Edison Lutheran Church

THE PARISH VISITOR
NOVEMBER 2026



For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to all who believe, the Jew first and then the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is uncovered from faith to faith, just as it is written: "The one who is righteous from faith will live."

-Romans 1:16-17

There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me.

-Martin Luther, 1545 (Luther's Works vol. 34, p. 337)

Dear People of God,

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted a set of debate topics regarding the sale of indulgences. Though the debate never took place, this document (known as *Ninety-five Theses*) kicked off a reaction against Luther which culminated in his excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church. Many new churches, broadly referred to as *Protestant*, were formed out of the controversies which followed, and that period is now referred to as the Reformation. To this day, Lutheran churches along with Protestants of various kinds observe the Sunday on or before October 31st as *Reformation Sunday*.

The nature of these commemorations varies considerably.

First, not all of them are primarily about Luther or Lutheran teaching. Though the date of October 31st is tied to Martin Luther's life in particular, non-Lutheran churches may use the occasion to celebrate the reformers who had more influence on their movements, especially John Calvin and Huldrych Zwingli.

Second, not all these commemorations are positive. While the Reformation was a period of great innovation and much needed reform within the churches, it was also a period of great unrest and division. Much ink was spilled in disagreements and condemnations between churches, and much

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blood was spilled in the violent conflicts which arose during and after this time. Many lament the disunity among the churches which persists to this day.

Third, even among those commemorations which do want to focus on Luther and do take a positive tone, there is variety in what exactly it is about Luther and this history that we are celebrating. Is it Luther's courage in standing up for what he believed? Is he the religious underdog confronting "Big Church" in his time and his place? Or is it a general principle of the Reformation, perhaps conscience or grace or scripture?

I can't speak for all Lutherans—not even all the Lutherans here at Edison!—but to me all these things are expendable when compared to the beating heart of the Reformation: the gospel which Paul calls "the power of God for salvation." This gospel is not a principle of any kind, whether of grace or freedom or love, nor is it any kind of ethic, perhaps of selflessness or inclusion. Instead, this gospel is the unconditional promise of God's mercy spoken to a particular person in a particular time and place. It is a specific word spoken by the Holy Spirit through human means, from one sinner to another. It is God's power (not my power or your power) by which God instills faith in the sinner who hears it and thus joins them irrevocably to the righteousness of Jesus.

Luther describes the moment this gospel broke through to him in a preface to a collection of his works published near the end of his life in 1545. He describes his struggle with the concept of the "righteousness of God" in Romans 1:16-17 in conjunction with the Greek word *euangelion* (translated "gospel" or "good news"). Far from being comforted by the "good news" of God's righteousness, he resented this additional righteousness of God. The Ten Commandments were already more than anyone could fulfill; how cruel it seemed that God would simply add more demands of righteousness in the gospel!

Finally, after wrestling with the passage day and night, he realized that he had it exactly backwards. The "righteousness of God" that is revealed in the gospel is not God's legal justice, by which all are measured and ultimately condemned. Rather, it is the merciful righteousness which God delivers to us as a gift.

On the one hand, God's legal righteousness (summed up by Jesus in the dual commands to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbor as ourselves) demands complete love from us, ultimately condemning us for our sinful refusal to love as we ought. On the other hand, God's gospel righteousness demands nothing from us, but instead comes as a free gift, accomplished by Jesus Christ, and promised to us by the Holy Spirit. By trusting in this promise (that is, "by faith") we are set free to live as God's beloved creatures, both here in this life and hereafter in eternity. It is this miraculous faith, along with the gospel promise which delivers it, which is at the heart of the Reformation teaching.

Whatever your thoughts on the Reformation as a whole, this gospel promise is worth celebrating. As

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for me, I am grateful for Luther's witness and the Lutheran tradition which carries his legacy. For all his faults—and there are many!—his life and teachings were shaped by this unconditional gospel more than almost any theologian before or since. I am grateful also for the other reformers and teachers through the years, who despite their limitations have helped to pass this gospel teaching down to the present day. But more than that, I am grateful for the gospel of Jesus Christ itself and for the Holy Spirit who continues to make new believers out of us old sinners, giving us peace with God and new life in Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

-Pastor John

Pastor's Bible Study -- Mondays in November (except November 16)

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!

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group is studying prophecy this year, specifically focused on the so-called "Minor Prophets" of the Old Testament. This month our focus is on Micah. We meet on **Wednesday, November 18th at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.** All women are welcome. Bring your Bible.

All women are welcome.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2026—2027 **Committee Liaison*	
Jon Aarstad, President	Cheryl Conner **Social Concerns*
Dennis Jensen, Vice-President *Finance*	AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb *Worship & Music*
Amber Lagerlund, Secretary	John Johnson *Finance*
Larry Forsythe *Property & Management*	Shirley Brick
Keith Peterson **Property & Management*	Jim Zielinski **Evangelism*
Keith Gundersen	Eva Kllogjeri



Please Join Us For Worship

at

Edison Lutheran Church

Every Sunday at 10:30 am

Worship Attendance

September 27:	108
October 4:	152
October 11:	138
October 18:	140
October 25:	133
Average:	134

Church Financial Update for September

September Giving: $20,799(Thank you!)

2026 Budget Goal Through September: $265,364

2026 Total Giving Through September: $265,139

(**$225 below goal)**

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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on the **3rd Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.** We make shawls to be given to people who are going through something that could use a physical show of comfort. Anyone who knits or crochets is welcome to join us each month at 10:00 am.

Also, if you know of someone who could use a Prayer Shawl, please let one of the members know, or help yourself to a shawl on the shelves in the small gathering room between the sanctuary and the Fellowship hall. **If you take one, please write down the name of the receiver so that we do not duplicate.**

Prayer Shawl Ministry members: Cheryl Conner, Linda Johnson, Laura Guthridge, Shirley Brick, Laurel Black, Christa Guthridge.

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

Synod Programs: Our Synod has some great online and in-person programs through LiVE. LiVE (rhymes with "give") is a lay ministry of the NW WA synod- ELCA, forming Christian leaders able to make sense of our place in God's world. **LiVE offers a flexible, hybrid-style of learning with various levels of engagement,** including multi-week zoom courses, one-day in-person retreats, interactive cohorts, and the Lay Ministry 2-year formation program. Go to lutheransnw.org for more information or to sign up for the Synod email list. To attend these amazing classes for free contact the Edison Lutheran church office.

New Bank: The church bank, SaviBank, has officially transitioned to Harborstone Credit Union. This means we have a new routing number. **The new routing number is 325180870.** The account number is the same. If you have transfers going directly to the church bank, please update the routing number on any direct deposits you schedule by January 1, 2027. This does not affect Tithe.ly online giving.

Thrivent members: Did you notice your email about changes to the Choice Dollar benefit? As a religious organization Thrivent Financial does not pay taxes. **Instead Thrivent gives away the equivalent of what would be paid in taxes.** One way this money is distributed is by allocating money to each member with Thrivent investment accounts for the member to direct to nonprofits of their choice. **This money is referred to as Choice Dollars.** This year rather than the amount growing throughout the year and a March 31st deadline to direct the money, Thrivent is allocating all the funds to you up front and **December 31 has become the deadline for directing your Choice Dollars.** You can direct Choice Dollars by logging onto your account and doing so or by calling 1-800-Thrivent (800 847-4836) and speaking to a representative. If you call be prepared to give your Thrivent ID or your social security number.

Calling all eligible blood donors in our community to donate blood! Your generous donation means so much for local cancer, surgery, and accident patients. Imagine the life saving impact you can have on the health of our community, **it only takes an hour of your time**. Please make an appointment to donate blood on **December 11 here at Edison Lutheran** in the Fellowship Hall. You can make an appointment online: BloodworksNW.org or call 800-398-7888. **Thank you for supporting this life saving cause!**

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.

A New Way to Give: The church can now receive funds directly from your bank account. **We can set up a recurring donation with no fee for you** or 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. **If you have already setup giving through the church**, please note that the change to Harborstone Credit Union has interrupted everything. We are working to fix it. Call Carrie if you have questions.

***Christ in Our Home* devotional booklets**: We have the **October-December** *Christ In Our Home* booklets available. We have large print booklets. They are on the table in the narthex or contact the church office.

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.

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, November 22nd .** 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.

Fellowship Hosts

This is a reminder for those who are signed up as Fellowship Hosts to serve at our coffee hour time after worship. We have 3 family units serving together each week, the names are listed in the newsletter each month and a reminder sent out each week for the following Sunday**. The 3 families should contact each other to see who will bring what.** We usually keep the menu simple: crackers and cheese, sweet treats and fruits or vegetables. Juice and coffee are provided in the kitchen. Some people like to add on extra treats when they serve, but this is not required or expected. **Our main goal is visiting.**

If you are not on the list to serve and would like to be a part of this, please contact the church office or Linda Johnson (360-708-2481). This is a very special part of our Sunday morning experience at Edison, most folks enjoy visiting and seeing each other each week. Thank you to all of you who are helping with this ministry.

Calling all singers! Christmas is coming and the best place to be is in the choir! You are invited to join our wonderful choir. **Whatever your voice part or ability, there is a place for you if you enjoy singing** and working with a team to create something beautiful. We know that music is an essential part of worship at Edison and we need people to keep our choir strong and confident! Please consider joining **Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm**.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Psalm 100

Family Promise Cottage Visit Anyone?
If you are interested in seeing the two cottages that are now on site at the Family Promise Cottage Community in Sedro Woolley **please sign up with Jane Hansen**. (There will also be a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall where the Family Promise sign up board usually is.)
We will find a date and time to go see them during the day and once during the evening if there is an interest in that as well. We can arrange for a car pool, and meet with one of the staff that can inform us more about the reach and progress of the Initiative!

New Food Bank: At the October meeting the church council voted to change the recipient of our Food Bank donations. Going forward our donations will go to the **Farm Worker Center** in Mount Vernon. This center, run by Catholic Community Services, serves some of the most vulnerable in our community. The Farm Worker Center provides home delivery if this is needed. ELC donations will make a big impact for the people served by the Farm Worker Center.

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements, cont.

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 in the Fellowship Hall. Bringing flowers is a great way to make worship 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!

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.

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!

The Parish Life Committee will be meeting after our worship service on **November 8th**, in the room between the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will be discussing the Harvest Potluck and Pie Auction as well as the Christmas Brunch. If you are interested in helping, please join us on the 8th!!

Family Promise at Burlington Lutheran from December 6th thru the morning of December 9th at 7 am. It is indeed a very busy time of the year, so mark your calendar for December 6th through the 9th! **We provide evening meals, and overnight coverage at the church.** Jane Hansen will have the overview of the duties available as they have been updated a bit. Nothing drastic! The participation and support of our congregation has been very important in providing support on the way to a positive, sustainable life! Thank you for your support!

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.

The **Social Concerns Committee** learned that the Family Promise Christmas gifting is well covered so we will not be doing the Early Angel drive for gift cards this year. **Stay tuned for other giving opportunities through Advent!**

ONE PARISH ONE PRISONER

"Take away the stone," Jesus said.
(John 11:38, part of the story of Lazarus)

The Tomb of Lazarus is the metaphor Underground Ministries uses to describe the prison system, and they call upon One Parish, One Prisoner (OPOP) teams to "roll away the stone." In this case, the stones are not simple rocks, but the massive societal hurdles for a newly-released prisoner to overcome to build a successful life.

Think about it: our OPOP incarcerated friend is 24 and has spent the past 2 years in jail. He has not been able to go to college or get any vocational training during this time. He is going to be released into Skagit County in a year or so with the expectation he will get a job and support himself in a lawful manner. What job can he get? How can he get to work? How can he even apply for a job? He doesn't have wi-fi, or a computer, or a phone. Or a home. Or a driver's license. Or a car. Or a credit rating. It is a tough spot for anyone.

Now think of his training for facing these hurdles. Try to picture yourself getting released from jail, where all your decisions are made for you, to then go to get a driver's license. Think about going to the DMV, filling out the forms, taking the written test, and, if you pass, taking the driving test. I remember doing this with my kids, and they were overwhelmed at this brush with officialdom. What will our OPOP friend's response be to walking through those doors? I expect he will be overwhelmed, just like my kids were. And this is just for a driver's license.

He will need help from someone, and there is no one else out there to "Take away the stone" for this young man except for this church's OPOP team. Does having a sponsoring group guarantee success? No, of course not. Does it improve the odds in his, and society's, favor? Yes, it does. The bottom line is that he will be released into our community. He can either have a strong church group helping him with procedural and yes, some financial, hurdles, or he can be alone.

"Take away the stone." I read this phrase from Jesus over and over. Here is a chance for Edison Lutheran to do as Jesus directs. We are doing the Lord's work with this, and we all appreciate the support of the congregation in this process.

If you have any questions at all, please bring them up to any OPOP team member. Any of us is happy to talk your ear off about the program!

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Salmon Dinner Thank You: What an amazing evening! **We collected over $5,200 to support Camp Lutherwood!** We need to thank many people who made the event happen: Jerome and Karen Fisher for the delicious salmon, Brian Galbraith for heading up the BBQ, Kris Merritt for heading up the Apple crisp baking. Inger Conner was our chief chef for the dinner, the rest of the council pitched in as needed, and a fabulous dinner was the result. **We served over 165 dinners!** Thank you to the Nelson and Knutzen families for the potatoes. Finally, a big thank you to our church council and spouses for setting up, serving, and cleaning up a wonderful dinner. Also thanks to all who advertised, attended, donated, and shared our dinner.

Our reputation for serving a great dinner has been secured for another year!

Meaning Behind the Colors

Wait! The colors at church were green on Sunday, October 18, then red on October 25, then white on November 1, then green again on November 8. What's up?

Just as we measure time in years, so does the church. The difference? The church year (common among most western Christian churches) begins with the season of Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday. Each season and each particular event is recognized by its own color. That color is seen in paraments on the altar and the pulpit, on wall hangings, and sometimes on the ribbons hanging from the ceiling. Use of colors through the church year is also shared among western Christian denominations, with a few differences.

So:

- the green of October 18 (and for many weeks before then) is considered the 'ordinary' color;
- the red of October 25 is to celebrate Reformation Sunday;
- the white of November 1 is used for All Saints Sunday;
- the green will be visible again on November 8 and will continue until November 22, Christ the King Sunday;
- we enter a new church year with blue on the first Sunday of Advent: November 29;
- and we'll return to white on Christmas Eve. That will continue until mid-January (after the Baptism of Our Lord) when we will return to green for 3 Sundays until the Transfiguration of Our Lord on February 7 – back to white.

The colors have meaning:

- Green -- our growth in life and thought
- Red – events connected to the Holy Spirit and particular events in the church such as Reformation Sunday
- White— the light, joy, and gladness in Christ
- Blue – the hope of what is to come

Look for another piece about colors of the church year as we near the season of Lent.

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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 working at JCC.

Halloween is over! Do you have extra candy? Whether it's from over zealous kids with way too much candy or from not enough Trick-or-Treaters, a sweet treat is a real treat to the people we serve at Friendship House. Please put your goodies in the kettle labeled "Friendship House" in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Updates From Our Ministry Partners

El Camino de Emaús Lutheran Church

From Rev. Zulma Tifre, Hispanic Ministry Mount Vernon

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been quite some time since our last email, and I want to take this opportunity to share a brief update with you regarding El Camino's ministry and some of the ways God continues to work among us.

We are experiencing mixed emotions at this time. As Romans 12:15 reminds us, we are called to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep." We celebrate blessings and moments of joy, yet at the same time, we stand with families living in fear and uncertainty due to the immigration situation and the presence of ICE in our community.

We continue holding our weekly meetings, although attendance has dropped because some families are afraid to leave their homes. Even so, we continue to worship, pray, and support one another. We have also had the joy of celebrating baptisms and other special moments that remind us that God continues to bring hope amidst difficult times.

One of our new projects is a distribution program for cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. Each family receives a bag containing items such as toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, bath soap, and dish soap. We started by serving seven families and now assist up to 30 families, many consisting of four to six people. The community is very grateful, as this assistance provides significant financial relief.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy a picnic at Lutherwood together with the Mount Vernon Hispanic Methodist Ministry. We began with a worship service and then shared a meal, fellowship, and activities. Both children and adults greatly enjoyed canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and spending time on the water. It was beautiful to see our families laughing, resting, and enjoying one another's company. It was a day filled with joy and a very special opportunity to strengthen our bonds as a faith community.

One of our members has been on an extended leave in The Philippines, and El Camino was able to send school supplies for the community where he teaches as a volunteer

At the same time, we are also experiencing painful moments. One of our families returned very recently to Mexico following the tragic death of their son there. They lacked passports, and they were fluent only in their indigenous language. Because of your support, El Camino was able to step up with heart, soul and wallet to get this family home. Now, another family is considering returning because they have children in Mexico, and the current situation here makes it very difficult for them to continue working and living with peace of mind. These losses deeply affect our congregation, as we have become a family that celebrates, mourns, prays, and walks together.

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Despite everything, El Camino de Emaús continues to move forward in faith. We continue to worship, serve families, offer practical assistance, and walk alongside those facing difficult times. We are deeply grateful to each of you and to your congregations for your prayers, generosity, and financial support. Your donations are directly touching the lives of children, parents, and families in our community, helping us continue to be a place of hope, welcome, and Christian love.

May God abundantly bless each of you and your congregations, Rev. Zulma Tifre

Tumaini Lutheran Seminary, Tanzania

From Pastor Moses:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We are so very grateful for your support of our school and students. We have recently completed the girls dormitory. It is wonderful! Bishop Renard Mtenji came to preside over a special worship of the inauguration of the new girl's dormitory. I would like to share some pictures to show you the difference your support brings to Tumaini!









Local Area Events to Support our Members

Burlington Edison High School Drama Club presents *Alice in Wonderland* play (not a musical). Please come out to support our very own **Blake Caldwell**! Thursday Nov. 12 @ 6 pm, Friday Nov. 13 @ 6 pm, Saturday Nov. 14 @ 1 pm and 6 pm, Thursday Nov. 19 @ 6 pm, Friday Nov. 20 @ 6,pm, and Saturday Nov. 21 @ 1 pm and 6 pm

Harvest Festival

On **Sunday, November 22nd** we are having our world famous event, **Harvest Festival Potluck and Pie Auction!** Bring a favorite dish to the kitchen before church, then following worship, join in the fun as we feast together and support our church. Bring a pie for the auction if you can. If bringing a dish for the potluck slips your mind, no worries, there is always plenty!



From the November 2026 Edition of *The Spirit*

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be on sabbatical this summer/fall. When asked what I was focusing on during my sabbatical, my overall answer was, “less.” I wanted to be less busy, less frenetic, less torn between competing responsibilities. I wanted rest, renewal, and re-connection. I wanted to return following sabbatical with a new understanding of how to be in the office of bishop and also be healthy and whole. Unfortunately, while my weeks away were filled with many things, what I was hoping for did not materialize. Let me explain.

During my sabbatical many joyful family things happened including officiating at my niece’s wedding, a niece having a baby, several birthday celebrations, and my son getting married. Sadly, there was also tragedy: My uncle died, my aunt’s partner died, and my dad died quite unexpectedly. (My son got married on September 5, I left for a trip to Guatemala on September 8, and my dad died on September 11 – while I was in Guatemala.)

Before my dad’s death, the trip to Guatemala was truly a life-changing experience through a tour with Augsburg Center for Global Education. The stories and the new understanding of the country will inform my ministry for many years to come. I was encouraged to see hopeful signs of democracy and entrepreneurship as well as difficulties with farmers dealing with climate change, the poor not receiving what is rightfully theirs, and ongoing corruption. The beauty and resilience of the people along with the gorgeous land will stay with me.

All in all, as I return to my responsibilities, I celebrate the joys, grieve the deaths that have happened, and wish that my sabbatical had truly been “less.”

In the days and weeks to come, I am focusing on listening and learning what occurred in the synod while I was gone, speaking at three different gatherings against Christian Nationalism, gearing up to visit congregations, and continue planning for the good of the synod.

What did I learn/discover in this sabbatical? The fragility of life, family is precious, God is truly present in all things, people are beautiful and resilient, joys and sorrows can be packed together, and we cannot choose what happens on what timeline. Perhaps these are obvious and perhaps I knew them already … but in this time I am feeling these things more deeply and holding them more closely.

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, and messages I have received from you. I feel surrounded by your care. Thank you for the time of sabbatical.

In Christ,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Prayer Requests



<u>Remember in your Prayers:</u> We pray for **Cheryl Conner**, **Julia Benson**, **Dan** (Grandson of Candy & John Johnson), **Judy Sheahan**, **Marlene Schuck**, **Don Wahlgren, Debbie Bloodgood, Juli Nelson**, **Arnie & Sharon Ellefson** (brother-in-law and sister of Linda Johnson), **Candy Johnson**, **Cathy Bossett** (Janice Stepp's sister), **Vic Jensen, Arlene & Jim Obtinario** and grandson **Tyler** (friends of Lora Andersen), **Sandy Johns** (sister of Patsy Martin), **Ron Schutte**, **Scott Fadden**, **Nancy Bussard** (Pastor John's grandmother), **Sheila Merrigan** (friend of AnnaLaurie), **Peggy Upton** (friend of Fredricksons), **Meredith Loury** (sister of AnnaLaurie), **Evan Swanson**, **Joline Lomsdalen, David Rebar** (son-in-law of Wymans), **Darcy Fredrickson**, **Arnold Woll**, **Marion Hoag**, **Marilyn Gustafson** (sister of Gailyn Ploeg), **Maia Simmons** (granddaughter of Karyn Kerley), **John Probstfield**, **Lyn Scherer** (sister-in-law of Cathy Smith), **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 School in Tanzania**.

<u>The Homebound</u>: Betty Boe, **Pat Dahlstedt**, and **Ron Schutte**.

<u>In Military service:</u> Jesse Ramirez

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*

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November Birthdays

11/17	Joni Carter
11/21	Fog Marsh
11/21	Ron Schutte
11/23	Linda Tyler
11/24	John Guthridge
11/27	Kristin Caldwell
11/28	Gary Troxel
11/28	Marion Knutzen



11/3	Brenda Geary
11/6	Jon Aarstad
11/7	Hannah Miles
11/8	Ryan Marsh
11/10	Sara Omdal
11/11	Cathy Smith
11/12	Debra Lisser
11/13	Kristi Gundersen

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

Serving in Worship – November

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Assisting Minister	Bonnie Bowers	Darla Jensen	Susie Aarstad	Bonnie Bowers	Mark Johnson
Acolyte	Jacob Dahl	Trygve Knutzen	Drake Conner	Cameron Dahl	Eliana Guthridge
Lector	Janice Stepp	Mark Johnson	Bonnie Bowers	Karyn Kerley	Karma Larson
Usher	Mark Johnson Nancy Nygren	Larry & Terri Olsen	Stephanie Knutzen Mark Johnson	Jon & Susie Aarstad	Gordy Dahl Don Witten
Greeter	Bruce Lisser Cathy Smith	Sharon Mainard Shirley Brick	Toni Ruhl Katy Olsen	AnnaLaurie Watson Lamb Kathy Shoop	Jytte & Ken Hay
Altar Guild	Kay Zielinski Sharon Mainard	Sharon Mainard Debbie Conjin	Debbie Conijn Cathy Smith	Cathy Smith Kathy Shoop	Kathy Shoop
Fellowship Host	Glenda & Keith Gundersen Darla Jensen	Patsy & Dan Martin Judy Bendsten & Roger Taxdahl Barb Leander	Dotty Murray Bud & Bonnie Bowers Gary & Jenifer Troxel	Linda & Mark Johnson Jerry & Jenny Nelson Kathy Shoop	Linda Larson & Jerry Sells Don & Marilyn Zorn Kristin Caldwell
Flowers	Judy Sheahan				
CMD	Jim Zielinski	Dennis Jensen	Larry Forsythe	Amber Lagerlund	Amber Lagerlund

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.

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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday 8:30 a Confirmation 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship 6:00 p New Member Class, Fellowship Hall	*2* 5:30 p Bible Study	*3* 6:00 p Young Adult Group	*4* 10:00 a Altar Guild 5:15 p W&M 6:30 p Choir	*5* 12:00 p Care Team Lunch	*6*	*7*
8 Pentecost 24 9:00 a Sunday School 10:15 a Hymn Sing 10:30 a Worship 12:00 p Parish Life Holiday Planning 6:00 p New Member Class, Fellowship Hall	*9* 4:00 p Social Concerns 5:30 p Bible Study	*10* 6:00 p Church Council 6:00 p Young Adult Group	*11* 6:30 p Choir *Veteran's Day: Thank you Veterans!*	*12* 10:30 a Care Team Meeting	*13*	*14*
15 Pentecost 25 8:30 a Confirmation 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship 12:30 OPOP 6:00 p New Member Class, Fellowship Hall	*16* *No Bible Study*	*17* 6:00 p Young Adult Group	*18* 10:00 a Women's Bible Study 6:30 p Choir	*19* 10:00 a Prayer Shawl	*20*	*21*
22 Pentecost 26 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship Harvest Sunday 6:00 p New Member Class, Fellowship Hall	*23* 5:30 p Bible Study	*24* 6:00 p Young Adult Group	*25*	26 *Happy Thanksgiving!*	27	*28*
29 Advent 1 *No Sunday School* 10:30 a Worship	*30* 5:00 p Friendship House Meal 5:30 p Bible Study					

Upcoming Events

- Blood Drive: December 11
- Advent Begins: November 29
- Mid-Week Advent Worship: December 2, 9, 16, and 23
- Christmas Eve Worship: December 24th at 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Bow, WA



November 2026

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving

Sunday School 9:00 am

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