

The Messenger

September 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



IN CHRIST GOD WAS
RECONCILING THE
WORLD TO HIMSELF.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

SEPTEMBER'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:

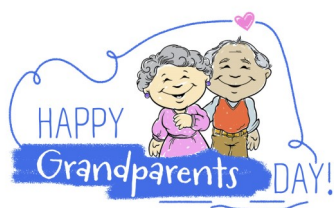
Council Corner	1
Preschool News	3
ELCW Handiwork	8
Our Eden Family	9

Looking Ahead:

September 7: Labor Day

September 11: Patriot Day

September 13: National Grandparents Day



September 22: First Day of Autumn

September Food Drive:



Canned Fruit



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>



Council's Corner

June 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President



Well! Summer is here and the heat is on. Council continues to address all issues regarding the church. Here is a quick recap of our monthly meeting.

Maintenance issues are always a concern to the church. An electrician has been called in to replace a sanctuary light dimmer switch that recently began emitting heat. The timer to the parking lot lights also required repair work. We are starting to price carpet replacement for the sanctuary. Bare patches along the aisles are beginning to pull away from the edging and the carpet can no longer be stretched to cover these areas. Some plants along Brockton St. have been trimmed low to improve visibility for security cameras. Landscaping and watering concerns for that hillside were discussed. We'd like to improve the visual aspect of that area and have suggested a gradual approach to its improvement.

Activity at Eden is beginning to pick up pace. We are always working to fulfill our mission statement of "... drawing others into celebrating a relationship with him, (Jesus Christ), working together to expand his reign of hope, justice, and peace in our community, and the world." Eden is open for community events to be held at our facility. A CPR class has been scheduled, and attendance is open to all parishioners. We have invited Bishop Dave to a Sunday of preaching, followed by a question-and-answer session in the Fellowship Hall, where topics of any concern can be discussed. We will be holding an ice cream social with bingo games in August. In November the NOW's group will be holding their annual neighborhood event at Eden. This is an event where the entire Wood St. neighbors get together to meet and enjoy each other's company. Usually, the police and fire department, along with members of the City Council, come to a friendly and relaxed meet-and-greet event. Music and food are also provided. Eden will also be holding a "Blessing of the Animals" where the entire community is invited to bring their pets for a special blessing. Fall-O-Ween will again be held at the Dunaj home on October 17th. More information to follow. Eden supports several different AA groups by offering space to hold their monthly meetings. They will be holding their annual fundraising dinner at Eden on November 7th, and this usually attracts 60 to 80 visitors. The committee reports follow, addressing their specific areas of ministry.

Finance-Chuck Wilson: Income for June was \$20,772 with expenses of \$23,085. Our endowment fund is \$602,206.00 for the first quarter. Second quarter results are not yet available. New postage rates were discussed and the Stamps.com application was approved for renewal. A new compliance program regarding continual updates to meet governmental requirements was approved.

Music and Worship- Harvey Clark: Last meeting was held April 26th.

Evangelism and Outreach- Lynnea Dunaj: Our joint ministry with Trinity continues

Church COUNCIL

to provide food for needy families. June was the first month of our Communion Ministry program which provides communion to homebound or hospitalized individuals. Our July 4th event went well with over 130 guests attending. “God’s Hands, Our Work” event will be held in September.

Service and Fellowship- Nancy Liverman: The group will be busy with the Welcome Back to School luncheon for the preschool teachers, the ice cream social and bingo games, and by providing a special luncheon for the meeting with Bishop Dave.

Property Report- Martin Silveira: The kitchen door replacement has been ordered, and the dimmer switch in the sanctuary will be replaced. Some of the shrubs on the Brockton hillside had been trimmed to allow visibility for security cameras.

Security Report- Gary Hudson: No false alarm activations were reported in July. Trespassing activity continues and close monitoring is being performed.

Events-Gary Hudson: A date has not yet been fixed for another game night. The July 4th BBQ went well. Games were played and there were approximately 130 attendees to view the Mt. Rubidoux fireworks display.

Website/Advertising-Lynnea Dunaj: Review and updating continues for the church website. Several changes to improve our message will be added to the program.

Preschool-Pat Sinclair: Enrollment is down and causing concern. The budget will be re-reviewed to address this issue. The state analyst gave the school 2 technical violations during her visit—ground squirrel holes near the playground, and dirty trash can areas in the classrooms. Both violations are being corrected. Martin Silveira is working on the ground squirrel issue. Teachers are preparing their classrooms for the new school year. Back to School luncheon will be held July 30th. Weekly Children's Chapel continues. The next council meeting is August 26, 2026.





Director's Report August 20, 2026

School Update

- The teachers and I really enjoyed the luncheon. We look forward to it every year. The food was delicious and we had a great time.
- The CPR class was informative. It is always a great class, and it helps to refresh every two years. It is so much more fun with all the church members.
- The dishwasher won't start so we contacted Lynnea and Pat and then Eva called a repairman. When the repairman arrived, the dishwasher started with no problem, but I showed him that all the tubes were corroded and needed to be replaced. He came back the following week and replaced all the tubing. As far as I know the tubes have never been replaced.
- There are 3 extra children counted in the FTE and not in the attendance numbers because they left before the count was taken for this report, but their tuition was needed to be counted for income. Re-registration is also counted in this FTE.
- Staff hours have been cut to reflect the loss of students.

Upcoming Events

- Back to School night is August 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
- We have 3 children signed up to start in September and 1 for November at this time.

Welcome
Autumn



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>



3 Guiding Commitments for our Synod

by Bishop Dave

At our recent Regional Gatherings, I offered a slide with three suggested commitments for the year. It is my prayer that we as a synod can meditate on them and integrate them into our personal lives and congregational ministries. Here they are with some explanation.

Trust God

Trust is a much better translation of the Greek word *pistis* than *belief*, because trust implies relationship, commitment, and investment. Belief can be reduced to our opinions. It can keep us locked in our heads and never penetrate our hearts. But trust in God happens over time. It is born of worship, spiritual practices, and loving actions. It becomes more deeply rooted in us during times of hardship or struggle.

Love One Another

The observers of the early church commented, "See how they love one another." Jesus gave this as his only commandment: that we love one another as he loved us. In a polarized society, remaining committed to loving each other may be the most obvious gift of a Christian community. This is not about feeling something emotional; it is a commitment to one another's wholeness. It seeks reconciliation and not schism. Love includes all people and their perspectives respectfully.

Serve the Neighbor

Martin Luther wrote, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." This statement clearly roots our actions in the world in good Lutheran theology. Our salvation/wholeness is a free gift. We are set free to love and serve our neighbor. We don't serve them to make them join our church—we simply address their material, social, and spiritual needs as best we can because they, too, are children of God. When we serve our neighbors in joy, the promise of scripture (and our experience) is that our lives become more meaningful. Our mission becomes clearer. Our divisions become less important.

I am convinced that if we can trust God, love one another, and serve our neighbors, we will be a faith-filled and dynamic synod. Our light will shine, and our joy will be restored!

Peace,
+Dave



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.

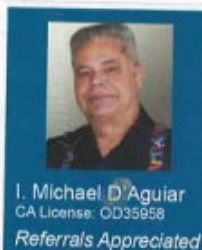
PRAYER CHAIN

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
Eden Lutheran Church

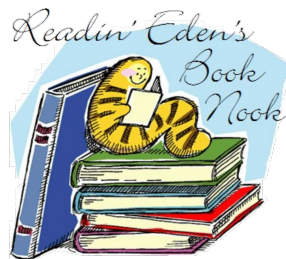
Bible Study and Women's Fellowship

NEXT MEETING:

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

LIISA KANE'S
LEADER WILL BE
NANCY LIVERMAN

GATHER
MAGAZINE
FALL ISSUE
SESSION 1



Readin' Eden will meet on **Sat. Sept. 26** at 10:00 a.m. at Liisa Kane's. We will be talking about Margaret Crane's book choice, "Yesteryear" by Caro Claire Burke. Margaret will be the hostess.

Yesteryear

by Caro Claire Burke

Margaret says, "My name was Natalie Heller Mills, and I was perfect at being alive.

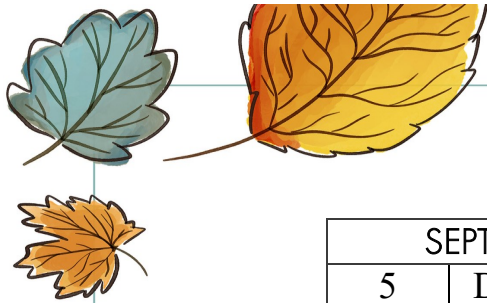
Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle. Her charming farmhouse is rustic, her husband a handsome cowboy, her six children each more delightful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers behind the scenes, her kitchen hiding industrial-grade fridges and ovens, her husband the heir to a political dynasty? What Natalie's followers--all 8 million of them--don't know won't hurt them. And The Angry Women? They're sick with jealousy. Because Natalie isn't simply living the good life, she's living the ideal--and just so happens to be building an empire from it.

Until one morning she wakes up in a life that isn't hers. Her home, her husband, her children--they're all familiar, but something's off. Her kitchen is warmed by a sputtering fire rather than electricity, her children are dirty and strange, and her soft-handed husband is suddenly competent farmer. Just yesterday Natalie was curating photos of homemade jam for her Instagram, and now she's expected to haul firewood and handwash clothes until her fingers bleed. Has she become the unwitting star of a ruthless reality show? Could it really be time travel? Is she being tested by God? By Satan? When Natalie suffers a brutal injury in the woods, she realizes two things: This is not her beautiful life, and she must escape by any means possible.

A gripping, electrifying novel that is as darkly funny as it is frightening, "Yesteryear" is a gimlet-eyed look at tradition, fame, faith, and the grand performance of womanhood."

WOW
See you at Liisa's.

Carol Mc

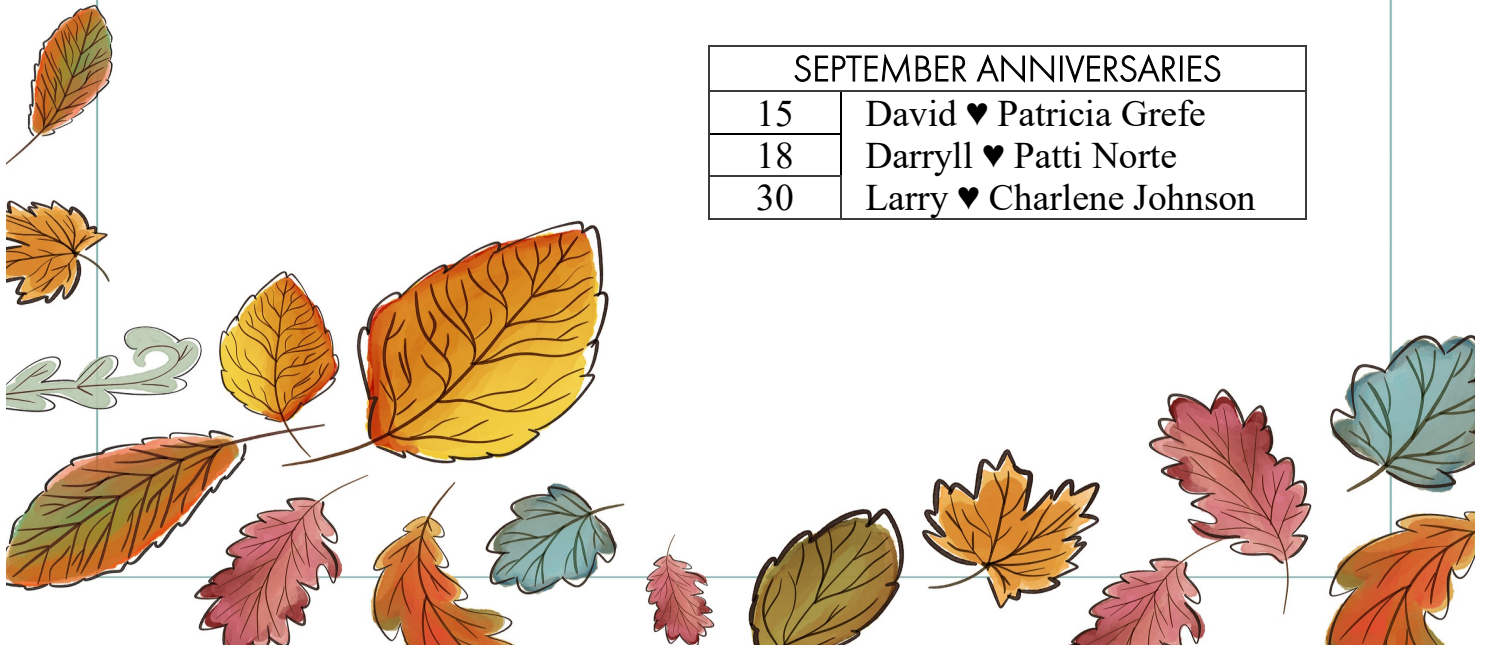


SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5	Dick Boyum
11	Michael Clark
12	Curtis Michael Clark
	Jaime Womer
13	Janice Gesner
14	Joseph Baranowski
	Callen Lowrey
17	Cecilia Samaniego
	Thomas Smith
18	Jack Smith
22	Joe Ludwig
25	Bruce Powell
	Sarah O'Neil
29	Christopher Swieca
30	James Sansom

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15	David ♥ Patricia Grefe
18	Darryll ♥ Patti Norte
30	Larry ♥ Charlene Johnson



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

Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



September Taize Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, September 14 at 7 pm

Be still and know that I am God.

(Psalm 46:10)

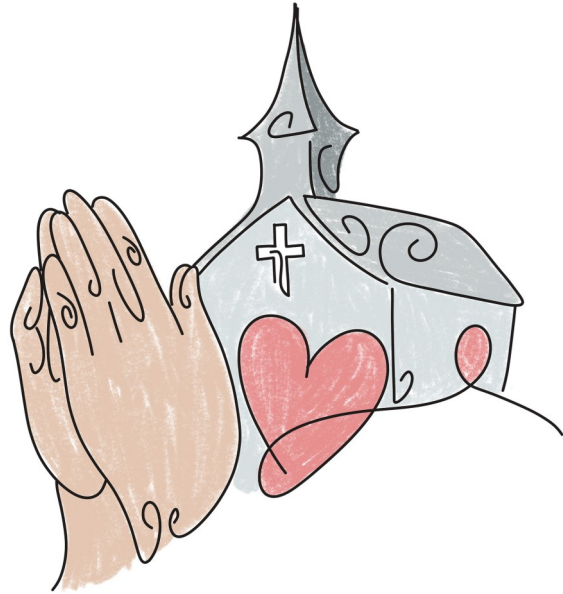
Riverside Taizé worship for the month of September will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (5969 Brockton Ave.) on **Monday, September 14 at 7 pm**. Please plan to join in this quiet hour of peace, contemplation, and prayer.

All are welcome.

Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.



A Prayer for Labor Day from ELCA Prayer Ventures



Praise the work people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all will receive fair wages, work in safe environments, receive encouragement, be renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor. Pray for those who seek employment and for the care, support and well-being of people unable to work.

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.



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS – OUTREACH UPDATES

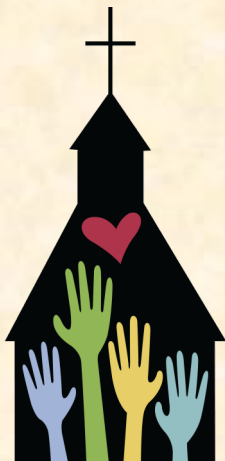
Homeless Sack Lunch Ministry



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

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DIRECTOR EDEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL: Darlene Keaneman

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION: Lynnea Dunaj

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY : Eva Gutierrez

Bookkeeper Maritza Valenzuela

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST: David Christensen

EDITOR: David Grefe

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ... 10:00AM

COFFEE HOUR 11:00AM

EDEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

Monday through Friday ✕ 6:30am to 5:30pm ✕ 18 Months through Pre-K

Eden Lutheran Church
4725 Brockton Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506

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Eden Lutheran Church & School



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

4725 Brockton Ave.
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OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am - 12:00pm
Monday - Friday

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
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OFFICE PHONE:
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E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
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