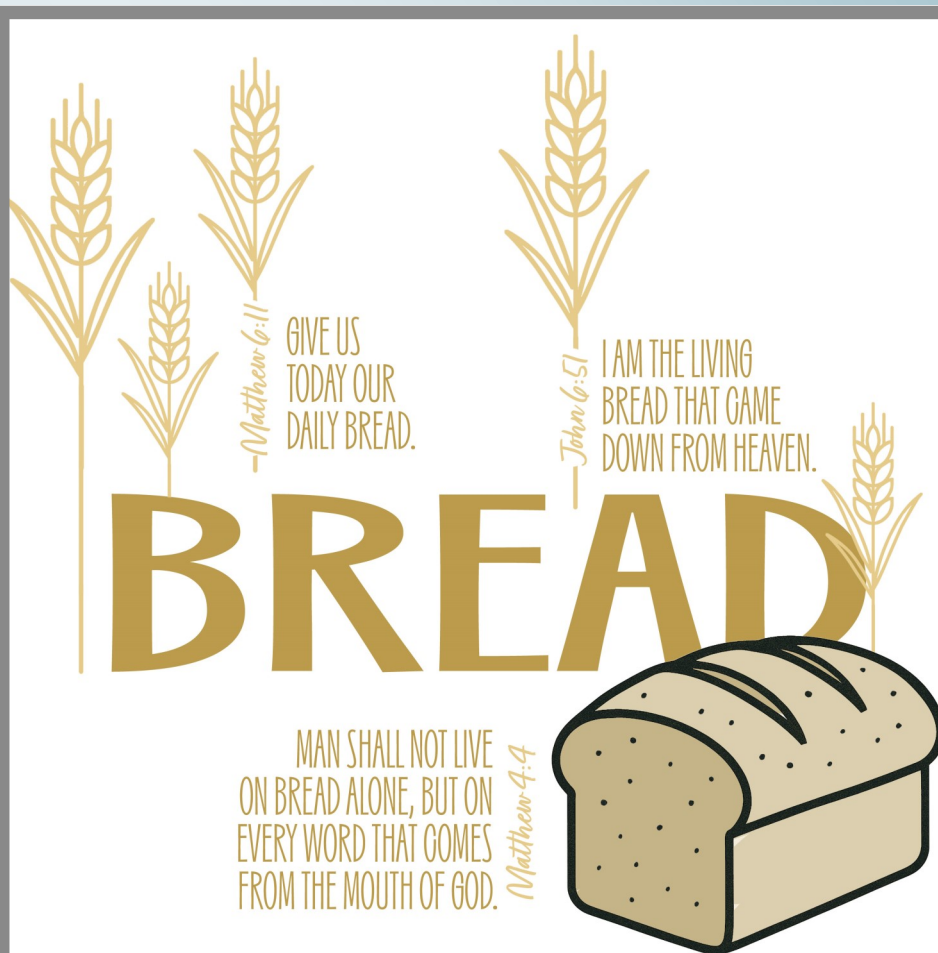


The Messenger

August 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



AUGUST'S FEATURES

Looking Ahead
Inside cover

Council Corner
page 1

Preschool News
page 3

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:

Council Corner	1
Preschool News	3
ELCW Handiwork	8
Our Eden Family	9

Signup for email updates!

Sign-up now to receive Eden's Lutheran's announcements, news, and worship information:

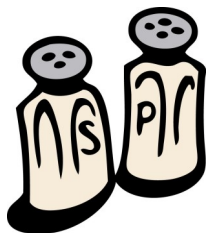
<https://edenlutheran.org/signup-for-email-updates/>

Looking Ahead:

August 7: Purple Heart Day



August Food Drive:



Spices



Pastor: pstrswife3039@att.net

Office: 951.684.3336

E-mail: info@edenlutheran.org

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>



Council's Corner

June 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President



Hello everyone!

As we prepare for our upcoming annual meeting in October, all committee leaders are asked to reflect on their accomplishments over the past year. Not only are we celebrating our achievements, but at the same time, looking forward to attaining additional goals. Currently, we have just had our summer organ concert. David Christensen and McKenna James presented music from "Baroque to Big Band" and included a medley of patriotic songs. Gary Hudson, our events chairperson, is planning our July 4th celebration which will include a BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs while we watch fireworks over Mt. Rubidoux. Plans are being made for our "God's Work, Our Hands" event in September.

The Council and Pastor Woody have invited Bishop Dave to visit our church on August 9th. He will be preaching the service and then meet with the congregation during fellowship. Bishop Dave will be there to talk about any topic the congregation would like to discuss. It will be a time for good conversation, questions, and answers. This meeting is for the entire membership of the church. We are looking to provide babysitting services so that everyone can attend.

Recently, the Call Committee interviewed a potential candidate for our pastoral opening. After an in-person interview and many following conversations, this applicant withdrew from the process. The Synod is continuing to look for and screen any additional interviewees.

Pastor Woody installed 6 new communion ministers. These ministers will assist in bringing communion to homebound and hospitalized church members. They are scheduled by month on a rotational basis.

Every two years, the preschool staff is required to renew their CPR credentials. This year, we are opening the class to anyone in the congregation to attend. The cost is \$70 per person. The class will be held on July 31st and is an all-day event. More information will follow. Please contact Eva in the church office if you are interested in attending.

Everyone continues to work hard. All committee highlight reports follow.

Finance-Chuck Wilson: The Fellowship kitchen door will be replaced. The parsonage repair schedule will be broken down and the timing of projects determined upon on the work requiring completion. Improvements could pos-

Church COUNCIL

sibly become projects of individuals or groups within the congregation and that each project have a specific fundraising goal. The purchase of archival supplies for the protection of church records has been approved. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of purchasing a certificate of deposit. **Worship and Music-Harvey Clark:** No meeting held. **Evangelism and Outreach-Lynnea Dunaj:** Council approved an outreach program with FosterAll, a Christian organization that helps reunite foster children with their families. The congregation can help provide requested items. The new communion minister ministry has been created. The summer organ concert was performed on June 27th. **Service and Fellowship-Nancy Liverman:** The following events were supported by the group: Father's Day, Marge Steinbrinck's celebration of life, the Summer Organ Concert, and the 4th of July celebration. Thank you for your hard work. **Property Report-Lynnea Dunaj:** The Council approved Martin Silveira as our new property manager. Gary Hudson and Julio Martinez will be assisting. **Security Report-Gary Hudson:** There were 2 false alarm activations which were cancelled prior to police being dispatched. There are 10 incident reports filed at the church for June. **Events-Gary Hudson:** The July 4th holiday will be celebrated with a BBQ prior to watching the fireworks. A game night is being planned. **Website an Advertising-Lynnea Dunaj:** A meeting is scheduled for June 30th and will be addressing needed updates. **Pre-school-Pat Sinclair:** There are currently 22 students, 16 being full-time. The State Analyst came for review and gave the school a perfect score. A CPR class will be held on July 31st and enrollment is open to the congregation. The cost is \$70 per person. Please contact Eva in the church office. Lead water testing is due in June, and the school has received funding to pay for this service.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2026.





Director's Report July 16, 2026

School Update

-Our state analyst gave us 2 Technical Violations during her visit. Ground squirrel holes in the grass near the playground turf and dirty trash can areas in the classrooms. These are not deficiencies or citations, just things she noticed and would like us to notice. Although these things did not need to be fixed immediately, she suggested I send pictures of them repaired within 2 weeks. I emailed pictures of the completed tasks on 07/02/26. I received a text on 07/03/26 that Gisselle, our analyst, had received and approved of the photos.

-The teachers have already started to organize, clean and decorate their rooms due to prospective parent touring. I am planning to bring Gary's power washer to our in-service days cleaning days for the nap mats, sidewalks and picnic benches.

Upcoming Events

-The teachers' luncheon will be on Thursday, July 30 at 12:00.

-Our CPR and First Aide class will be on July 31, 2029.





Pacifica Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Theoasis – Professional Leaders' Conference

Theoasis

October 13-15, 2026

**Embassy Suites
La Quinta**

Time to Breathe

Watch for more info
to come soon!



Joint Church Leaders' Event (a theological oasis)

Rostered leaders, professional lay church staff, youth leaders, church administrators, office managers, outdoor ministry leaders, worship leaders... all are welcome! **Tuesday, October 13 to Thursday, October 15, 2026.** This year's theme is "Time to Breathe."

Embassy Suites
La Quinta, California

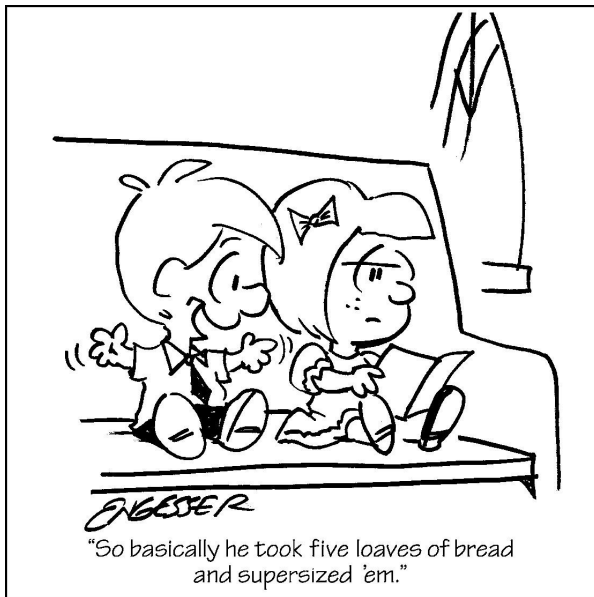
There is much more information to come, so watch for more details this spring!

Event Speakers — TBA

Event speakers will be announced later this year!

<https://www.pacificasynod.org/theoasis>

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.



Eden delivered 72 jars of peanut butter and jelly to Trinity's Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone for donating. And, thank you Erv for heading up this outreach ministry program. We will be collecting macaroni and cheese for July.



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.

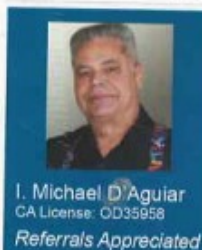
PRAYER CHAIN

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

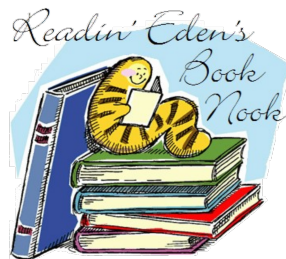
NEXT MEETING:

**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., Aug. 22** at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa Kane's. We will be talking about Linda Ward's book choice, "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers" by Jesse Q. Sutanto. Linda will be the hostess.

Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers

Jesse Q. Sutanto

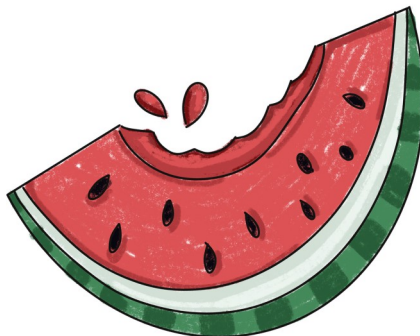
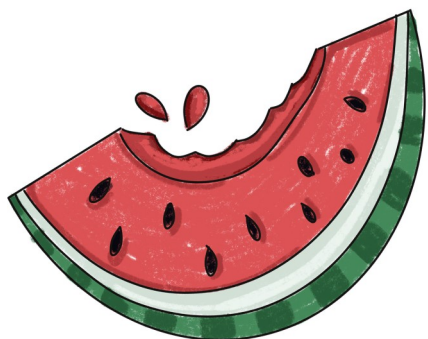
Linda says, "Sixty-year-old Vera Wong enjoys nothing more than sipping a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy "detective" work on the internet (AKA checking up on her son to see if he's dating anybody yet.)

But when Vera wakes up one morning to find a dead man in the middle of her tea shop, it's going to take more than a strong Longjing to fix things. Knowing she'll do a better job than the police possibly could--because nobody sniffs out a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands--Vera decides it's down to her to catch the killer.

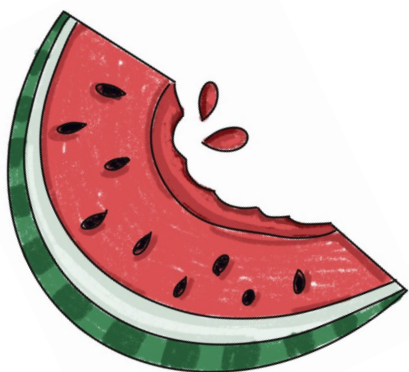
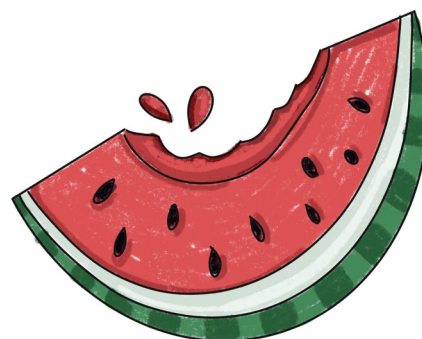
In this book set in contemporary San Francisco China Town, a nosy Vera makes a variety of new friends that form a found family for the lonely tea shop owner while solving the crime."

Sounds good.
See you at Liisa's.
Carol Mc





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
9	Nicolette Rohr Issac Silveira, Jr.
10	Rachel Anne Grefe Natalie Smith
17	Jay Fiene
26	Nancy Liverman
29	Erik Dickson



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES	
4	Ronald ♥ Patricia Sinclair
9	David ♥ Carol McAnern
22	Lyle ♥ Carole Hodgerson



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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!





August Taize Worship

First Congregational Church

Monday, August 10 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 August Taizé will be held at First Congregational Church, 3504 Mission Inn Ave, on **August 10, at 7 pm**. Please join in this hour of peace and prayer.

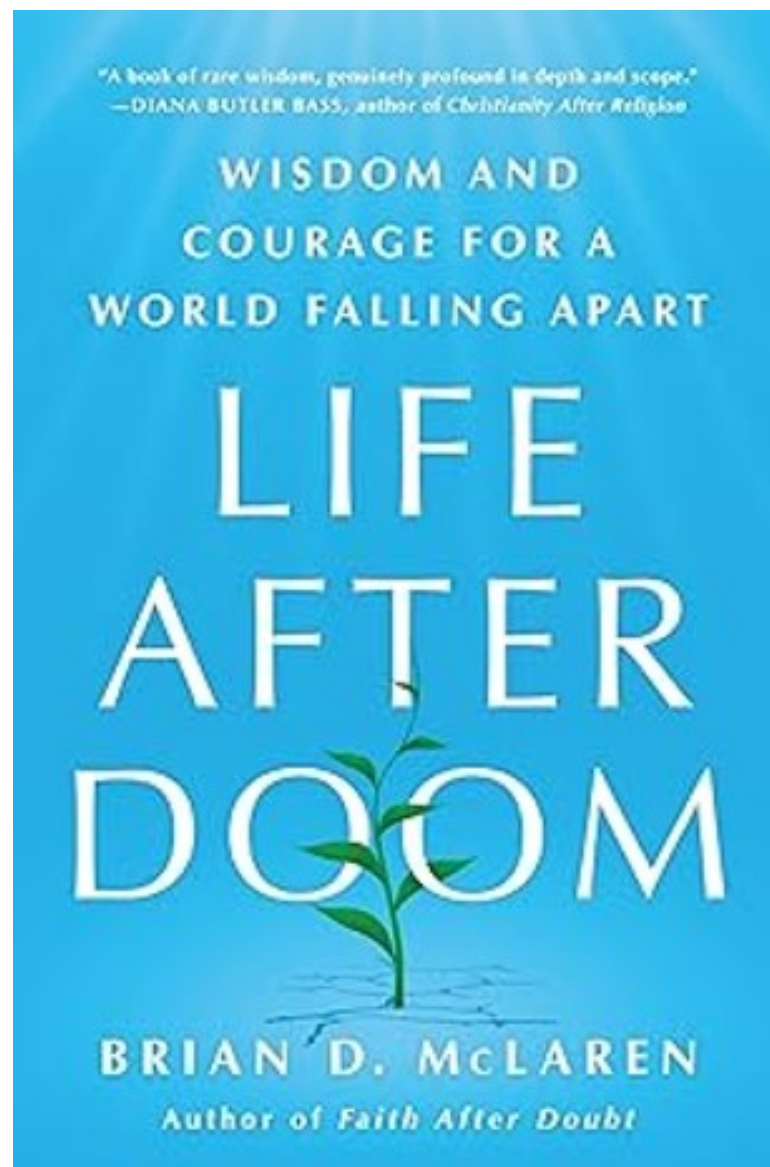
Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.



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

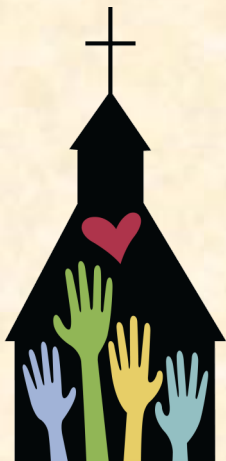
Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



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? Help with altar guild? 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 July, August, September 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