

The Messenger

April 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



APRIL'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:

April 2: Maundy Thursday

April 3: Good Friday

April 5: Easter

April 22: Earth Day

April 22: Administrative Professionals Day



April Food Drive:



Dried Pasta



Pastor: pstrswife3039@att.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/>

Healing Sessions will be held at the end of service of every last Sunday of the month beginning this month.

Pastor Kim Zoom Bible Study every Tuesday @ 10:30 am
New Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98470998101>

TRINITY RUMMAGE SALE
APRIL 25

Our neighbors at Trinity Lutheran will host a rummage sale on Saturday, April 25 from 8 am - noon in the church parking lot. Shop the sale to support Trinity's ministries in our community.

Save The Date

The Hon. & Mrs. Damon L. and Felicia Alexander request the company of your presence at

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

2026 Gala & Awards

HOPE
STARTS HERE

Saturday, April 18, 2026



Orange Hill
RESORTS & SPA

6410 E Chapman Ave.
Orange, CA 92869



April 2026



It is my hope as we begin to prepare for this coming Easter Sunday, your time of reflection and meditation centered around the Mighty Deeds of God who strengthen our faith, center our life, and empower our witness in the world. Often times we look for outward sources to give us strength, faith and hope like, for instance, others religious opinions, signs, hoping all will go well in our lives. And yet, Paul in his letters to the various communities of faith re-orientates their vision of where true strength comes by turning to our Lord and His suffering, crucifixion and resurrection. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says, “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified (I Corinthians 2:2).

It is easy for us to become downtrodden when we watch the news or the internet, listen and see the sorrows of those around us, or get up in the morning and be inundated by the concerns of our life and the day ahead: worry about the future for our children, the future impact of our most recent medical test or what bills will come in the mail today. All of these and countless others are legitimate concerns we all have which affects the ongoing outcomes of the day and the intrusions which occur to all of us during the night.

But then what is Easter all about? How does it affect our daily lives and the so much living which occurs between sunrise to the next sunrise? One of my favorite Gospel texts centering around the resurrection is John 20:1-31. Jesus greets the disciples a day after the resurrection when they huddled down in a house with the doors and windows locked. Thomas is missing from the group gathered. When Thomas hears Jesus has visited the disciples while he is gone, Thomas is resistant to the message, not believing such an event has occurred. Remember what Thomas says, “Unless I see the marks of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” THANK HEAVEN FOR THOMAS! A week later the disciples, including Thomas, have again gathered in the house. Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Turning to Thomas Jesus says, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side, Do not doubt but believe.” If it were not for Thomas’s questioning and struggling, we may never have had such a clear picture of the resurrection of our Lord. Even in the Resurrection Jesus bears the marks of our sins, our sorrows, our mistakes, our fears, and our struggles. His love, his forgiveness and his hope embraces and carries us through all of the struggles and joys of each day, strengthening us to endure and be faithful. We are never alone to face the worries about our families and friends, what will the medical test show, or what is in the mail.

And if that were not enough, Jesus provides us with a community of faith, who daily shares in the same concerns of the day and night, who will gather in person or through conversations or through prayer to support us, one and all. Truly God has empowered us to be the Body of Christ in the world!



Council's Corner

February 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President

Our meeting was held on February 26, 2026. Members Present: Lynnea Dunaj, Chuck Wilson, Pat Sinclair, Gary Hudson, Martin Silveira, and Pastor Woody. Members absent: Harvey Clark and Katie Williams. Our next meeting will be on March 24, 2026.

Eden is starting a new chapter in its lifetime story. We began by welcoming Pastor Woody and his wife Suzan into our congregational family. Pastor Woody has hit the ground running. One of his purposes here is to assist Eden in preparing for its next permanent pastor. He is reviewing our parish records to verify that they are up-to-date, as well as reviewing our current policies. He is working to provide a clean slate for the next pasture.

Spring is in the air, and we have been working to enhance the beauty of our entire grounds. Roses have been pruned and with the sprinkler repair our grass areas are green again. Some trees, including the palms, will soon be trimmed. We are in the season of Lent. Soup suppers will be held each Wednesday from February 25th to March 25th. Different committees will head up each supper. Eden will host Maundy Thursday on April 2nd and we will be joined by Trinity Church. Good Friday services will be held at Trinity. Eden will perform its own Easter Services and will be providing an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

Council is working hard, as their monthly reports reflect.

Finance-Chuck Wilson: The Endowment Fund is doing well, ending with a balance of \$606,739 as of December 2025. Our checking account balance is \$63,346 and \$40,237 are set aside as Designated Funds. Security cameras and sensor lighting are complete for the Brockton side of the church. Bids are being received on tree trimming. Electrical bids are continuing. Sprinklers are now functional. **Worship and Music-Harvey Clark:** Lent, with Soup Suppers, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are all planned. Songbook Sundays will be held on the last Sunday of the month. Healing Sessions will also be held on that day. Taize Services will be hosted by Eden on May 11th. April 5th is Shepherd's Day and we will try to have a baby lamb present during the Sunday service. **Evangelism and Outreach-Lynnea Dunaj:** Eden continues to support Trinity's Food Pantry. We delivered canned soups in February. Sack lunches are prepared by Erv and Joan Seidel. 41 pairs of glasses were donated to the Elks Club for their eyewear program. **Service and Fellowship-Nancy Liverman:** Valentines Day cards were delivered to Eden's homebound members. They are working on upcoming events such as the Soup Suppers, Easter Egg Hunt, and Memorial Meatballs. **Property-Lynnea Dunaj:** Incident Reports have increased in February. Security cameras and sensor lights were installed on the Brockton Street side of the church. Bids are being obtained for tree trimming and electrical repair work. **Learning and Education-Katie Williams:** Sunday school will remain as is. Discussions with parents are being held regarding the rotation of adults to teach the sessions. **Security-Gary**



Hudson: Incident reports have increased primarily during the early morning and late evening hours. All incidents were handled without injury, property damage, or law enforcement response. Additional security measures have been implemented to address ongoing concerns. **Events-Gary Hudson:** No additional information currently. **Advertising and Website:** A meeting is scheduled for March 5th to discuss the Website, Messenger, Community Calendar, and banners for advertising purposes, as well as Website updating. **Preschool-Pat Sinclair:** Wednesday Children's Chapel continues with Pastor Woody heading the program, and Eva Gutierrez will assist when Pastor Woody is on vacation. The fire alarm system passed inspection and is now in working order. Dar will meet with "Yelp" to discuss advertising and presentation updates.

1946: FAITH, FILM, AND CONVERSATION

The documentary film "1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture" will be screened at the Civil Rights Institute of Southern California (3933 Mission Inn Ave.) on Friday, **March 27 at 7 pm.**

This documents relates to the histories of LGBTQ+ people and faith communities, considering the impact of a change in biblical translation on contributing to anti-gay movements. Following the screening, there will be a reflection and discussion with panelists including Deacon Brenda Lussier. Free admission and free snacks!



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.



Eden is soooooo good about helping others! We delivered 154 items of canned foods to Trinity's Food Pantry. The food pantry can also be utilized by any of our church members in need. For May, we will be gathering dried pasta. Thank you all for your generosity!



Soup Supper

**Lenten Soup Supper
5:30-6:30 pm**

As in the past, soup suppers have been hosted by the different committees within Eden's family. The following dates have been scheduled for each group. Please contact your committee members to decide who will bring soup and bread. The service is held in the Fellowship Hall and will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Hall will be opened at 5 p.m. for set up. The program, including cleanup, should be concluded by 6:30 p.m. allowing everyone to leave before it gets too dark.

Let's help make these events successful by getting everyone to attend for learning and fellowship.

-Lynnea

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 2-25-26 | Service and Fellowship | Nancy Liverman |
| 3-04-26 | Men's Group | James Sansom |
| 3-11-26 | Book Club/Women's Bible Study | Carol McAnern |
| 3-18-26 | Church Council | Lynnea Dunaj |
| 3-25-26 | Worship and Music | Harvey Clark |



Director's Report March 12, 2026

School Update

- Eva and I worked with Andre from Yelp to update our ad. We changed key words and updated pictures. We signed up for a free trial that ended today. So, we cancelled it. It allowed our ad to be viewed 58 times a month as a priority ad where the deal we have had forever allows for 12 views per month. I believe we pay \$50 a month and the other is \$200.
- Advanced alarm sent someone to look at the system and apply the "pass" sticker on Tuesday, Feb.17,2026. We received the revised paperwork on February 19, 2026. Our next Fire Marshall inspection isn't due till November, so we are way ahead of schedule.

Upcoming Events

- March 17th is our St. Patrick Day Celebration. We will have Green Eggs and Ham for lunch and the Leprechauns will be stopping by to toss some chocolate-filled gold coins around.
- Picture day is March 18
- Our annual Grandparents' Day, Egg Hunt and Family Picnic will April 1, 2026.



39136 HARRIS RD. OAK GLEN CA

LUTHER GLEN
SPRING
APR. 4TH
2PM
ART
FEST

INTERACTIVE CHILDREN ART ACTIVITIES - ART ACTIVITY VENDORS
LUTHER GLEN BBQ AND BAR - FARM TOURS
Free Admission



The 15th Annual Bonhoeffer Festival

"THE REALITY OF FASCISM FOR BONHOEFFER AND FOR US TODAY"

Hosted by and located at: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1700 N. Towne Ave. Claremont, CA.

Thursday April 16th, 2026



Keynote Speaker: Rick Steves

*Rick Steves is a renowned TV personality, historian and author.
Author of the "Travel as a Political Act" - Ricksteves.com (Fascism)*

Sponsored by Southwest Calif. Synod (ELCA), Pacifica Synod (ELCA) and
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Claremont

Festival Schedule:

12:30pm Commemorative Lunch in honor Bonhoeffer's martyrdom

1:30pm Program: Keynote Presentation: Rick Steves

"THE REALITY OF FASCISM FOR BONHOEFNER AND FOR US TODAY"

2:45pm Panel Discussion/Q & A - led by Rev. Dr. Thomas Johnson

Respondents: Bishop Dave Nagler, Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz, Nina Fernando

3:10pm Q & A from audience

RSVP to confirm attendance or for Zoom link at Tjohnson@cst.edu/909-802-9549

Free and Open to Public (Donations are appreciated)

15th Annual Bonhoeffer Festival w/ Keynote Speaker Rick Steves Good Shepherd Lutheran (Claremont, CA) April 16

The Pacifica Synod, Southwest California Synod, and Good Shepherd Lutheran (1700 N Towne Ave, Claremont) are excited to welcome Rick Steves for the 15th Annual Bonhoeffer Festival on **April 16th**. The theme for the daylong event is "The Reality of Fascism for Bonhoeffer and for Us Today." The program begins at 12:30 with a commemorative lunch before the keynote presentation, a panel discussion, and a Q&A session.

Admission is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP by contacting Thom Johnson by email at tjohnson@cst.edu or by phone at 909-802-9549.



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



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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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,
APRIL 15
10:00 AM**

BIBLE STUDY LEADER:

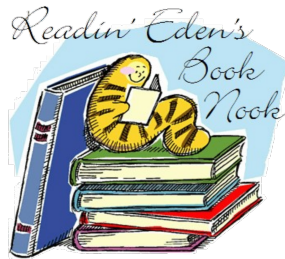
LIISA KANE

**WITH THE MAR/
APR/MAY**

**ISSUE OF GATHER
MAGAZINE.**

AT

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

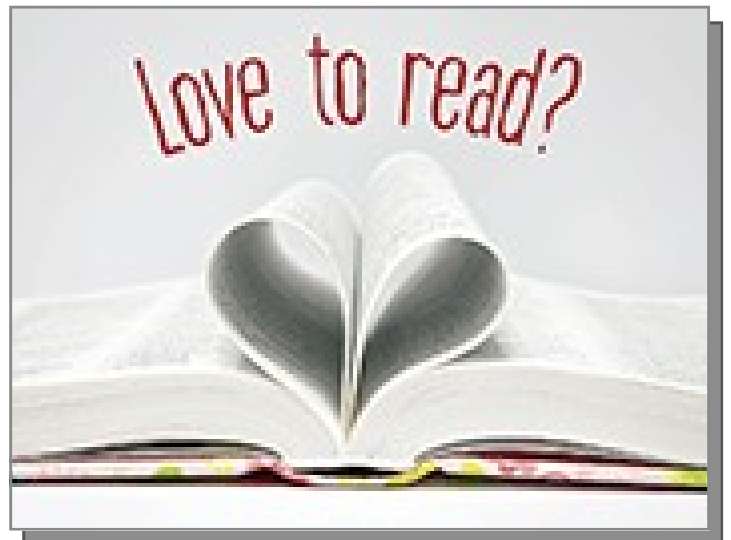


Readin' Eden will meet at 10:00 a.m.
Sat., April 26 at Liisa Kane's. We will be
talking about Carol McAnern's book
choice, "The Correspondent" by Virginia
Evans. Carol will be the hostess.

The Correspondent
by Virginia Evans.

"Filled with knowledge that domes only from a life fully lived, The Correspondent is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp's use of letters might be "a very small thing" but in Virginia Evans' gifted hands we see that "small things" can be subtly masterful and unforgettable."

See you at Liisa's,
Carol Mc



OUR EDEN FAMILY



APRIL BIRTHDAYS	
6	Audrina Silveira
7	Dakota Clark
12	Julie Swieca
18	Lucas Condron
	Nathaniel Condron
22	Judy Subriar
24	Emma Williams
	Sandra Boyum
27	Florence Carlson
28	Shawn Seidel
	Kyleigh Baranowski
29	Zachary Anderson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES	
20	Thomas ♥ Susan Swieca
29	Bishop ♥ Kanani Baranowski
	Erik ♥ Carita Dickson
	Curtis ♥ Debra Harris III

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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



Photo Highlights of Pastor Kim's Farewell







April Taize Worship

First Congregational Church

Monday, April 13 at 7 pm

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

April Taizé will be held at First Congregational Church in downtown Riverside on **Monday, April 13** at 7 pm. Taizé is a contemplative style of worship featuring meditative music, readings, and sacred silence.

Please join in this hour of prayer in our community.

Save the date: The May Taizé worship will be May 11 at Eden





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!

From Pacifica Synod

Ways to Provide Aid in Minnesota

Religious leaders of all backgrounds are showing up and putting themselves on the line to protect their neighbors and to seek redemption for all those involved. Many who are watching these events unfold here in California and Hawaii are wondering how they can contribute materially to alleviate the pain and heart-ache of our Minnesota siblings. Here are three vetted avenues where you can do so, knowing your contributions are going directly to those most affected:

The Minneapolis Area Synod Fund - <https://mpls-synod.org/giving/welcome-fund/>

San Pablo / St. Paul Church - <https://www.sanpablostpaul.org/give.html>

All Nations Church - <https://allnationsic.org/give>

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – OUTREACH UPDATES

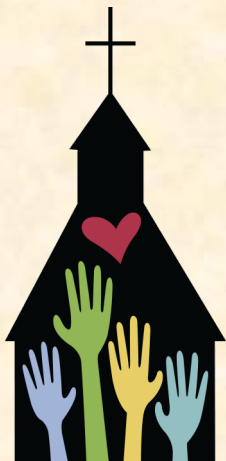
Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



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.



VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

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!



NEW DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The April, May, June 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
Gary Hudson
- Treasurer
Chuck Wilson
- Members At Large:
Pat Sinclair
Katie Williams
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

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



Pacifica Synod

OFFICE PHONE:
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
(951) 683-7001