to determine what percentage of the invoice the preschool is able to pay. A motion and approval was made to pay half of the \$2000 for the repair of the fan and motor replacement of the AC in a preschool classroom. A tentative date of December 19th has been set for the preschool holiday staff Christmas party. Location to be determined.

There will be no Council meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 28, 2026.



Synod Gatherings

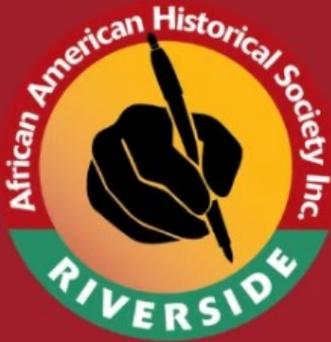
The Inland Area gathering will be held **May 2, 2026** at Trinity in Riverside.

Please save the date and plan to attend!

Proceeds
Benefit

**31st Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Walk-A-Thon**

Marching Towards The Dream



HONORARY CHAIRS

Karen Spiegel
Brent Lee
Charles Bibbs
Sabrina Cervantes



Sponsors

Sponsors



**MONDAY JANUARY
19TH, 2026**



us bank

Walk Starts at 10am -
Bordwell Park Stratton
Communnity Center



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Renewer of Society

The church recognizes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Renewer of Society. As our nation honors his birth with a national holiday on **Monday, January 19**, we also remember him as a church. For an online opportunity from the ELCA, see: <https://www.elca.org/org-events/2026-national-day-of-racial-healing>. Locally, our community will come together for Riverside's 31st Annual MLK Walk-a-thon, beginning at 10 am at Bordwell Park.

See <https://www.raahsinc.com> for more information.



God, we thank you for the inspiration of Jesus. Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and love our neighbors as we love ourselves, even our enemy neighbors. And we ask you, God, in



these days of emotional tension, when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail, to be with us in our going out and our coming in, in our rising up and in our lying down, in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow, until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn.

Amen.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Detroit Council of Churches,

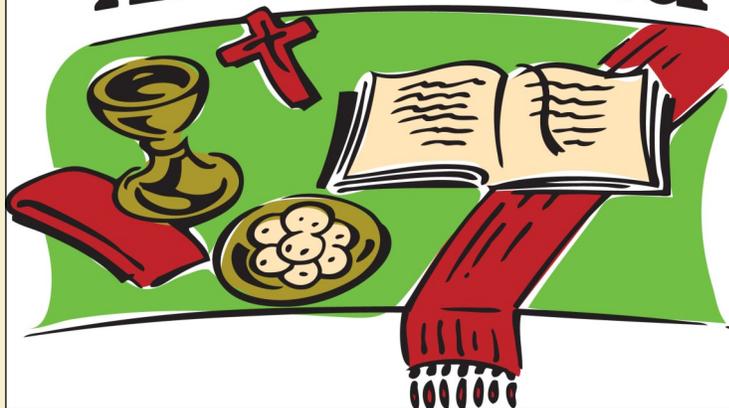
HOPE FOOD PANTRY

The Hope Food Pantry is open at Trinity from 9:00 to 10:30 am every Wednesday. Volunteers are needed to help with the food pick-up on Tuesdays and food distribution on Wednesdays. (You don't need to help every week.) Contact Larry Dodson to volunteer.



Thank you for the cans of vegetables. There was such a large stack of goods in the Narthex; over 160 items. Your generosity during this holiday season is wonderful. So many families can be helped by your donations. Dried beans will be collected for December and rice for January.

Altar Guild



Join our team! We need your help, please consider joining the Altar Guild team. Just a few months commitment each year.

Contact Erin Done - erindone43@yahoo.com or
Patty Grefe - pgrefe@aol.com for more information.



Director's Report December 10, 2025

School Update

- The Family Feast on November 21 was a big success. Joe Andrade (his youngest child left in June) came in the morning and helped cook and organize. Eva, Heaven, Lynnea, and Pat helped serve. After the event Tracy Balow-a Duckie Mom and Heide Wills-a Froggie Grandma stayed to help clean up. It took a village, but we did it.
- The students decorated the tree in the sanctuary on Dec.1, 2025. Lynnea helped with the decorating and then gave out cookies. It was a hit.
- Immunization report turned in. It is really getting hard to do, they added a lot of hoops to jump through, but we did it.
- Advanced Alarm Systems came in on 12-2 at 9:30am. The first serviceman couldn't figure it out and called for a second. They found that the wires are worn between the Fellowship Hall and the school and that could cause the problem. Lynnea requested an estimate to repair the wiring and an itemized estimate to replace everything else. I have not received that estimate but did receive the bill for the service call on 12-2, it is \$907.50.
- The kitchen vent has been cleaned; the cost was \$450. This needs to be split with the groups that use the kitchen.
- We earned \$195.00 with our Handprint fundraiser.
- At the quarterly Licensing meeting last night, they showed which policies schools are being written up for the most. First thing this morning, I checked each one of them and we are good.

Upcoming Events

- Our annual Classroom Christmas Parties are December 17, 2025. Parents will provide the fixings.
- Eden Lutheran School's Christmas Program will be December 19 at 10:00 am. You are all welcome.
- Our annual Staff and School Board Christmas Potluck will be December 19, at 6:30 pm. Katie has graciously volunteered her house. See you there!
- I will be on vacation Dec.20-Jan.5. The schedule is completed and will be sent to Pat and posted by the time clock.



Bulletin Board

Please Remember
Our
"FOOD
INGATHERING"



Please bring canned or non-perishable food for distribution to those less fortunate.

Remember

!!!



Lock your car in the
Parking Lot

Park near a light at night



Ladies !!

Guess whose face is missing
from this picture?

Yours of course ~ if you haven't joined the Ladies Lunch Group !!!

We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at various restaurants around town. Check Sunday's bulletin to see the restaurant where we will be meeting the next day.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests, please call Marlyn Pounds at: 951.990.6030

Call Marlyn if you would like to volunteer for the Prayer Chain.

We are Independent Agents representing Several Companies for Medicare Advantage, Supplement Plans and other types of Insurance. Our services are at no cost to you. We are Compensated by the Companies of your choice. Let us help you, your family and friends find the Product and Plan that best suits YOUR particular Needs.

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626-589-9316



The Property Ministry appreciates any help you can give to keeping our property beautiful and well maintained to the Glory of God. If you see or know of items that you feel you can not correct yourself, you may contact Erv Seidel or Ron Sinclair.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Fridays at 10:00

For Details Contact:

James Sansom 951.351.8139
Or
Dave McAnern 951.686.6443

r d 

Thank you for donating cookies, candy and/or bags of chips for Eden's Sack Lunch Ministry.



30 sack lunches are made every Thursday morning.

Ervin & Joan Seidel (951) 780-2397

Messenger Deadline

The deadline for any article/information for the Messenger is the 10th of every month. If this date falls on a weekend the deadline will be the following Monday. If Monday is a holiday, it will be the following Tuesday!

Submit to David Grefe via e-mail either as an attachment done in Word, Word Perfect, Publisher, OR as text in the main body of the e-mail. For those without a computer, submission can be made by giving copy to Christina in the Office or David Grefe: dgrefe@aol.com

“YOUR AD HERE”

Let me know if you have information you'd like published every month in this space. Note my contact info above or call me at:
951-328-9267
David Grefe, Editor

◆ Thrivent Action Grants

If you are a Thrivent member, you may be eligible for Thrivent Action Grants and/or Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thrivent Action Teams provide two \$250 Visa gift cards to members annually to be used on service projects such as donation drives, community projects, fundraisers, and educational events. Please let Nicolette know if you would like some help with ideas or the application process for action grants. We want to make use of this opportunity in funding our service activities. Thrivent Choice Dollars allow you to designate Eden as the recipient for donations through Thrivent Choice. Learn more at www.thrivent.com.



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Steve Done - Real Estate Professional

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Handiwork

EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

the ELCW:

a Community for All the Women of
Eden Lutheran Church

Bible Study and Women's Fellowship

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY,

JANUARY 14

10:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY LEADER:

MARLYN POUNDS

WITH THE JAN.

ISSUE OF GATHER

MAGAZINE.

AT

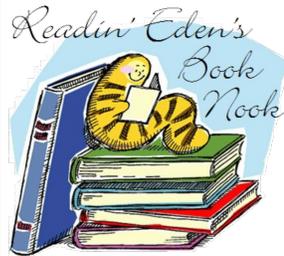
LIISA KANE'S

217 E. SHADY

GROVE DR.

PHONE:

951-686-4821



Dear Eden Family,

**Readin' Eden will NOT meet in
December of 2025.**

We will have our annual Christmas Potluck and Party on **Sat., Jan. 3, 2025** at 1100 a.m. at Liisa Kane's. We will be talking about Carole Hodgerson's December book choice, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

HORSE

by *Geraldine Brooks*

"A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Horse is based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking Civil War-era thoroughbred Lexington, the people who cared for him, the artists who painted him, and the scientists who study his bones. Moving deftly from the southern racing world of the 1850s to the New York art scene in the 1950s and into the labs of the present-day Smithsonian, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism."

On Jan. 3 please bring some food to share and a wrapped book for the gift exchange.

We will meet also on Sat. Jan. 31 at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa's. Everyone should bring the book they ended up with on Sat. Jan. 3 or another book they've read and tell us a little about it. Carole Hodgerson will be the hostess for that meeting.

Questions? Call me.—*Carol Mc* 951-686-6443

OUR EDEN FAMILY



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	
16	James ♥ Tracy Gruender
22	Richard ♥ Marilyn Anderson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	
3	Bobby Clark
4	Janet McCaulley
7	Michael Swieca
8	Carol McAnern
9	Susan Downer Susan Swieca
12	Robert Frey
13	Derek Adkins
22	Emily Done Chuck Wilson

Please notify the office if your birthday or wedding anniversary is incorrectly listed, or missing.

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



January Taize Worship

Trinity Lutheran
Monday, January 12 at 7 pm
Be still and know that I am God.
(Psalm 46:10)

Several churches in Riverside take turns hosting a Taizé service on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. Taizé is a contemplative style of worship featuring meditative songs, inspiring readings, and prayerful silence. The January Taizé worship will be held Monday, January 12 at 7 pm at Trinity Lutheran (5969 Brockton Ave.). Please plan to attend!





Evi Sihomping Update

Evi Sihomping is one of the active members of Getsemani Indonesian Lutheran Ministry which worships at Eden. Evi had been living in California since 2005. She was picked up by ICE from her home in Loma Linda on June 7 and held at Adelanto, where Pacifica Synod helped lead a vigil for her in October. Pastor Robert Waworuntu has now shared the news that Evi has been deported to Indonesia. Pastor Robert is in communication with her lawyer to learn her location and to stay in touch with her pastorally. Please continue to pray for Evi and for her family, who remain in the United States.

A DOSE of HUMOR



Attention Eden Members!



Ralphs and Food4Less offers a Community Contribution Program that helps to support our church. It is free to participate and then Eden automatically receives a small rebate based on the amount of your purchase. You can register at ralphs.com or call 1-800-443-4438. The organization number is **DN619**.

Provident Bank

Eden also has the opportunity to receive contributions from Provident Bank. Their Community Partnership Program allows Eden to receive an annual donation on behalf of Provident Bank.

Here's how it works:

Eden Lutheran Church has been given a partnership code as a participant in the Community Partnership Program. As a program supporter of Eden Lutheran Church, simply ask a Provident Bank representative or visit a branch to have your Provident bank account(s) linked to Eden Lutheran Church's participation code. No information is shared between your accounts to the organization. Information and up sheets are in the church office and narthex. Please support Eden to earn our annual donation from Provident bank today. Simply visit a

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – OUTREACH UPDATES

Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



One of Eden's outreach ministries is a sack lunch program for the needy and homeless in our community. Every Thursday morning, 30 sack lunches are made and delivered to our sister church Trinity Lutheran.

Trinity also hosts 'Showers of Hope' a weekly ministry offering mobile showers to people who want them. 'Showers of Hope' provides the small team needed to operate and clean the shower. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is also on site to offer their help and services. Trinity, LSS and others distribute personal hygiene items, clothes and Eden's sack lunches.

Donations of food items like candy, cookies, chips or bottled water are always welcome. Contact Ervin and Joan Seidel at (951) 780-2397 for any additional information.



We need your help to make worship meaningful and beautiful. Do you want to be a reader, assisting minister, acolyte, or greeter? Do you have a musical skill you would like to share? Do you want to assist with technical aspects of worship, like running Zoom, or the projection screen? We offer all of the training you could need. All it takes is a willingness to serve.

Please see Council President Lynnea Dunaj with any offers to assist during worship.
Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED



NEW DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The October, November, December edition of Christ in Our Home is now available in the church office and the nar-

Christ in our Home is a wonderful tool to use in preparation for Sunday worship. The meditations for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and Sunday each week are based on the Old Testament, Psalm, and New Testament readings, respectively, that are presented during worship that Sunday at worship. The Sunday meditation is based on the Gospel that is read that Sunday.

And the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday meditations come from the Daily Lectionary readings as a follow-up to the previous Sunday's selections.

This devotional is a gift to each member, so please avail yourself of this special opportunity.

2024 ☩ 2025 COUNCIL

- President
Lynnea Dunaj
- Vice President
Harvey Clark
- Secretary
Katie Williams
- Treasurer
Chuck Wilson
- Members At Large:
Pat Sinclair
Jasmine Simmons
Gary Hudson
Linda Ward



Please visit our websites for news and notes:

<https://edenlutheran.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Edenlutheranchurch/>

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- DIRECTOR EDEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL: Darlene Keaneman
- PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION: Lynnea Dunaj
- ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY : Eva Gutierrez
- Bookkeeper Maritza Valenzuela
- DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST: David Christensen
- EDITOR: David Grefe

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ... 10:00AM
.....
- COFFEE HOUR 11:00AM

EDEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

Monday through Friday ✘ 6:30am to 5:30pm ✘ 18 Months through Pre-K

Eden Lutheran Church
4725 Brockton Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506

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Eden Lutheran Church & School



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Riverside, CA 92506

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am - 12:00pm
Monday - Friday

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
edenlutheran.org



Pacifica Synod

OFFICE PHONE:
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
(951) 683-7001