

The Messenger

July 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

COME TO ME,
all who **labor**
and are **heavy** laden,
and I will **give you rest.**

Matthew 11:28, ESV



JULY'S FEATURES

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

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Looking Ahead:

July 4: Independence Day



July Food Drive:



Mac & Cheese



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>



July 2026



The month of July this year will be unique in the history of our country. Long ago, I never imagined that in my life time I would be living through two anniversaries of our nation: the 200th Anniversary and the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Such Anniversaries, just like our personal anniversaries whether it be: baptisms, marriages, confirmations, graduations, various vocations, relationships, health issues, births, etc. make us look back upon all that which has transpired. Some were celebrations, joy and laughter, and others brought sadness, frustration, and helplessness. My first parsonage phone had a party line. I owned a Chrysler Cordova. I had a CB radio in my car. Fifteen years later, a member donated to the church a laptop computer for my office – it was 2 1/2 inches thick and weighed a ton. Christmas bulbs became twinkle lights and the church was donated a car phone. The phone was carried in a large bag about 12” long and 4” wide. I took a class in the software Word Perfect. Thirty-five years later we are still driving two old cars 2004 and 2005. On vacation, we are renting vehicles which I have to, before leaving the rental lot, find the gas cap, the inside and outside light switch, where to plug in a cell phone, and how to operate the car fob. Thus, forcing me to speed read the owner’s manual, if available, sometimes in the dark. Our personal lives have changed dramatically on all fronts, whether it be: job opportunities, financial decisions, surgeries, medications, lifestyles, educational requirements and the list goes on. All of these changes have forced us, often upon a very personal level, to change our ways of looking at things and yet holding on to what we consider our core values which define who we are and how we are to relate with those we share this earthly space.

This is also true for our nation. Over these 250 years, our forebears of every generation have celebrated, identified with, struggled with, and died for this same vision and core values defined in the Declaration of Independence which are: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They provided the respected rights of others: equality and consent of the governed to change the government. This vision and its core values were clarified and protected by the Constitution of our nation. Most of us can reflect back upon the numerous presidents, congress senators and representatives, and supreme court justices who have been sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States during their terms of service in this 50 year stretch. Their challenges have been enormous, daunting and sometimes unimaginable. We have lived through several military wars, numerous protests, countless court decisions, questionable actions, laws to cut and increase taxes, laws to clarify decisions made in the past, laws to define and safeguard our rights not only now but in the future, and the list goes on. All of these decisions are made for the sake of maintaining our core values contained in our Nation’s documents, history and Constitution. Please note how much our lives, how we see others, how we respond to others, and how we define the future, are based upon the decisions made by those who represent us for the sake of all.

Personally, I feel America is a miracle! It was a great experiment! It is still one! Its’ core values are to me a great Light. For this I am proud. At the same time, just as it was 50 years ago, I did not always understand, struggle to navigate through, and get frustrated with the life we live in our nation which celebrates its 250th Anniversary. Our Nation, our State, our Community and our Community of faith are transformative in the world just as they are being transformed by who and whose they are!



Council's Corner

April 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President

Hello everyone!

It's that time of year to begin the church budget input for 2027. The budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting in October. Our internal audit reviewing process covering the past 12 months has also begun.

A new policy addressing outside requests for information distribution was presented to counsel. Effective May 2026, any request must be approved by council and must be in the interest of Eden Lutheran Church or Preschool. This information must be neutral in nature and in no way be perceived as bias toward any other outside organization or opinions. This is subject to flags, banners, posters, flyers, or any other display or written publication. Any approved request does not imply endorsement by Eden Lutheran Church.

Two new outreach ministries have been approved: Juvenile Hall Ministry and "FosterAll" Ministry. Scott Durham will head up the juvenile hall ministry by offering communion to individuals housed there. He currently provides assistance with Bible study and teaching. "FosterAll" is part of Riverside County's Faith in Motion Program. It is a program assisting families in the foster care system by helping children to reunite with their families. Eden parishioners can assist by providing needed items as requested. A notification of requests will be placed in the Narthex area.

ELCA's dedication day of service, "God's Work, Our Hands", is scheduled for September 13, 2026. This year Gary Hudson will head up the event and is in the process of planning projects for Eden to participate in. Please contact Gary if you are interested in assisting.

Martin Silveira has been appointed as our new Property Committee Chair. Any concerns regarding property care should be directed to him. He will review all issues requiring council approval. Gary Hudson and Julio Martinez will be assisting him with projects. Our many thanks to Ron Sinclair and Erv Seidel who will also continue to assist with activities.

The various committees work hard each month and their reports follow.

Finance- Chuck Wilson: Income for April was \$33,520 with expenses of \$24,903. The endowment fund ending first quarter, is \$602,206. The fellowship hall kitchen door repair was allocated \$2300 for a metal door and frame replacement. The actual bid is \$2782.48. Additional approval will be required for the added amount. The estimated cost of \$250 each for five cameras, and labor installation at \$400.00 for the Parsonage security package was discussed. Additional bids may be required. Estimated cost of Parsonage improvements is \$82,500. Additional discussion required. **Music and Worship- Harvey Clark:** A favorite hymn survey was requested from the congregation. A small Mother's Day gift and carnation was presented to the women of Eden. Gifts for Father's Day have also been selected. The summer organ concert will be presented by David Christensen and McKena James with selections from Baroque to Big Band. Communion minister training is planned for May 17th. The length of Sunday service and ways to shorten it were discussed. Pastor would like to encourage parishioners to write down their prayer requests to be used in the prayers of inter-

Church COUNCIL

cession. The Athanasian Creed will be used on Trinity Sunday, May 31st. On May 24th the reading of acts 2:1-21 was read simultaneously in four different languages. The Indonesian church was invited to participate. Pastor's Blessing of the Animals will be the afternoon of October 4th. Eden will host the Taize service on May 11th. Both Katie and Luke Williams will lead the singing. **Evangelism and Outreach- Lynnea Dunaj:** Pasta sauce was collected for Trinity's Food Pantry. Eden hosted the Taize evening service which was attended by about 50 community guests. The NOW'S group, (Neighbors of the Wood Streets), held their May meeting in the fellowship hall and discussed current issues on Riverside's June voting ballot. Riverside's Channel 4 TV was there to record the largely attended meeting. The summer organ concert, Baroque to Big Band, will also include a patriotic medley of music. David Christensen and McKena James will provide the music at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Refreshments and a Greet and Meet will be held afterwards. **Service and Fellowship- Nancy Liverman:** Father's Day refreshments are planned, and Esther will provide the decorations. The group will provide refreshments for the summer organ concert. The fellowship hall will be decorated in red, white, and blue to celebrate July 4th. Specialty cupcakes and cookies will be provided. **Property Report-Lynnea Dunaj:** Additional lighting has been placed on the Brockton St. side of the church which covers the olive grove area. A new camera was installed to cover the fellowship hall area not clearly seen on existing cameras. A Parsonage improvement list has been prepared. **Security Report- Gary Hudson:** No false alarm activations were recorded in May. Trespasser activity is being monitored closely. Several incidents occurred in May, with a slight increase over April due to additional camera coverage. **Events Report- Gary Hudson:** A Game Day is being planned for June, and July 4th activities are being prepared. Volunteers are requested to assist. **Website and Advertising-Lynnea Dunaj:** The committee did not meet in May but a discussion with Michael, our Webmaster, regarding placing a QR code on our website which will allow community access to donate funds to either the church or preschool is being discussed. We are also looking at giving our preschool parents the opportunity to make monthly tuition payments online. Advertising for our upcoming summer organ concert will consist of flyers and a banner, with website notification. **Preschool-Pat Sinclair:** There are currently 21 students enrolled with 18 being full-time. Dar and staff were recognized during Teacher Appreciation Week. Dar is on vacation from May 18-22. The Trike-A-Thon went well with parents donating \$655 and the church congregation pledging approximately \$1200. The Birdie class graduation is May 29th, and everyone is welcome. Budget issues were discussed and the budget was approved. Advertising ideas were discussed to increase enrollment.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026.



The Sending of Holy Communion into the midst of our People

Please read these words, from an ELCA book entitled “Pastoral Care” which provides guidance in the extending of the Sacrament of Holy Communion amongst our people, who have special needs, by specially trained members of the congregation called “Communion Ministers.”

“This order extends the assembly’s service of Holy Communion by sending ministers from the assembly, bearing the gifts of God’s word and sacramental meal to those who are unable to be present in public worship. This ministry offers these people (such as those who are sick, homebound, under the care of others, or imprisoned) a means of participating in the worship of the whole assembly, and it helps those who have gathered publicly to recognize their oneness with sisters and brothers who are absent.”

Such ministry has been approved and implemented by Eden’s Congregation Council. The Communion Ministers have been specially trained in the art of visiting people, conducting a service of sharing our Lord’s Body and Blood and to hold up in the prayer life of the congregations all who are absent.

The Communion Ministers will receive the consecrated Body and Blood of Jesus Christ from the altar during a regular worship service conducted by an ordained minister and then transport it to the homes of those who are not able to attend public worship. They will call the persons in advance, schedule an opportune time to visit, and share together the holy meal of our Lord.

Those chosen to serve as Communion Ministers at Eden are: Lynnea Dunaj, Marlyn Pounds, Cathy Carlson, Harvey Clark, Judy Subriar and Scott Durham. They are to work as a team, providing ministry at Eden Lutheran Church. Scott Durham’s ministry has a special emphasis in that his ministry will be conducted at Juvenile Hall. On June XX, all six will be set apart to this ministry for a period of two years, which can be extended by pastoral recommendation and Council decision.

This ministry is a regular part of many congregations, even when they have an ordained minister on staff, and can also assist congregations in the providing of sacramental ministry to members unable to attend public worship during a time of transition, when no regular ordained minister is available during the vacancy. These specially trained lay Communion Ministers may not conduct a Holy Communion Service at any time in a regular worship service or special service. Their ministry is restricted to provide a ministry of visitation to those unable to attend public worship in the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ consecrated by an ordained pastor at a regular public service. These Communion Ministers have scheduled themselves on a monthly basis during the year. Pastor Woody will continue visiting folks in emergencies, hospitalization, care centers, and their home.

It is our hope this ministry will be seen by all as a way of reaching out in care and love to all members, those we see and don’t see, so that all may know of the love of our Savior, the forgiveness of their sins, the gift of eternal life and the personal care and faith we all share together as a community of faith.

Welcome them! Support them! Pray for them and those whom they serve! All in the name of our Lord.

If you are facing struggles with mobility, driving, work schedule, hospitalization or other personal reasons, and wish a visit give the Church Office a call at 1-951-684-3336 and make the request.



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.



Thank you, everyone! Eden delivered 72 items of pasta sauce to Trinity's Food Pantry. Erv and Joan Seidel are always so helpful with this ministry. And remember, in June, we are collecting peanut butter and jelly.



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.

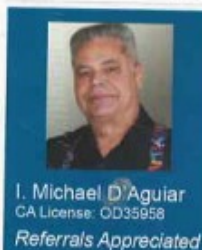
PRAYER CHAIN

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.*

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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

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.



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the ELCW:
a Community for All the Women of
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Bible Study and Women's Fellowship

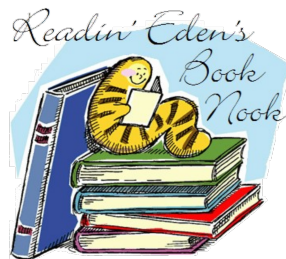
NEXT MEETING:

**WE WILL NOT MEET
IN JULY OR AUGUST**

**WE WILL MEET
AGAIN AT LIISA
KANE'S**

**10:00 A.M. ON
WED. SEPT 16**

**LEADER WILL BE
NANCY LIVERMAN**



Readin' Eden will meet on **Sat., July 25** at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa Kane's, 217 E. Shady Grove Dr. We will be talking about Gloria Van Der Aarde's book choice, "The Christmas Train" by David Baldacci. Gloria will be the hostess.

The Christmas Train

by David Baldacci

Gloria says, "This book takes us on a journey by train over a Christmas season. We meet memorable characters and experience holiday magic as they interact."

Welcome returning member, Nancy Roth!

See you at Liisa's!
Carol McAnern



Readin' Eden Book Club 20th Anniversary at Cactus Cantina on
May 23, 2026



JULY BIRTHDAYS

8	Bryan Dunaj
9	Issac Silveira
13	Jade Angle
14	Michael Harris
15	Nicholas Harris
16	Lino Castro
17	Eric Hodgerson
30	Tamara Clark

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

9	Kelley ♥ Suzanne Page
10	Luke ♥ Katherine Williams
11	Ervin ♥ Joan Seidel
19	Steven ♥ Erin Done



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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



July Taizé Worship

All Saints Episcopal Church

Monday, July 13 at 7 pm

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

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. The July Taizé will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church on **July 13, at 7 pm**. All Saints will also make the service available to view online. Please join in this hour of peace and prayer.

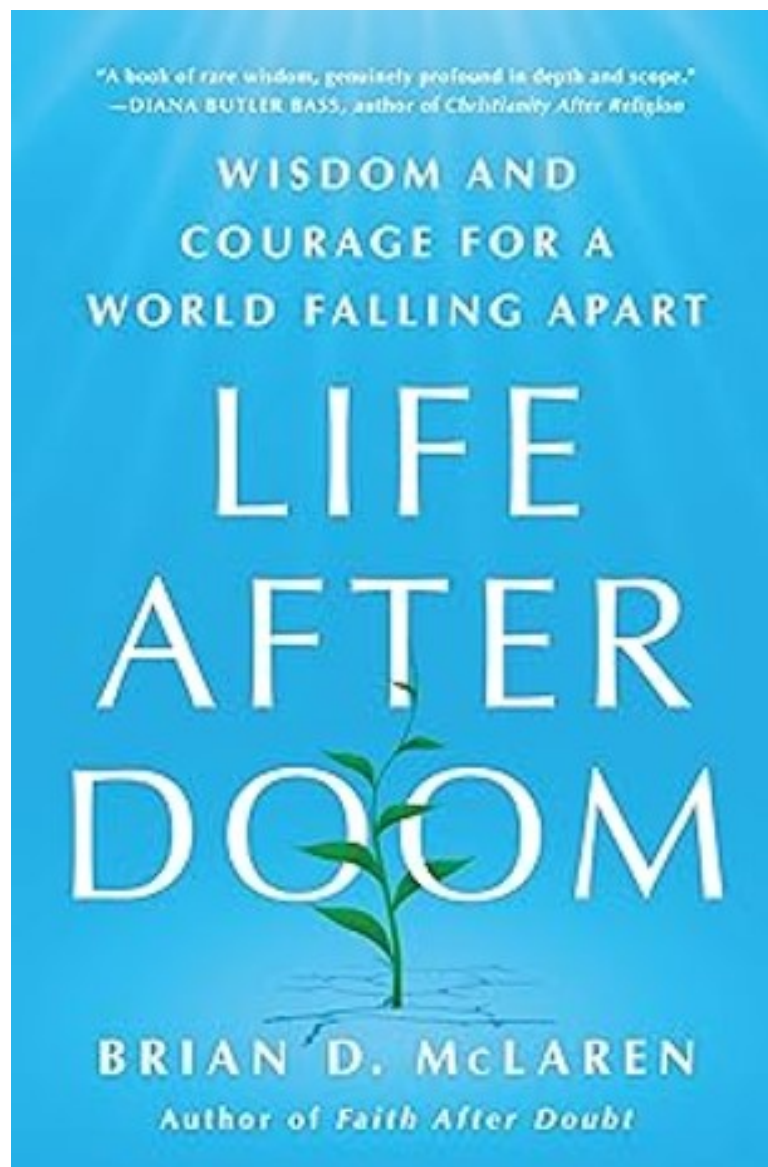
Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.



Life After Doom

The Pacifica Synod Eco-Net will host a book study of *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart* by Brian McLaren, **Thursdays at 7:30 pm Pacific time / 4:30 pm Hawaii time, on Zoom from July 9th through August 27th**. Visit pacificasynod.org or check the synod e-news for the Zoom link info.

..."Life After Doom explores the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times. If you want to help yourself, your family, and the communities to which you belong to find courage and resilience for the deeply challenging times that are upon us — this is the book you need right now."



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – OUTREACH UPDATES

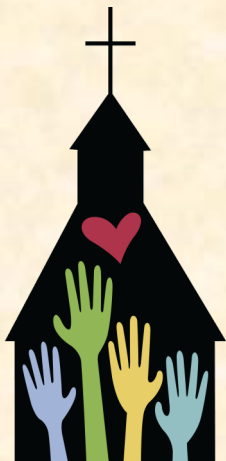
Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



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

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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/>

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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.
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
edenlutheran.org



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OFFICE PHONE:
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
(951) 683-7001