



Edison Lutheran Church

THE PARISH VISITOR

MAY 2026



Dear People of God,

From then on Jesus began to preach, saying "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!"

-Matthew 4:17

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent", he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

-Thesis One of Martin Luther's 'Ninety-Five Theses'

For Christians, the classic story of repentance is probably that of the apostle Saul, better known by his Roman name, Paul.

Paul was, by his own account, an exceptionally ardent member of the Pharisees. We usually think of Pharisees only as opponents of Jesus, but this doesn't tell the whole story of who they were, either in history or in the New Testament. We know there were Pharisees among the early followers of Jesus, and there were many similarities between the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the Pharisees, even if there were also significant differences. Among the major groups within Judaism at the time, the Pharisees were the ones most concerned with applying scripture to the lives of common people. They were active far beyond the temple and its surroundings, and their membership came more from the common people than it did from the elites. Compared to the Sadducees, for example, the Pharisees put much more emphasis on the study and teaching of scripture for ordinary Jews, and they were dedicated to the goal of helping common people live in ways that honored the law of God given through Moses.

It was this zeal for God that motivated Paul to purify the synagogues from those who professed Jesus to be the Messiah, thus making him to be a persecutor of the early Jewish Christians. He was present for the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and he was instrumental in the persecution of the Jerusalem church which followed. In all of this, he understood himself to be serving God and protecting God's people from a dangerous false teaching which was infiltrating the synagogues. For Paul, persecuting the early Jewish Christians was his duty before God.

Things change for Paul when he is sent by the Jerusalem leaders to Damascus with the intent of continuing the persecution in the synagogues of that city. As he and his companions draw near to Damascus, he is blinded (literally!) by a dazzling light and he hears the voice of the risen Jesus: "Why do you persecute me?" After being led into the city, Paul spends three days in prayer, trying to make

sense of what has just happened to him. Finally, God sends a disciple of Jesus named Ananias to baptize Paul and to restore his sight. From that point on, Paul is no longer a persecutor but a preacher, devoted to sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus.

This story is widely known by Christians, but there are a few ways it is often misunderstood.

First, this is not a “conversion,” at least not in the way we usually mean the word. Paul does not understand himself to be changing from one religion to another, as though he was first a Jew and then changed to become a Christian. In fact, a central part of Paul’s argument in his letter to the Romans is that what God has done in Christ is the culmination of what God was always doing with Israel, all the way back to Abraham. For Paul, faith in Jesus is the proper expression of his Judaism. Rather than his religious affiliation being changed, it is Paul’s understanding of what it means to be a faithful Jew that has been turned on its head. Before, he was an ardent Jew who was convinced that the followers of Jesus were dangerous false teachers and acted accordingly. After, he was an ardent Jew who was convinced that Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfillment of all God has been doing with the people of Israel.

Second, this wasn’t a singular moment of repentance, as though the Paul who persecuted the Jerusalem church suddenly became the Paul who wrote the letter to the Romans. Though a quick reading of Acts 9 makes it sound like everything happens for Paul over the course of a few days, according to his own account in Galatians there is a three-year period in which he goes away into Arabia for a time and then returns to Damascus. And then, after visiting Jerusalem and being (eventually) welcomed by the disciples there, he spends another fourteen years with the churches in northern Syria before being called by the Holy Spirit and commissioned by the church to go and carry the message of salvation not only to Jews, but also to Gentiles. Though we often tell the story of Paul as a “conversion” that took place in a matter of a few days, in reality it was 17 years before “Paul, persecutor of the church,” became “Paul, apostle to the Gentiles.”

Third, Paul is not the hero of this story; he’s the one being rescued. The story of Paul’s repentance is not one intended to highlight his intelligence, his self-discipline, or his sincerity. In fact, it is those very traits in Paul that made him so resistant to the idea that God had acted in Jesus. He was able to refute whatever arguments for Jesus his opponents might present, he was able to keep himself focused on the goal he had set for himself of protecting his people from false teachings, and he was deadly serious about serving God by eliminating these followers of Jesus from the synagogues. As Paul puts it in his letter to the Philippians: “But whatever things were gains for me, on account of Christ I consider these to be loss.” (3:7)

This can be difficult to understand, so I want to linger here. It is not that Paul was full of evil traits that made him prone to violence and that God overcame those evil traits and reinforced Paul’s good ones. Rather, Paul was unwittingly serving a false idea of God, and he was putting the best of himself in service to this idol. All of his strengths and admirable traits—all that made Paul who he was—was

in service of a corrupted ideal, and so this corruption permeated everything he did. The harder he strove for what he thought was good, the deeper he forced himself into sin's trap. This is, to borrow a phrase from our Calvinist friends, the situation of "total depravity." Not that Paul was full of evil, but that even the good he was capable of was twisted to serve an evil end. In such a state, repentance was impossible for Paul, so trapped was he in his false ideal of what it meant to serve God. God instead had to act decisively to break him of his false understanding.

We make these same mistakes when we think about repentance in our own lives. We tend to think about repentance more in terms of conversion from a bad group to a good group, saying that we used to be one of *those people* (addicts/philanders/money-chasers/abusers/unbelievers/fill-in-the-blank) but we saw the light and have now become one of the good people. We imagine that there must be a single point in time, a moment of decision, in which we go from before to after. And through all of this, we imagine that our positive traits will help us in our project of repentance, not realizing that our bondage to sin means even our strengths become obstacles when they are twisted to serve an evil purpose. Not only are we unable to break ourselves free of this bondage, we do not even know we have been bound until God arrives to do the work of repentance in us.

So then, what does it mean for 'the entire life of believers to be one of repentance'?

I think it means, in part, remaining open to correction, even about the things you hold most deeply to be true. It means being aware of how easily we can be deceived, and not immediately silencing voices that challenge us. It means humility about the worth of our actions, since sincerity is no guarantee of goodness. It means recognizing and being open about where we have been wrong in the past, and the ways in which we still struggle to move forward. It means living into the identity given in the promise of baptism, that we are sinners who have been forgiven, children of wrath who have been claimed as beloved children of God. It means, to quote from a letter Luther wrote to Melanchthon, to "be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world." (Luther's Works vol. 48, p. 282)

And it means, most importantly, to entrust ourselves entirely to Jesus, leaving our future in his capable hands as we focus on his word of promise and the work God has set before us here and now. Ironically, true repentance comes as we give up on it as something we can accomplish. Instead, we receive it as a gift from the God who is faithful to complete this good work in us. As we live confidently out of God's sure promise and busy ourselves with our down-to-earth callings, repentance becomes our way of life.

Your brother in Christ,
-Pastor John





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

Worship Attendance

March 29:	158 (Palm Sunday)
April 5:	240 (Easter Sunday)
April 12:	117
April 19:	119
<u>April 26:</u>	<u>134</u>
Average:	153

Church Financial Update for March

March Giving: \$36,273 (Thank you!)
 2026 Budget Goal Through March: \$91,479
 2026 Total Giving Through March: \$94,497
(\$3,018 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!



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

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on **Wednesday, May 20th at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. For the past several months we've been talking about the characteristics of the historical Jesus. Our discussion shifts to consider the "so what" or "now what." How do these characteristics fit with the image of Jesus that is part of both the church and the culture of our time? What difference does it make? And what does that mean for the Christian life? (This may easily take more than one session!!!). If these questions interest you, you don't need to have been part of the earlier discussions in order to join us.

All women are welcome!

Sunday School: The last day of Sunday School will be **May 17th**, which will also be **Youth Sunday!** Please join us as our students take the lead in worship. Then join us for a tasty hotdog BBQ lunch for fellowship.

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.

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!

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.

Did you miss Easter Sunday at Edison Lutheran? Enjoy some picture from that wonderful day!



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) to the church bank account. **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.

Pastor John's Bible Study: Please join Pastor John for Bible Study on **Monday evenings at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, **except May 25th. 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 **Sunday, May 24th**. 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! On Monday, **May 25th the Youth Group is going on a hike!** Meet at the church at **9:30 am** dressed for the weather and fun!

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.

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.

Did You Know? The church has money available to pay for food to prepare meals for Family Promise and Friendship House. If you would like to make dinner for these partner ministries, but would like to be reimbursed for the food, contact the church office. We don't want paying for food to stop anyone from volunteering!

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.

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.



Dear Members of Edison Lutheran Church –

A very big THANK YOU to all members of the Parish Life Committee, who once again, served a delicious Easter Breakfast! Everyone on the committee contributed in very meaningful ways! More than 100 people were served, with about 45 people enjoying some of the dishes during coffee hour following the service. The Altar Guild did a wonderful job arranging tulips for centerpieces, which were also showcased in the sanctuary during the service. If you missed the breakfast this year, be sure to put it on your calendar for next year! Easter should be a glorious celebration for us all. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful church tradition! - **Kris Merritt**

Edison Lutheran Congregation,

Thank you to all of you for your prayers, cards, and messages during my recent illness. This congregation's love and support is exceptional and is truly a factor in my recovery. I'm very grateful for all of you. -**Susie Aarstad**

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.

Local Area Events to Support our Members

North Cascades Concert Band: Please join the NCCB with a special guest from the from the President's Own Marine Band, for their free concerts on **Friday, May 1st at 7:30 pm** at Bellingham High School; **Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm** at Arlington High school; and **Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 pm** at Anacortes High School. Come out to enjoy beautiful music and support Conductor **Peter Blau Ormsby** and clarinetist **Carrie Omdal**.

Skagit Valley Chorale and North Cascades Concert Band: Please join Skagit Valley Chorale accompanied by the North Cascades Concert Band for concerts at McIntyre Hall on **Saturday, May 9th at 7:30 pm** and **Sunday, May 10th at 2:00 pm**. Come out to enjoy beautiful music and support Conductor **Peter Blau Ormsby** and clarinetist **Carrie Omdal**. Buy tickets at mcintyrehall.org

Burlington Edison School District Bands: The Burlington Edison School District band concert is May 21st at McIntyre Hall at 7:00 pm. 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, and Jon Benson**

Burlington Edison School District Choir: Please join the BESD Choirs for their **Spring Concert on Wednesday, June 2nd at 7:30 pm at McIntyre Hall**. This free concert showcases choirs from both Middle School and High School. Please come out to support **Addi and Blake Caldwell**.

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

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

Dear ELC Friends,

As some of you know, I was a culinary arts teacher for many years in the Stanwood School District. During that time, I also had a side business of catering meetings, weddings, tailgate dinners, etc. Much of the equipment I acquired has been stored and/or donated to Edison Lutheran Church.

In preparation for the Easter breakfast, we went to move the Cambro hot hold boxes to the kitchen. This is equipment that will hold hot food hot for up to 4 hours. We have used it many times for meals at ELC. There are three parts to this equipment, 2 large boxes which sit on a dolly for ease of movement. On the Saturday before Easter, we discovered that one box and the dolly were **missing**. We also discovered two large black tubs containing 4 chafers (equipment that would be used for hot food on a buffet table) were **missing**. This is a lot of equipment! These items allow us to serve large groups safely, by keeping food temperatures out of the danger zone, where harmful bacteria may grow.

If you, or someone you know, needed to borrow this equipment, we would really like it returned to the kitchen or storage room. We are happy to loan items when they are not required for Parish Life activities, but would like to know who has them and when they will be returned. If there is something you need to borrow, just let Carrie know what it is and when you will return it.

We would be delighted to find our Cambro hot hold box, dolly, and chafers returned to our storage room or kitchen, no questions asked.

Thanks for your help!

Kris Merritt, Parish Life Committee

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

Join Pastor John in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays at 5:30 pm (except May 25th)
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!

Evangelism Committee: We are continuing our gift bags for new members and our outreach to those interested in joining us. We need help reaching out to visitors and potential members. **It's a great way to get involved!** Contact the church office for more information.

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 need a name tag**, let the office know.



One Parish, One Prisoner

The teachings of Jesus are rife with examples of Jesus reaching out to society's unwanted, the lepers, tax collectors, and other sinners. These people all had one thing in common: They needed to hear His message and know they were children of God and were therefore worthy of love and redemption. They were also segregated away from polite society.

Edison Lutheran has embarked upon a journey to reach out as we believe Jesus would have to an "incarcerated friend." This was the sermon Chris Hoke from Underground Ministries preached to us in November, and we have now begun the project. Nine of us (Paula, Frank, Cathy, Chris, Mark, John, Jane, Jenny, and Nancy) have agreed to help Juan (we can't tell his last name, please don't ask) overcome some of the obstacles he is facing when he gets out of prison in a year and a half. We are rolling away the stone for this young man, as much as we can, but no matter what we will do our best to make him know that Jesus cares and is rooting for him.

Practically, we are writing him letters of introduction, which go off into the prison mail system and do not come back very quickly. Then we will engage with him on all of the things he will need to overcome. Think about it—he doesn't even have a firm date for when he will be released into our community. How can he possibly plan? Get a job? Find a place to live? Get a driver's license? The barriers for him on reentry to society are immense, daunting even for us, who are simply advocates for the young man.

Juan is in his early to mid 20s, and is from Skagit Valley. He describes himself as "...loyal, respectful, caring, willing to help..." He has kids, and is very concerned about having a relationship with them upon his return. We are very hopeful that this will be a positive engagement for both Juan and for the team, as we open up to one shut away from society.

One of the training videos quoted a prisoner as saying that "Prison is the loneliest place in the world." This surprised me, since people are packed in there, but his point was that it was every man for himself all the time, and showing emotion is perceived as weakness.

We will give updates on our progress with each newsletter installment, and, Lord willing, will introduce the young man to the congregation someday. We are very hopeful that we can be the instruments of the Lord's work in this endeavor. **Please add this effort to your prayers.**

Thank you,

The OPOP Team

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.

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 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.camlutherwood.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. 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.camlutherwood.org/volunteer> for more info.

From the May 2026 Edition of *The Spirit*



From the Bishop

I am so glad that the cherry trees and magnolia trees and dogwoods are blooming. I am ecstatic to see daffodils and tulips ... and to trust that the azaleas and rhododendrons are on the way. I can almost taste local strawberries ... ones with real flavor. And the promise of juicy tomatoes is getting closer. I can feel the dirt under my fingernails as I begin to plant in my small yard and garden. There is something both ancient and new, hopeful and earthy about planting a garden.

If you think about it, one of the first images we have in scripture is of a garden. God created humans and put them in a garden. And at the very end of the Bible, in Revelation 22, we hear a description of another beautiful garden – this one with a river flowing on and on, and the tree of life on either side, bearing fruit and offering healing for all nations. It is in our bones, our hearts, our souls to be in a garden – to be grounded in abundance. To be planted by the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God.

Still, we might look at our communities and this world and think, “There isn’t enough. There isn’t enough care. There is a lack of justice and empathy and hope.” We might look at our congregation and lament, “There aren’t enough resources. We have so little. What can we possibly do?” We might look at our own lives and wonder if we can make any difference at all.

But while we are holding to what little we think we have, God is busy growing and creating, bringing new life from what seemed dormant. Scripture reminds us again and again that we are planted in God’s abundant garden, even when we forget it. God provides water when we feel parched. God feeds us when we are hungry. God is ripening tomatoes right before our eyes – even as we complain about the pale and tasteless ones from the grocery store.

What a gift and promise this is – from the beginning of creation to today and into God’s future: God provides. Even when we doubt. Even when we hoard. Even when we grasp for more. God still provides. God provided clothing in the garden, manna in the desert, water from a rock, oil that didn’t run out. Jesus fed 5000, and Jesus appeared to Mary in a garden. What a generous and extravagant God.

We are truly planted in God’s abundance.

And with that promise, I invite you to come to the synod gathering on May 30 for Life in God’s Garden: Seeds of Generosity. (Learn more and get registered here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gathering/2026-05-30>) It will be a day of learning, community, encouragement, and imagining together how we live generously for the

sake of the world. For we trust that through the Spirit, God plants. God waters. God brings life. And by grace, we get to be a part of it – as people rooted in God’s garden.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org

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!

Synod Gathering: Please join us as we gather to celebrate, learn, and connect around the theme of **generosity**.

This is generosity rooted in God's abundant love for God's creation. Generosity of time, space, talents, money - and generosity of our hearts.

On Saturday, May 30, 9am-5pm - we will be gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood AND the new Lynnwood Neighborhood Center.

We will center our time in worship at 9am with song, communion, preaching by Bishop Shelley, and gratitude and blessing for our Synod VP Kay Edgerton who will be concluding her term this summer.

We will then welcome inspiration from our keynote presenter, Rev. Tim Brown, ELCA director for congregational stewardship. After we take a break for lunch, there will be **two** afternoon workshop times - with a total of **22 options** from local leaders!

To close the day, we will re-gather for a sending service - including time to install our newly elected synod council officers and members.

All are welcome to register There are so many wonderful workshop options, you will want to bring a group from your ministry site to capture as many of the offerings as you can! **Let ELC office know if you want to carpool.**

Care Team: Wouldn't it be nice to fill the mailboxes of our Edison Lutheran members who are living alone or in care centers? We also have young adults living away from home. **They would all really appreciate a card from you or your children.** Please send them a card. Everyone likes getting mail and knowing that others are thinking of them. Something in their mail can really brighten their day. Contact the church office for names and addresses. Please let the office know if you or someone you know needs a card.

Prayer Requests



Remember in your Prayers: We pray for the **family of Joe Peterson** and the **family of Garner Ekstran**. We also pray for **Rondi Peth, Cheryl Conner, Susie Aarstad, Scott Fadden, Nancy Bussard** (Pastor John's grandmother), **Sue Simonseth, Robert Wattson** (brother of AnnaLaurie), **Sheila Merrigan** (friend of AnnaLaurie), **Peggy Upton** (friend of Fredricksons), **Meredith Loury** (sister of AnnaLaurie), **Evan Swanson, Joline Lomsdalen, Carolyn Thorene, 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, Jim Forbes** (Debbie Conijn's step-father), **Edith Nichols, Barry Christensen, Chris Isaacson, Taylor Velasquez, Juan** (our One Parish One Prisoner friend), 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

May Birthdays

5/1	Paxton Booth
5/2	Irmtraud Gaertner
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	LeAnna 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 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Assisting Minister	Bonnie Bowers	Chris Omdal	Jerry Benson	Darla Jensen	Mark Johnson
Acolyte	Brayden Kress	Hannah Kress	Drake Conner	TBD	Drake Conner
Lector	Susie Forsythe	Bryan Galbraith	Youth	Susie Aarstad	Linda Johnson
Usher	Brad Wyman Cathy Smith	Jon & Susie Aarstad	Mark Johnson Youth	Bud & Bonnie Bowers	Gordy Dahl Darla Jensen
Greeter	Linda Nilsen Linda Johnson	Inger Conner Laura Engebretsen	Steven Dahl Youth	Jon & Susie Aarstad	Terri Olsen Jerry Sells
Altar Guild	Judy Sheahan Kay Zielinski	Kay Zielinski Debbie Conijn	Debbie Conijn Debbie Lisser Youth	Kathy Shoop Julie Rousseau	Julie Rousseau Debbie Lisser
Fellowship Host	Jenny & Jerry Nelson Linda Larson & Jerry Sells Don & Marilyn Zorn	Judy Sheahan Kristen Caldwell John & Candy Johnson	Kris Merritt Larry & Terri Olsen Eric & Nancy Anderson	Dotty Murray Bud & Bonnie Bowers Mike & Jean Miller	Debbie Conijn Jon & Susie Aarstad Lynn & Doug Den Adel
Flowers	Judy Sheahan	Darcy Hamilton	Jeff & Stephanie Knutzen	Altar Guild	
CMD	Jon Aarstad	Laura Engebretsen	Cheryl Conner	Laura Engebretsen	Dennis Jensen

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) 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.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Easter 5</i> 8:30 Confirmation Class 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	4 4:00 p Social Concerns 5:30 p Bible Study	5 6:00 p Young Adult Group	6 10:00 a Altar Guild 6:30 p Choir	7 12:00 p Care Team Lunch 6-8:00 p New Member Class	8	9 Skagit Bicycle Club Spring Classic
10 <i>Easter 6</i> 9:00 a Sunday School 10:15 a Second Sunday Hymn Sing 10:30 a Worship	11 5:30 p Bible Study	12 6:00 p Young Adult Group 6:00 p Church Council	13 6:30 p Choir	14 10:00 a Care Team Meeting 6-8:00 p New Member Class	15	16
17 <i>Easter 7</i> 8:30 Confirmation Class 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship <i>Youth Sunday</i>	18 9:30a Youth Group Hike 5:30 p Bible Study	19 6:00 p Young Adult Group	20 10:00 a Women's Bible Study 6:30 p Choir	21 10:00 a Prayer Shawl	22	23
24 <i>Pentecost</i> 10:30 a Worship <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25 5:00 p Friendship House Meal <i>No Bible Study Memorial Day</i>	26 6:00 p Young Adult Group	27 6:30 p Choir	28	29	30 9-12:00 p Council Goal Setting @ Parish House
31 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 10:30 a Worship						

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

- ◆ High School Recognition/Choir Sunday: June 7
- ◆ Jerry Benson Recital at Church: June 7 at 1:00 pm
- ◆ Blood Drive: June 26
- ◆ Saxon Campout and Worship: August 14-16





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

Non-Profit Organization
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Bow, WA



May 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

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