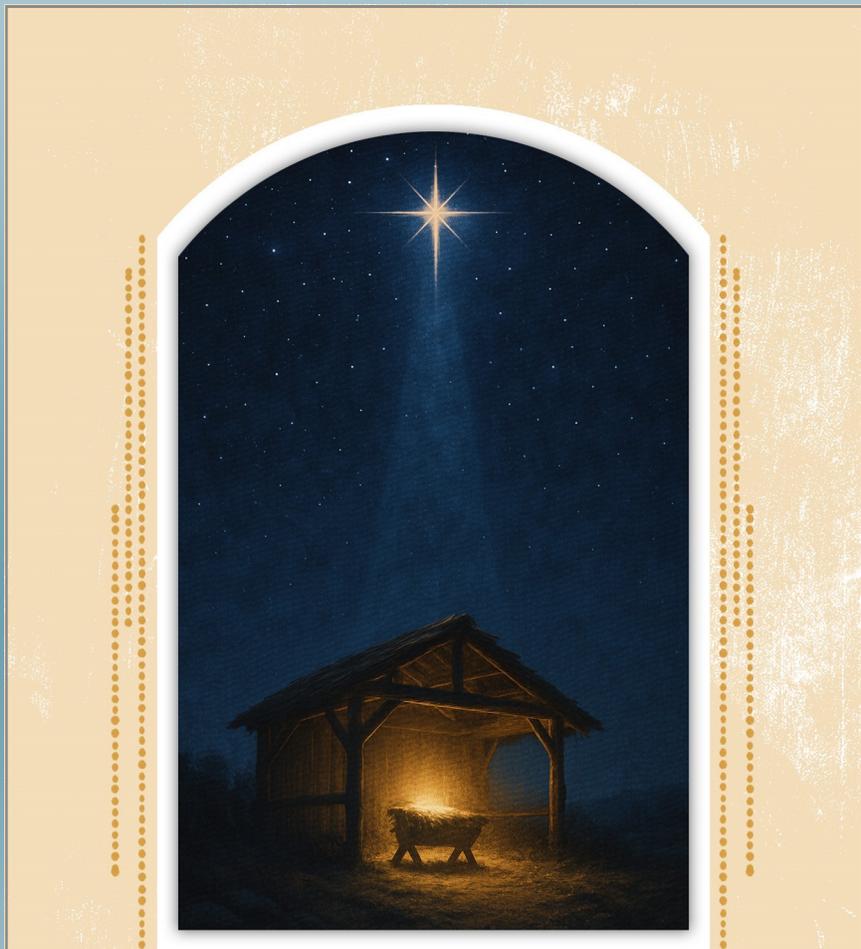


# The Messenger

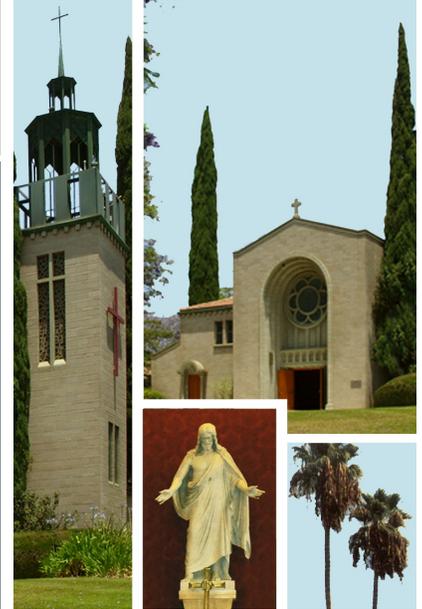
December 2025

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for  
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Behold, a virgin shall be with child,  
and shall bring forth a son, and  
they shall call his name Emmanuel,  
which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:23, KJV



## DECEMBER'S FEATURES

Looking Ahead  
*Inside cover*

Council Corner  
*page 1*

Pre-School News  
*page 7*

Bulletin Board  
*page 8*

ELCW Handiwork  
*page 10*

Outreach  
*page 16*

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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Our Eden Family	11
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**Looking Ahead:**

**December 21:** First Day of Winter

**December 24:** Christmas Eve

**December 25:** Christmas Day



**December 31:** New Year's Eve

**December Food Drive:**



**Dried Beans**



*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/>

**Holiday Concerts and Advent Events**

Along with our **Organ Concert scheduled for December 6, , see flyer on page 3**, here are other events for worship, music, and prayer this season:

- **Sunday, November 30** at 7 pm - Advent Lessons and Carols at All Saints Episcopal Church
- **Saturday, December 6** at 7 pm - Palm Spring Gay Men's Chorus at All Saints Episcopal Church
- **Monday, December 8** at 7 pm - Taizé Worship at First Congregational Church
- **Saturday, December 13** and **Sunday, December 14** at 4 pm - Christmas Concerts at Trinity Lutheran. The choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra.
- **Sunday, December 14** at 7 pm - Messiah Singalong: You are welcome to join in singing Handel's Christmas masterpiece with full orchestra, soloists, and organ at the LDS Stake Center, 4375 Jackson St. This is a free community event.
- **Tuesday, December 16** at 7 pm - Blue Christmas at All Saints Episcopal Church

# Council's Corner

October 2025

*Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President*



October was a busy month. Pastor Kim started off with an Asset Mapping activity. This activity brought the congregation together to gather and list the assets that are available to us through each other's abilities, or knowledge of others that can assist us. The results of this activity will be posted for viewing and contemplation. Fall-O-Ween was held October 11th at the Dunaj residence. This fall event brings the congregation together, away from the church, to visit, eat good food, and to enjoy the Halloween and fall displays. This year, we also had live music. Thank you to all who attended. Bryan and I enjoy your company. Service and Fellowship hosted our potato bake after service this year and it was well attended. The annual meeting was held on the 19th. The Stephen award was presented to James and Ann Samson, recognizing them for all the work and support they've given to the church throughout the years. The budget and audit reviews were approved. And Julio Martinez was elected to the council. He will be installed in January 2026. The Synod is continuing their search in obtaining an intentional interim pastor to assist Eden during this transitional period without a pastor. A donation of \$10,115.00 for World Hunger was submitted thanks to everyone's generous gifts. The amount was matched by the Synod for a grand total of \$20,230. Thank you all! Gary Hudson prepared our Active Shooter presentation concentrating on the "hide" portion of the "Run, Hide, Fight" model. Council meets monthly and both the council and committees work hard to keep church moving forward. Committee reports follow. Please feel free to contact the council with any questions. We will all be glad to help. Members present Lynnea Dunaj, Harvey Clark, Chuck Wilson, Gary Hudson, Martin Silveira, Pat Sinclair, Katie Williams, and Pastor Kim.

**Finance-** Chuck Wilson: Church financials were approved. The endowment fund balance is \$562,864 at the end of second quarter. Third quarter reports have not been received. Funds were donated toward the cost of repairing the sinkhole, repairing the sprinkler systems, and purchasing security cameras. The sinkhole has been repaired, and the installation of cameras by Safe-T-Security was approved. The sprinkler system continues to be worked on. Sanctuary lighting repairs are still being discussed and researched. October income was \$33,078.47 and expenses were \$17,954.93. Income is overstated by the \$10,115 that was collected for World Hunger. **Outreach and Evangelism-** Lynnea Dunaj: Food collection for Trinity's Food Pantry continues. Bryan and Lynnea Dunaj attended the Nows group annual neighborhood gathering event. This event allows the neighborhood to get to know the people and businesses in their local community. The Nows group meets regularly in Eden's

# Church COUNCIL

Fellowship Hall. Eden has opened its doors to two new community groups in accordance with our mission statement. The Getsemani church held their annual three-day conference in the Fellowship Hall. **Service and Fellowship-** Nancy Liverman: The next two months are busy with various events. The Potato Baked lunch was on October 12th. The first Angel tree will be set up in the narthex to support the single dad with five children. Reformation Sunday fellowship will be hosted by Carol Hodgeson with apple themed treats. November 9th will be an ice cream social event in honor of Veteran's Day. New members will be recognized on November 23rd with a pie social held during fellowship. Pat Sinclair will set up the second Angel tree on November 30th. This supports Eva, our secretary, who has taken on three young foster children along with her two teenage daughters. December will be busy with our Christmas Organ Concert, Luther Glen farm animal visit, Christmas carols being sung during service, and our Christmas Eve service. **Property Report-**Lynnea Dunaj: The sinkhole has been repaired. Regarding the sprinkler system repair, electricity is not reaching the water control panels. Martin Silveira is working on this issue. The electrical bid from RDM Electric came in at a high cost. Currently, we are working with the company to review a possible cost reduction. **Learning and Education-** Katie Williams: Sunday school began the end of September, and it typically has between 9 to 11 kids each week. They are working on presenting a Christmas musical to the congregation. **Security Report-** Gary Hudson: There were five alarm activations during October. The alarms were deactivated, avoiding unnecessary police response. The PowerPoint training session on "Run, Hide, Fight" was presented to the congregation emphasizing the hide component. There were several incidents involving trespassers this month. Gary presented a protocol outlining appropriate action for staff and teachers to follow. **Events-** Gary Hudson: A game night is being considered for January. The "Taste of Eden" event may be held in February. **Preschool-** Pat Sinclair: Minutes for both August and October were reviewed. No meeting was held in September. The director's report announced enrolling a new student. Back to School night was well attended. The preschool gate codes have been changed. The preschool is selling Shop Riverside cards. The annual Trunk or Treat event will be held on October 31st followed by a pizza party. The fire inspection was completed and there were no citations- great job! The fire alarm check will be held on October 31st for the preschool and Fellowship Hall. Unfortunately, the air conditioning required repair. The kitchen vent maintenance is due on November 8th.

The next council meeting will be held on **November 18th**, a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday. No meeting will be held in December.



# Christmas Organ Concert

## Eden Lutheran Church

Featuring  
**David Christensen**

**Saturday**

This Is A Free Concert  
Refreshments  
immediately following  
[info@EdenLutheran.org](mailto:info@EdenLutheran.org)

**Dec. 6th**  
**2-4pm**  
A Goodwill Offering Will  
Be Accepted

**4725 Brockton Ave.**  
**Riverside, CA. 92506**  
**(951) 684-3336**  
[www.EdenLutheran.org](http://www.EdenLutheran.org)



# SPIRITUAL PRACTICE IN COMMUNITY

**MONDAYS THIS FALL**

**SEPT 15 · OCT 20 · NOV 17 · DEC 15**

**6PM PST | 7pm Mountain**

**(90 minutes)**

**COME TO 1 OR COME TO ALL**

**SIGN UP:**

**BIT.LY/TLFSPIRITUALPRACTICES**



**THRIVING**  
Leadership Formation

## **Spiritual Practice in Community**

Join Thriving Leadership Formation for an evening of spiritual practice in community.

Come to one or all, come as you can.

**September 15 · October 20 · November 17 · December 15**

6pm-7:30pm pacific standard time

A one time registration is needed to receive the zoom link to attend:

[bit.ly/TLFSpiritualPractices](https://bit.ly/TLFSpiritualPractices)

# Christmas *Fair*

---

<p>November 29, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danish pastries</li> <li>• Æbleskiver &amp; Gløgg</li> <li>• Holiday meats</li> <li>• Handcrafted, unique gifts</li> <li>• Scandinavian imports</li> </ul>	<p>10 am - 3 pm</p> <p>The Danish Cultural Center 16881 Bastanchury Rd Yorba Linda, CA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">danishchurchsocial.com 714.993.6362</p>
--	--

**Christmas Fair at the Danish Lutheran Church**  
 Danish Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda will be hosting a Christmas Fair on  
**Saturday, November 29, 2025** from 10am to 3pm. Admission is free.  
 This event features Scandinavian food and gifts.



*Alternative Gift Fair*  
 Sunday, Dec. 7 11 am-3 pm



Join us to buy gifts that support a better world, including vendors such as 10,000 Villages, Heifer International, Pencils and Dreams, Human Migration Institute, United Women in Faith, Riverside Food Co-op, Soroptimist International, Assistance League of Riverside, the Guatemala Project, Malia Designs, PEO and many more. This is an interfaith and sustainable event that includes music, soup and community. Parking is free and easy at 4845 Brockton Ave., Riverside.



## Alternative Gift Fair

This annual event offers holiday shopping that supports local craftspeople and good causes, as well as music and soup!  
 Plan on dropping by this community event **Sunday, December 7** following worship.

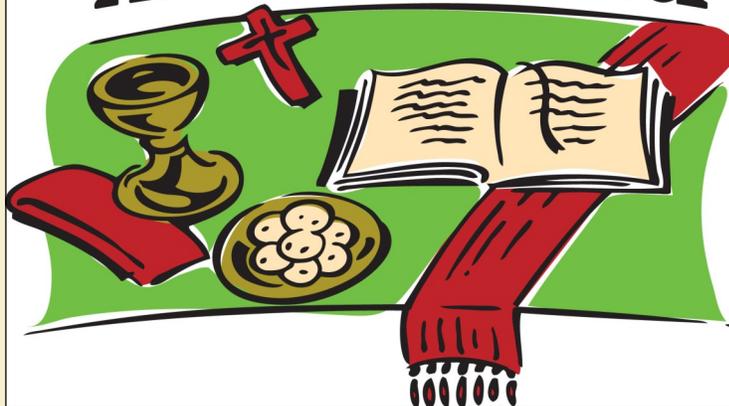
## HOPE FOOD PANTRY

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 all for donating 176 items of canned fruit items to our collection for Trinity's Food Pantry. In November, we will be gathering canned vegetables, and in December, dried beans. Your generosity is such a blessing to those in need.

## 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](mailto:erindone43@yahoo.com) or  
Patty Grefe - [pgrefe@aol.com](mailto:pgrefe@aol.com) for more information.

## Director's Report November 12, 2025

### School Update

- Our annual Trunk & Treat was Friday, Oct.31, 2025. We had a great time. We had 10 trunks and two face painting stations staffed by parent volunteers. After this the children enjoyed pizza purchased by Marina's family and fixins provided by the other parents.
- Advanced Alarm Systems came at 6:00 am on October 27th. The inspector stated that the system failed due to an Earth Fault alarm going off. This happens all the time and I was told by the owner of Advanced that it does not affect the alarm and is caused by wet wires somewhere. I have spoken to the assistant; she will have the owner review our file and call us.
- The kitchen vent is due for maintenance. Last year the cost was \$450, I believe it should be similar this year. This cost is split with the organizations that use the kitchen.
- Cameras were installed outside on November 10, 2025. Gary Hudson stayed with the installer.

### Upcoming Events

- Our annual family feast will be at 11:30 am on Friday, November 20, 2025. There is a sign-up sheet for parents in my office. Everyone is looking forward to fun and a delicious lunch. Everyone is invited to attend.





# B u l l e t i n B o a

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.

## DEGAR INSURANCE SERVICES



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Riverside, CA 92507

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



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](mailto: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](http://www.thrivent.com).



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Anytime!**

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## WEALTH MANAGERS

Investments-Real Estate-Mortgage-Insurance



### Steve Done - Real Estate Professional

If you are thinking of a real estate move, or just have questions. I'm here. Let's discuss your goals. I have 15 years of experience and have bought and sold all over California. I'll be there to guide you every step of the way.

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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,**

**DECEMBER 17**

**10:00 AM**

BIBLE STUDY LEADER:

CAROL MC

WITH THE DEC.

ISSUE OF GATHER  
MAGAZINE.

AT

LIISA KANE'S

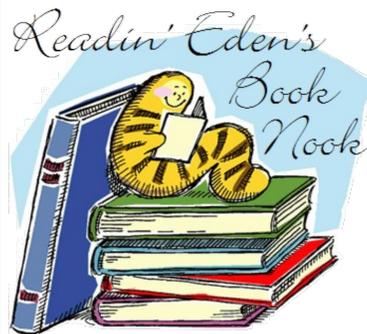
217 E. SHADY  
GROVE DR.

PHONE:

951-686-4821



Ladies  
Bible Study



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 Hodger-  
son's December book choice, "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.  
Carole says,

## 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.

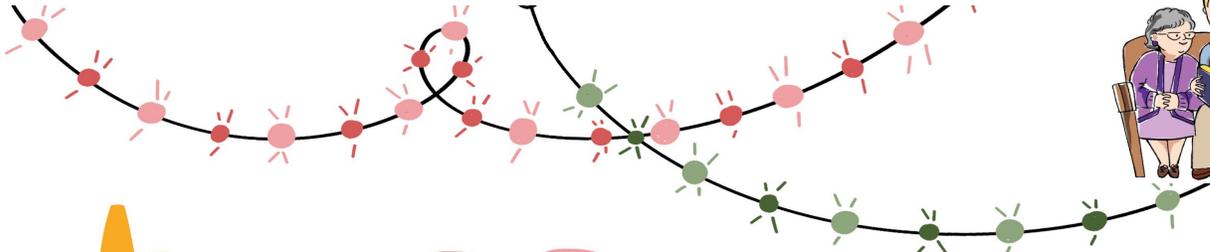
Horse is based on the remarkable true story of the record-  
breaking Civil War-era thoroughbred Lexington, the people  
who cared for him, the artists who painted him, and the sci-  
entists who study his bones. Moving deftly from the south-  
ern racing world of the 1850s to the New York art scene 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.

Questions? Call me.

Carol Mc 951-686-6443

# OUR EDEN FAMILY



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
1	Noah Baranowski
5	Katie Williams
6	David Anderson
16	Arlea Anderson
17	Joanna Bengtson
18	Gene Maas
	Justine Seidel
19	Lyle Hodgerson
22	Cory Seidel
25	Michelle Bengtson
26	Ryan Williams
28	Christina Boomsma
30	Jennifer Seidel
	Pr. Linda Brown

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
31	Dick ♥ Sandra Boym

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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!





# December Taize Worship

**First Congregational Church  
Monday, December 8 at 7 pm**

*Be still and know that I am God.*  
(Psalm 46:10)

The November Taizé will be held at First Congregational Church (3504 Mission Inn Ave) on Monday, December 8, at 7 pm. Several churches in Riverside - including Eden! - take turns hosting a Taizé service on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Taizé is a contemplative style of worship featuring music, meditation, and prayerful silence. Please join in this hour of peace and prayer.



# TAIZÉ WORSHIP

## ECUMENICAL MEDITATIVE WORSHIP



Taizé is an interfaith style of worship that incorporates meditative silence, repetitive chanting, and thought-provoking readings. Inspired by the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé, France, this experience encourages the worshiper to have a deep reflective experience in the presence of God. In an effort to strengthen the spiritual engagement of Christians in Riverside, five churches have joined in fellowship to provide this worship opportunity to the community. We hope that you will join us on the second Monday of every month from 7-8pm. For more information, visit [facebook.com/taizeriverside](https://facebook.com/taizeriverside) or contact Sandra Soares at [fccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccucc@sbcglobal.net).

 **EVERY 2ND  
MONDAY 7:00PM**

### 2025 SERVICES

**January 13**

Eden Lutheran Church  
4725 Brockton Ave

**February 10**

Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

**March 10**

All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

**April 14**

First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Ave

**May 12**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
5969 Brockton Ave

**June 9**

Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

**July 14**

All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

**August 11**

First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Ave

**September 8**

Eden Lutheran Church  
4725 Brockton Ave

**October 13**

Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

**November 10**

All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

**December 8**

First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Ave

# 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](http://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.

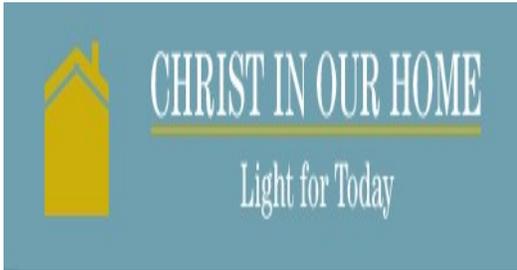


**W**e need your help to make worship meaningful and beautiful. Do you want to be a reader, assisting minister, acolyte, or greeter? Do you have a musical skill you would like to share? Do you want to assist with technical aspects of worship, like running Zoom, or the projection screen? We offer all 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/>

### EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

- INTERM PASTOR: Kim Krogstad
- 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

Address Service Requested

# Eden Lutheran Church & School



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

4725 Brockton Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92506

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
[edenlutheran.org](http://edenlutheran.org)



**Pacifica Synod**

OFFICE PHONE:  
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:  
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:  
[info@edenlutheran.org](mailto:info@edenlutheran.org)

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:  
(951) 683-7001