



Edison Lutheran Church



THE PARISH VISITOR

MAY 2025

The Second Commandment:

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

What is this?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God’s name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.

-Luther’s Small Catechism

Dear People of God,

The second commandment is much more important than we think.

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but on the inside are ravenous wolves!”

-Matthew 7:15

I think if you asked me to explain the importance of this commandment as a teenager, I would have said that it was about being respectful when we talked about God, and perhaps about being polite in our speech in general. As a kid, I remember learning that this commandment meant I should avoid flippant phrases such as “Oh my God,” and as I got older, I learned some other, cruder, expressions that I should also avoid (no need to repeat those here!).

It wasn’t until I was studying to be a pastor that I really began to appreciate the importance of this commandment and just how harmful abuses of God’s name could be. I had always thought the importance of the commandment was in how our speech might offend God; it wasn’t until I was preparing to speak to others in God’s name that I began to grasp how deeply others might be hurt by my misuse of God’s name. Sure, the commandment has something to say to all of us in how we regulate our daily speech, but it is absolutely crucial for pastors and others who claim to speak on God’s behalf.

Without making use of God’s name, it would be impossible for me to do my job. When I preach a sermon, administer the sacraments, or proclaim the forgiveness of sins, I am speaking not my own words, but God’s words—words that are bundled up with God’s own name. The words I speak as a pastor are powerful, and they are powerful precisely because they are spoken in God’s name. God’s name is powerful, and the misuse of this power causes deep wounds.

You can get a hint to the importance of this commandment simply by reading it in Exodus chapter 20. Most of the Ten Commandments are simply stated, but this commandment is given along with a threat: “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, *for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.*” (Exodus 20:7) As a pastor, I think about this verse, and

especially the threat of the second half, every time I prepare to preach. The words spoken in God's name are a matter of life and death for God's people, and God is deadly serious about the use and misuse of that name.

And yet this commandment, like all the commandments, is violated each and every day. Not only in the flippant speech of those looking to pepper their words with shock value, but especially by those who take up the name of God in order to further their own ends. They use God's name to piously paper over their misdeeds or to dress up their deceptions, exploiting the sincerity of those who hear them for their own ill-gotten gain.

A particularly egregious example of this came to my attention a few months ago in a fundraising appeal from Paula White, a prosperity 'gospel' preacher, for the Jewish holiday of Purim. Normally, I wouldn't pay that much attention—after all, what's new about a corrupt televangelist?—but this case seemed especially noteworthy due to her recent appointment to a position within the White House. As outrageous as the appeal was on its own, it was made worse by the fact that she had an official advisory position within the United States government.

Though it was dressed up like an online worship service, this half-hour video was really a fundraising infomercial which used the Bible and the name of God to obscure the real goal of bringing in as much money as possible. Whether it was the repeated asks for giving sprinkled throughout the video, the giving QR code which popped up right as she asked 'Will you be useful to God?', or the supposedly randomly selected testimony that just so happened to be of a person miraculously delivered from an \$11,000 debt, it was clear that money was what this false preacher was after.

In my opinion, the worst came near the end when she began to ask for specific amounts of money based on scripture references. She asked for \$133 based on Proverbs 1:33 "Those who listen to me will live at ease..." She asked for \$52 as a 'favor seed' based on Esther 5:2, where Esther 'finds favor' with the king (not with God!). She asked for \$414 based on Esther 4:14, in which Mordecai tells Esther God may have put her in such a position "for such a time as this." She was always careful to stop just short of promising that these gifts would earn God's blessing, but the implication was clear.

Watching this gave me some appreciation for how Luther must have felt witnessing the sales of indulgences by Johann Tetzel in his day. Luther knew the promises Tetzel was hinting at were lies, and yet he saw person after person push themselves in poverty in order to drop just one more coin in the coffer. Likewise, it was obvious to me as I watched the video that this so-called prophet was one of the wolves in sheep's clothing that Jesus warned us about, but I know there are desperate people who see a video like this and are deceived into giving far more than they can afford.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident for Paula White, nor is Paula White the only one abusing God's name for profit. There are scores of televangelists and prosperity preachers out there who are doing exactly the same thing, and it's clear from their wealth that they have successfully fleeced thousands. These wolves are very good at dressing themselves up as one of the faithful, and some of them have made millions abusing God's name.

That’s why it is so important for us to exercise discernment when we hear God’s name, especially from those who are asking something of us. It is not enough that someone uses God’s name, instead it must be used properly. When you hear someone speaking of God or quoting scripture to support what they are saying, ask yourself if what they are saying lines up with the commands and promises of God as revealed in scripture. If you are unsure, come to me and let us work it out together.

The good news in all of this is that in Jesus we sheep have a Shepherd who has outwitted the wolves and will one day deliver us fully from all those who seek to deceive us. His promises are more persistent than the lies of his enemies, and nothing will finally snatch us out of his hand.

And in the meantime, be wary of those who dress themselves up in God’s name and watch out for your fellow Christians who may be deceived. “Be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Your brother in Christ,
-Pastor John

<p>Church Financial Update for March</p>	<p><i>The ministry of Edison Lutheran Church is financially supported entirely by the donations of members and visitors. Your gift furthers this congregation’s ministry to those in need, helps foster fellowship, and promotes the spread of the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. Donations may be put in the offering plate, sent by mail, or given online by visiting our website or scanning the QR code to the right. We appreciate your generosity!</i></p> 
<p>March Giving: \$29,710* (Thank you!!) 2025 Budget Goal Through March: \$88,466 2025 Total Giving Through March: \$90,722 (\$2,256 above goal) Thank you! *Does not include bequests</p>	



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2024—2025		<i>*Committee Liaison</i>	
Patsy Martin, President	<i>*Stewardship</i>	Cheryl Conner	<i>*Social Concerns</i>
Linda Tyler, Vice-President	<i>*Parish Life</i>	Judy Bendtsen	<i>*Evangelism</i>
Christie Peterson, Secretary	<i>*P&M</i>	AnnaLaurie Wattson-Lamb	<i>Worship & Music</i>
Jean Miller	<i>*Worship & Music</i>	John Johnson	<i>*Finance Committee</i>
Laura Engebretsen	<i>Property & Management</i>	Brenda Geary	<i>*Youth & Christian Education</i>



Please Join Us For Worship
at
Edison Lutheran Church
Every Sunday at 10:30 am

Worship Attendance

	In Person	Online (live and recorded)
March 30:	111	24
April 6:	122	62
April 13:	105	44
April 20:	267	71
April 27:	<u>120</u>	<u>8</u>
Average:	145	41

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

Camp Lutherwood: Our students are planning to attend camp from July 13-18 if you would like your student to attend with the Edison Lutheran students. **Scholarships Available!** Instead of giving out full camperships to everyone who goes to camp, this year we have around \$4,500 that we will be distributing to families based on need. **We want as many kids to go to camp this year as possible!** To request a scholarship, send us an email with the name of your child, the price of the camp, and the amount you are requesting (all the way up to 100%). Any money left over at the end of May will be distributed equally among the campers who have shared their camp receipt with us. Email office@elcbow.org.

Blood Drive: Thank you to all who were able to donate blood at our recent blood drive. **All slots were filled** the day of the drive. **Great job!** Our next blood drive will be **June 13th in the fellowship hall**. Those who have donated in the past will be receiving a reminder email to sign up. If you have not donated before you can watch for the flyers to be posted at church and scan the QR code or sign up at bloodworksNW.org/giveblood. **It would be wonderful if we could fill all slots again for June 13th.** Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. This lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. The local staff with Bloodworks are very appreciative of using Edison Lutheran as a donation site.

Second Sunday Hymn Sing: Do you have a favorite hymn you wish we would sing more often? Here's your chance! On the **second Sunday of each month at 10:15 am**, we will have a singalong, where you are invited to request that favorite hymn. Join us on **May 11th** at 10:15.

Newsletter Deadline: Is there something missing from this newsletter? If you have information for the next newsletter, please send it to the church office no later than **Sunday, May 25**. We are always looking for information from committees, partner ministries, and local events that our members are participating in...**we love to support our congregation members!**

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, Cont.

New Blood Drive Coordinators

The Blood Drives at Edison Lutheran Church are now being organized by new members **Judi and Jerry Butterfield**, who will be working as coordinators with Bloodworks Northwest, the church, our members and our community. They jumped right in with both feet and have been ever so grateful to take on this project since Jerry has had to use donated blood over these past years. They also have asked other new members **Linda and Dave Vague** to be their helpers.

This new team already filled and increased the donor list at the last drive on April 11th because they have encouraged new, younger persons to donate their arms! **The donor list was full!** Bloodworks is already offering them more available dates to consider in order to increase the blood donor supply in our community. They will be contacting you with reminders, posters, and information.

Want to be on their email list? Contact: jerry.butterfield01@gmail.com. Please welcome them to the organization of blood drives at Edison Lutheran Church.

A special Thank You to **Gailyn Ploeg** who has done an amazing job as coordinator for several years!

Sunday School: The last day of Sunday School is **May 18th**. The teachers have enjoyed getting to know all the students and have planned something special for the last day. Keep an eye out for more information. We will have our traditional **hotdog lunch that day for Fellowship Time**. We are excited to say 'Thank You' to everyone who made our Sunday School such a success. Have a great summer vacation!

Youth Group: Everyone **high school through college age are welcome!** The **group meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm**. Bring a friend or two or six and have some fun! We are looking for a few adults to help.

Young Adult Addresses: It's that time of year that our young adults are moving. Please keep the church updated on new addresses for our young adults away from home. The **Care Team** sends cards to our young adults who are away from their church family. **We need to keep our list updated.** Please let the church office know where your young adult is. Thank you!

Need a Name Tag? We have new members and visitors to our lovely church. Please wear your name tags the entire time so we can get to know each other. It would be very helpful to leave them on during fellowship as well. Also, if you are a **regular visitor and would like a name tag**, please let the office know.

Parking: Please remember to **park in our parking space first**, and only park across the street if all our lots are completely full! There is parking all along Church Road as well as along Field Road to the south of the Parish House.

Free Notary Public Service: The Church Office offers free notary services. Call or email the church office to make an appointment.

Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesday, May 21st at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are continuing to study "**Biblical Outsiders**" and **this month will focus on Esther**. Her story can be found in the book of Esther in the Old Testament. Esther was a "reverse outsider" - a Jewish woman who became Queen of Persia. Her circumstance reinforces what we've learned - that all of us are insiders AND outsiders, depending on the situation! This will be the last session in this series; we will break for the summer.

All are welcome.

Edison Lutheran Church Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for an easy and fun way to serve our congregation? Have we got a deal for you! It takes a lot of work to set up, run, and livestream our Sunday Worship service. **We need people to help greet, usher, serve as lector and assistant minister.** The more people we have, the less work there is for each person. **Join our team of fun-loving, happy Sunday workers!** We promise many smiles, lots of conversation, and a little work. To volunteer, contact the church office or Linda Johnson.

Do you enjoy being outside and want to help the church? **We are looking for someone to help with the gardens.** They always need trimming and weeding. The office staff are not good with plants. Contact the church office if you can help...or **just swing by and start weeding!**

Fellowship Hosts: We are looking for more people to serve as fellowship hosts. Please contact Linda Johnson or the church office for more information or to be added to our fellowship host list.

Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Committee: I hear people in our congregation say they wish we had more kids in our church. There is only one way to get more kids and keep them coming...**we need to have programs for kids of all ages.** Would you like to help plan CYF activities? **Not good with kids?** No worries! Most of our efforts go into planning activities and arranging volunteers. No child interaction required. **Oh, you like kids?** Great! We also need people to cook meals and entertain kids. In other words, we have a job for you!

Help Inform the Congregation: Although we try not to send too many emails, if there is something that you feel the **entire congregations needs to know**, please let the office know. We can send a congregation-wide email. We don't always know about events and **want to keep the congregation informed.** Just call or send an email to the office with all the details.

Friendship House Dinners: We prepare and serve the hot food that is so appreciated the **last Monday of every month.** Contact the church office if you would like to help shop for food, prepare food, or serve food.

Josephine's activity department continues to need bags of birdseed, blank greeting cards for residents to use, small sample sized toiletries, reading glasses (+2.5), wool blend yarn, and the front of greeting cards you have received. Please leave all items on the table in the narthex.

The **ministry of Altar Guild** is open and welcoming to new sacristans. This ministry involves preparing the worship space with furnishings, appointments, vessels, elements, linens and paraments used in liturgy. We have many behind the scenes jobs. Please talk to an Altar Guild member or Pastor John for more information. The next guild meeting will be **Wednesday, May 7th at 10:00AM** in the Fellowship Hall. **All are welcome!**

We need at least 30 dozen cookies on the last Monday of every month for our Friendship House dinners. Home baked or store bought cookies. Please let us know how many cookies you made by **signing the sheet on the bulletin board** in the Fellowship Hall. We would also appreciate it if you marked your container with how many cookies are in each container. Bring the cookies in clearly marked freezer containers and leave them in the freezer in the small room to the left as you enter the Sunday School building. Your empty containers will be left on the small table in the Fellowship Hall near the entrance, for you to pick up and use again. **Thank you for all the cookies!**

The bird feeders around **Josephine Caring Community** provide residents joy and a source of connection to something beyond the walls of their facility. There are between 15 and 30 feeders to fill weekly. **If you are interested in being a feeder filler once a month for about 2 hours** please contact Anne or Bob Kuntz. You can also participate by **donating birdseed** of any kind in any quantity. The seed can be left on the table in the narthex. No suet please, just seeds.

Updates From Our Ministry Partners

Camp Lutherwood



A message from Pastor Kevin:

Dear Edison Lutheran:

Thank you! Your partnership with Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center is important to us as we quickly approach our **78th summer on Lake Samish**. Not only has your financial support made God's love known to so many youth here, but your sweat equity and prayer equity keep this place thriving.

As we gear up for another summer, we are excited by the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with hungry hearts. Between swimming, boating, and games, we are exploring the "Waters of Life," stories of healing and faith. Tucked into climbing wall sessions and hikes, we are building character and relationships that last a lifetime. Our staff are making their way from all over—from as close as Edison Lutheran itself to as far away as Brazil!—to welcome and build up the next generation of disciples right here on Lake Samish. Do you know a school-age kiddo who could use a week at camp? There's still time to register! Learn more about all our programming at camplutherwood.org

Finally, a **special invitation: Lutherwood is hosting our 2025 Gala: "Rooted in Christ, Growing into the Future" on June 1**. Come join us on the lake as we celebrate the years of ministry at your camp and look forward to the years to come. We will be joined by Rev. Chuck Hunt of the Fuller Youth Institute as our keynote speaker. His passion for youth and camp are a special treat. Find out how to get tickets at camplutherwood.com/gala

Again, thank you for the continued partnership between camp and congregation. Lutherwood is YOUR camp, and we are honored to be serving alongside you in the work of the gospel!

In Christ,
Rev. Kevin Beebe

Scholarships for Camp: Our students are planning to attend camp from **July 13-18** if you would like your student to attend with the Edison Lutheran students. **Scholarships Available!** Instead of giving out full camperships to everyone who goes to camp, this year we have around \$4,500 that we will be distributing to families based on need. **We want as many kids to go to camp this year as possible!** To request a scholarship, send us an email with the name of your child, the price of the camp, and the amount you are requesting (all the way up to 100%). **Any money left over at the end of May will be distributed equally among the campers who have shared their camp receipt with us. Email office@elcbow.org.**

Josephine Caring Community

Volunteer! There are many ways to volunteer at Josephine...help with outings, reading, arts and crafts, one-on-one visits, music, sports activities, building projects, you name it! Can't find something that interests you? Let's work backwards— what are your interests and passions? If you can offer your gifts, with the 200+ residents we have at Josephine, we are bound to have residents who might be interested— and may not even know yet that they are interested. We invite you to try it and find out.

Josephine's activity department continues to need bags of birdseed, blank greeting cards for residents to use, small sample sized toiletries, reading glasses (+2.5), wool blend yarn, and the front of greeting cards you have received. Please leave all items on the table in the narthex.

Updates From Our Ministry Partners, cont.

Family Promise

Annual Tea at the Manor: Family Promise is holding their special program of Tea at the Manor on **May 17th from 1:00—3:00 pm at Willowbrook Manor**. This is another great opportunity for corporate or non-profit involvement. Can't attend? Don't worry. As we get closer to the event there will be opportunities to have your donation matched. Check the Family Promise website or Facebook page for more information or contact our church office.

Family Promise Volunteer Opportunity: We will be hosting the Family Promise guests at Bethlehem Lutheran from dinner **Wednesday, June 18th through Sunday morning, June 22nd**. Volunteers are needed to stay overnight on very comfortable cots, provide meals, and serve meals. If you can provide any part of a meal for up to 14 guests your help is welcome even if you cannot stay to serve dinner. Your donations of **grab and go individually packaged snacks and breakfast food** would be appreciated for these days. Please leave nonperishable items such as breakfast bars, granola bars, power bars, nuts, dried fruit, juice boxes, and single serving boxes of cereal in the Family Promise tub in the narthex.

1st Quarter Statistics: In the first quarter, Family Promise served **181 children and 110 families**.

Gift Cards Needed: Family Promise needs gift cards for Walmart and Fred Meyer to give to their guests who need clothing, gas, and other essentials. Feel free to send gift cards directly to Family Promise or give them to the greeters at church. We will get them to Family Promise.

Save the Date: The **10th Anniversary Fall Gala** will be on **September 6th** from 5:00-9:00 pm at Swinomish Casino and Lodge. We hope to see you there!

Local Area Events to Support our Members

North Cascades Concert Band: Please join the NCCB with special guest Master Sergeant Metzger on percussion and Master Gunnery Sergeant Temme on saxophone, both from the President's Own Marine Band, for their free concerts on **Friday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm** at Bellingham HS; **Saturday, May 3rd at 7:30 pm** at Arlington HS; and **Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 pm** at Anacortes HS. Come out to enjoy beautiful music and support Conductor **Peter Ormsby** and clarinetist **Carrie Omdal**.

Skagit Symphony Violin Recital: Our 45th classical concert season continues with ***An Evening With Marta* on May 15th at Edison Lutheran Church** at 7:00 pm. Join Marta Szlubowska on violin, Stephanie Bethea on Piano, and our very own **David Benson** performing beautiful music at our church, using our amazing piano. For tickets, go to www.skagitsymphony.com. Also, the symphony will have it's *Fire* inspired concert on **Saturday, May 17th at 7:30p**. Need a discounted ticket, ask Carrie.

Burlington Edison School District Bands: During May the Burlington Edison School District has multiple concerts, please check the district website for the schedule. Please join the middle school and high school bands for an evening of music. We have so many students in the band! Please come out to support **Blake Caldwell, Eva Kllogjeri, Cameron Dahl, Jon Benson, and James and Jacob Howard**.

Burlington Edison School District Choir: Please join the BESD Choirs for their **Spring Concert on Wednesday, June 4th at 7:30 pm** at BEHS. This free concert showcases choirs from both Middle School and High School. Please come out to support our Young Adult Group students; **Addi Caldwell, Will Benson, Hailey Wick, Jocelyn Almanza, Luke Martin, Lily Bransford, Erica Schweigert, and Sara Omdal**.

Are you involved in a local event? Let the office know. We will put it in the newsletter if there is space.



From the May 2025 Edition of *The Spirit*

From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

There is a well-known parable where Jesus talks about seeds thrown in wild abandon. Seeds thrown randomly, haphazardly, you could almost say carelessly ... some seeds tossed upon a path, some seeds on rocky ground, some seeds among thorns and other seeds on so-called “good soil.” (To read the whole parable, go to Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:2-9, Luke 8:4-8.)

In the parable there is extravagance, luxury, lavishness. Truth be told, it is terrible farming. But if you take out what we all know about farming techniques, the throwing of seeds in this parable is unfathomable and incomprehensible and beautiful to behold.

And yet ... so often we want to tame the throwing of seeds. We want to make straight lines and uniform rows. We want organization and structure. We might want new things to grow, but we want them to be what we want. Perhaps newish ... but not new. Undergirding it all, I think we want control over this seed thing.

But this isn't how the Spirit works.

Instead, as we hear in this parable, God's seed-throwing is all about possibility and energy and the extravagance of God. This parable is about the wildness of God's Spirit. The Sower is throwing out seeds with abandon so that something may develop, sprout, and grow – something unexpected, something astonishing.

This, of course, doesn't mean we cast aside everything already growing. Not at all. Nowhere in this parable does it say that the plants already rooted must be cleared before new seeds can be sown. There are deep-rooted plants already flourishing in God's Garden. These plants have lived through trials and joys and still bear fruit. They need to be watered and tended. They deserve our care, our gratitude, our celebration. The new seeds being scattered don't replace what is planted. Instead, they add to the texture and beauty of God's Garden. Old and new. Rooted and scattered. This parable reminds us that God's Garden is not static—it's alive, growing, evolving.

Of course, some seeds that have been thrown have not always taken root. As the parable says – some seeds fall on rocky ground, other seeds land on thorns. There have been experiments that started with high hopes that ended sooner than we would like. There were perhaps disagreements or different ways of doing things. It is true that what works in one section of God's Garden doesn't necessarily work in others.

But this is why we plant and trust and sow and dig in the dirt. This is why we trust this Sower sowing seeds. For God's Garden is founded not on the quality of soil but on the lavishness of God the Sower through the Spirit.

When I hear this parable, I celebrate the many different ways that we are living into and sharing God's love and grace in this synod – in ways that the saints before us would recognize and cherish, and in ways they might never have imagined. I invite you to pause for a moment and think of the place and space where you are promised forgiveness and new life, where you receive the body and blood of Jesus, where you hear the proclamation of grace through faith, where you have holy community. What are some ways that you are deeply rooted? What are some ways that seeds of new possibilities are being planted? What are seeds that are in the wind right now but haven't landed yet? When you think of the broader community where you live – what is your congregation called to in partnership and imagination? How is the Sower throwing seeds of God's love and grace where you live and move and breathe?

In the Northwest Washington Synod, let us rejoice in this time when old and new things come together. Now is the time that the Spirit is opening us up to new possibilities. Now is the time for listening and collaboration and being in community. Now is the time when we both hold that which we already love and, at the same time, open our hands in order to receive other gifts of promise and wonder.

The dirt, the soil that we are becomes holy ground when God is present. God's seeds of grace fall indiscriminately into the lives of all God's children, into the rocky, thorny, barren and fertile soil of our lives and ministries. The outcome of this gracious sowing cannot be known immediately. One never knows what may come of decadent grace. And yet, day by day, the Sower sows in wild graciousness. And we receive. Together.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee/ bishop@lutheransnw.org

Announcement From ELCA

Holden Village: It's finally here! May Youth Weekend at Holden Village will be **Friday-Sunday, May 23-25.**

FREE LiVE Project Weekly Online Bible Study; Abide: Going Deeper: Tuesdays at 7pm. We invite you to abide curiously in God's Word together. The LiVE retreats and courses are not meant to be stand alone offerings. Go deeper into the Biblical grounding of the course/retreat themes in this weekly synod-wide FREE Bible Study. No need to pre-register. To join, go to zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88407198372?pwd=VZlhJvC39JRPiog6AkBDT28bsWVRSh.1#success>

Synod Assembly: This will be a two-day event, **May 16 1:00-8:00pm and May 17 9:00am-4:00 pm**, at the Edward D Hansen Conference Center in Everett. We will gather as a synod for worship, reports from our synod and churchwide leaders, elections, resolutions, ministry anniversary celebrations, and sharing in conversation around our theme of being woven into God's story. **Additionally, we will be identifying a person to serve as bishop for the next 6 years.**

Prayer Requests



Remember in your Prayers: We pray for the **family of Robert Hendren** (friend of Brandy Jensen), the **family of Charlie Hairr** (father of Linda Tyler), the **family of Ted Conner**, the **family of Bob Mainard** (father of Mandy Englund), the **family of Kathi Aker** (daughter of Ruth Sexton), the **family of Doyle McCalib** (cousin of Marlys Jonson). We also pray for **Carolyn Thorene, Greg Nelsen, Linda Johnson, David Rebar** (son-in-law of Wymans), **Bud Brouwer, Darcy Fredrickson, Al Fredrickson, Arnold Woll, Randy Merritt, Marion Hoag, Marilyn Gustafson** (sister of Gailyn Ploeg), **Shirley Hots** (aunt of Brenda Geary), **Maia Simmons** (granddaughter of Karyn Kerley), **Bryan Robinson** (nephew of Garland Robinson), **Chris Whelehan** (friend of Kris Merritt), **Carla Hunter** (aunt of Gregory Ormsby), **Brandon Benson** (friend of Debbie Reigel-Yates), **Jeannie Omdal, John Probstfield, Lyn Scherer** (sister-in-law of Cathy Smith), **Kerri Fredrickson** (daughter-in-law of Barb & Al Fredrickson), **Debbie Chavarria** (friend of Cathy Smith), **Jerry Butterfield, Shirley Lee, Jeanne Youngquist, Gary Englund** (father of Alex), **Jim Forbes** (Debbie Conijn's step-father), **Edith Nichols, Barry Christensen, Chris Isaacson, Taylor Velasquez**, the ministry of **El Camino de Emaús Congregation**, and the **Tumaini Lutheran Seminary Secondary School in Tanzania**.

The Homebound: **Betty Boe, Pat Dahlstedt, and Ron Schutte.**

Please keep the church office current on your loved ones who are (or need to be) named on our prayer list. Office: 360-766-6920 Email: office@elcbow.org



Edison Lutheran Sharing Shelf: It's time to restock again. Our pantry been getting use and we need to restock it. Please keep your donations coming. Place nonperishable food, self-care items, and cleaning supplies in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Extra items will go to Helping Hands Food Bank. The Edison Lutheran Sharing Shelf is open to all. Please let your friends and neighbors know the shelf is open and needs to be used. With the Sharing Shelf, no one needs to ask for help. It's always open and unmonitored.

May Birthdays

5/1	Paxton Booth
5/2	Irmtraud Gaertner
5/3	Tom Sheahan
5/8	Liz Wallace
5/10	Bill Howard
5/12	Tom Perry
5/16	Mandy Englund
5/17	Rondi Peth
5/18	Judy Sheahan



5/19	LeAnne Ruhland
5/21	Jerome Fisher
5/22	Judi Butterfield
5/22	Ryan Dahl
5/24	Brady Conijn
5/29	Daisy Galbraith
5/29	Jenifer Troxel
5/29	Marion Hoag
5/29	Sergio Johnson
5/30	Diane Lind

Did we miss your birthday? Please let the office know. We love to celebrate birthdays and would hate to miss yours!

Serving in Worship – May

	May 4 Youth Sunday	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1 Choir Sunday
Assisting Minister	Kaycee Stubben	Chris Omdal	Jerry Bensen	Darla Jensen	Mark Johnson
Acolyte	Tryg Knutzen	Eva Kllogjeri	Blake Caldwell	TBD	TBD
Lector	Cameron, Jacob D, Eliana, Drake	Kris Merritt	Larry Olsen	Nancy Nygren	Terri Olsen
Usher	Tryg, Jacob, Eliana, Hayden, Grady, Mallory	Dan & Patsy Martin	Larry & Susie Forsythe	Jason Tyler Nancy Nygren	Jon Aarstad Matt Benson
Greeter	Naomi, Lydia, Grady, Hayden, Mallory	Steven Dahl Janet Wyman	Linda Tyler Karson Englund	Judy Bendtsen Linda Nilsen	Susie Aarstad Kathy Shoop
Altar Guild	Kathy Shoop Janet Wyman Cameron, Drake	Janet Wyman Susie Forsythe	Susie Forsythe Terri Olsen	Terri Olsen RuthAnne Pocock	RuthAnne Pocock Nancy Nygren
Fellowship Host	Young Adult Group	Anne & Bob Kuntz Linda & David Vague	Jean & Mike Miller Barb Leander	Jon & Susie Aarstad Kathy Shoop	Gailyn & Ron Ploeg Jolene Lomsdalen
Flowers	Shirley Brick	Jeff & Stephanie Knutzen		John & Candy Johnson	
CMD	AnnaLaurie Wattson-Lamb	Patsy Martin	Linda Tyler	Judy Bendtsen	Judy Bendtsen

Thank you to everyone who helps with worship! We could not have worship without you! Let the office know if you would like to help with worship. It's a great way to get to know everyone!

Family Promise: Did you know you can help Family Promise earn donations by just using your Fred Meyer Reward Card? Just sign up at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards to link your Reward card to Fred Meyer's Community Reward program. Select Family Promise of Skagit Valley as your recipient of these funds. Every time you shop and use your reward card you are helping Family Promise while still earning your rewards, rebates, and fuel points. Remember small donations make a big difference!

Surgery Recovery Item Loan Locker: We have a number of members of our congregation that are at the age of getting new knees, shoulders, and hips. **Many of us have things to help with recovery** – like canes, walking sticks, ice machines, long handled shoe horns, etc., that we no longer need. **Please let the church office know if you have a recovery item to share. If you need an item,** we have a complete list. please contact the church office for the list.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <i>Easter 2</i> 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	28 5:00 p Friendship House Meal	29 6:00 p Young Adult Group 6:00 p Council Meeting	30 6:30 p Choir	1 12:00 a Care Team Lunch	2	3 11:00 a Graveside for Ted Conner
4 <i>Easter 3</i> Youth Sunday 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship 12:00 p Social Concerns 12:30 p Confirmation Class	5	6 6:00 p Young Adult Group 7:30 p P&M in Parish House	7 10:00 a Altar Guild 5:30 p W&M 6:30 p Choir	8 10:30 a Care team Meeting	9	10 Spring Classic Bike Ride 3:00 p Charles & Joyce Hairr Funeral
11 <i>Easter 4</i> 9:00 a Sunday School 10:15 a Hymn Sing 10:30 a Worship	12	13 6:00 p Young Adult Group	14 6:30 p Choir	15 10:00 a Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 p Violin Recital at ELC	16	17
18 <i>Easter 5</i> 9:00 a Sunday School Hike (last day) 10:30 a Worship 12:30 p Confirmation Class	19	20 6:00 p Young Adult Group	21 10:00 a Women's Bible Study 6:30 p Choir	22	23	24
25 <i>Easter 6</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:30 a Worship <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26 5:00 p Friendship House Meal <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 6:00 p Young Adult Group	28 6:30 p Choir	29 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i>	30	31

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Blood drives: Friday, June 13 and August 22
- ◆ Family Promise Tea at the Manor: May 17
- ◆ Synod Assembly: May 16-17
- ◆ Last day of Sunday School: May 18th
- ◆ Youth Weekend at Holden Village: May 23-25
- ◆ Pastor John Sabbatical: June 9—September 8
- ◆ Family Promise Volunteer Dates: June 18-22
- ◆ First day of Sunday School: September 14





Monthly Newsletter of
Edison Lutheran Church
14201 Church Road
Bow, WA 98232

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Bow, WA



May 2025

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving

Sunday School 9:00 am Sundays (May 18th Last Day)

Worship 10:30 am Sundays

Livestream and Recorded online

at

www.elcbow.org

Please join us!

All Are Welcome

Church Office:
phone: 360-766-6920
email: office@elcbow.org
website: www.elcbow.org

Pastor John Guthridge
360-218-4131
pastor@elcbow.org