



Edison Lutheran Church



**Dear People of God,**

# THE PARISH VISITOR

## APRIL 2026

*The struggle for us is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against what takes hold of the world in this darkness, against the spiritual evils in the heavens.*

*-Ephesians 6:12*

I remember being troubled by the news.

It was 2014, and a new radical militant group had taken control of large swaths of land across Syria and Iraq. This group called itself the Islamic State, but was also known as ISIS, ISIL, or the Arabic acronym Daesh. (I'll call it Daesh for this article, since it seems to be the one they liked the least.) In many ways, this was nothing new. I had just started high school when the 9/11 attacks were carried out, so the United States had been fighting groups like Daesh for my entire adult life. I was used to hearing about the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the news, and it was no surprise that a new organization would emerge to fill the power vacuum left by our withdrawal from Iraq.

But something about this group felt different to me. Daesh was more visibly violent than others, especially against Muslims who did not share their fringe beliefs. They seemed to revel in brutality, posting regular videos of executions as propaganda for all the world to see. What's more, they had a much grander vision for themselves than did al-Qaeda or the Taliban. Not only did they declare themselves to be a global caliphate—a particular form of Islamic government that claims authority over all Muslims—they also claimed to be provoking a war with the West to usher in an apocalyptic final battle, triggering the return of Jesus the Prophet (known as *Isa* in Islam) to defeat the forces of evil and rule over all the earth.

Even though virtually all Muslims rejected Daesh's violent version of Islam along with its legitimacy as a caliphate and unusual interpretation of Armageddon, this grand vision still attracted followers from around the world. Some left their homes to go and join the fight while others supported it from afar, and a few even carried out terrorist attacks in their home countries. Though the organization has now been decimated and no longer holds any territory, the influence of its violence and its worldview still lingers.

Believe it or not, part of what troubled me so much about Daesh back in 2014 was the familiar power of its apocalyptic language. After all, I had grown up in fundamentalist Christianity, and I had been

taught a version of end-times biblical interpretation that shared a lot in common with what Daesh professed to believe. This view, popularized in books such as the *Left Behind* series, combines readings of Daniel 9, Revelation 20, and other passages to teach of major battles and conflicts leading to the end of all things, after which Jesus will return along with the true believers he has raptured in order to judge and rule over the nations of the world. While most people go about their business unaware, the true believers learn how to put these disparate passages together, supposedly enabling them to recognize the signs of the end in the patterns of world events. Armed with this knowledge and the strength of their belief, they will be ready to go when Jesus returns; they won't be left behind. Or so the teaching goes.

From my time having been a part of that world, I knew the allure of these confident claims to be able to decipher the hidden meaning of prophetic texts and current events, as well as the certainty that this teaching promised. In practice, however, these teachings did not give me comfort; they instead filled me with anxiety. After all, if Jesus could arrive at any second, I'd better be absolutely sure to have all these prophecies figured out. To make a mistake here would mean being caught unprepared when Jesus came, confirming the fear that I kept locked away in my heart: the fear that I wasn't really a true Christian.

When faced with this sort of anxiety, a person becomes desperate for certainty. Every world event (especially those near Jerusalem) becomes a test of one's knowledge of Daniel or Revelation, of one's skill in identifying God's secret signs pointing to the end, and of the sincerity of one's faith. And so the anxious seek teachers, prophecy experts who can confidently explain how this or that world event lines up with the symbols of scripture, sharing the questionable fruits of their own anxiety-driven labors.

I had seen how seductive such confident interpretations could be, and I saw the same sort of certainty in the messages Daesh was sending. I could imagine someone like I had been, anxiously wondering about their standing before God and desperately searching for some kind of certainty, seeing in Daesh's call to sanctified violence the assurance that their weary heart demanded. And so I worried about what the future would bring.

Thankfully, in the years since Daesh emerged, my worries have not been realized. While some were indeed caught up in the vision Daesh was selling, it was not as many or as widespread as I had feared. Though recent shooting events like that at Bondi beach or the synagogue in Manchester remind us of the danger, the world has not yet been overrun with those trying to bring on the end of the world.

And yet, still I am troubled—this time by reports from within our own military. I am troubled by stories that, as our attack on Iran was commencing, commanding officers throughout the military were framing this as a fulfillment of out-of-context prophecies from Daniel and Revelation. I am troubled that at least some of these commanding officers were celebrating their good fortune to participate in such sanctified violence as they carried out God's plan to bring the world to a violent end. To be clear, this is not the same as the zealous brutality showed by Daesh, but it is a step in a dangerous direction. If you understand your opponents to be the enemies of God, it becomes

possible to excuse that which would otherwise be inexcusable. I pray that this never comes to pass.

Many of the elements present here—the apocalyptic fervor, the search for signs of the end, the special place for Israel and a reconstructed temple—emerge from a particular teaching called *Premillennial Dispensationalism*, a teaching originating in the 1800s and dominant among American Evangelicals today. This teaching is *premillennial* (rather than *postmillennial* or *amillennial*) because it teaches that Jesus will return to rapture believers *before* Jesus comes again to reign for the millennium described in Revelation 20. It is *dispensationalist* because it teaches that there have been multiple *dispensations*, ways in which God has set the rules for people to be right with God. According to this view, for example, God deals with Israel according to a dispensation of Law, rewarding obedience and punishing disobedience, while God deals with gentile Christians according to a dispensation of Grace, giving forgiveness and salvation in exchange for faith.

Lutherans have traditionally been neither premillennial nor dispensationalist. While the idea of dispensations bears a passing resemblance to the Lutheran distinction of Law and Gospel, it is only a superficial likeness. Dispensationalism passes over the universal condemnation the Law brings (“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *Romans 3:23*) and turns the Gospel of God’s mercy into just another legal system; one in which God rewards or punishes based on the rightness of our belief. Rather than distinguishing Law and Gospel in their fullness, it mixes them, robbing both of their power. It makes the Law of God into a shadow, and it reduces the Gospel of God to a mere transaction of belief.

Moreover, by making a distinction between God’s relation to ethnic Israel and God’s relation to gentile Christians, it tends to elevate Israel as though it were the one nation able to be right with God on the basis of its actions. Moreover, it wrongly limits the promise of blessing and curse given to Abraham (“I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse” *Genesis 12:3*) to apply only to Jews and the modern nation of Israel. According to the apostle Paul, that promise belongs to all the descendants of Abraham, even we gentiles who have been grafted in by faith. (see *Romans 4:16 & 11:24*)

And while Premillennial Dispensationalism certainly *seems* to take the Bible seriously, concerning itself as it does with the small details of certain passages, in reality it refuses to read the Bible on its own terms. Instead of attending to Scripture as it actually presents itself, the dispensationalists dig through the sermons of prophets and apostles and Jesus himself to find puzzle pieces and riddles, wrestling them free of their context to fit them into a framework that is only 200 years old. They are like the Pharisees interrogating the man born blind, so sure of their legalistic system that they cannot see the unauthorized miracle that Jesus has accomplished.

As I see it, this distortion of scripture can have serious consequences for those grasped by it. The experts of this apocalyptic sign-reading become puffed up and sure of themselves, while the laypeople anxiously fret about their status before God. Then, when conflicts inevitably arise—whether global wars, political fights, or even disagreements of interpretation—the conflicts are set into this apocalyptic framework, with God firmly on their side against potentially demonic opponents,

making conversation impossible. At the same time, the elevated status of Israel in this system leads to an unwarranted deference to the modern nation of Israel and its leaders, clouding wise judgement among those navigating foreign policy relationships. And finally, it destroys faith itself by closing the ears of those who hold to it so they cannot hear God's word of judgment and promise. They cannot face the reality of their sin, and so they will not trust in God's unconditional forgiveness. Instead, they have only their self-imposed demand to have the right beliefs about God, Jesus, the Bible, and the world, and so their salvation is left in their own hands.

But the God of the Bible will not settle for such a state of affairs. This God is relentlessly active, seeking us sinners in order to liberate us from our legalistic systems of sin and death. This is the God who speaks both Law and Gospel, not as different ways to earn God's favor, but to instead "imprison all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all." (*Romans 11:32*) This is the God who in Jesus Christ enters the world not to violently set it right, but to take the sanctified violence of our sin into himself, dying on the cross only to rise and return with forgiveness for those who turned on him. This is the God who breathes upon us the Holy Spirit, not to make us see the hidden signs of the end, but that we may trust the miraculous promise of adoption we have received. It is this God, ever present, ever active, who comes to us in the words of scripture, in the bread, wine, and water of the sacraments, and in the promise spoken into our ear. And it is this God with whom we have a peace that passes all understanding, a peace in which our anxious souls can rest.

Your brother in Christ,  
-Pastor John



## Holy Week Worship

**Palm Sunday Worship** is **March 29 at 10:30 am.**

Please gather in the Fellowship Hall, where we will begin our service by singing as we process into the sanctuary carrying palms.

**Maundy Thursday Worship** is **April 2nd at 7:00 pm** at Edison Lutheran Church.

**Good Friday Worship** is **April 3rd, at 7:00pm** at Edison Lutheran Church

**Easter Breakfast** is April 5th between 8:45 and 10:00 am. Hosted by Parish Life Committee.

**Easter Worship** is at 10:30 am.





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

### Worship Attendance

March 1:	140
March 8:	109
March 15:	166
<u>March 22:</u>	<u>145</u>
Average:	140*

\*March 29 will be reported next month

#### **Church Financial Update for February**


February Giving: 36,426 (Thank you!)

2026 Budget Goal Through February: \$56,513

2026 Total Giving Through February: \$58,223

**(\$1,711 above goal. Yay!)**

*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!*



<b>OUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2025—2026</b>		<i>*Committee Liaison</i>	
Patsy Martin, President	<i>*Stewardship</i>	Cheryl Conner	<i>*Social Concerns</i>
Linda Tyler, Vice-President	<i>*Parish Life</i>	AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb	<i>Worship &amp; Music</i>
Jon Aarstad, Secretary	<i>Finance Committee</i>	John Johnson	<i>Property &amp; Management</i>
Dennis Jensen	<i>*Finance Committee</i>	Brenda Geary	<i>*Youth &amp; Christian Education</i>
Laura Engebretsen	<i>Property &amp; Management</i>	Larry Forsythe	<i>Finance Committee</i>
Keith Peterson	<i>*Property &amp; Management</i>	Jim Zielinski	<i>*Evangelism</i>

# Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

## **Pastor's Bible Study -- Mondays at 5:30 pm**

Join Pastor John in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays at 5:30 pm (except April 6th). We will study the text for the following Sunday. Look in the bulletin for the next Sunday's readings.

Contact the office if you have questions.

**All Are Welcome!**

## **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, April 15th at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We are discussing the attributes of the historical Jesus. This month's topic explores the role of Wisdom in the movement from the historical Jesus to the Christ of Faith.

**All women are welcome!**



In March, our students enjoyed the **Camp Lutherwood Elementary School Retreat**. It was a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy singing around the campfire, and learn about Jesus.



## **Edison Lutheran Church Scholarship**

Last year Edison Lutheran Church gave scholarships to 11 church college students. **Many of you have asked about the opportunity to give donations to help these students attend school in 2026.** The church council approved the opportunity for these donations to be added to an existing account in the Edison Lutheran Church's budget called ELC Scholarship Fund. Additional donations will be added to this account. These funds in addition to the church's regular scholarship funds will be distributed to applicants by the scholarship committee. **To give to the ELC scholarship for 2026,** please place checks in offering or mail to the office with 'ELC Scholarship' in the memo line.

**Thank you for your amazing generosity!**

# Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Thrivent members, thank you for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Edison Lutheran Church. Last year our Thrivent members sent **\$2,967 Thrivent Choice Dollars** to our Church. We appreciate your extra support. **Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars at the end of every quarter.** You can do this on line or by calling 1-800-Thrivent and talking to a representative. Questions? Contact the office or talk to Anne Kuntz (360) 424-9099.

**Holden Village:** One of the best ways you can support Holden's recovery right now is by taking part in the online Jubilee Auction, which started Wednesday, March 25, and runs **through March 29.** All proceeds support Holden Village, so enjoy bidding on fun items and experiences for yourself or as gifts, all while sustaining Holden's road to recovery. Go to [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org) for more information.

**Martha's Place,** the apartments built to provide stable living for previously unhoused people, requested mugs for their residents. Thanks to the donation of a couple large collections we already have 100 mugs to give to the cause. At this point we need to ask you to limit donations to **no more than 5 mugs from a household.** Martha's Place has added that they are in need of **plates (any size but no saucers), bowls, and silverware.** There is still opportunity to clear out some cupboard space! They welcome donations of **new or clean, gently used pillows** as well. Place items in the Narthex Hallway.

**Thrivent members:** Did you know you can apply for **two \$250 grants every year?** You are eligible if you have Thrivent investment products. If you would like help to tap into this member benefit that supports community ministries please contact Anne Kuntz (360) 424-9099.

**Josephine Caring Community needs Birdseed:** Josephine CC needs birdseed for the feeders. With the unpredictable weather, the birds are relying on the feeders and the residents love watching them. Please bring birdseed to church, Josephine's, or consider donating money to buy birdseed. Write 'Birdseed' in the memo of checks. Contact the office or Anne Kuntz for more information.

**Easter Breakfast:** We will be celebrating Easter on **April 5th.** Please join our church family for Easter breakfast in the fellowship hall. Our amazing Parish Life Committee will be serving breakfast on this joyful day from **8:45 - 10:00 am. All are welcome!**

Are you **interested in becoming a member or learning more** about our congregation? We will gather to learn more starting in early November. If you are interested in becoming a member or know someone who is interested, **please let the church office know.** Current members are welcome to attend. Contact the church office for more information.

## College Scholarship Applications are due April 15

There are several scholarships available for the **2026-2027 school year,** including the Einer & Ruby Knutzen scholarship we share with Burlington Lutheran. Complete applications must be **received** (not post marked) by the correct church office (hard copy or electronic) **no later than 11:59 pm April 15, 2026.** Applications are available on our website and in the narthex. You can start working on three letters of recommendation. Those are always those most difficult to get on time...start now! Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. **The key to success is to carefully follow the instructions and have the complete package, including letters of recommendation turned into the correct church on time.** Contact the church office for more information.

## Edison Lutheran Fellowship Hour

A big tradition at Edison Lutheran on Sunday mornings after worship is the fellowship time we have together over coffee. With more people attending, we changed to 3 family units rather than 2 for serving. By doing this, people have to serve more often. To help that situation, a number of additional people have signed up to serve. **If you would like to help serve, please contact the church office or Linda Johnson (360-708-2481).**

Most of the time we try to keep it pretty simple. The main idea is the fellowship – not filling up our tummies. We usually have sweet treats, fruit, crackers and cheese. Some people like to bring more, which is fine – but is not expected.

A few people have asked to help serve, but do not want to do any baking. With 3 family units serving, those folks can bring the fruit or cheese and crackers. We hope that the 3 families will communicate the week before they serve and decide who will bring what. There is usually coffee, juice and lemonade available in the kitchen. Sometimes there are crackers and cheese. It's always best to check the church kitchen to see what is available.

The families usually arrive before church to set out the food, then leave after communing to make coffee and finish setting up. Then they need to stay after to clean up. How often people will be assigned to serve depends on how many more people sign up. We try to keep it every 4 months. Please help us continue this tradition.

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**Need a Name Tag?** We have new members and visitors to our lovely church. Please wear your name tags everyday 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. We don't have temporary name tags, but we are more than happy to make you a name tag. It's as easy as making a temporary one!

**Christ in Our Home devotional booklets:** We have the **April-June Christ In Our Home** booklets available. We have a few large print versions. They are available in the narthex or contact the office.

**Sunday School:** Spring Break for Sunday School will be **Sunday, April 5th and 12th**. There will not be Sunday School on Easter; we will all be enjoying the Parish Life Easter Breakfast! For planning purposes, the last day of Sunday School will be **May 17th**, which will also be **Youth Sunday!**

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### Dear Members of Edison Lutheran Church –



Thank you for supporting us by purchasing pies. You bought 41 pies in total which was amazing! We are really looking forward to going to Camp Orkila.

Thank you, Trygve and Eliana

# Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

**A New Way to Give:** You now have the ability to send offering directly from your bank account by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). **We can set up a recurring donation with no fee for you** and a very minimal fee for the church. It only takes a minute. If you are interested in having an automatic recurring weekly or monthly offering with no fees, please contact the office. **We still offer online giving through Tithely.com** (see QRC on page 5) if you prefer that method of offering. We are only adding a new way to give. Contact the office for more information.

**Holden Village:** May Youth Weekend at Holden Village will be **Saturday to Monday, May 23-25 at Camp Lutherwood**. Since Holden Village is not an option, Camp Lutherwood is happy to host!

**Pastor John's Bible Study:** Please join Pastor John for Bible Study on **Monday evenings at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, **except April 6th. All are welcome!**

**Do you want a Newsletter with Good and Interesting Information?** So do we! If you have information for the next Newsletter, please send it to the church office no later than **Tuesday, April 21st**. 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!** Our newsletter is only as good as the information we receive.

**Young Adult Group:** Everyone, high school through college age, are welcome. The group meets every **Tuesday at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend or two for food, fun, and fellowship!

**Second Sunday Hymn Sing:** Do you have a favorite hymn that 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. It's a wonderful way to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! "How good it is to sing praises to our God!" Psalm 147.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Thrivent members, thank you for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Edison Lutheran Church. Last year our Thrivent members sent \$2,967 Thrivent Choice Dollars to Edison Lutheran Church. We appreciate your extra support. **Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars at the end of every quarter.** You can do this on line or by calling 1-800-Thrivent and talking to a representative. Questions? Contact the office or talk to Anne Kuntz (360) 424-9099.

**Livestreaming Help:** We really need at least **1 more person** to help with the livestream. Please consider volunteering. Talk to Jenny Sheahan, Steven Dahl, Amber Lagerlund, or Carrie Omdal for more information and to find out **how easy it really is!**

**Youth Programs:** **We are looking for help organizing our youth programs.** We need help planning, organizing, and working youth projects and events. This is a fun way to get involved with our church! The more people helping, the easier the job, even a few hours a month make a big difference. Please contact the church office for more information.

**Flowers:** Want to help with Worship? Sign up to bring flowers for the altar. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Bringing flowers is a great way to make worship truly special.

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

Are you **interested in becoming a member or learning more** about our congregation? We will gather to learn more starting soon. If you are interested in becoming a member or know someone who is interested, **please let the church office know.** Current members are welcome to attend. Contact the church office for more information.

# 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 assisting 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.

**Josephine Caring Community:** Your donations of sample size toiletry items and tooth brushes are welcome. JCC is always in need of reading glasses of any strength. If you would like to sew hand towels for residents to fill with toiletries please contact Anne Kuntz for a more complete description of this project. If you know anyone seeking employment please steer them to consider working at JCC.

**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.

**Family Promise Volunteer Opportunity:** We will be hosting the Family Promise guests at Burlington Lutheran from **Sunday, May 31st through breakfast, Wednesday, June 3rd.** Volunteers are needed to stay overnight on very comfortable cots, provide meals, and serve meals. The church has money to pay for food to make the meals for Family Promise. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars for the rest of the year: October 1–4; and December 6—8.

## Camp Lutherwood



**Summer Registration is Open!** Do you remember all the fun you had at summer camp as a kid? I remember making friends, singing by the campfire, and playing in the woods. Now is the time to get your children, grandchildren, neighbor's children all registered for Camp Lutherwood. Go to [www.camplutherwood.org](http://www.camplutherwood.org) for more information.

**Camp Lutherwood:** Our students are planning to attend camp from July 12-17 if you would like your student to attend with the Edison Lutheran students. **Register early to get a spot!**

**Scholarships Available!** We have \$4,600 to give in scholarships for Camp Lutherwood. **We want as many kids to go to camp this year as possible!** Please contact the office if you need a scholarship to pay for camp. 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](mailto:office@elcbow.org). Don't forget to send your camp receipt to the office by May 31st if you would like a partial scholarship. Last year, we were able to pay 100% of all camp fees for our campers.

**Volunteer at Camp Lutherwood:** go to <https://www.camplutherwood.org/volunteer> for more info.

## From the April 2026 Edition of *The Spirit*



### From the Bishop

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1

When I ask people how they are, so often they say, “Well, I’m doing ok considering ...”

Sometimes they confess to me that the world just feels so dark right now.

And I get it – I can feel this way, too. Sometimes it does seem the shadows are gathering around us and just getting scarier and more menacing and it is hard to see a path forward.

But then I am reminded of the gift of darkness.

Recently I read Conor Knighton’s book *Leave Only Footprints* where he talks about visiting all the national parks in a year. One of the most captivating chapters was about national parks that have been certified as Dark Sky Places. He describes areas where light pollution is carefully limited so people can experience the night sky as humans did for most of history. Standing in one of these places, the sky can be overwhelming. Stars multiply as your eyes adjust. Constellations sharpen. The universe stretches above you in breathtaking clarity. Conor says that what surprises many visitors is this: the darkness does not feel frightening. It feels beautiful. Everyone is standing shoulder to shoulder – strangers to one another in the daylight – but at night, all eyes are lifted to the heavens in wonder experiencing something extraordinary.

In these particular times that we are living in, this brings me hope. For in the light of day war is happening and people are dying and there is shouting on all sides and beliefs seem intransigent and we experience and participate in the hatred and greed and selfishness and bigotry that is everywhere around us. We see our enemy. We identify our enemy. We classify our enemy. The light shines harshly.

But in the darkness of night, we gather together. In the darkness of night, we huddle close. In the darkness of night, we sigh with wonder at the beauty and majesty of the heavens. In the darkness of night, we no longer can tell who our enemy is. And, while this could be scary, this is also liberating. For we remember the beginning of the story of God and creation – that for God darkness is not chaos beyond God’s reach – it is the very place where God begins midwifing new hope, new promise, new life – in spite of what happens in the light of day.

We experience this promise in the Easter story. (Let me remind you, the resurrection did not occur at sunrise even though many of us have attended a lot of sunrise services!). For even as Mary Magdalene started hurrying towards the tomb before dawn, the resurrection had

miraculously already happened. The tomb was already empty. Jesus Christ was alive! For as we read in scripture, life was rising before the dawn. This is the strange and beautiful truth at the heart of our faith - and truly at the heart of the gospel. The power of death was broken even before the sun began to shine.

This is the hope of Easter. Even when the world feels uncertain, even when grief and fear weigh heavily on our hearts, even when the shadows fall, God is at work beneath the surface of things. Life is stirring. Hope is rising.

Go find a place of darkness. And there you will see God.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

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## Announcement From Northwest Washington Synod

Special Meeting of the 2025 Synod Assembly Voting Members, **Saturday, May 16, 9am-12noon**

**Why are we recalling the voting members from the 2025 Assembly?** In 2026, we are scheduled to hold a synod gathering, not an assembly. However, there are business items to attend to before we hold our next assembly in 2027. So, as was shared prior to and during our May 2025 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, we will be **recalling the 2025 synod assembly voting members** to a special online meeting to attend to a few specific business items.

Note - this is not a mini-assembly - no other reports, greetings, resolutions, or business items.

**Holden Village:** May Youth Weekend at Holden Village will be **Saturday-Monday, May 23-25 at Camp Lutherwood**. Since Holden Village is not an option, Camp Lutherwood is happy to host!

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## Holden Evening Prayer Around the World

Join the Skagit County ELCA Congregations on **Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 pm at Edison Lutheran Church** to celebrate Holden Prayer Around the World.

Holden has announced the last week of April has been designated to celebrate Holden Evening Prayer Around the World.

We all love to sing Holden Evening Prayer (Vespers 86), and this year especially, in light of the challenges Holden Village faces, we want to come together as a beloved community and lift this beautiful piece with many voices.

A collection basket will be available for donations to go to Holden Village to help them recover from this season's lost revenue.

Please spread the word and come out to support Holden Village and enjoy this beautiful worship service.

# Prayer Requests



**Remember in your Prayers:** We pray for the **family of Jerry H. Anderson**, the **family of Victoria Hull** (sister of Kathy Shoop), and for the **family of Allen Bjornson** (cousin of Janice Stepp). We also pray for **Rondi Peth, Cheryl Conner, Joe Peterson, Susie Aarstad, Irene Long** (friend of Janice Stepp), **Scott Fadden, Nancy Bussard** (Pastor John's grandmother), **Elaine Zielinski** (Jim's cousin), **Sue Simonseth, Robert Wattson** (brother of AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb), **Sheila Merrigan** (friend of AnnaLaurie), **Peggy Upton** (friend of Fredricksons), **Evan Swanson, Meredith Loury** (sister of AnnaLaurie), **Joline Lomsdalen, Carolyn Thorene, Greg Nelsen, David Rebar** (son-in-law of Wymans), **Darcy Fredrickson, Arnold Woll, Randy Merritt, Marion Hoag, Marilyn Gustafson** (sister of Gailyn Ploeg), **Maia Simmons** (granddaughter of Karyn Kerley), **Carla Hunter** (aunt of Gregory Ormsby), **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](mailto:office@elcbow.org)

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## April Birthdays

4/1	Paula Peterson
4/1	Toni Ruhl
4/4	Rodney Hansen
4/5	Kristen Stubben
4/6	Kaitlyn Brieske
4/6	Karen Fisher
4/6	Keith Peterson
4/7	Ryan Schutte
4/8	Julie Schutte
4/9	Susan Berentson
4/12	Linda Nilsen
4/12	Jeff Knutzen



4/12	Dan Martin
4/16	Mark Johnson
4/16	Zachary Larson
4/17	Tim Larson
4/18	Jerry Sells
4/20	Jon Benson
4/23	Irene Fadden
4/23	Cathi Troha
4/23	Tyler Wasilewski
4/26	Blake Caldwell
4/27	Bill Black
4/30	Iris Galbraith

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

## Serving in Worship – April

	April 5 Easter	April 12	April 19	April 26	May 3
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Darla Jensen	Kaycee Stubben	Eva Kllogjeri	Mandy Englund	Jerry Benson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Drake Conner	Brayden Kress	Hannah Kress	Cameron Dahl	Brayden Kress
<b>Lector</b>	Kristin Caldwell	Jon Aarstad	Christie Peterson	Laura Engebretsen	Susie Forsythe
<b>Usher</b>	Mark Johnson Cathy Smith	Dan & Patsy Martin	Larry & Susie Forsythe	Mike Miller Jim Zielinski	Bud & Bonnie Bowers
<b>Greeter</b>	Linda Johnson Judy Bendtsen	Kris Merritt Darla Jensen	Dotty Murray Janet Wyman	Jean Miller Cathy Smith	Linda Nilsen Lynn DenAdel
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Julie Rousseau Amber Lagerlund	Amber Lagerlund Terri Olsen	Terri Olsen Janet Wyman	Janet Wyman Judy Sheahan	Judy Sheahan Kay Zielinski
<b>Fellowship Host</b>	Parish Life Committee	Mandy & Alex Englund Brad & Janet Wyman Barb Leander	Judy Bendtsen & Roger Taxdahl Maria Day Glenda & Keith Gundersen	Gary & Jenifer Troxel Dan & Patsy Martin Kathy Shoop	Jenny & Jerry Nelson Linda Larsen & Jerry Sells Don & Marilyn Dorn
<b>Flowers</b>	Altar Guild		Tim & Karma Larson	Ron & Gailyn Ploeg	Judy Sheahan
<b>CMD</b>	Keith Peterson	Jon Aarstad	Cheryl Conner	Dennis Jensen	Keith Peterson

If you are interested in helping out on Sunday mornings by ushering, greeting, reading the lessons, being assistant minister or helping serve coffee hour, please contact Linda Johnson (360-708-2481, [lindajohnson47@hotmail.com](mailto:lindajohnson47@hotmail.com)) or the church office. It takes a lot of us to make the Sunday morning worship service run smoothly, and we would appreciate any and all help.

**Pet Foster Families:** Did you know Family Promise has a pet foster program, **Pets with a Promise**? Families entering shelters can experience additional trauma by having to give up a beloved pet. The **Pets with a Promise** program offers them the option to keep their pet by having a foster family for their pet. If this is something that interests you, please contact Family Promise at 360-854-0743.

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:30 Confirmation Class 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	30 5:00 p Friendship House Meal 5:30 p Bible Study	31 6:00 p Young Adult Group	1 10:00 a Altar Guild 5:15 p W&M 6:30 p Choir	2 12:00 p Care Team Lunch 7:00 p Maundy Thursday Worship	3 7:00 p Good Friday Worship	4
5 <i>Easter</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 8:45-10:00 a Brunch 10:30 a Worship <i>He is Risen!</i>	6 4:00 p Social Concerns <i>No Bible Study</i>	7 6:00 p Young Adult Group	8 6:30 p Choir	9 10:00 a Care Team Meeting	10	11
12 <i>Easter 2</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:15 a Second Sunday Hymn 10:30 a Worship	13 5:30 p Bible Study	14 6:00 p Young Adult Group 6:00 p Church Council	15 10:00 a Women's Bible Study 6:30 p Choir	16 10:00 a Prayer Shawl	17	18
19 <i>Easter 3</i> 8:30 Confirmation Class 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship 12:00 p Council Goal Setting @ Parish House	20 5:30 p Bible Study	21 6:00 p Young Adult Group <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	22 9:00a—3:00 p Fellowship Hall reserved 6:30 p Choir	23	24 <i>Blood Drive</i>	25
26 <i>Easter 4</i> 8:30 Confirmation Class 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	27 5:00 p Friendship House Meal 5:30 p Bible Study	28 6:00 p Young Adult Group	29 6:30 p Choir	30	1	2

**Assisting Ministers Needed:** We are looking for a few more Assisting Ministers. It's a great job! We will provide training. It's a great way to truly get to know our worship service and gain a deeper understanding of what we, as Lutherans, believe. For information, talk to any current Assisting Minister or contact the office.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Blood Drives: April 24, June 26, and August 21
- ◆ Last Day of Sunday School/Youth Sunday: May 17
- ◆ May Youth Holden Village Weekend now at Camp Lutherwood: May 23-25
- ◆ Saxon Campout and Worship: August 14-16





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

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April 2026

## EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving*

Sunday School 9:00 am Sundays

Worship 10:30 am Sundays

Livestream and Recorded online

at

[www.elcbow.org](http://www.elcbow.org)

Please join us!

All Are Welcome

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Church Office:  
phone: 360-766-6920  
email: [office@elcbow.org](mailto:office@elcbow.org)  
website: [www.elcbow.org](http://www.elcbow.org)

Pastor John Guthridge  
360-218-4131  
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