



Edison Lutheran Church

THE PARISH VISITOR

JUNE 2026



“All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that God’s human being may be proficient, having been equipped for every good work.”

-2 Timothy 3:16-17

Dear People of God,

Recently, I’ve had several people reach out to me and ask for recommendations on purchasing a Bible for themselves. We live in a time where we are privileged to have access to a wide variety of very good Bibles with all sorts of resources to help our understanding, but that abundance can also cause confusion. Sometimes it feels like you need a seminary degree just to figure out which Bible to buy! So, with that in mind, I’ve put down some of my thoughts, and I hope they are helpful!

Form Factor

A quick search for print Bibles finds hundreds of options out there. Bibles come in all shapes and sizes, with various cover compositions, font size, and paper thickness. I myself own Bibles of various sizes, from small portable ones with incredibly thin paper and tiny font to large ones designed to be kept in one place. Often portability and comfort of reading are competing values. The least portable Bible I own is also my favorite to read; it is printed in five hardcover volumes, but in a font that is easy to read and on paper that does not bleed through.

In the age of smartphones and e-readers, I think comfort of reading matters more than portability, but your needs may differ. My advice would be to pick something that will be useful to you. If you think you’ll do most of your reading on the go, then portability will be a higher priority. If you tend to read almost entirely at home, then a larger and more comfortable to read Bible may be the way to go.

The Apocrypha

One wrinkle you might come across in purchasing a Bible is that you will see that some include something called “the Apocrypha.” Basically, these are the books of the Old Testament that are accepted as inspired Scripture by some parts of the church but not by others. All major Christian groups (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox) recognize the same 27 books of the New Testament (Matthew through Revelation). The Old Testament, however, is a bit more complicated.

While all three traditions agree that Genesis through Malachi (the 39 written originally in Hebrew) are Scripture, there is disagreement about some additional books which were included in the major Greek translation of the Old Testament that was being completed around the time of Jesus, and these books

came to be called "Apocrypha." These mostly originated in Greek, and were written sometime between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AD. Orthodox groups tend to regard all or most of these as Scripture on the same level as the rest of the Old Testament. Roman Catholics regard some but not others as Scripture. Protestants (including Lutherans) tend not to place these books at the same level of Scripture, though they may be worth reading on their own merits.

My recommendation is to choose whatever interests you. Having the apocryphal books might be useful to you if you engage regularly with Christians from Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox traditions, or if you are interested in reading Christian teachers from before the Reformation, as many of them regarded the apocryphal texts as Scripture.

Translations

Anyone who knows more than one language can tell you that translation is a tricky business. Even closely related languages don't line up with each other word-for-word, and so translators always have to decide which words to use in the target language in order to faithfully render the meaning of the original. This is even harder when there is not only a language barrier, but a culture barrier of thousands of years and thousands of miles which makes certain ideas and words resonate differently in people's minds. Because of this, different translators will translate the same thing in different ways. Their translations will take into account their own experiences, the target audience for whom they are translating, and their own understanding of the essence of the text. There is no such thing as one perfect translation; all of them will have their issues.

One of my seminary professors, when asked what he thought the best translation of the Bible was, said "The one you actually read!" I agree completely! Regular reading and engagement with Scripture is more important than having the most perfect translation. There are many very good English translations of the Bible available now, all of which take into account the most recent scholarship and attempt to render faithfully into English words that were written millennia ago in languages and cultures very different from ours. Following are my comments on some of the most widely used translations.

NRSVue: New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (2021)

Though the name is a bit much (it's new, revised, *and* updated!), this is probably the best all-around translation in terms of scholarship. It is also the one we use in our worship services, so it should feel familiar. It is written for a slightly higher reading level than some others, which can make it difficult for some to read for long periods. This is a recent revision of the NRSV (1989), which was itself an update of the RSV (1952), which was in turn a revision of the American Standard Version (ASV) of 1901. (Both the NRSV and RSV are still quite good, though scholarship has advanced quite a bit since the 1950s, especially in our understanding of ancient Hebrew.)

NIV: *New International Version* (revised 2011)

One of the most common translations out there, and very easy to read. Sometimes readability is prioritized over accuracy more than I would like. When we did our 40 weeks through the Bible as a congregation a few years back, we used *The Books of the Bible*, an NIV edition published in four volumes. I still think that edition is excellent for gaining a broad understanding of Scripture.

ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)

A translation that is favored among many conservative Christians. Tends to be more word-for-word literal, especially when translating the New Testament. As a reader of Greek, I kind of like this about it, but it can make the English a bit awkward. Something that sticks out about it is that the translators very intentionally chose to avoid using gender-inclusive language in translating words that refer to both men and women. This has endeared it to some and made it objectionable to others.

NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (revised 2020):

Similar translation philosophy to the ESV, though it will translate words such as the Greek adelphoi ('brothers') as "brothers and sisters" when it is clearly addressing both men and women. (In Greek, like many languages, male plurals can also refer to mixed gender groups.) This translation first came out in 1971 as a revision of the ASV, and has been revised twice since. In this way, it is an alternative to the RSV-NRSV-NRSVue translations, relying on the same scholarship, but with a different way of translating.

KJV: *King James Version* (1611) and NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)

The classic English translation. Unmatched in its poetry, but full of archaic language, which can be difficult. Because of its age (published in 1611!), it relies on original-language manuscripts that are not as good as what we have access to today. For a more modern equivalent, the NKJV preserves much of the poetry while updating the English. It does tend to stick with the KJV, however, even where scholars have identified more original manuscripts. These are mostly minor differences, though a few are quite significant.

A note on paraphrases: There are a few versions of the Bible out there that are too creative with their rendering of the original languages to be called translations in a strict sense. Two of the most popular of these are *The Message* (2002) by Eugene Peterson and *The Living Bible* (1974) by Kenneth Taylor, though there are several others. These paraphrases can be very interesting and helpful to read, but should not replace a true translation for study. The voices and theological perspective of the creators come through very strongly in these, and can obscure the original text. They are somewhere between a translation and a commentary. Personally, I enjoy Peterson's poetic sensibilities in *The Message*, but it is not something I use for regular reading.

Study helps

Many Bibles will include resources to help readers better understand what they are reading. These range from maps and articles tucked away in the back to footnotes on the bottom of the page to whole articles that displace the text. This also includes the subject headings that translators and publishers add into the text to make it easier to find particular stories. (Technically, even the chapter and verse numbers fall into this category, as they were added much later to enable referencing particular passages!) These study helps can be useful, but they also place another layer between the reader and the text itself.

My personal preference is to read from a Bible with as few of these as possible. My favorite editions for my own reading (*The Books of the Bible* and *Bibliotheca*) don't even include verse numbers, though this is impractical for reading in group settings like Bible studies. However, for those who aren't as familiar with the Bible, or who want to dig deep into a small section, these helps can be very useful. Just be careful not to confuse the study helps with the text of Scripture itself! If having everything in one larger study Bible is a must for you, you could look into *Lutheran Study Bible* from Augsburg Fortress, our denomination's publishing house. (There is also *The Lutheran Study Bible* from Concordia, the Missouri-Synod publishing house. I've heard that it is more in depth in its notes than the Augsburg one, but it also has a much more restrictive view on the role of women in churches, as fits the more conservative LCMS.)

My personal recommendation is to choose a Bible with as few of these study helps as possible, though you will still probably want verse numbers for ease of referencing. When you come across things you can't understand or would like historical context, there are a wealth of resources to be found online. One good online resource that comes from a Lutheran perspective is **enterthebible.org** from Luther Seminary. Another good resource, especially for comparing different translations, is **biblegateway.com**, though note that the commentary resources may be from other Christian traditions. As you read and learn, check what you are learning with others you trust; the Bible is meant to be read in community! Also, feel free to email me; I love responding to Bible questions!

Now what?

That's a lot of information; probably too much!

If you've gotten this far and are still overwhelmed by choice, then **just do this**: get an NRSVue Bible that looks attractive to you and start reading! Start with Matthew if you want to focus on Jesus first, or Genesis if you want to start at the beginning. As you read, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit; after all, it is that very Spirit of God you are encountering in these pages. Know that you will be changed by this encounter, perhaps in small imperceptible ways. Write down your questions, your frustrations, and your discoveries. Know that not all your questions will be answered; reading the Bible is more about relationship than it is about knowledge. Talk about what you are learning with others who you trust. Above all, trust in Jesus your shepherd to guide you through.

Your brother in Christ,
-Pastor John



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

Worship Attendance

May 3:	164
May 10:	162
May 17:	159
<u>May 24:</u>	<u>151</u>
Average:	159*

*May 31 will be included next month

Church Financial Update for April

April Giving: \$37,049 (Thank you!)
 2026 Budget Goal Through April: \$122,479
 2026 Total Giving Through April: \$131,545
(\$9,066 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		<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 & Music</i>
Jon Aarstad, Secretary	<i>Finance Committee</i>	John Johnson	<i>Property & Management</i>
Dennis Jensen	<i>*Finance Committee</i>	Brenda Geary	<i>*Youth & Christian Education</i>
Laura Engebretsen	<i>Property & Management</i>	Larry Forsythe	<i>Finance Committee</i>
Keith Peterson	<i>*Property & Management</i>	Jim Zielinski	<i>*Evangelism</i>

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

NOTICE OF SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The Semi-Annual Meeting of Edison Lutheran Church will be held **Sunday, June 21st immediately after worship.**

The purpose of the meeting will be to present an update on year-to-date finances, elect new members to the church council (effective September 1st), approve updated constitution, and provide an update on Property & Management.

Worship next Sunday, June 7th is a big day! Not only is it **Choir Sunday**, the best musical day of the year, but it's also the day we will be **honoring our graduating High School Seniors.** Please let the office know if you have a high school graduate and if they will be at worship on June 7th.

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!**

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.

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.

We don't want you to get botulism! Please put a note on all food in the fellowship hall refrigerator with the following: the **date it was opened; what it can be used for; and what it is** if it's not easily identified. This will help protect our congregation from food poisoning and keep our kitchen clean. Thank you!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on **Wednesday, June 17th at 10 am** in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last session of this year's study which is focused on the characteristics of the historical Jesus. We will continue to discuss how these characteristics are (or are not) reflected in the image of Jesus in both the church and the culture of our time. **All women are welcome** - even if you missed the earlier sessions. We will be taking a break in July, but will meet in August to choose a topic for the coming year.

Edison Lutheran Church Scholarship Results

Congratulations to **Jerry Benson, Will Benson, Addi Caldwell, Alexia Englund, Karson Englund, Jonathan Larson, Sara Omdal, Abby Ormsby, Alana Rebar, Brooke Tyler, Reese Tyler, and Hailey Wick**. Each student received a \$1,250 scholarship. (Thanks to our very generous donors, we were able to award more scholarships!)

- **Jerry Benson** is attending University of Washington.
- **Will Benson** is attending Washington State University.
- **Addi Caldwell** is attending Western Washington University.
- **Alexia Englund** is attending Chapman University in California.
- **Karson Englund** is attending Loyola Marymount University in California.
- **Jonathan Larson** is attending Gonzaga University.
- **Sara Omdal** is attending University of Washington.
- **Abby Ormsby** is attending St. Olaf College in Minnesota.
- **Alana Rebar** is attending George Fox University in Oregon.
- **Reese Tyler** is attending Western Washington University.
- **Brooke Tyler** is attending Western Washington University.
- **Hailey Wick** is attending Western Washington University.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship awardees! Thank you to our scholarship Committee members.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO OUR CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS!

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Our church has many graduates this spring.*

- ◆ **Jerry Benson, Karson Englund, Addi Caldwell, Alana Rebar, Reese Tyler, and Alex Ilagan**

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We pray God will be with you in all your endeavors.

*if we missed your graduate, let the office know. We will honor them in the next newsletter.

Burlington/Edison Lutheran Church Scholarship Results

This scholarship is awarded to members of and/or active participants at Burlington Lutheran or Edison Lutheran Church who demonstrate competence and ambition to continue their education. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 to the school of their choice toward tuition and/or books.

The **Einer & Ruby Knutzen Scholarship for 2026** has been awarded to the following Edison Lutheran Church recipients.

- * **Jerry Benson** attending University of Washington
- * **Alexia Englund** attending Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University
- * **Karson Englund** attending Loyola Marymount University
- * **Jonathan Larson** attending Gonzaga University
- * **Sara Omdal** attending University of Washington
- * **Abby Ormsby** attending St. Olaf College
- * **Alana Rebar** attending George Fox University
- * **Brooke Tyler** attending Western Washington University

Sunday School Planning for 2026–2027

We are beginning preparations for the 2026–2027 Sunday School year and are currently working on determining **class sizes, curriculum needs, and teacher assignments**. If you have family members or friends with children from Preschool through Middle School who may be interested in participating, please share their name, age, and grade level for the 2026–2027 school year. (Please note: Pre-K students should be potty trained or have a parent available to assist as needed.)

We are also **seeking volunteers** to support our **Sunday School program** in a variety of roles, including:

- Classroom teaching or co-teaching
- Assisting with crafts and activities
- Helping with the Christmas Program
- Supporting Youth Days
- Providing snacks

Sunday School runs from **September through May**, with time off for school breaks and holidays. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about how you can be involved, please let us know. Your support is greatly appreciated as we prepare for a meaningful and enriching year of faith and learning.

Stephanie Knutzen (360)661-3057 (text or call); email: sk_ranches@hotmail.com

Sarah Dahl (360)333-8141 (text or call); email: sarah_k_dahl@hotmail.com

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

A New Way to Give: The church can now receive funds directly from your bank account via EFT. **We can set up a recurring donation with no fee for you** and a very minimal fee for the church. Remember, **you can change your recurring offering at anytime** by contacting the church office. **If you are interested**, there is a form on the table in the Narthex, fill it out and drop it in the offering or mail it to the church. Contact the church 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. **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, June 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.

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!

Skagit Symphony Garden Bash: Join the Symphony for their annual Garden Bash fundraiser in Bow, featuring **David Benson's gardens on Sunday, June 28th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.** The fundraiser will feature four properties, including the Janicki Calf Barn and a garden featured in the June/July issue of *Better Homes & Gardens*. Enjoy wandering through beautiful gardens while listening to amazing orchestral ensembles, including **David Benson** playing the violin. For tickets, go to www.skagitsymphony.com.

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

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

Perhaps you have seen in recent "calendar of events", the letters "OPOP" and are wondering what this is about. "One Parish/One Prisoner" which is program recently initiated in our congregation. About a year ago, the church council voted to become part of "One Parish/One Prisoner" which is a national program of congregations working with people who to be released from prison in order to help with the transition.

Our congregation has established a "team" of 8-10 people who are now meeting on a monthly basis (third Sunday of the month). Our primary goal is to become acquainted with each other, and with a specific prisoner. Presently, we are in the "letter writing" phase where each of us has written to "Juan" (who is at Shelton Prison); and are now receiving responses from Juan. This is a long-term process because it will be several months before Juan is released from Shelton and returns to Skagit County.

Hopefully, there will be monthly updates via this newsletter and Sunday's bulletins so that you can better understand the purpose and goals of this program. The members of the committee are very excited about the possibilities which this program presents. More information will follow. **Please add this effort to your prayers.**

Thank you, The OPOP Team

Are you having surgery soon?

Especially on your knees, shoulders, or hips? There are so many little things that can help you in your recovery that you would not need before or after. So, here at Edison we have set up a way to share the things we have and save you money.

If you need things to help with your recovery, please call Linda Johnson or the church office to see what we have available. If you have items you no longer need, and do not have room in your home to store them, call Linda or the church office. Linda and Mark are storing items at their home and can make arrangements to get things to you if you need them. If you have items that you would like to keep at your home, but are willing to share temporarily, let us know what they are so we can share that information. If you have extra items, you can bring them to church or contact Linda. Some of the things that are ready for you to use: canes, walking sticks, ice machines, long handled shoe horns, bed rail, bath tub chair and shower chair. Here are some examples of equipment:

Standing aide
Long handle shoe horn
Walking sticks
Canes
Leg lifter

Ice machine
Walker
Bed rail
Bath tub chair
Shower chair

Reclining lift chair
Pressure sox
Knee brace
Shower chair

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

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.

Music at Josephine's: The residents at Josephine's Caring Community have a request: **they miss live music!** Before COVID, groups would come in and play music during dinner or in the afternoon. The residents loved it! If you have any musical talent or know anyone who does, please sign up to provide music for the residents. Contact the church office or Shannon at Shannont@josephinecc.com for more information.

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.**

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.

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 July 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 as soon as you have it 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 June 2026 Edition of *The Spirit*



From the Bishop

What is the Bible? Some say the Bible is a book that dropped down from heaven completely written. Some say the Bible is nothing but a bunch of stories from long ago that don't matter. Neither of these are accurate. Instead, what we as Lutherans believe, is that the Bible is a sacred and holy book because through its 66 books – the stories, poems, history, laments, letters, and more – the Bible points us toward Jesus. Jesus, the One who reveals God's grace, mercy, justice, and love for the world.

As Lutherans, we understand that the center of the Bible is always Jesus. Martin Luther famously said that when we read scripture, we should ask, "Does it show Christ?" In other words, does this verse or passage reveal God made known in Jesus? Does it move us toward peace, wholeness, reconciliation, forgiveness, and love? Or is it being twisted to justify oppression, cruelty, and exclusion? Luther believed that faithful people do not simply quote isolated verses. We are to wrestle with scripture honestly and faithfully always through the lens of Jesus.

Luther also insisted that scripture must interpret scripture. No single verse stands alone. Every verse and passage and book is meant to be in conversation with the broader arc of scripture – with the prophets, the gospels, the letters, and, especially, with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This means we read the Bible seriously, but not literally. We pay attention to context, history, genre, and the larger witness of God's love. When a verse seems to pull us toward harm or violence, we are called to read the passage again, asking whether the interpretation is consistent with God as revealed in Jesus.

I chose to write on how to read the Bible because, quite frankly, what the bible is and biblical interpretation matters deeply right now. I see scripture being selectively quoted by people in power to dehumanize and scapegoat vulnerable communities, glorify wealth and power, and distort sacred texts into slogans. Verses are being lifted out of context while the broader witness of Jesus' life is ignored.

Earlier this year, I watched a recruitment video for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that opened with helicopters flying overhead and the words from Matthew 5:9 on the screen: *Blessed are the peacemakers*. What followed were images of heavily armed men in tactical gear carrying weapons, breaking down doors, and carrying out violent raids against immigrants. I could not help but notice how far this imagery stands from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the very place from which that verse is taken.

On the eve of the 250th anniversary of this country, I pray that we would reject the misuse of scripture and instead read scripture faithfully so that we might follow Jesus more closely. I pray that we would acknowledge our own complicity, resist the temptation towards power or fear, care for those who are vulnerable, and stand up and speak out truthfully and prophetically.

Let us return to the prophets who call for justice and care for the poor. Let us return to the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus blesses the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers. Let us return to the cross, where God rejected violence and domination as the final word. Let us rejoice in the resurrection, where hope, mercy, and love rise again even in the midst of fear and despair. Let us read scripture faithfully and let us follow Jesus.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org

Announcement From Northwest Washington Synod

We've had an election!

Our May 16, 2026 special meeting of the NW Washington Synod Assembly has concluded. Here is a quick recap:

- The Rev. Netsie Griffith (retired) was re-elected as our synod secretary. Netsie is a member at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellingham. Netsie's re-election brings continuity to our leadership team, of which she has been an invaluable member. Her knowledge and experience are much appreciated. We're so glad she let her name go forward for re-election. Congratulations, Netsie!
- Elizabeth Tanis was elected to serve a two-year term as our youth representative. Elizabeth is a member at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, has already been active in church leadership at the congregational and churchwide levels and brings a much-needed perspective to the council. Thanks to Elizabeth for being willing to step up and participate in synod governance!
- Cindy Shultz was elected to a four-year term as vice president. Cindy is a member at Emmaus Table @7400 Woodlawn in Seattle. Cindy has been an active member of both the synod council and executive committee. She has also served as a LiVE Project board member and on the leadership team at Emmaus Table. The synod vice president is responsible for chairing the synod council and partnering with the bishop in synod leadership. It is the highest elected lay leadership position in the synod. Welcome, vice president-elect Cindy!
- We passed our budget plan for 2027. Thanks to the Finance Committee and treasurer Dan Clements for the hard and faithful work in assuring we are good stewards of our financial resources.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our special meeting, especially those voting members who joined us. Thank you!

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 **Ron Schutte, Cheryl Conner, Scott Fadden, Nancy Bussard** (Pastor John's grandmother), **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

6/2	Alan DenAdel
6/2	Hadley Knutzen
6/4	Jodi Black
6/8	Katirie Booth
6/7	Candy Johnson
6/8	Deanne Dutton
6/9	Reggie Nelson
6/10	Vicki Swanson
6/11	Lora Andersen
6/11	Abbi Wasilewski
6/12	Linda Larson
6/12	Cale Schutte
6/12	Jim Zielinski
6/12	Erin Wasilewski
6/13	Julie Rousseau
6/14	Glory Steele
6/14	Patsy Martin

June Birthdays



6/15	Cameron Dahl
6/15	Juli Nelson
6/16	David Benson
6/19	Jules Parker-Ramirez
6/19	Naomi Guthridge
6/20	Susan Aarstad
6/20	Lisa Wallace
6/22	John Johnson
6/23	Abby Ormsby
6/25	Jerry D. Anderson
6/25	Debbie Conijn
6/26	Cheryl Conner
6/26	Mike Miller
6/27	Melissa Dahl
6/28	Larry Olsen
6/29	Alex Englund
6/29	Jennifer Kress
6/30	David Vague

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

Serving in Worship – June

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5
Assisting Minister	Kaycee Stubben	Eva Kllogjeri	Mandy Englund	Mark Johnson	Chris Omdal
Acolyte	Cameron Dahl	Drake Conner	Brayden Kress	Hannah Kress	Brayden Kress
Lector	Bonnie Bowers	Karen Kerley	Karma Larson	Toni Ruhl	Kris Merritt
Usher	Jon Aarstad Stephanie Knutzen	Keith Peterson Nancy Nygren	Mark Johnson Gordy Dahl	Dan & Patsy Martin	Larry & Susie Forsythe
Greeter	Glenda & Keith Gundersen	Christie Peterson Terri Olsen	Linda Johnson RuthAnne Pocock	Judy Sheahan Shirley Brick	Kathy Shoop Judy Bendtsen
Altar Guild	Terri Olsen Amber Lagerlund	Amber Lagerlund Janet Wyman	Janet Wyman Judy Sheahan	Judy Sheahan Kay Zielinski	Kay Zielinski Debbie Conijn
Fellowship Host	Don Witten Linda & Mark Johnson Bryan & Ines Benson	Anne & Bob Kuntz Glory Steele Linda & Mark Johnson	Stephanie & Jeff Knutzen Inger & Scott Conner Irene Fadden	Keith & Christie Peterson Brenda Geary Linda & Dave Vague	Englund Family Judy Bendtsen & Roger Taxdahl Glenda & Keith Gundersen
Flowers	Bruce & Debbie Lisser	Darrel & Christy Johnson		Jane & Rod Hansen	Darrel & Christy Johnson
CMD	Jon Aarstad	Jim Zielinski	Larry Forsythe	Cheryl Conner	Patsy Martin

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.

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 p Bible Study	2 6:00 p Young Adult Group 7:30 p P&M @ Parish House	3 5:15 p Worship & Music 6:30 p Choir	4 12:00 p Care Team Lunch	5	6
7 <i>Pentecost 2</i> 10:30 a Worship <i>Honoring HS Graduates</i> <i>Choir Sunday</i> 1:00 <i>Jerry Benson Recital</i>	8 5:30 p Bible Study	9 6:00 p Young Adult Group 6:00 p Church Council	10	11 10:30 a Care Team Meeting	12	13
14 <i>Pentecost 3</i> 10:15 a Second Sunday Hymn Sing 10:30 a Worship	15 5:30 p Bible Study	16 6:00 p Young Adult Group	17 10:00 a Women's Bible Study	18 10:00 a Prayer Shawl	19	20
21 <i>Pentecost 4</i> 10:30 a Worship <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	22 5:00 p Friendship House Meal 5:30 p Bible Study	23 6:00 p Young Adult Group	24	25	26 <i>Blood Drive</i>	27
28 <i>Pentecost 5</i> 10:30 a Worship	29 5:30 p Bible Study	30 6:00 p Young Adult Group	July 1 5:15 Worship & Music	July 2 12:00 Care Team Lunch	July 3	July 4

Gift Cards Needed: Not a scam this time! ELC is signed up to provide gift cards for **Family Promise Target, Walmart, Fred Meyer, grocery stores, and gas stations** are needed 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. Please remember we will only ask for physical cards. We will never ask for digital gift cards. Also, we will never ask for Apple gift cards. That is a favorite of scammers.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting: June 21
- ◆ Blood Drive: June 26; August 21
- ◆ Family Promise Sleepless in Skagit: July 24, from 5:30p-8:00p
- ◆ Saxon Campout and Worship: August 14-16





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

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Bow, WA



June 2026

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving

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