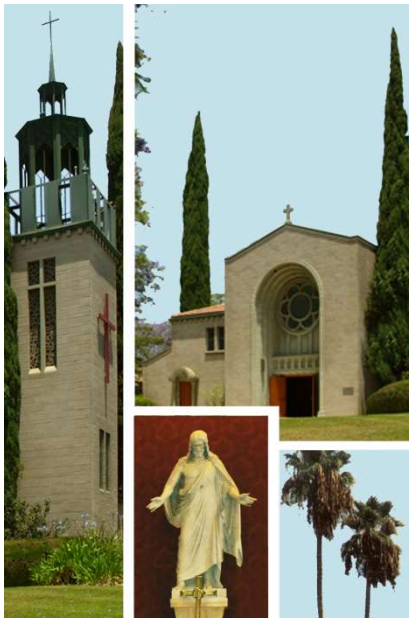
The Messenger

November 2026

A Monthly Non-Profit Newsletter for

EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH





NOVEMBER FEATURES
LOOKING AHEAD INSIDE COVER
COUNCIL CORNER PAGE 1
PRESCHOOL NEWS PAGE 3
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OUTREACH PAGE 14

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."

Looking Ahead:

November 1: All Saints' Day
November 1: Daylight-Saving Time Ends
November 11: Veterans Day
November 15: Bible Sunday
November 22: Christ the King Sunday
November 26: Thanksgiving Day
November 29: First Sunday of Advent

November Food Drive:



Canned Vegetables

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/

- What a shock on Sunday when Pat Sinclair made the announcement concerning "Clergy Appreciation Day." The kind words expressed by Pat on behalf of the congregation touched my heart deeply. Our time together, even though brief, has brought great joy to my wife and to me. Your kind words, sense of humor, and willingness to work together have made our shared ministry one of great joy and appreciation. Thank you also for the generous gift card to be used at Pietro's. As we celebrate at Pietro's we will give thanks to our Lord and the ministry we share, not only amongst ourselves, but also Riverside and the world.

Sincerely,
Pastor Woody and Suzan

- Healing Sessions will be held at the end of service of every last Sunday of the month.

- Pastor Kim Zoom Bible Study every Tuesday @ 10:30 am
New Zoom Link:
https://zoom.us/j/98470998101

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

September 2026

Submitted by Lynnea Dunaj, Council President

Hello everyone! Our meeting was held on September 23, 2026.
Members present: Lynnea Dunaj, Harvey Clark, Chuck Wilson, Pat Sinclair, Martin Silveira, Gary Hudson, and Katie Williams.
Members Absent: Pastor Woody Hall.
Guests: Lyle Hodgerson.

Council's focus for September was the upcoming Annual Meeting and the makeup of the church council. The minimum number of members required by our constitution is 7. Chuck Wilson offered his resignation due to his relocation to Monterey. Katie Williams submitted her resignation effective December 31st due to other time-consuming responsibilities. And Harvey Clark will be completing his third term in December. Lyle Hodgeson has stepped up to fill Chuck's vacant position which was approved by council. We need two additional council members to be elected at our annual meeting to meet our required minimum. The maximum number of members is 9, so we could also vote for an additional 2 members.
Another major issue is approving the proposed budget. The proposal consists of two budgets, one for the continued bridge pasture position and the other for a full-time pastor. Both scenarios present a concerning deficit. Eden's financial position is important to the entire congregation. We cannot continue in this downward spiral. Drastic steps must be taken to help reduce the numbers in our budget proposals. In-depth conversations will be held at the Council and Call Committee levels to address the viability of Eden. In the meantime, all committees work hard to keep Eden moving in a forward direction. Each committee report follows.

Finance-Chuck Wilson: Financial reports were approved reflecting August income of $19,337 and expenses of $29,733. Our checking account, (working daily capital), has a balance of $35,233. A withdrawal from our endowment fund may be necessary to cover ongoing expenses which our monthly income is not able to cover. The current endowment balance as of August 31, 2026, is $662,576. The proposed budget was approved and presented to council.

Worship and Music-Harvey Clark: Pelieah Baesa was approved as an additional canter. The All-Saints Day event will be held on November 1st. A table of candles will be set up in the sanctuary allowing anyone to light a candle in remembrance of deceased loved ones. A pie social will be held on Christ the King Sunday on November 22nd. Pastor will be on vacation December 2 through 18 and is in the process of obtaining supply pastors. Santa Lucia will be held on November 29th prior to Pastor Woody Hall going on vacation.

Evangelism and Outreach- Lynnea Dunaj: Eden and the Getsemani church joined together to complete projects for the God's Work, Our Hands event. The ladies' luncheons are held on Mondays at 11 AM. The NOWS group will be holding their National Night Out event at Eden on October 6th. The quilters continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Eden delivered 120 items of canned fruit to Trinity's Food Pantry.

Service and Fellowship- Nancy Liverman: This group works hard on all events shared with the congregation. September consisted of God's Work, Our Hands and a birthday cake for Pastor Woody's birthday, hosting Chuck Wilson's going away party and Eden's 138th anniversary, and Ben Terou's new membership Reception. October events will include Reformation Sunday on October 25th with a Potato

Church COUNCIL

Bake. Be sure to wear red.

Property- Martin Silveira: Several items were addressed in September. The dimmer switch in the Narthex was replaced. Several bushes and shrubs were cut down to help reduce homeless individuals from setting up camps in them. The Brockton St. slope now has water and sprinkler capabilities. The preschool fencing replacement has begun. Julio Martinez patched and painted the ceiling behind the organ and cleaned up and painted the Fellowship Hall restroom. Sprinkler heads are being replaced in the preschool play area.

Security- Gary Hudson: The Preschool failed twice to set the alarms at closing. There were three incident reports filed in September, one requiring the Riverside Police Department to respond and remove a trespasser. All incident reports are filed in the church office. **Events- Gary Hudson:** The God's Work, Our Hands event went well, with hygiene bags and packages of beans being delivered to Trinity's Food Pantry. Funds were also gathered to assist the Indonesian Earthquake Relief Fund. **Website and Advertising-**

Lynnea Dunaj: Progress on updating the Website information is continuing. Our next meeting is October 15th.

Preschool- Pat Sinclair: The preschool budget was approved. Currently 17 students are enrolled. The staff voluntarily took approximately a 50% cut in hours to avoid reducing the number of teachers. One unemployment claim was filed and action is pending. Dar is working on finding a new parent representative for the board.

Our next Council Meeting is October 28, 2026.



Director's Report
October 22, 2026

Preschool News

School Update

- We had three children start at the end of September. We are starting at least one toddler in November.
- The fence on the playground has been installed. It looks great. Thank you everyone that helped make it possible.
- It's 3:00pm on Monday, October 19, 2026 and had a discussion with Leann Salmon, past director of THUMPS. She stated that their school had to make changes such as taking younger children, staying open later like us or close their doors. She asked questions about the School and Church and our relationship. I answered the questions as best I could.

Upcoming Events

- Spirit Day is Wednesday, everyone is encouraged to wear Halloween or Fall themed clothes. No costumes.
- Trunk & Treat will be on Friday, October 30. We will start at 10:00 am with a parade through the church office and then move on to the festivities. We have some parents volunteering to set up trunks.



From the Presiding Bishop

Pacifica Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Call to be Trusted Messengers in This Election Season

Dear church,

In an interview after I was elected, I reflected on my experience as a mission developer, saying, “It is not about what you think you’re bringing into the community. It’s who you are in the community. The minute we showed that we cared is really when the community adopted us. People don’t care about what you know till they know that you care, and that was the biggest learning for me.”

Faithful. Informed. Engaged. This refrain captures a vision for Lutheran Christians living out their baptismal calling in the election season and beyond. Faith grounds us in God’s promises, and Christ sends us forth to love our neighbors and serve the world. Being informed equips us to address complex issues with wisdom, discernment and integrity. Being engaged reminds us that our participation in civic life is a key way we love and serve our neighbors. Our public witness is rooted in faith, guided by honesty and expressed through active citizenship.

ELCA ministries and leaders already play vital roles during election seasons. You register voters, provide rides to the polls, open your buildings as polling places and advocate for voting rights. Thank you! This year, I invite you to embrace an additional role to help strengthen our democracy: serving as trusted messengers in your communities.

Our church can be “all together in one place” as a powerful witness for truth, love of neighbor and honesty. False information remains a persistent challenge during elections. It can spread rapidly, undermining confidence in the electoral process and discouraging participation. Grounded in the commandment not to bear false witness, our churches and faith leaders are uniquely positioned to help address this challenge by seeking out and sharing accurate information and correcting misinformation when it arises. In a time when trust is often in short supply, serving as trusted sources of wisdom and guidance is a meaningful form of Christian witness. By helping our neighbors access accurate information and engage confidently in the democratic process, we live out our faith through responsible civic engagement and service to the common good.

The ELCA offers a variety of resources to help congregations and individuals be trusted messengers.

The new “ELCA Election Engagement Toolkit” provides guidance on topics that include serving as trusted messengers, engaging in election protection and modeling love of neighbor in polarized communities.

Through the “ELCA Civic Engagement Guide,” you can access materials on voter education, voter registration, candidate forums, legal guidelines for congregations, voting rights and ways to encourage participation in local communities.

I invite you to take faithful steps this election year:

• Register to vote if you have not already done so and check your registration to make sure it is up-to-date. Use the “Prepared to Vote Checklist” to think through local voting requirements.

• Learn about the issues, ballot measures and candidates that will shape your community. Participate in respectful conversations.

• Check sources of information before sharing it in conversations or online.

• Pray for those who serve in public office, for election workers and for all who will exercise the privilege of voting. Create spaces for faithful, open conversation with voters, candidates or neighbors in your community.

• Encourage your family members, friends and neighbors to take part in the democratic process.

Be faithful, informed and engaged as disciples of Jesus seeking the well-being of our neighbors and the common good of the communities God has entrusted to our care. Every act of informed participation, every conversation marked by grace and every vote cast with prayerful discernment is an opportunity to bear witness to God's love in the world.



In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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.

We look forward to studying with you!

Bulletin

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



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

B o a r d

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

-

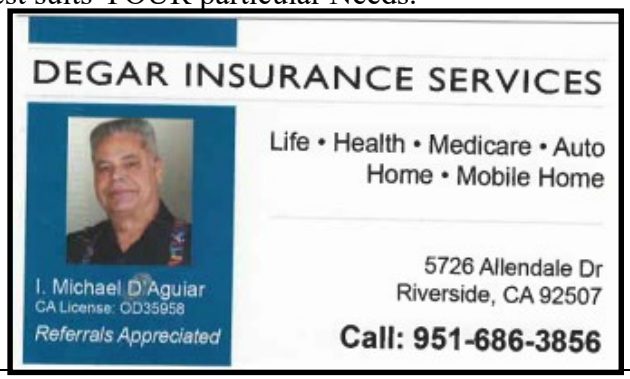
Park near a light at night

Prayer Chain

If you have any prayer requests,
Please call
Church Office/Pastor Woody at:
(951) 684.3336

Call Pastor 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.



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 Martin Silveira.

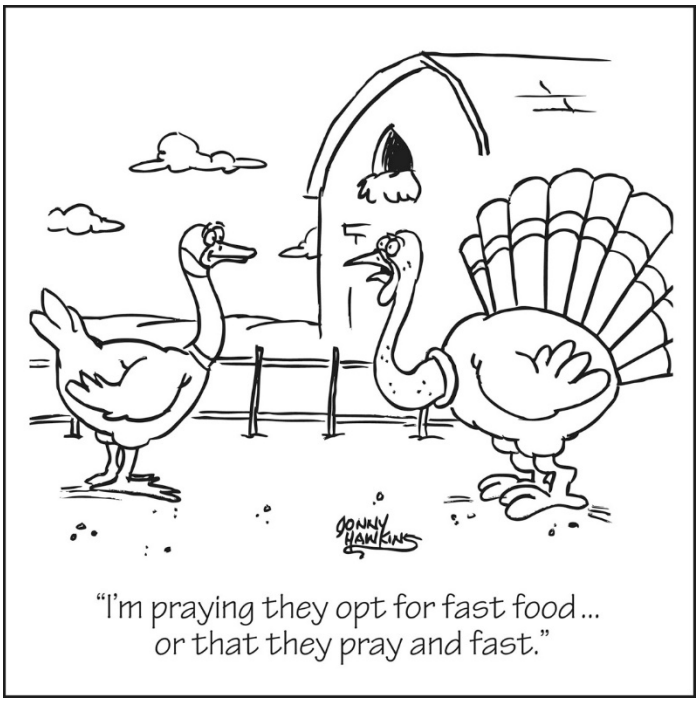


Fridays at 10:00

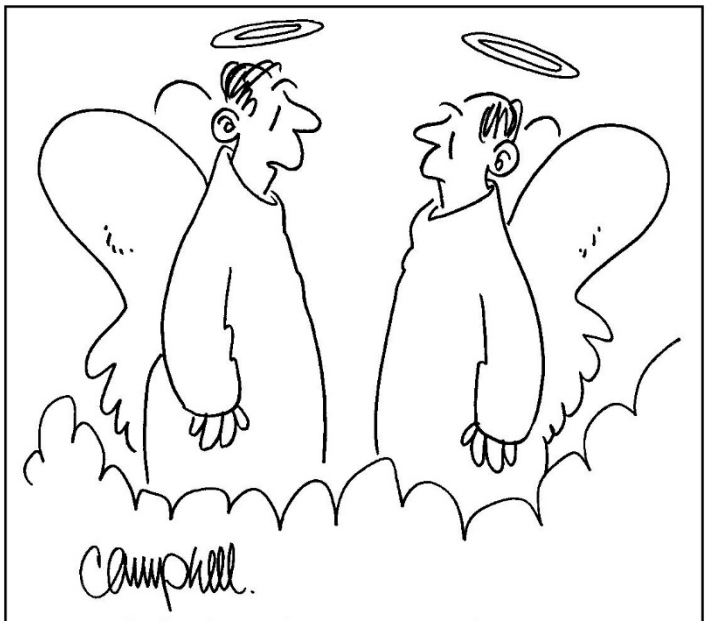
For Details Contact:

James Sansom 951.351.8139
Or
Dave McAnern 951.686.6443

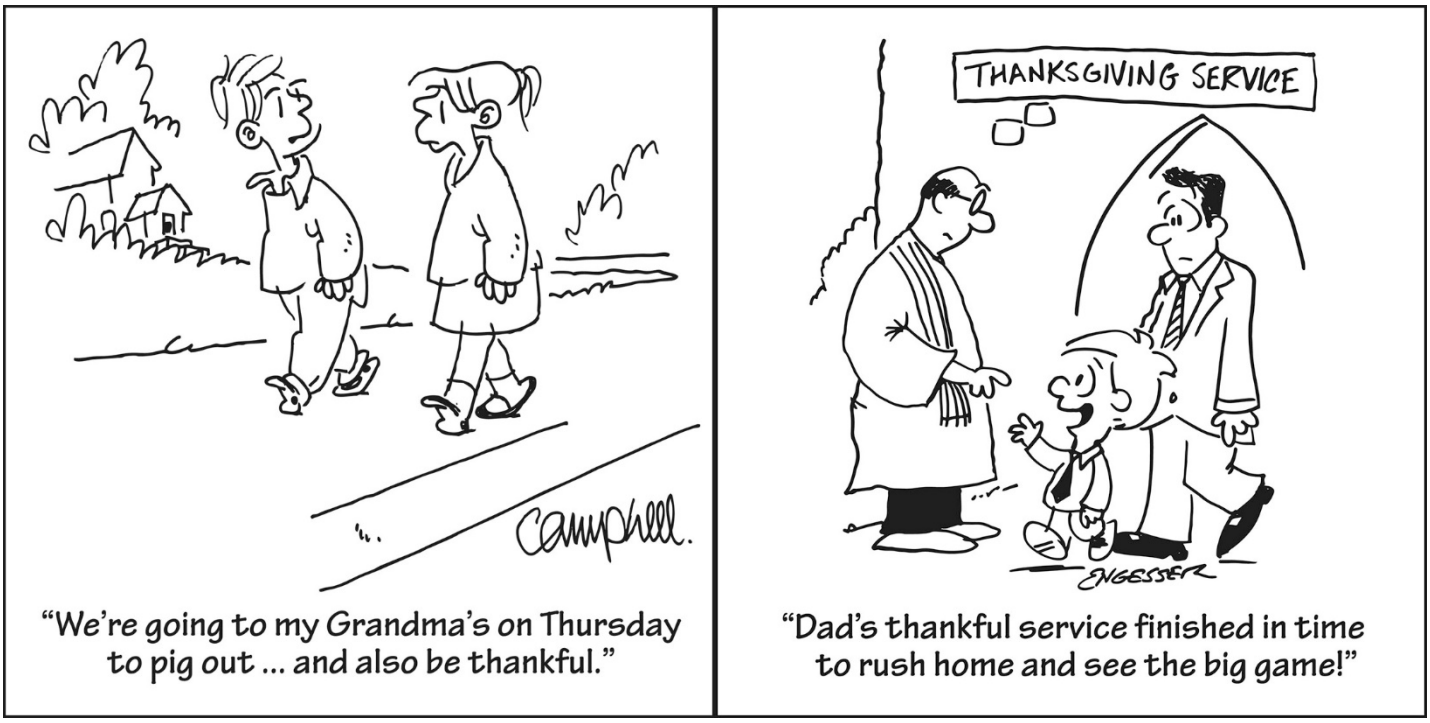
A DOSE OF HUMOR



"I'm praying they opt for fast food...
or that they pray and fast."



"The last thing I remember is
Thanksgiving dinner. I asked for wings."



"We're going to my Grandma's on Thursday to pig out ... and also be thankful."

"Dad's thankful service finished in time to rush home and see the big game!"



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

Handiwork

Eden Lutheran Church Women

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

Bible Study and Women's Fellowship

Next Meeting:

Wed. Nov 18

10:00 a.m.

Liisa Kane's

Leader will be

Joan Seidel

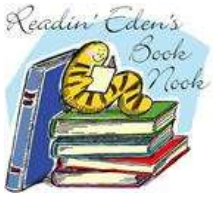
Gather

magazine

Fall issue

Session 3





Readin' Eden will meet at 10:00 a.m. on **Sat., Nov. 28** at Liisa Kane's. We will be talking about Lynnea Dunaj's book "The Dutch house" by Ann Patchett. Lynnea will be the hostess.

The Dutch House

by Ann Patchett

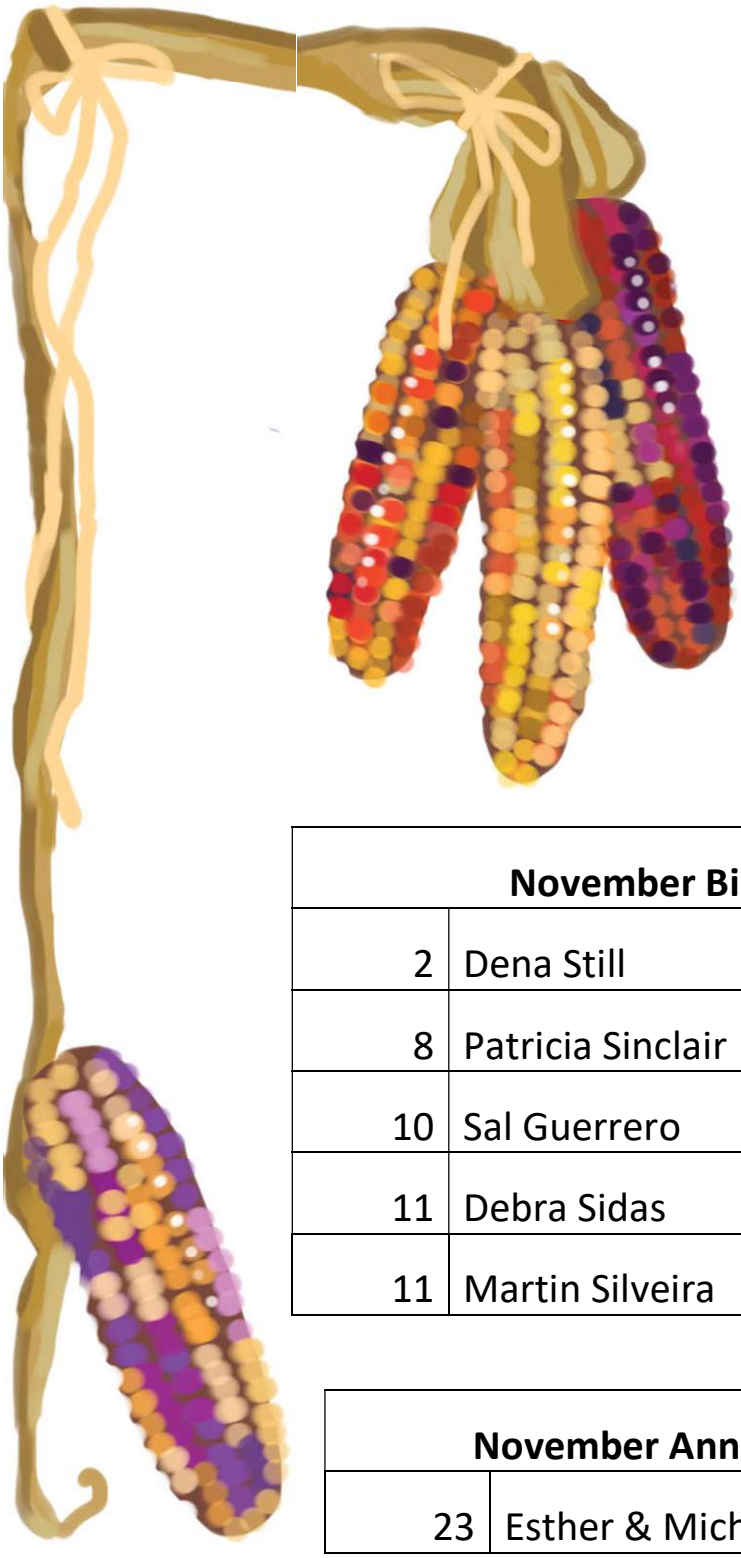
Lynnea says, "At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroyy combines luck and a single canny investment to build an immense real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

The story is told by Cyrill's son, Danny, as he and his older sister, Maeve, are exiled by their stepmother from the house where they grew up. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is each other. It is this unshakable bond that saves both their lives and thwarts their futures.

The Dutch House is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, forgiveness, how we want to see ourselves, and who we really are."

See you at Liisa's.
Carol Mc







November Birthdays	
2	Dena Still
8	Patricia Sinclair
10	Sal Guerrero
11	Debra Sidas
11	Martin Silveira

November Anniversaries	
23	Esther & Michael D'Aguiar

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

November Taize Worship

All Saints Episcaopal Church

Monday, November 9 at 7 pm

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

The November Taizé will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church (3847 Terracina Dr.) on Monday, November 9, at 7 pm. 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. Please join in this hour of peace and prayer.

Contact Nicolette Rohr with questions.



Trunk-n-Treat at Trinity



Saturday, October 31

Trinity Lutheran will host the annual Trunk-n-Treat on Saturday, October 25 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. This event is open to everyone and includes games, music, food, and candy! Join in the fun in our neighborhood. If you are interested in helping, you can add your car and decorated trunk to the parking lot, or help by donating candy! Contact Deacon Brenda with questions.

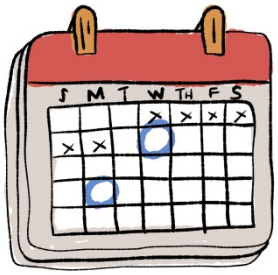


Holiday Rummage Sale at Trinity

Saturday, November 7

Trinity Lutheran is accepting donations for their Holiday Rummage Sale. You can donate holiday decorations, or any household items or toys that are in good condition and could be holiday gifts. You can also help by shopping the sale on Saturday, November 7, from 8 am to 12:00 noon. All proceeds will support the food pantry.

Save the dates!



Mark your calendar now for this year's Advent season, Christmas concerts, and community events:

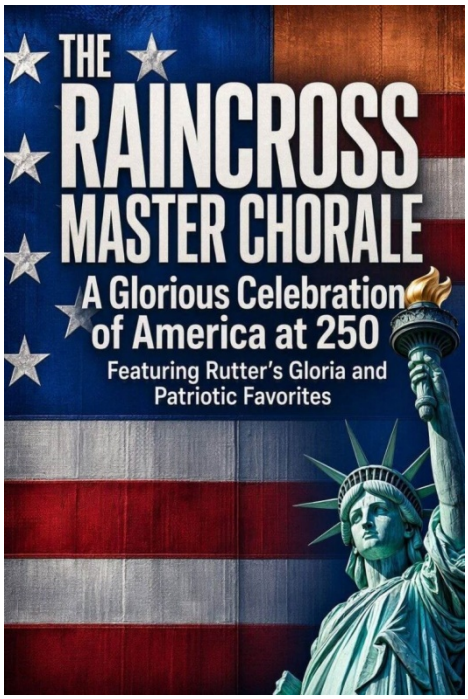
- **Sunday, November 29** - First Sunday in Advent
- **Sunday, December 6** - Alternative Gift Fair at First United Methodist Church, starting at 11 am
- **Saturday, December 12**, 7 pm and Sunday, December 13, 4 pm - Christmas choir concerts at Trinity Lutheran, with accompaniment from chamber orchestra
- **Sunday, December 13**, 7 pm - Annual Messiah Singalong, LDS Stake Center , 4375 Jackson St. This is a free community event with orchestra and soloists and scores available.

Raincross Master Chorale

America at 250

4 p.m. **Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026**
Calvary Presbyterian Church
4495 Magnolia Ave., Riverside

General admission $25 or $15 for seniors, students and military.



Bright Horizons

Good news! Family Promise of Riverside will be opening a special new shelter, thanks to a partnership with All Saints Episcopal Church. As you likely know, Family Promise works to support families experiencing homelessness and keep families together using a model of a day shelter and overnight shelter at rotating host congregations, including many of our neighboring churches. When new mothers experiencing homelessness are released from the hospital with infant children, they need somewhere safe, healthy, and secure to grow and bond, off the streets, and where they can be sheltered without moving around daily. I have prayed over this need since the Executive Director of Family Promise, who has spoken at Eden, shared this situation. I am grateful that Family Promise will now be leasing a home owned by All Saints and formerly leased to Inspire Life Skills, which serves foster youth. All Saints is working on significant preparations to the home, including installing solar panels, and Family Promise is also partnering with Blue Zones Riverside, which promotes healthy communities, and Living Spaces who will help furnish the house. Bright Horizons is a significant undertaking, meeting an important need in our community and loving our neighbors, including the very newest of them!

Please consider supporting Bright Horizons with a donation. Visit fpriverside.org to donate, and select "Bright Horizons." Checks made out to Family Promise Riverside can be mailed to 7200 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, CA. 92504.

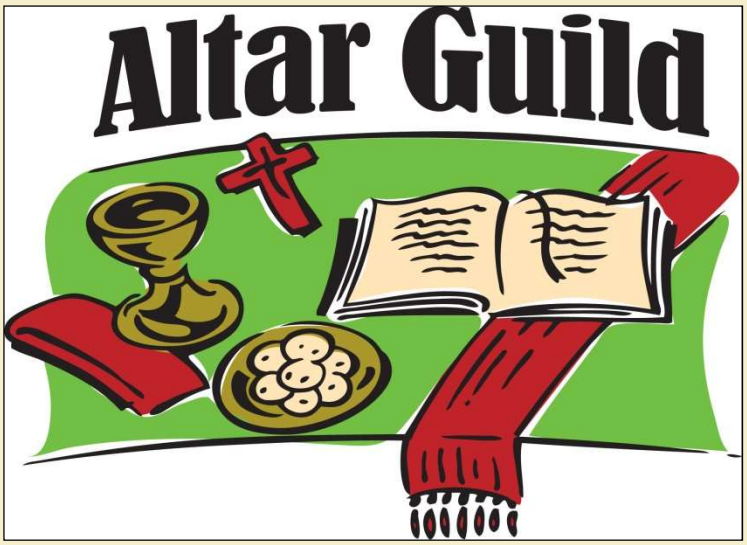
- Nicolette Rohr

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 Erv and Joan for delivering 120 items of canned fruit to Trinity's Food Pantry for September. We are so thankful that you are always there to deliver the items for us. We depend on you more than you knows.
And Eden, thank you for your generous donations. You always rise to the occasion for those in need. We will be collecting cooking oil for October.



Join our team! We need your help, please consider joining the Altar Guild team. Just a few months commitment each year.

Contact Erin Done - erindone43@yahoo.com or
Patty Grefe - pgrefe@aol.com for more information.

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. Trinity 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 October, November, December 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		Sunday Schedule
Interim Paster:	Pastor Woody Hall	Service of Holy Communion 10:00am
Director Eden Lutheran School:	Darlene Keaneman	
President of the Congregation:	Lynnea Dunaj	Coffee Hour 11:00am
Administrative Secretary:	Eva Gutierrez	
Bookkeeper:	Maritza Valenzuela	
Director of Music / Organist:	David Christensen	
Editor:	David Grefe	

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

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
edenlutheran.org

OFFICE PHONE:
(951) 684.3336

OFFICE FAX:
(951) 684.8208

E-MAIL:
info@edenlutheran.org

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
(951) 683-7001