

The Messenger

February 2026

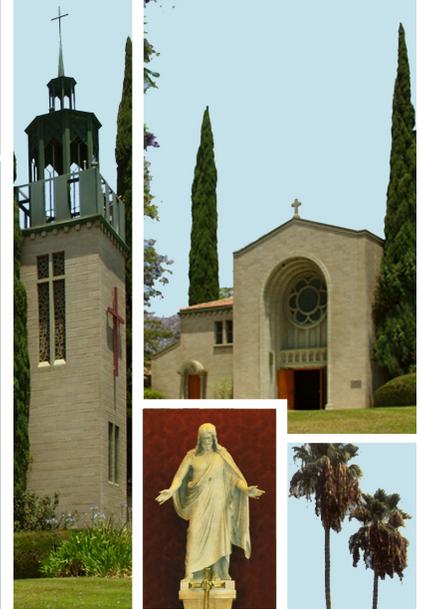
A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for

EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE BEATITUDES

“Rejoice
and be glad,
for your reward
is great in
heaven.”

Matthew 5:12, ESV



FEBRUARY'S FEATURES

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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:

February 2: Groundhog Day

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 15: Transfiguration Sunday

February 16: Presidents Day

February 18: Ash Wednesday

February Food Drive:



Canned Soup



Pastor:
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/>



Exercise Class

Remember we offer exercise class every **Thursday!** Exercises are led by certified trainer Chris Pena and focus on strength, mobility, and balance. The exercises can be done sitting or standing and include laughing and socializing! \$8.00 per session, checks or cash only (no cards).

10:15 am in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome.



Pastor Milo "Ken" Anderson

Pastor Ken Anderson, who worked with Eden during a time of transition in 2022, entered eternal life on December 24, 2025. He served in Pacifica Synod since 2004 and continued his ministry following retirement in 2020, including serving as an interim pastor and facilitator for congregations including Eden. A celebration of life service will be held **January 24, 2026** at 2 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Banning.

Council's Corner

January 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President



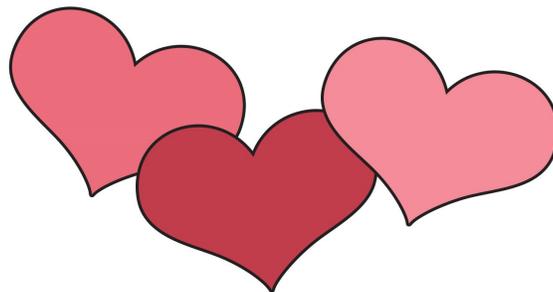
Greetings and Happy New Year! Blessings to everyone and I hope you all had a happy holiday season.

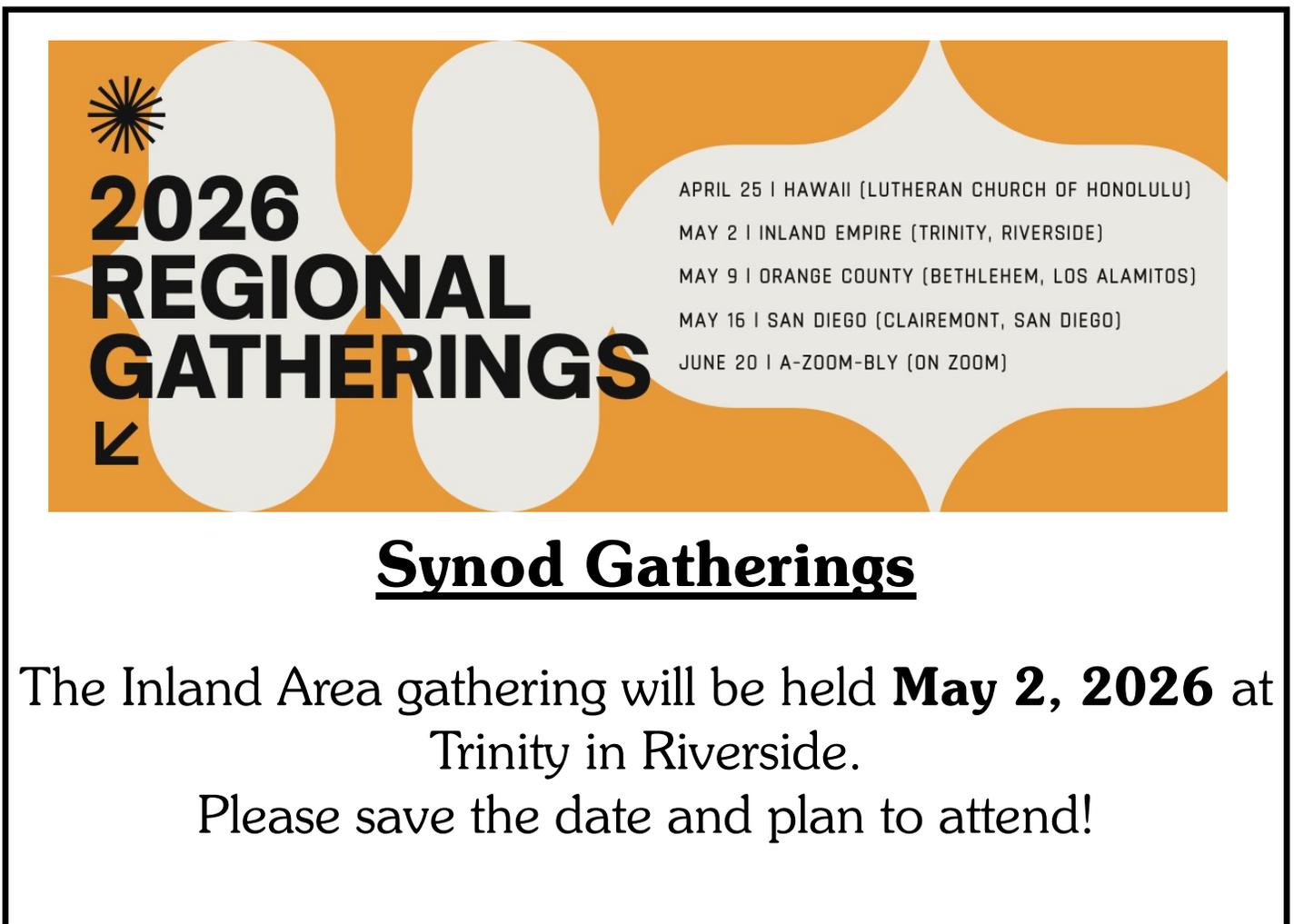
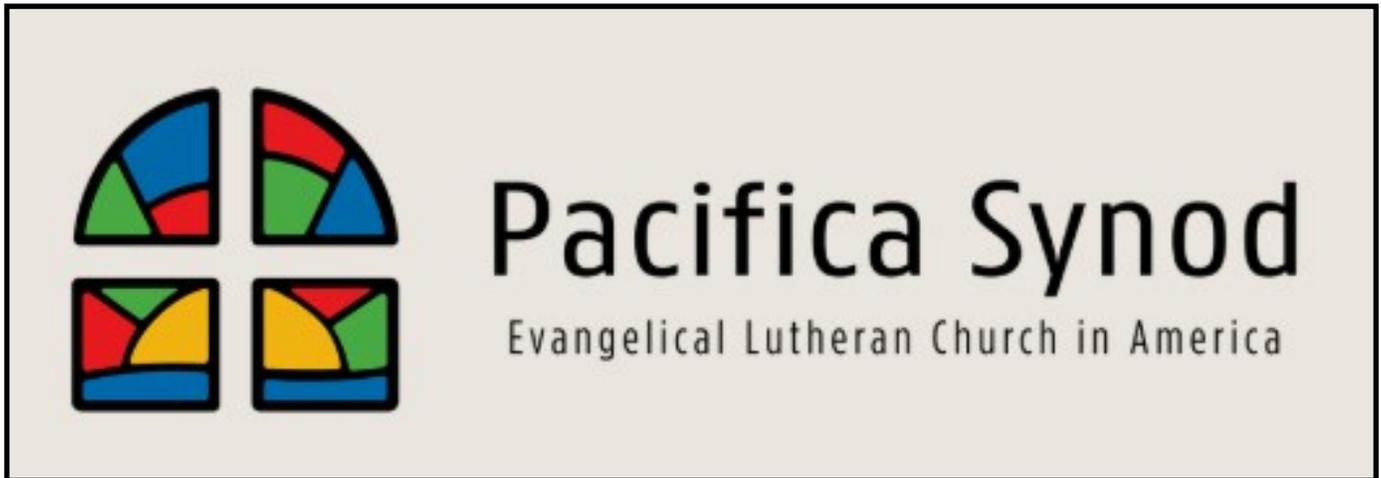
Here it is 2026, and as you know, Council did not meet in December for their regular council meeting. Committee reports will resume next month. Our next Council meeting is January 28th.

During December I continued working with Pastor Darryl on finalizing our Mission Site Profile. This profile is required prior to Eden starting their search for a permanent pastor. I am happy to say that final approval was received as of December 31st, 2025, and our profile is now available for potential applicants to review. All applicant submissions must go through Synod first, prior to being referred to Eden for the interview process.

Council did get together and met with Pastor Woody Hall and his wife Suzan. Pastor Woody will begin **February 1st** as our new bridge pastor and his plans are to stay at Eden until we fill the permanent pastor position. He will continue working part time, the same as Pastor Kim. He has not selected his office days yet. We welcome him and his wife Suzan into our Eden family.

Again, Pastor Kim's last day is **January 25th**, and we will be having a potluck luncheon in her honor. We thank her for her extension of service to Eden. Eden has enjoyed having her as our pastor and she will be truly missed.





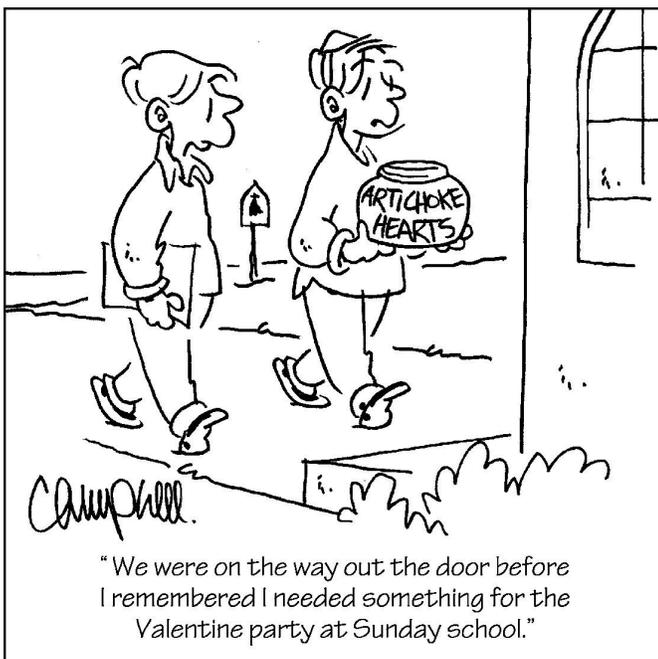
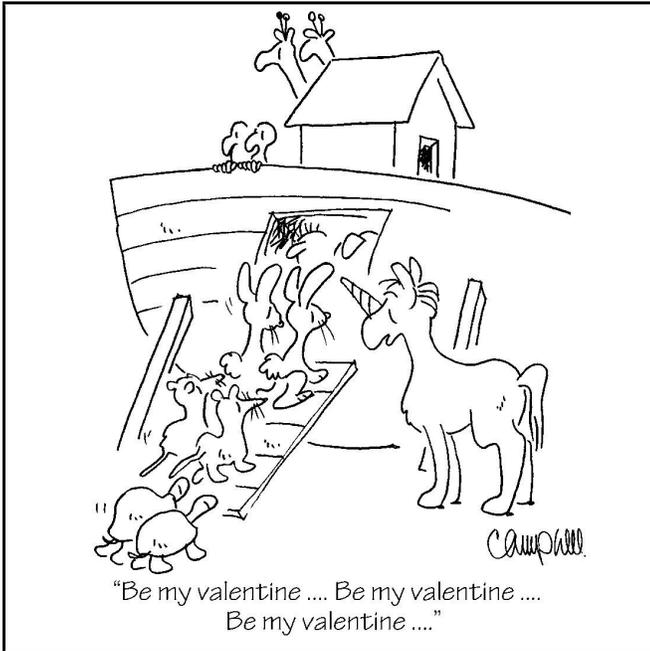
**2026
REGIONAL
GATHERINGS**
⬇

APRIL 25 | HAWAII (LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HONOLULU)
MAY 2 | INLAND EMPIRE (TRINITY, RIVERSIDE)
MAY 9 | ORANGE COUNTY (BETHLEHEM, LOS ALAMITOS)
MAY 16 | SAN DIEGO (CLAIREMONT, SAN DIEGO)
JUNE 20 | A-ZOOM-BLY (ON ZOOM)

Synod Gatherings

The Inland Area gathering will be held **May 2, 2026** at
Trinity in Riverside.
Please save the date and plan to attend!

Heavenly Humor

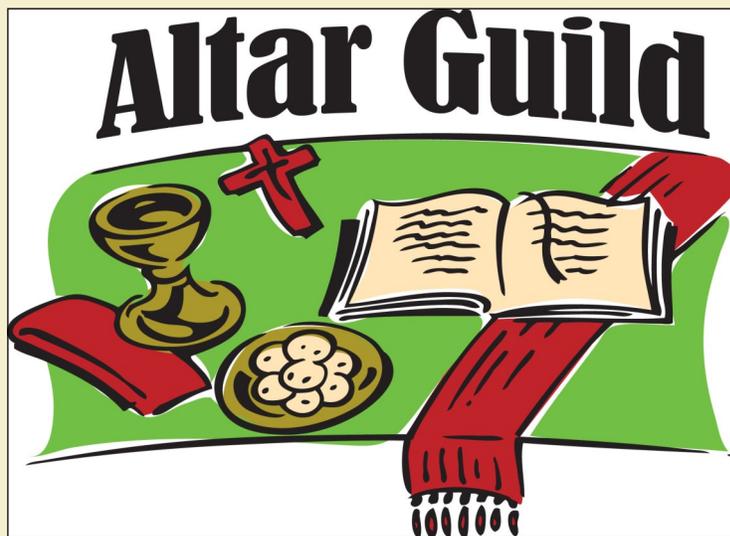


HOPE FOOD PANTRY

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 your generosity in giving to Trinity's Food Pantry. We gave a "hill of beans" during December. We delivered over 96 packages of dried beans. We are collecting rice in January and canned soups for February. Your continued support means so much to so many.



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 January 14, 2026

School Update

- The Elk's vision screening on 1-6 & 7 went well. Two children were prompted to seek further vision assistance.
- As of 1-9-26 we have still not heard from Advanced Alarm systems concerning our fire alarm issues. We decided to try and reach them during the week of 1-12-26.
- The staff and I had a blast at the staff and School Board party on Dec 19, 2026. We would also like to thank the School Board for their generous Christmas Target Cards.
- The classroom Christmas parties on December 17th were a lot of fun for the kids.
- The parents have been reminding me to thank the church for the hats, books and candy. The gifts were truly appreciated.
- On December 19 we also had our Annual Christmas Program. I think it went very well. We had a lot of parents, grandparents, etc... attend. The feedback was excellent.

Upcoming Events

- We are closed next Monday, January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.
- Eva and I are planning to speak with Yelp and have the pictures changed. The pictures included now are outdated and boring. We will not add to cost without permission. We need to see what can be done to boost our visibility.





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.

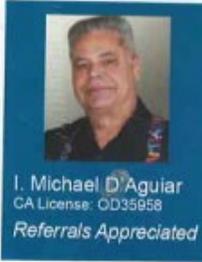
PRAYER CHAIN

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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5726 Allendale Dr
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

"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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the ELCW:
a Community for All the Women of
Eden Lutheran Church

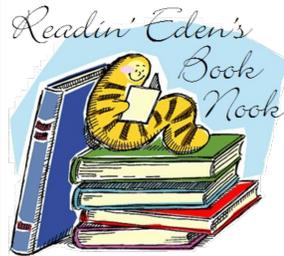
**Bible Study
and Women's
Fellowship**

**NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18
10:00 AM**

**BIBLE STUDY LEADER:
JOAN SEIDEL
WITH THE FEB.
ISSUE OF GATHER
MAGAZINE.**

**AT
LIISA KANE'S
217 E. SHADY
GROVE DR.**

**PHONE:
951-686-4821**



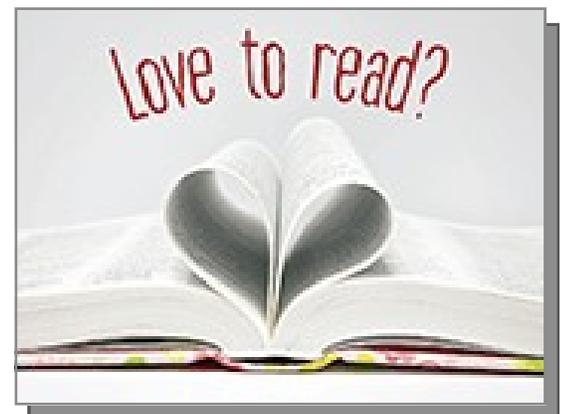
Dear Eden Family,
Readin' Eden will meet on **Sat., Feb. 28** at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa Kane's. We will be talking about Kathy Frost's book choice, "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore. Kathy will be the hostess.

The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore

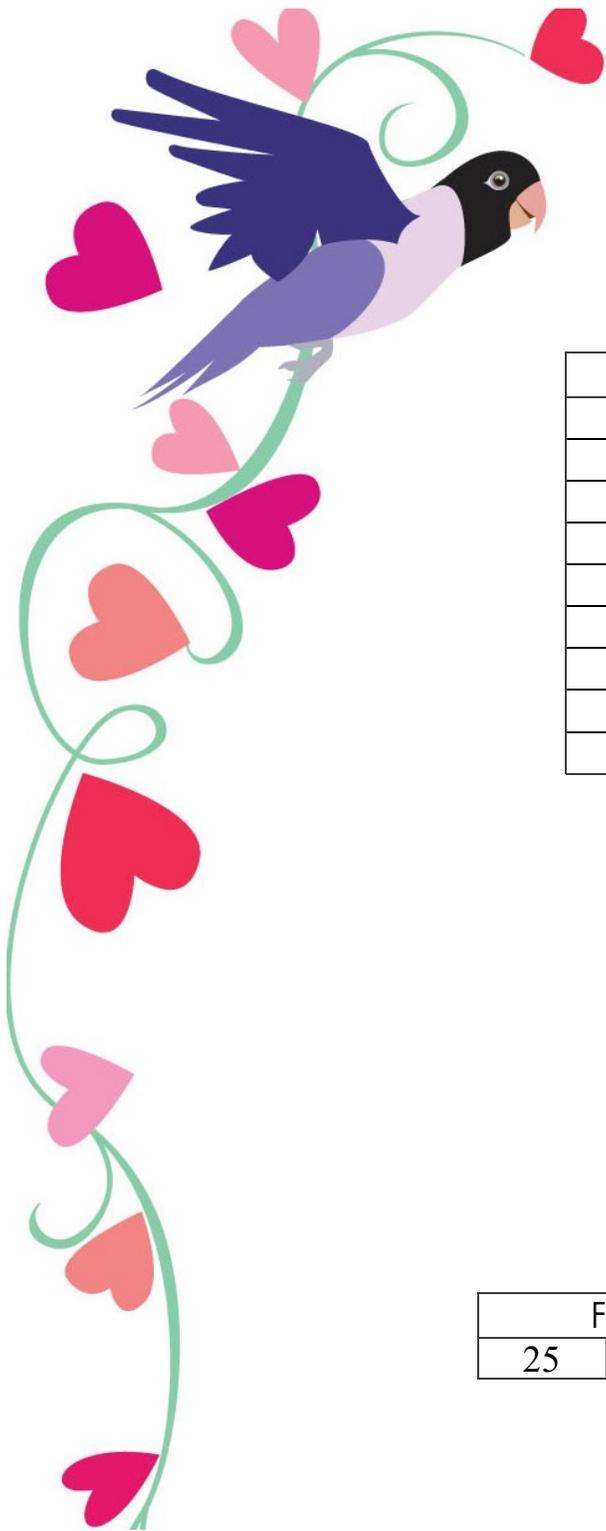
Kathy says, "In 1975, 13-year-old Barbara Van Laar disappears from a summer camp, which triggers an investigation into her vanishing and her family's dark secrets. The case becomes intertwined with the unresolved disappearance of Barbara's older brother, Bear, 14 years earlier from the same family property.

The story is told from multiple perspectives, unfolding through a dual-timeline narrative that explores themes of family, class, inheritance, and identity, ultimately revealing the complex truths behind both children's disappearances."

See you Feb. 28 at Liisa's.
Carol Mc



OUR EDEN FAMILY



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6	Joan Seidel
7	Harvey Clark
	Carole Hodgerson
16	Shanna Done
17	Austin White
20	Luke Williams
	Sandra Abreu
27	Morgan Harris
29	Theora Ross

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

25	George ♥ Kimberly Snyder
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Please notify the office if your birthday or wedding anniversary is incorrectly listed, or missing.

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



February Taize Worship

**Madison Street Church
Monday, February 9 at 7 pm**

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

February's service will be Monday, February 9 at Madison Street Church (3991 Madison St.) at 7 pm. The entrance off Madison Street can be easy to miss, but don't let that deter you: This is a beautiful gathering and all are welcome for this meaningful time of peace and prayer.



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.

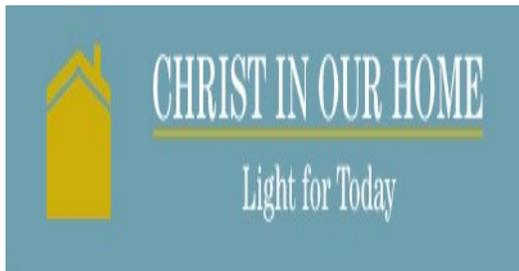


We need your help to make worship meaningful and beautiful. Do you want to be a reader, assisting minister, acolyte, or greeter? Do you have a musical skill you would like to share? Do you want to assist with technical aspects of worship, like running Zoom, or the projection screen? We offer all of the 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 January, February, March edition of Christ in Our Home is now available in the church office and the narthex.

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.

2025 2026 COUNCIL

- President
Lynnea Dunaj
- Vice President
Harvey Clark
- Secretary
Katie Williams
- Treasurer
Chuck Wilson
- Members At Large:
Pat Sinclair
Gary Hudson
Martin Silveira



Please visit our websites for news and notes:

<https://edenlutheran.org>

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

EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

- INTERM PASTOR: Pastor Woody Hall
- 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

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



Pacifica Synod

OFFICE PHONE:
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

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