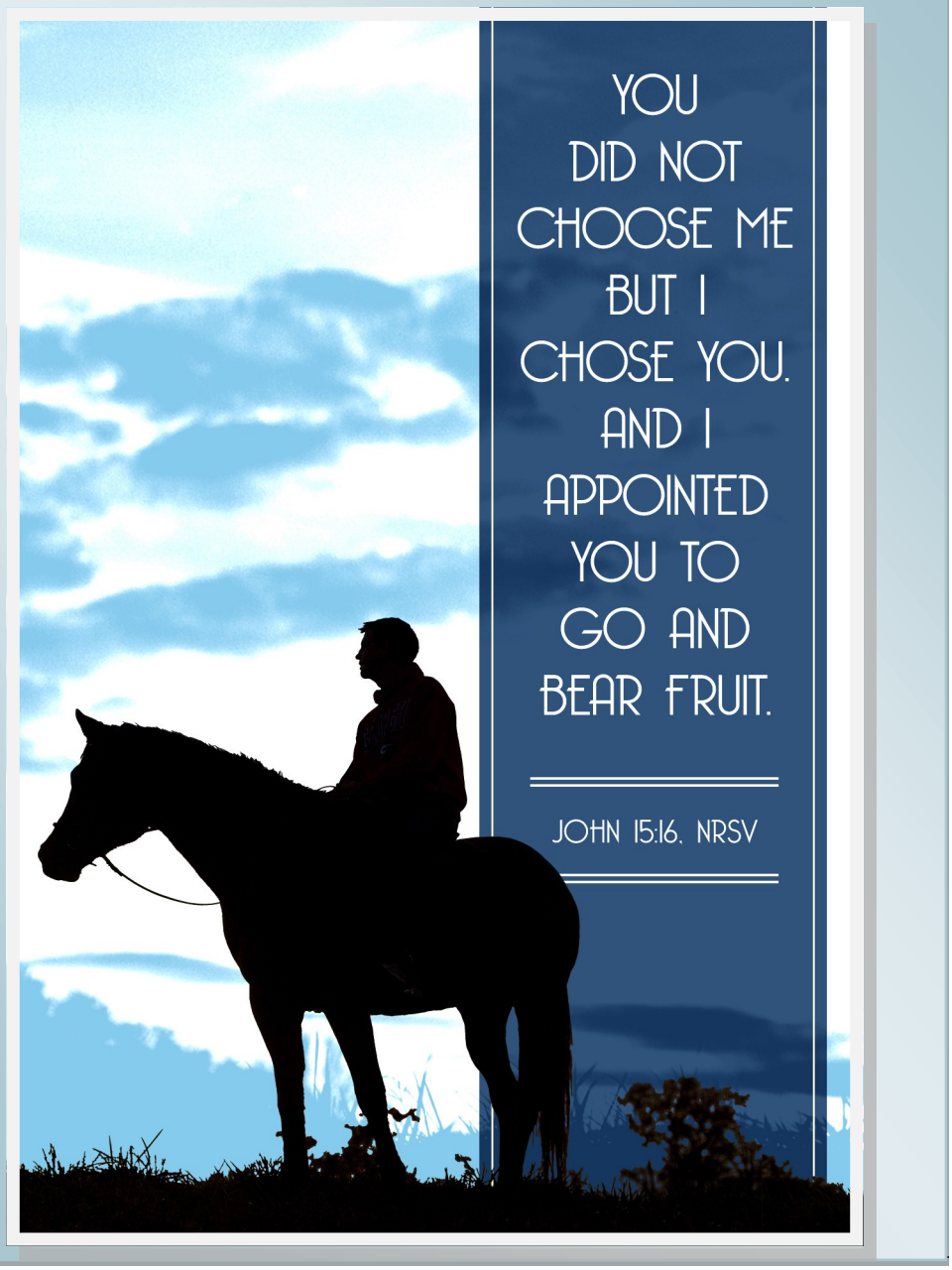
The Messenger

October 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for

EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH











OCTOBER'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:

October 4: World Communion Sunday
October 11: Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday
October 12: Columbus Day observed
October 12: Indigenous Peoples Day
October 25: Reformation Sunday
October 31: Reformation Day

October Food Drive:



Cooking Oil



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

To all Members of Eden Lutheran Church:

Our Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, October 11th**. It will be held in the sanctuary right after Sunday service. We will be voting on several items including council elections, the 2027 budget approval, and selecting delegates for next year's Pacifica Synod Assembly. Please plan on attending. Our Constitution requires that 10%, but no less than 30 persons, shall constitute a quorum. Your involvement and support for Eden Lutheran Church is necessary for its ongoing existence.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.
Peace and Blessings.

Lynnea Dunaj
Council President

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

Boy! Has August been hot!
The council meeting focused on property maintenance issues. The fellowship hall air conditioners are old and not cooling properly. Much repair is required. Hasco will do what they can, but also state that the system may need updating or replacement in the future. The kitchen dishwasher also required repair. The kitchen door has been replaced. There is a freon leak in the large church refrigerator that affects the cooling ability. Many sprinkler heads are broken or damaged and must be replaced. We are trying to get as much labor and equipment donated as possible. Two new AED defibrillators have been purchased in case of emergencies giving us three altogether. These will be placed in the sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall. Easy instructions are included in each kit. Eden has invited the Getsemani church to jointly help observe the "Gods Work, Our Hands" event by joining us for worship. They will also be assisting with completing our selected work projects.
Chuck Wilson has given his Council resignation as he is relocating to Monterey. He will be sorely missed. Chuck, thank you for all your support and hard work while currently serving as Council Treasurer, Finance Committee Head, and Preschool Board Member. We will be having his good-bye affair and potluck on September 20th. We will also provide a cake while celebrating Eden's 138 anniversary.
Even with everything going on, all committees have been busy, as the following reports state.

Finance-Chuck Wilson: July Income was $25,755 and Expenses were $27,544. The Endowment balance is $654,792.97. The Jan-July 2026 Market Value increased by $34,299.03, with $10,574.50 of Interest Earned for the same period. Many maintenance issues with expenses were approved. The budget process is continuing. Financial Reports are being completed for the Annual Meeting presentation.

Worship and Music-Harvey Clark: The service setting will change in September. Pastor Hall plans to sing the great thanksgiving part. The next meeting will be on August 30th.

Evangelism and Outreach-Lynnea Dunaj: Several community groups either used or plans to use Eden's facilities. These include the Historic Wood Streets Assoc., Al-Anon, and the NOWS group. El Shaddai held an all-day women's event in the preschool courtyard. Eden held their Ice Cream Social and played Bingo games. We continue to support Trinity with food donations. Erv Seidel is applying for the Matthew Grant for the sack lunch program. And we are planning projects for the "God's Work, Our Hands" event.

Service and Fellowship-Nancy Liverman: Sept. 20 will be a farewell potluck for

Church COUNCIL

Chuck Wilson. We will also be celebrating Eden's 138th anniversary with a cake. Reformation Sunday will be rejoiced with a Baked Potato Lunch. Bryan and Lynnea will provide baked potatoes.

Property-Martin Silveira: The kitchen door has been replaced. The dimmer switch in the narthex has been replaced. We are now looking into repairing or replacing some of the sanctuary lamp fixtures. All electrical outlets are being tested for electricity flow. The shrubs on the front slope have been cut down due to security reasons. We are researching the lack of water being disbursed on that slope in order to present a cleaner, greener hillside.

Security-Gary Hudson: There was one false alarm activation which was deactivated prior to police dispatch. Only one trespass incident was reported.

Events-Gary Hudson: Working on plans for the "God's Work, Our Hands" event which includes a donation request to help people of Indonesian that were affected by the recent earthquake.

Website and Advertising-Lynnea Dunaj: Finalized plans on website updates are being worked on prior to meeting with the Webmaster.

Preschool-Pat Sinclair: Student enrollment is down drastically, and the school budget is being revised to address this situation. Staff work hours have been reduced. Ways are being researched that would attract the public's attention to the school. Feather flags have been installed along Brockton Street that encourage enrollment. Back to School Night was well attended. The dishwasher needed repairing and the other churches that use the equipment will be requested to share the repair expenses. Our parent representative on the board is leaving as her daughter is now entering kindergarten.

Our next council meeting is on September 23, 2026.



Preschool News

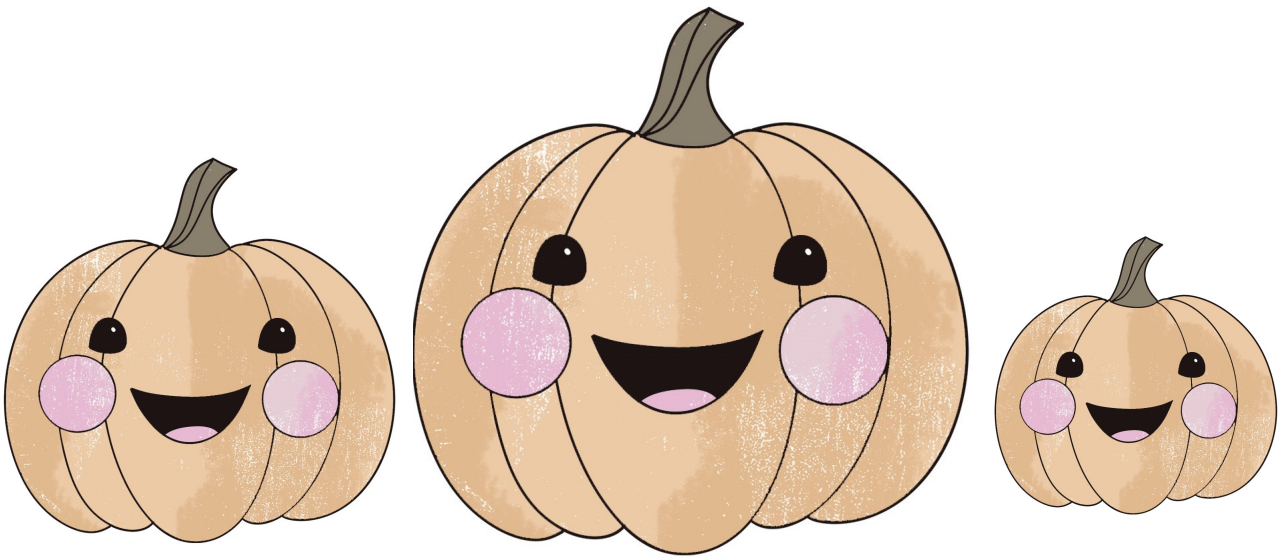
Director's Report
September 17, 2026

School Update

- Back to School Nite went very well. There were a lot of people in attendance. We even had some prospective parents attend.
- The new signs outside are working. We had two parents come in after noticing them and both signed up,
- Julio has removed the fabric coverings on the playground in preparation for the new fencing.
- Fire inspector came by on September 1. We did not receive any citations. We were given hints about the inspections for the kitchen and other church related areas. I shared them with Lynnea.

Upcoming Events

- Blessing of the animals on October 8 at 4:00 pm. Notices have been given to the parents, and it will be included in the What's up for October.



All are welcome to join Pastor Woody for Bible Study



I and II Maccabees (Apocrypha), these two writings describe the revolt of the Jews against their Greek overlords of the 2nd century BC, the horrible persecutions the Jews went thru, and the historical background for the Jewish Festival of Hanukkah.

1. The class will meet in the Board Room behind the sanctuary in person, and by Zoom. This is an experiment.
2. Meeting dates and times:
   October 4 after worship, in Boardroom in person(grab coffee and meet)
   October 5, 14, 6:30 p.m. in Boardroom in person or by Zoom,
   and November 4, 11, 6:30 p.m. in Boardroom or by Zoom.
3. Participants are asked to read the assigned text in advance.
4. I have copies of the text of I and II Maccabees for you to pick up at the church.
5. The first class will have two parts: Overview of the writings and studying I Maccabees 1:1 - 10:1.
6. As we get closer to the first class I will send you the Zoom Link for the study.

We look forward to studying with you!



Pacifica Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

Bulletin Boa

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 ! ! !

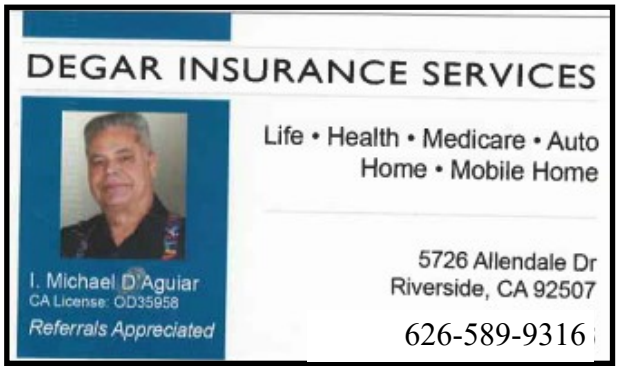
We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at various restaurants around town. Check Sunday's bulletin to see the restaurant where we will be meeting the next day.

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.

Property Ministry

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. Oct 21

10:00 a.m.

Liisa Kane's

Leader will be

Marlon Pounds

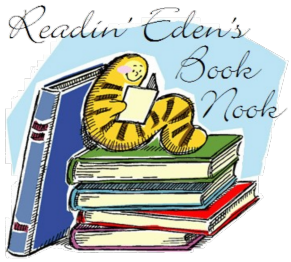
Gather

magazine

Fall issue

Session 2





Readin' Eden will meet on **Sat., Oct.24** at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Liisa Kane. We will be talking about Roseana Duron's book choice, "A Far-Flung Life" by M. L. Stedman. Roseana will be the hostess.

A Far-Flung Life

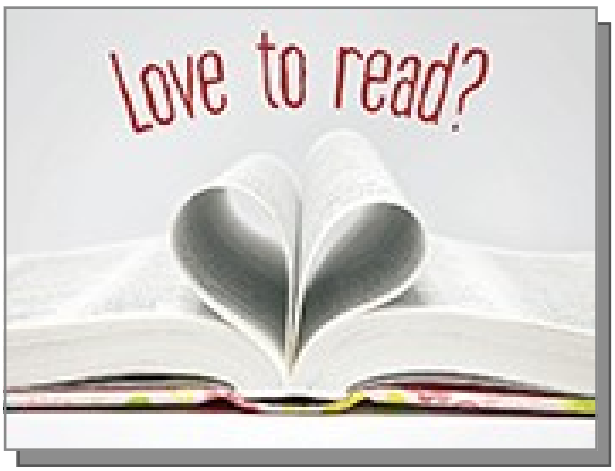
by M. L. Stedman

Roseana says, "The red earth at Western Australia holds its secrets close. On a million-acre sheep station called Meredith Downs, the land itself seems to breathe--indifferent to human joy, grief, or the terrible things people do to protect the ones they love.

In 1958 a truck crash at the McBride family-owned station triggers a chain of events that haunt the surviving family members for decades as they grapple with grief, guilt, and concealment. The novel spans from 1958 to the year 2000, tracing the McBride family through tragedy, exile, and the long, slow work of finding peace.

The isolated Australian landscape, impossible moral choices, and the weight of what goes unsaid provides multi-generational portrait of a family bound not just by blood, but by the secrets blood demands."

See you at Liisa's.
Carol Mc





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS	
7	Schera Harner
10	Esther D'Aguiar
	Jim Gruender
11	Daniel Valdespino
12	Michael D'Aguiar
	Judy Okamura
14	Shannon Valdespino
15	Rodger Liverman
21	Sandra Brown
	Liisa Kane
	Kelly Kertsen
26	Kanani Baranowski
	Carita Dickson
27	Bishop Baranowski
	Kari Rohr
28	Jennifer Larsen
31	David McAnern
	Ervin Seidel

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
8	Joe ♥ Mary Lou Ludwig
19	Kyle ♥ Jenny McCallum

Members of Eden Lutheran Church and Lynnea Dunaj, President of the Council and Congregation,

What a delightful shock this last Sunday. I was not expecting Lynnea to get up and congratulate me for reaching the age of 76. Thank you for your cards and gift card. Your kind gestures and well wishing was very touching to me and my wife. I also greatly appreciated the large container of Chocolate Chip Cookies. I may even share these with Suzan. I thoroughly enjoy ministry with fun loving and kind people, as yourselves. It makes ministry not work but a joy.

Looking forward to the ministry God entrusts to all of us!
Sincerely,
Pastor Woody and Suzan

Please notify the office if your birthday or wedding anniversary is incorrectly listed, or missing.
Our goal is to include everyone! Thank you!



October Taize Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, October 12 at 7 pm

Be still and know that I am God.
(Psalm 46:10)

The next Taizé community worship service will be on Monday, **October 12** at Madison Street Church (3991 Madison St.) at 7 pm. The church entrance off Madison Street can be easy to miss - you may need to go around the block if you miss it, but don't let that deter you: All are welcome for this meaningful time of peace and prayer.

Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.





A DOSE of 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 is adding to the "spice of life" by donating 118 different types of spice to Trinity's Food Pantry. Thank you all for the continued support of this project, and thank you Erv Seidel for delivering everything for us.

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.



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.

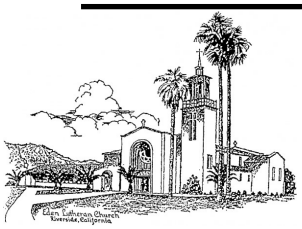
Christ in our Home is a wonderful tool to use in preparation for Sunday worship. The meditations for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and Sunday each week are based on the Old Testament, Psalm, and New Testament readings, respectively, that are presented during worship that Sunday at worship. The Sunday 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.

Pacifica Synod

4725 Brockton Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506

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

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edenlutheran.org

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(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
(951) 683-7001