

The Messenger

June 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*And Mary said: "My
soul glorifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior ..."*

LUKE 1:46-47. NIV



JUNE'S FEATURES

Looking Ahead
Inside cover

Looking Ahead
page 1

Council Corner
page 2

Pre-School News
page 5

Bulletin Board
page 6

ELCW Handiwork
page 8

Outreach
page 12

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."

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Looking Ahead	1
Council Corner	2
Pre-School News	5
ELCW Handiwork	8
Our Eden Family	9

Looking Ahead:

June 14: Flag Day

June 19: Juneteenth

June 21: Father's Day

June 21: First Day of Summer

June Food Drive:



Peanut Butter & Jelly



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>

Eden reaches out to our homebound members and the community through Zoom versions of our Sunday Service. This allows people outside the sanctuary to view the pulpit, lectern, altar, communion areas, and front pews at various times during the service.

If you prefer not to be included in the Zoom presentations, simply sit in one of the last ten pews at the rear of the sanctuary. Those wishing to join in communion will be provided the opportunity to do so from the pews.

You can join the Zoom service Sunday morning at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91423457083>

and find noncurrent services at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@edenlutheranchurch-riversi6538>



June 2026



Now we are entering the longest Season of the Church Year – Pentecost. During this season of the year, the colors of the church change to green. Which seems an odd color for such a long period of time, until you realize the “green” color represents “new growth.” Like the new growth of the trees, bushes and grass.

We have walked the path of our Lord, His suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. We have shared in the first experiences of the apostles as they begin their new life, guided by the Holy Spirit into new experiences, new countries, different cultures, languages, to name a few of their growing in the faith. We experience on Trinity Sunday, the struggles of the middle age church as it begins to deal with old religions, old ideals, what it means to be an established church rather than being underground, and how do we address challenges to the faith we have shared for three hundred years.

Years ago, someone asked an arborist, “What kind of trees are the strongest?” His answer was “those who experience winds, stresses and strains. The weakest are those who grow only in the sheltered areas like a mall.”

Now we begin to understand why the church has green as the color of Pentecost. It is the time, of not only new growth but also a time to struggle with past preconceptions, past prejudices, past misunderstandings which can inhibit our faith in Jesus Christ and the power of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We cannot live our life in Christ or grow in the faith by borrowed attitudes from others, borrowed faith from others or longstanding negative experiences we hold onto, which all stop our strength in grace, hope and charity. Welcome to Pentecost! A time to identify with the struggles and strife of the disciples and to experience the challenging and yet invigorating faith given to us by our Lord. Our lives are changed, new sprouts come forth and the old, tattered and dried up dead branches are trimmed off. See you soon!



Council's Corner

April 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President

Council held their meeting on April 22, 2026. Members present: Lynnea Dunaj, Harvey Clark, Pat Sinclair, Chuck Wilson, Martin Silveria, and Katie Williams. Members absent: Gary Hudson and Pastor woody.

It's that time of year when we begin selection for both the preschool and church budget committees. Our goal is to have the budgets completed as early as possible.

As was presented to the congregation, our Call Committee is in the process of interviewing an applicant for our permanent pastor position. They have completed an online interview and have now invited the applicant to an in-person interview. This will happen the week of May 4th. The Call Committee will give tours of the preschool, church campus, and the Parsonage. They will share various meals together prior to conducting the actual interview. The congregation will be kept abreast of the committee's progress

We have completed a preliminary walkthrough of the Parsonage to assess any possible improvements required prior to having anyone move in. We also need to work with Independent Options regarding their lease contract for the premises.

Mother's Day will be celebrated by presenting all ladies with a small Mother's Day gift and flowers. The men's group will then be serving special refreshments during Coffee Hour.

Bryan and Lynnea Dunaj attended the first Synod Assembly session held at Trinity. The main topic discussed regarded anti-racism. Afterward, attendees met in small groups discussing various issues regarding concerns that affect everyone's congregation. These topics covered Finances, Stewardship, Administration, Social Justice, Family Ministry, Music and Worship, and Community Connections. The second session held over Zoom will be on June 20th.

The committees continue to work hard to serve Eden's congregation. Please review their monthly reporting.

Pastoral Report- Pastor Woody: Several housebound and hospital visitations were completed. A meeting was held with a family to organize an Affirmation of Marriage Service. Several preschool activities were attended. All Holy Week service paperwork was completed for supply pastors in anticipation of Pastor Woody's trip to Egypt. May's services were also completed. Also, attended a quarterly meeting with council president entitled "Police Clergy Partnership".

Finance- Chuck Wilson: Church finances were presented. Income for March was \$24,760.00 with expenses of \$26,059.00. Our endowment fund is \$602,206. Current bank account combined balances total \$101,438.

Music and Worship-Harvey Clark: No meeting held. Next meeting is April 26th.

Evangelism and Outreach- Lynnea Dunaj: Sack lunches and support of Trinity's Food Pantry continue, Maundy Thursday services were well attended by both Eden and Trinity parishioners.

Easter Sunday brought several new worshippers to service. The children enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt.

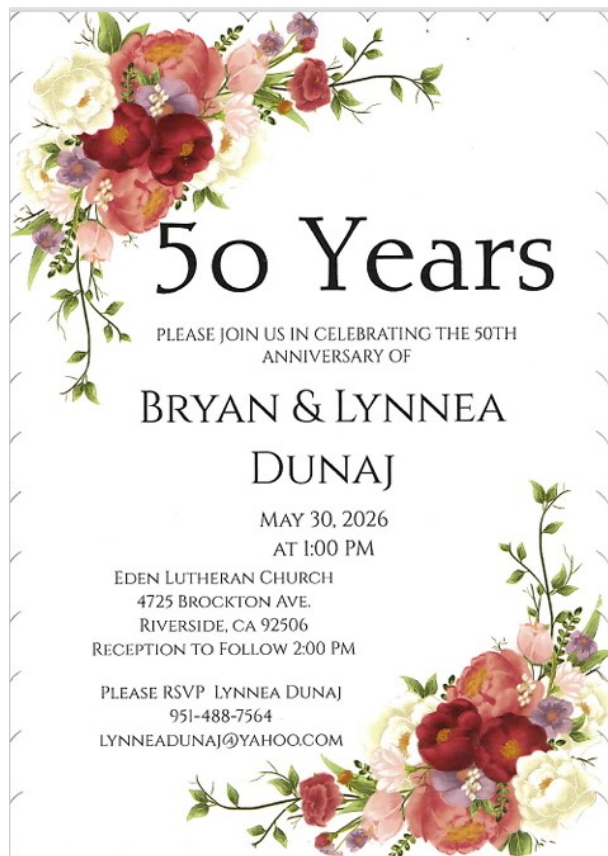
Service and Fellowship- Nancy Liverman: Several upcoming events were discussed: Administrative Professional Day, the Luther Glen animal visitation, Mother's Day, and Father's Day.

Property Report- Lynnea Dunaj: The front church trees have been trimmed. The roses were trimmed and are now beginning to bloom. The Rose Plant dedication plaque presented by Grace Lutheran Church has been stolen and needs to be replaced. Additional cameras are being planned to cover the entire church grounds. Some areas cannot be viewed with the current setup. Piano tuning service is in process.

Security- Gary Hudson: There were five alarm activations in April.

Church COUNCIL

Two of three false alarm activations were deactivated prior to police arrival. Six incident reports of trespass activity were reported. **Events- Gary Hudson:** No events planned for April. **Website and Advertising- Lynnea Dunaj:** The opening statement for the Website was finalized. We are obtaining pictures of Pastor Woody and Eva to update our staff information section. Statement notification of Zoom filming has been placed in both the Messenger and weekly Sunday bulletins. **Preschool- Pat Sinclair:** Finances were approved. We have 22 students enrolled, with 19 being full-time. Earth Day was celebrated with parents bringing non-toxic plants for the children to plant. One parent was willing to hand out preschool information in her apartment complex Welcome Packets. Upcoming events include the Luther Glen animal visitation, Teacher Appreciation week in May, and the Trike-A-Thon fundraiser on May 15th. Dar is on vacation May 19th through 22nd, and preschool graduation is Friday, May 29th at 10 am. Pastor Woody and Dar were leprechauns for Saint Patrick's Day and spread chocolate gold coins throughout the classrooms. Pastor Woody also attended the family picnic to introduce himself to parents. The preschool budget committee was selected.



If you wish to join us for our 50th anniversary celebration, please see details and RSVP required. Thank you.



Save the Date for Day Camp at Trinity Lutheran - **July 13-17**

Trinity Lutheran will host Day Camp again this summer, led by camp staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences. Day camp is open to children entering kindergarten in the fall through 6th grade. Look out for more information and registration details, and please save the date and share with families in your life.

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.



During the month of April, Eden collected 96 items of dried pasta for Trinity's Food Pantry. Thank you to all who donated. And, a big THANK YOU to Erv, for delivering all food items to Trinity every month.



Director's Report

May 21, 2026

School Update

- Earth week worked out well. We had some plants brought in, but we also received a lot of compost materials and soil.
- The staff and I had an amazing time during Teacher Appreciation Week. The food was really good and we appreciated the gifts.
- I am on vacation this week. The schedule is posted next to the time clock and a copy of it was sent to Pat.
- We have been working on advertising the school to increase the enrollment. Eva created flyers to post and we have given some to a parent for the apartment building she manages. Netti has been disputing them to local restaurants and Gary put them up in two police We are also thinking of purchasing an "Now Enrolling" sign. I have had parents say they didn't know we were here. FUMPS and The Preschool on the Hill have them and they do catch your eye. I found it on the internet for \$74, but as of now we are looking into it.
- The Trike-a-thon went well. We collected and deposited \$655 from the parents that same day.

Upcoming Events

- Birdie Class graduation is May 29, 2026, at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome.





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.

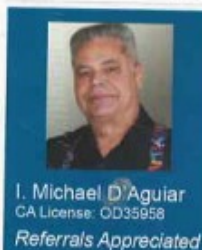
PRAYER CHAIN

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.

DEGAR INSURANCE SERVICES



I. Michael D'Agular
CA License: OD35958
Referrals Appreciated

Life • Health • Medicare • Auto
Home • Mobile Home

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

r d

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



40 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.



DUCKING

CLEAN

Dirty to Shine...
Call the Duck
Anytime!

Solar Panel Wash • Solar Panel Bird Proofing

Gutter Cleaning & Repair

Window Washing • Window Screen Repair

Holiday Light Installation

IBRAHEEM RADHI

LICENSED & INSURED 909-677-5764




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.

Now a full service Mortgage Loan Originator.

NMLS# 2652446. Let me know how I can help you.

Call me: 951-206-2994

DRE# 01432933 /Wealth Managers-800-531-5194



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

Bible Study and Women's Fellowship

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY,

JUNE 17

10:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY LEADER:

NANCY LIVERMAN

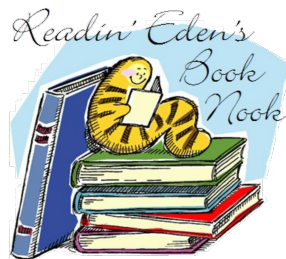
WITH THE SUMMER

ISSUE OF GATHER

MAGAZINE.

NO MEETINGS JULY

AND AUGUST



Readin' Eden will meet on Sat., June 27 at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa Kane's. We'll be talking about Pat Sherman's book choice, "The Things We Never Say" by Elizabeth Strout and Pat will be the hostess.

The Things We Never Say

by Elizabeth Strout

"Artie Dam is living a double life. He spends his days teaching history to eleventh graders, expanding their young minds, correcting their casual cruelties, and lending a kind word to those who need it most. He goes to holiday parties with his wife of three decades, makes small talk with neighbors, and on weekends takes his sailboat out on the beautiful Massachusetts Bay. He is, by all appearances, present and alive. But inside, Artie is plagued by feelings of isolation. He looks out at a world gone mad--at himself and the people around him--and turns a question over and over in his mind: How is it that we know so little about one another, even those closest to us?"

And then, one day, Artie learns that life has been keeping a secret from him, one that threatens to upend his entire world. Once he learns it, he is forced to chart a new course, to reconsider the relationships he holds most dear--and to make peace with the mysteries at the heart of our existence.

Elizabeth Strout, as we have come to expect, delivers a moving exploration of the human condition--one that brims with compassion for each and every one of her indelible characters. With exquisite prose and profound insight, "The Things We Never Say" takes one man's fears and loneliness and makes them universal. And in the same breath, captures the abiding love that sustains and holds us all."

See you at Liisa's.
Carol Mc





OUR EDEN FAMILY



JUNE BIRTHDAYS	
2	Shannon Barkley
3	Daniel Kelly
4	Cathy Carlson
6	Steven Done
	Bob Neil
7	David Grefe
	Sarah Cooney
8	Marilyn Anderson
17	Spencer Dickson
19	Suzanne Page
21	Allison Dickson
	Steven Maas
	Megan McCaulley
22	Erin Done
	Mary Lou Ludwig
26	Olliver Silveira
28	Amanda McCaulley

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Bob ♥ Lori Frey
	Bobby ♥ Jacque Clark
22	Stephen ♥ Arlea Anderson
24	Rodger ♥ Nancy Liverman
	Shawn ♥ Jennifer Seidel



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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



June Taize Worship

Madison Street Church

Monday, June 8 at 7 pm

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

Thanks to everyone who helped with and participated in the May Taizé worship held at Eden. June's service will be **Monday, June 8** 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.

Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.



Readin' Eden's Book Club

20th Anniversary

2006-2026



Readin' Eden's Book Club was formed as a lady's reading group in the year of 2006 by Dona Jenkins and a few interested ladies from Eden Lutheran Church. This first organizational meeting was held at a coffee shop. Carol McAnern came up with the name "Readin' Eden." After that meeting, the group met on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM at Border's Book Store in the Riverside Plaza. The store gave them an area in the store between book shelves and the side window and would also set up folding chairs for the meeting. Borders closed their store in April 2011, so the ladies then met at Eden Lutheran Church in the Luther Room. Some members, when it was their turn to have a meeting, invited the group to their home, while others used the Luther Room to meet.

Covid hit the area in March of 2020, so for a few months our meetings were not allowed. When allowed to meet again, Carol McAnern offered to host those who wanted to come to a meeting again, with the condition that the ladies wear a mask and sit six feet from each other. Later, Liisa Kane volunteered to host the meetings at her home as her husband, John, was dealing with Alzheimer's and she couldn't leave him alone. The group met on her patio and we have continued to do so to the present time.

Carol McAnern was one of the founding members of Readin' Eden's Book Club and is the only continuous member that we have left. She is still this group's great leader and is always recruiting new members and reminding the members of their book month and getting their book summaries sent to her so she can put it in the church newsletter, "The Messenger". Each member is assigned a month where she will then lead a discussion of the book that she has chosen and she will also serve a dessert and coffee. The group now numbers twelve members: Margaret Crane, Lynnea Dunaj, Roseana Duron, Kathy Frost, Carole Hodgerson, Liisa Kane, Carol McAnern, Joan Seidel, Pat Sherman, Marge Steinbrinck, Gloria Van Der Aarde, and Linda Ward.

At the Christmas meeting, there is a pot luck. Each member brings a pot-luck item and a Christmas gift, which is a book that is wrapped and placed under the tree. Later a game is played, books are chosen and can also be stolen. After much hilarity each person takes home a new book. The members read the book that is taken and at the January meeting each person gives a short summary of it. At this meeting, if one or more like the sound of the book, they sign up to exchange these books.

In May, The Readin' Eden's Book Club celebrated their 20th Anniversary with dinner out at the Cactus Cantina in the Mission Grove Shopping Center. Here is to 20 more years of great reading with Readin' Eden's Book Club!!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – OUTREACH UPDATES

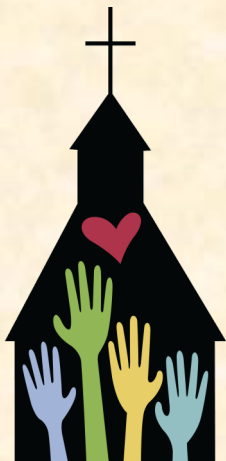
Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



One of Eden's outreach ministries is a sack lunch program for the needy and homeless in our community. Every Thursday morning, 40 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. The ministry can also use toiletries and clothing. 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