



Edison Lutheran Church



THE PARISH VISITOR

SEPTEMBER 2022

The Eighth Commandment:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What is this?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations.

Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

-Luther's Small Catechism

Dear People of God,

We have a serious eighth commandment problem in our country.

For the past several decades, Americans have increasingly divided themselves into two opposing camps based on political affiliation. This in itself is nothing new, but these identities have grown in recent years to encompass more and more of who we are and what we do. While *conservative* or *progressive* were at one time simply political identities, they are now *cultural* identities, and they influence everything from the stores we shop at to the kind of churches we attend.

This great sorting of Americans by our political parties means that we have very few interactions with people who think differently than us. Increasingly, the people we shop with, watch on TV, or sit next to in worship all agree with us on most of the big issues of the day. While being around others who think like us is comfortable, it makes it very easy to dismiss anyone who is not part of our group as misguided, malicious, or downright evil. To use a recent example, if everyone I interact with on a daily basis agrees that overturning *Roe v. Wade* was a great victory for justice in America, then it is nearly impossible for me to understand how anyone could reasonably disagree.

This lack of understanding is fertile ground for lies and slander against those outside our group, and our public discourse is thick with this sort of venomous speech. Not only is this damaging to our democracy, it is a direct violation of God's command against bearing false witness given in Exodus 20:16.

As Martin Luther explains in his Small Catechism, this command is not just about telling the truth; it involves protecting the reputations of those with whom we live. This means that not only are we to avoid spreading lies about them, but we also must "come to their defense" when others tell those lies in our presence. Rather than focusing on what we disapprove of, we are to "speak well of them." And when they act in ways that perplex us, we are to interpret their actions "in the best possible light."

This commandment holds for our friends and family, but it also holds for those we regard as enemies. This does not mean, of course, that we should pretend to agree with everyone or paper over our differences. Instead, it means that we treat others with respect even as we express our differences. Rather than simply mocking those who believe things that seem ridiculous to us, we take them seriously enough to try to understand their position, even if it is one we will ultimately disagree with.

Of course, there are limits to this. Sometimes people really do simply have bad motives. Sometimes the “best possible light” reveals evil intent. This is not a command to trust every con artist out there, nor is it a way of saying that everyone’s truth is equally valid. Instead, this is a command to engage seriously and respectfully with those who are different from us while remaining strong and flexible in our own convictions. As Jesus says in Matthew 10:16, “be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.”

This is easier said than done, surrounded as we are by these lies designed to rile us up against those who disagree with us. While there is plenty of blame to go around in this regard, it seems to me that the greatest volume of dangerous falsehoods are currently coming from the right, and especially from conservative cable news pundits such as Tucker Carlson. These exaggerated tales of election fraud, CRT in schools, and accusations of pedophilia are downright dangerous; I have heard stories of election workers and school officials resigning due to death threats motivated by this sort of destructive rhetoric. Christians should have no part in these lies.

Make no mistake: progressives are also guilty of violating this commandment. Quick accusations of racism, homophobia, or fascism too often serve as methods of vindicating ourselves and shutting down real conversation and debate. But right now there is a distressing amount of demonization coming from conservatives, and I am seeing too many Christians blown about by these deceitful winds. (Ephesians 4:14)

Sadly, I am not optimistic about our ability to change the state of public discourse in our country. The divides of polarization continue to deepen, and the feeling of righteous indignation stirred up by these slanderous stories is powerful and addictive. However, that is no excuse for us Christians. Regardless of the greater trends in our culture, God’s command to us is clear.

So what should we Christians do in view of this command?

First, take stock of the voices you are paying attention to, whether online, in print, or through the television. Are these voices interested in conveying the truth, or are they interested in making you angry and mobilizing you to their benefit? Are they giving their opponents the benefit of the doubt, or do they revel in insulting them? Beware of what voices you let come into your ear, for they have more power over you than you realize.

Second, whether you are conservative, progressive, or something else entirely, do not join the trend of belittling and demonizing everyone who disagrees with you. It is one thing to faithfully disagree with another person; it is quite another to accuse them of evil motives without reason.

Third, when you encounter unflattering stories about those who are different from you, resist the urge to jump on the bandwagon. Question the things you hear: are they true? Are they well supported? Or do they just *feel* true because they confirm that you are on the right side? If you know that something is false or exaggerated, express your doubts and stop the story from spreading.

Finally, let me leave you with the words of the apostle Paul:

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

Your brother in Christ,
-Pastor John



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

We offer many ways to worship:

- ◆ **In-Person:** We offer worship **inside every Sunday**. Masks are welcome. The Narthex and Fellowship Hall are available for seating to give a little more distance for those who would like some space. Children are always welcome in worship. They may use the Children's Worship Bulletins and activity bags, available in the Narthex, quietly during the service. We are continuing to broadcast our service on FM radio 98.7 if you would like to attend from the church parking lot. Honk your horn and the greeters will bring you a bulletin and communion pack. In August, we had an average of 69 people attend Sunday worship.
- ◆ **Livestream Worship:** Livestream is available through our website (www.edisonlutheranchurch.org) or Facebook. You can be a part of our live service regardless of where you are in the world. On our website we have added a Livestream tab. Just click it and you will see the livestream screen and the link to the bulletin. If the wrong bulletin is on the livestream tab, please refresh your browser just before the service. On Facebook, follow Edison Lutheran Church and you will get a notification when the livestream service starts or search for the church Facebook page. We also post a link to the bulletin on the Facebook livestream. We had between 4 to 8 people join us for the livestream each week during July.
- ◆ **Recorded Online Worship:** A recording of our service is on the church website blog or our YouTube channel. We have all of our worship videos posted. The videos are posted a few hours after Sunday worship and are available to all. The bulletin and announcements are posted in the Sunday blog on our website. We have about 20 people view our recorded online videos each week.

Pastor John's Bible Study -- Mondays at 7 pm (except September 5)

Join Pastor John and others for Bible Study via Zoom (zoom.us/join).

Weekly text and Zoom link are posted on the church website.

Meeting ID: 859 5506 0430

Passcode: 274209

Women's Bible Study -- Wednesday September 21st at 10 am

Our monthly Bible Study via Zoom (zoom.us/join).

We will be using the current issue of Gather Magazine. Zoom link is on the church website.

If you need a copy of the Gather magazine, contact the office or ask a greeter on Sunday.

Meeting ID: 899 1858 0521

Password: 287649

Meet Our Intern Pastor



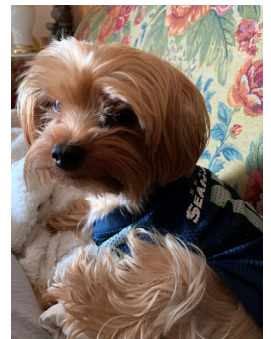
Hello to my new church family,

My name is Lori Cavender. I have been a Lutheran and have attended Lutheran schools all of my life. I am originally from Washington State. I grew up in West Seattle and currently live on Whidbey Island in Langley. I have been married to my husband, Keith, for 32 years. We have been together for 35, and were friends in high school three years prior. We have three children, 2 of blood (Michael and Anna) and of one of heart, (Melissa) who we took into our family at the age of 15. All of our children are married and we have a lovely twelve-year-old granddaughter, Nicholle, and are expecting a new grandbaby in March.

I have worked with youth for thirty-seven years and have been in ministry for twenty-six+ years. I graduated from Trinity/LBI in 2009 with a degree in Children, Youth and Family ministry. I began my masters of divinity through Luther Seminary in 2019. Between 2009 and 2019, I founded and was the Executive Director of Ryan's House For Youth (RHFY) on Whidbey Island. I created a Host Home program in Island County and authored the best practices manual for Host Homes in Washington State. In 2015, I helped to create legislation to allow Host Homes to run throughout the state, creating more housing options for young people. I also am a Trauma Informed Care Instructor and a Mental Health First Aid instructor for youth and adults.

I have spent the last year leading St. Peter's Lutheran in Clinton and I am looking forward to my year of learning from Pastor John and Pastor Deb at Celebration Lutheran in Anacortes. I am excited to worship and grow in faith with all of you.

P.S. I am bringing my best friend with me. His name is Tater Tot or Tater for short. He is an eight pound, four year old Yorkie and my shadow. He loves people and children and likes to sleep. He will, I am sure, enjoy this new adventure as well.



Do You Want To Get Involved With Our Church, But Don't Know How?

This section is for you! Here are a few ideas of how to get involved, meet new people, and help our church and community.

- Volunteer to help with worship. Just try it! It's fun and a great way to meet people.
- Join a committee. Ask any councilmember or the church office for advice on a perfect fit!
- Make dinner, serve dinner, or stay overnight at **Family Promise**.
- Make cookies for **Family Promise** or **Friendship House** or **both**.
- Send notes to our shut-in members. They love to get something in the mail!
- Sign up and bring flowers for worship. Share your beautiful garden with our congregation.
- Attend Bible Study, either with Pastor John or the Women's Bible Study with Linda Larson.
- Serve a meal at **Friendship House**. Thrivent grants or ELC pays for the food.
- Volunteer to help with Sunday School or help plan a youth event.
- Help with the livestream, Facebook, or other social media. Or write a newsletter...

These are just a few ideas. Contact the church office for more information or ideas, 360-766-6920. Also, if we are not using your Time & Talents correctly, contact the church office.

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements

Calling all singers! With the fall fast approaching, I want to invite any and all interested folks to consider joining 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 us starting **September 7th from 6:30 -8:00**.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Psalm 100

Looking For A Way To Get Involved? **First**, Family Promise is having their "Homeless for a Night" fundraiser on **September 30th**. Let us know if you are willing to raise money for this great cause by sleeping in your car overnight. **Second**, we are looking for someone to organize our efforts for the ELCA's "Gods Work. Our Hands." on Sunday **September 11th**. **Finally**, we are looking for a volunteer to spearhead our efforts for the Skagit County CROP Hunger Walk on **September 18th**. Let the church office know if you are interested in helping, donating, or want more information.

Edison Lutheran Sharing Shelf: We have restocked the Sharing Shelf and moved it to the south side of the church (on the steps near the door to the old office). The Edison Lutheran Sharing Shelf is open to all. Please let your friends and neighbors know the shelf is open and needs to be used. With the Sharing Shelf, no one needs to ask for help. It's always open and unmonitored. No one will know if you or anyone you know takes food.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: On **Thursday, September 15th** the Prayer Shawl knitters and crocheters will be meeting and training anyone who would like to learn to knit or crochet. We make shawls for people in our congregation and anyone related to Edison Lutheran when they need a reminder that we are praying for them. It is nice to have a physical reminder that people care. If you would like to learn, if you already know how, or if you are interested in our ministry, **please join us at 10:00 am on September 15th in the church**. Also, if you know of anyone who could use this extra comfort in their lives right now, please let the church office know.

New Members: Are you interested or do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Edison Lutheran Church? Let the church office know.

Social Ministry: Jesus taught us to help those in need. That is exactly what the Social Ministry Committee does. We need help providing support to our Partner Ministries; Friendship House and Family Promise. These great organizations **bring help directly to those who need it most**. We have volunteer opportunities for all comfort levels, from behind the scenes to working directly with those we serve. **Please join us on September 12th at 6:30 pm for our monthly meeting**.

Sunday School

Sunday School and Confirmation classes are starting on September 18th! We are so excited to see all our students! Class is held every **Sunday at 9:00 am**.

Here is the lineup of our amazing teaching team:

Pre-K and K: Brenda Geary

1st-3rd: Janet Wyman

4th-6th: Mandy Englund

Confirmation: Pastor John and Carrie Omdal



To help us plan school materials, please contact the church office to let us know if your child will be joining us for Sunday School. Contact the church office for more information.

Edison Lutheran Church Announcements Continued

Fellowship Hour: If you have signed up to serve our coffee hour after worship on Sundays, please read this. First - thank you for helping Edison Lutheran in this way. Many of our members enjoy visiting with other members after worship and it's always nice to have refreshments while we visit. There are always two households assigned to serve together. When you see your name on the list, please contact the other family to decide who is going to bring what. Traditionally we have crackers & cheese, fruit and cookies. However, please feel free to be as creative as you want. Any form of refreshment is appreciated.

If you cannot serve on the Sunday you are assigned, please find a replacement. Please do not just send in food. Part of serving is making coffee, setting out juice and water, checking on when the plates need refilling and cleaning up after. It is a lot for one family to have to do alone.

There are directions for using the coffee maker and the dishwasher, but feel free to ask someone if you're not sure how they work. **Please ask if you are unsure how to use these appliances.**

It is best if you can **arrive at church early to set up** how you are going to serve your refreshments, make sure there is juice, get the coffee machine started, and set out paper plates, napkins, cups, and glasses. Leave worship a little early to have coffee and juice poured and food set out before people begin to come to the fellowship hall. There is usually juice in the refrigerator and powered lemonade in the cupboard, but feel free to bring juice to serve.

If your name has not come up for serving and you would like to be part of this service, please call Linda Johnson (360-708-2481) or the church office to get your name on the list. There is a list posted just inside the kitchen plus the list the office has sent out via email so you can check ahead to see when you are serving. If there is a problem with the date you are assigned, feel free to find someone to trade with, then call Linda or the church office to let them know of the change.

Again, **thank you for serving Edison Lutheran Church** this way. It is greatly appreciated.



- ◆ Dear Friends, Thank you for your prayers and words of comfort. Your thoughtfulness is so very much appreciated. My son is missed daily. Craig chatted with me via text every evening. Appreciating you. RuthAnne Pocock
- ◆ Dear Edison Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for choosing me to be awarded the Gundersen/Omdal Scholarship. I really appreciate the support and am looking forward to my senior year at Boise State University. Once I graduate in the spring of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology, I plan to pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy. Again, thank you so much for supporting my education. Sincerely, Michael Larson
- ◆ To Pastor John and the Brothers and Sisters of Edison Lutheran Church, On behalf of the patrons in the Safe-Parking Program, we would like to express our very heartfelt thank you for providing safe-haven in our time of need.
Everyone has been so gracious and generous, from financial donations to the care and concern that Pastor John and Carrie has shown to us, all go without measure; we highly recommend the delicious cookies Sara Omdal made for us!
It has been our great pleasure to be hosted by you in the lovely place. With our warmest regards, The Welcome Home Skagit Safe-Parking Community
- ◆ Dear Edison Lutheran Church, Thank you for helping me go to Lutherwood. I had a great time! We went on a boat, swam, and had a sleepover. Love, Drake Conner

Updates From Our Ministry Partners

Josephine Caring Community

Edison Lutheran Church was represented by Keith and Christie Peterson at the Delegate meeting held on August 16th. Below is the report from our delegates:

We had the pleasure of hearing a report from each of their Department Managers. Josephine is certainly an extremely busy community with some exciting new changes coming in the future.

We heard from the Director of Nursing, Business Office, The Suites Administrator, Housekeeping, Dietary Manager, Maintenance, Spiritual Care, Josephine Home Administrator, Community Relations, Independent Living, and the ever-active Josie's Early Learning Center. Whew – it was an hour packed with a great deal of information.

We ended with a report from John Rivera, the Director of Independent Living, who told us more about the two new projects in progress for the Josephine Caring Community.

- The first is a new 44 unit complex right on the campus in Stanwood. These units will feature independent living to those who wish to remain in the local area.
- The second is an 80 unit complex located at Smokey Point. This will be a gated community with exercise rooms, hot tubs, restaurants, and garages plus much more. He told us to think of it as an all-inclusive resort. This will hopefully be move in ready in 2024-25.

I have created an information board located in the Fellowship Hall that has much more info on all their current and future projects. I was asked to extend their **thanks for our continued support of the Josephine Caring Community.**

Camp Lutherwood

Camp Lutherwood Open House: Celebrating 75+years! Mark your calendar for **September 10, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm.** Food, Fellowship, and Carnival Games. Fun for all ages. Please come celebrate with us! For more information, contact Camp Lutherwood at 360-734-7652.

Middle School Retreat: Calling all 6th-8th graders. Come and enjoy all of your favorite Lutherwood activities. Reconnect with friends from this summer and make some new friends! The retreat will be held **September 16-17** from 5:00 pm Friday until 3:00 pm on Saturday. Registration closes September 15th. Contact Camp Lutherwood or the church office for more information.

Friendship House

Outdoor Benefit Concert: Do you like great music, great food, great drinks, and supporting a great charity? This is the event for you! On **September 4th from 12:00-7:00pm** at Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse come out to enjoy live music with multiple bands performing throughout the day, plus food trucks and a beer garden. Go to www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org for more information or contact the church office.

Friendship House Dinners: Please **keep the cookies coming** to ensure all our guests get a home made treat. We continue to deliver dinner to Friendship House on the **last Monday of every month.** Thank you for your donations and Thrivent for grants to help with this ministry. Contact the church office for more information.

Updates From Our Ministry Partners, Continued

Family Promise

Family Promise Fundraiser: Get ready for the **9th Annual Homeless for a Night Fundraiser** on **September 30, 2022 from 5-7 pm**. This is a fun, informative fundraiser for all ages. There will be music, games, food, and client testimonials. If you are willing to be sponsored by ELC members to sleep in your car for the night and raise money for this great cause please contact the church office or Katy Olson. It will be held at Inspire Church, 805 Township Street, Sedro Woolley. To learn more about how you can help raise money or donate money, please contact Family Promise or the church office.

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

Family Promise Volunteers Needed: Many of our churches need help finding volunteers to stay overnight. It's not difficult and you do get to sleep. Please call Millie at Family Promise, (360) 854-0743, if you can help or contact the church office for more information.

Family Promise Donations: There are ongoing things needed for the Family Promise shelter. Paper towels, toilet paper, disinfectant wipes, 33 gallon trash bags, diapers in size 4 and up, all purpose cleaning solution, and bath towels are always needed. You can purchase these items and deliver them to the shelter which is housed at Bethlehem Lutheran, 1006 Wicker Road, Sedro-Woolley or bring items to church and we will get them there.

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 Angie at 360-854-0743 extension 100, or angie@familypromiseskagit.org

September Birthdays

9/1	Kraig Knutzen
9/9	Stephanie Knutzen
9/9	Mariah Swanson
9/9	Pat Dahlstedt
9/10	Roger Knutzen
9/10	Lydia Guthridge
9/11	Christa Guthridge
9/11	Carrie Omdal
9/13	Hillary DenAdel
9/17	Grace Miller



9/21	Roberta DeMarre
9/21	Barb Gibbons
9/21	Hayden Knutzen
9/22	Marie Nelsen
9/23	Katharina Black
9/24	Karen Schutte
9/25	Bryan Galbraith
9/27	Steven Dahl
9/28	Marlene Schuck
9/29	Derek Gorum



From the September 2022 Edition of *The Spirit*

From the Bishop and Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton:

This month, we share a joint article from Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee and Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton regarding the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, held August 8-12 in Ohio.

“But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things.” (Luke 10:41)

Eight voting members from the Northwest Washington Synod attended the ELCA’s Churchwide Assembly. While we were excited to be together with almost 1000 other Lutherans, we also all felt somewhat like Martha. There were so many things that distracted and worried us: the continuing COVID pandemic, monkeypox, deadly heat waves, forest fires, flooding, war, and so many other things. For many in our delegation, traveling to Columbus, Ohio (where the Churchwide Assembly was held) was the first trip many had taken since early 2020. For many, traveling to the assembly was anxiety-producing. Additionally, it was apparent from the pre-assembly documents that we would be wrestling with some topics that could be divisive and difficult. All in all, we had a new understanding of Martha’s worry and distraction.

However, just as Jesus responded to Martha’s worries, Jesus responded to all of us heading to the Assembly. Jesus reminded Martha and reminded us, “Only one thing is needed.” As we gathered from all parts of the ELCA, each with our own worries, anxieties, and agendas, what we had in common was the “one thing:” Jesus. And we proclaim, trust, and believe that we are saved by grace and that the work we gathered there to do was not ours, but God’s. As ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminded us in her opening sermon, “The Church is not ours. The Church is God’s.”

Throughout the week we worshiped together, we ate together, we talked with one another. We laughed and we cried. We prayed, we reflected, we lamented, and we asked for forgiveness. We listened and we repented. We danced (well ... Bishop Shelley and a few others danced) and we rejoiced at God’s amazing love, grace, mercy, and justice.

We did the work of the Church.

One of the most emotional and moving moments of the Assembly was Bishop Eaton’s apology on behalf of the entire Church to the community of Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina, a community that was harmed and traumatized by actions not only of individuals, but also systems and processes in all three expressions of this Church. There were members of this community present at the assembly to receive the apology which was made in both Spanish and English. Their grace-filled response to Bishop Eaton moved many to tears. As they offered forgiveness, they also were clear that there is much work to do towards ending racism and repairing the relationship between the ELCA and their community. We have much work to do!

On day two the assembly was invited by the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association to wear red to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The assembly received a presentation on the “Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People” adopted by the ELCA Church Council last September. The declaration was presented as part of the implementation of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly’s resolution to repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived

doctrine of discovery. Task force members gave examples to the assembly of what the ELCA has been doing to live out the declaration, closed with remarks by Vance Blackfox, who began last year in his newly created position as ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations.

The assembly also recognized the ecumenical and interreligious commitments of the church, including “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment” (adopted 1991), “A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community” (adopted 1994), “A Declaration of Interreligious Commitment” (adopted 2019) and “A Declaration of the ELCA to the Muslim Community” (adopted 2022).

The voting members from the Northwest Washington Synod were active participants in all aspects of the assembly. We assisted in worship, we spoke to motions, we helped craft amendments, we connected with the voting members from other synods. We were BUSY!

The assembly adopted en bloc 19 memorials that covered topics such as gun violence, parental and family medical leave, and communion practices. Twelve memorials were removed from en bloc for separate consideration, including the two memorials* forwarded from our recent synod assembly. Here are just a few of the memorials that were considered and adopted:

Memorial B4: Restructure the Governance of the ELCA

The Church Council is called to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to “reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of the church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism.”

Memorial C3: Human Sexuality and Gift and Trust Revision

Authorizes a revision of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) to reflect current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples.

Memorial A6: Advance Salary Equity

Authorizes a study regarding pay gaps for Rostered Ministers in the ELCA, especially as they relate to people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Memorial A8: Land Back*

This NWWA Synod-submitted memorial calls for deepened relationships with our Indigenous siblings and encourages us to “support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people.”

Memorial A14: Roe v. Wade

Calls for conversation around the church’s teachings on abortion, gender justice, and related topics as well as reviewing the impact on pastoral counseling, the pastor-client relationship, and the rostered ministers and social ministry agencies and organizations of the ELCA

Memorial B5: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility ELCA Governance Audit*

This is the other NWWA Synod-submitted memorial authorizes an audit of the church’s governing documents with an eye to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

In addition to memorials, we passed the triennial budget and elected a new Vice President of the ELCA. Congratulations to Imran Siddiqui, currently serving as the VP of the Southeastern Synod, on his election.

You may review the Churchwide Assembly Guide with all of the pre-assembly materials by simply

signing in with your email at this website: [HERE](#)*. Alternatively, you may read summaries of each day's events [HERE](#)*. Or watch the plenary session recordings AND the worship service recordings [HERE](#)* - you will glimpse of our delegation members assisting in worship and speaking to memorials!

We are so thankful for the elected voting members of our synod who joined us in Ohio for this important work: Pr. Rachel Swenson, Kasey Shultz, Laura Sasaki Norton (our newest synod staff member), Eli Daheim, Curt Eidem, and Frank Loulan. (While Pr. Esau Cuevas could not be with us due to illness, we are grateful for his willingness serve.)

As Bishop Patricia Davenport (bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod) reminded us on the final day of the Assembly, we are baptized children of God. We have received the promises of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. And because of this, we are called out for the sake of the world.

May we remember, as Jesus reminded Martha, that there is "one thing." And that one thing, always, is Jesus.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee & Vice President Kay Edgerton
bishop@lutheransnw.org & veep@lutheransnw.org

* Contact the Edison Lutheran Church office for the web links

Northwest Washington Synod/ELCA Events

Hunger Team: Are you interesting in finding solutions for hunger in the US and around the world? Then you should join the Synod for their monthly meeting via Zoom, **Thursday, September 22nd at 5:30 pm.** Find more information on their website, www.lutheransnw.org or contact the Edison Lutheran Church office.

Evangelical Church of America's (ELCA) "God's Work. Our Hands." is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This year "God's Work. Our Hands." will be Sunday, **September 11, 2022.** Please let the church office know if you are interested in leading our participation in this worthwhile event.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem Fundraising Evening with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb & Rick Steves: Wednesday, October 5, 7pm-9pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the health, education, and cultural and spiritual development of the people in the Middle East in order to promote peace and harmony in the region. Bright Stars impacts the lives of over 60,000 men, women, and children in Palestine. Born out of the vision of **Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb** and his outreach ministry in Bethlehem, Bright Stars is now more than fifteen years old. The staff and volunteer leadership work together to provide support to the Palestinian people to help grow hope in the midst of occupation. Contact the Edison Lutheran Church office for more information and registration information.

Are You Smarter Than a Confirmation Student? Below is a question that our Confirmation Students can answer. Can you?

What biblical figure wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist?

See page 12 for the answer.

Serving in Worship - September

	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September
Assisting Minister	Darla Jensen	Nancy Nygren	Alexia Englund	Mark Johnson
Lector	Kathy Shoop	Jenny Sheahan	Cathy Smith	Linda Tyler
Usher	Keith & Christie Peterson	Tom Wake Inger Conner	Mark & Linda Johnson	Brad Wyman Darla Jensen
Greeter	Terri Olsen Jane Fraser	Kathy Shoop Linda Tyler	Cathy Smith Janet Wyman	Steve Omdal Laura Engebretsen
Altar Guild	Debbie Conijn Terri Olsen	Terri Olsen Kathy Shoop	Kathy Shoop Stephanie Knutzen	Stephanie Knutzen Marie Nelsen
Fellowship Host	Bonnie & Bud Bowers Kristen Caldwell	Susie & Larry Forsythe Cheryl Conner	Susie & Jon Aarstad Debbie Conijn	Sarah & Steven Dahl Linda & Mark Johnson
CMD	Jane Fraser	Cathy Smith	Chris Omdal	TBD

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2022—2023		<i>*Committee Liaison</i>	
Linda Johnson, President	<i>*Parish Life</i>	Inger Conner	<i>*Social Concerns</i>
Chris Omdal, Vice-President	<i>*Property & Mgmt.</i>	Steven Dahl	<i>*Finance</i>
Jane Fraser, Secretary	<i>*Worship & Music</i>	Jerry Sells	<i>*Stewardship/Finance</i>
Karen Fisher	<i>*Evangelism</i>	Cheryl Conner	<i>New Member</i>
Jean Miller	<i>New Member</i>	Judy Bendsten	<i>New Member</i>
Christie Peterson	<i>New Member</i>	RuthAnne Pocock	<i>New Member</i>



Smarter Than A Confirmation Student from page 9:

Matthew 3:4 reads as follows: "Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey."

Prayer Requests



Remember in your Prayers: We pray for Jerry Butterfield, Nancy Bussard (Pastor John's grandmother), Larry Olsen, Kris Merritt, Shirley Lee, Ken Nelson (brother of Barb Fredrickson), Marian Knutzen, Jeanne Youngquist, Gary Englund (father of Alex), Jim Forbes (Debbie Conijn's step-father), Judy Eitreim, Edith Nichols, Barry Christensen, Chris Isaacson, Taylor Isaacson, and the ministry of El Camino de Emaús Congregation.

The Homebound: Arlene Omdal, Roberta DeMarre, Ruth Sexton, and Wanda Peterson.

Those in the Military: Dustin and Rocio King.

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: edisonlutheran@live.com

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Pentecost 12 10:30 a Worship	29 7:00 p Bible Study	30	31	1 5:30 p Worship & Music	2	3
4 Pentecost 13 10:30 a Worship	5 No Bible Study Labor Day	6 7:30 p P&M	7 10:00 a Altar Guild Meeting	8	9	10
11 Pentecost 14 10:30 a Worship	12 6:30 p Social Ministry 7:00 p Bible Study*	13 7:00 p Church Council	14	15 10:00 a Prayer Shall Ministry	16	17
18 Pentecost 15 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	19 7:00 p Bible Study*	20	21 10:00 a Women's Bible Study* Newsletter deadline	22	23	24
25 Pentecost 16 9:00 a Sunday School 10:30 a Worship	26 6:00 p Friendship House Meal 7:00 p Bible Study*	27	28	29	30	1

* Bible Studies are currently via Zoom



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

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September 2022

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving

Worship 10:30 am Sundays

Sunday School 9:00 am Sundays (Starting Sept 18th)

Livestream and Recorded online

at

www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

Please join us!

All Are Welcome

Church Office:
phone: 360-766-6920
email: edisonlutheran@live.com
website: www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

Pastor John Guthridge
360-218-4131
pastor.guthridge@outlook.com