

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



Graduation Sunday June 6-7, 2026
EPLC recognizes High School Graduates



Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N Oliphant Ave, Chicago IL 60631

From Deacon Carole

Dear friends,

The month of May seemed to fly by and every weekend had special celebrations, including a baptism and the Confirmation of six young women. We also held a congregational meeting, held memorial services for two of our long time members, and remembered those who sacrificed all as we remembered Memorial Day.

Normally, schedules slow down in the summer, but as we look ahead to the next couple months, our church calendar is already filling up with lots of special events. We start the month of June with Cathy Johnson, Carolyn Nasheim, Kevin Zehme and me attending Synod Assembly in St. Charles. This year we'll be voting on our new bishop. We'll provide updates to the congregation when we return. We also have graduations to celebrate, an Eagle Scout ceremony, a Youth choir concert, two baptisms, and two baseball games to enjoy. And on June 13th and 14th, our own Sue Volden Gunderson, a retired Lutheran pastor who grew up at EPLC and served as youth director prior to going to seminary, will be with us to preach and and preside. Sue has been very involved with the mission work done by Dr. Stanley Quanbeck in Madagascar, a mission we supported for many years. She'll share some experiences with us.

In July we're looking forward to welcoming a youth group, along with their pastor and adult leaders, from a church in MN. They'll participate in worship the weekend of July 18th and 19th. We also look forward to VBS. And we'll be holding a new member class. Please let me know if you're interested in becoming a member of EPLC.

The 100th Anniversary Committee is busy making plans for next year. We hope you'll be able to join us for the events being planned. And we're planning another Selah reunion for next year. What a blessing to know that the message of Jesus has been proclaimed on this corner for 100 years!

As we look to the future, we realize that we live in a world full of uncertainty with ever higher expenses to meet, health reports that concern us, news that weighs us down, and battles we never saw coming. But when we stop and lift our eyes toward Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we remember that he is here for us. He will never leave us. And nothing can separate us from his love and mercy. Peace doesn't come from having everything under control. It comes from knowing the One who holds our future in his hands. His grace is sufficient. Remember the passage from Philippians 4:4-7 ***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

May we continue to seek God's will and direction for our church, our world, and our own daily walk with Him. We're saved by grace, forgiven and redeemed, and we're all equal at the foot of the cross.

Blessings on your faith journey,
Deacon Carole

From Council President

Council Report:

During the call process several areas were identified that will require attention.

To assure that the congregation has the same base line, the information below was taken from the nationwide ELCA website. www.elca.org. The Chicago website is www.mcsela.org. Please check them out when you have a chance.

Lutheran Beliefs

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is grounded in God's promise in the Scriptures to comfort, accompany, and redeem. As Lutherans, we believe that God works through both law and gospel, calling us to serve our neighbors and providing mercy, hope, and joy through Jesus Christ in modern, often unsettling times.

Faith and Christianity

I'm new here. I have questions about God, church and faith.

All people seek meaning. This can come in the form of knowledge, relationships, spirituality or organized religion. The ELCA is part of the Christian church. We believe God's grace and unfathomable love are available to all people as a gift through Jesus Christ. There is no one for whom Jesus Christ did not die. God's welcome extends to all people, including those who come with questions or doubts.

Attending Church

I'm thinking about going to church. What can I expect?

A congregation is a community of faith that gathers for worship, fellowship, learning and service. It's a place to find connection with others as you experience and share God's love and grace together. Congregations have many ways to welcome new people who are interested in participating in the life of the community.

Who attends church in the ELCA? Can anyone join?

All types of people and families are welcome! You are welcome as you are! The ELCA teaches that it doesn't matter what your experience with religion has been or what kind of doubts or questions you might have about faith. We strive to be a church that celebrates diversity and welcomes all people as they are to worship, learn, serve and grow in faith with others.

ELCA Faith Tradition

What do Lutherans believe?

We believe that all people are imperfect and sinful. We are saved (made right with God) by God's grace alone, through Christ — not by prayer, mindset, or good deeds. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God became one of us and took on the world's sin and suffering to show divine love. We receive the gift of grace by faith and know that we are forgiven even as we struggle with sin. We trust that through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we are freed to live with gratitude and love.

Who is Welcome

Am I welcome in the ELCA? In my experience, not all churches are welcoming.

We strive to be a welcoming church. We recognize that there are groups and communities of people who have been hurt by their experiences with churches. They have been made to feel that they cannot be their God-given selves in church settings. The ELCA is continually working toward reconciliation and to share our fundamental belief that God's love and grace are limitless and for everyone.

This will be the starting point as we begin to build the bridge to join both sides of our congregation. The call committee for Pastor Fisher has been disbanded. EPLC will continue to use Pulpit Supply Pastors to fill our worship needs until further notice. Council will be discussing the benefits of an interim Pastor as we work closely with Pastor Sunitha Mortha and interim Bishop Wayne Miller.

Please continue to pray for the church.

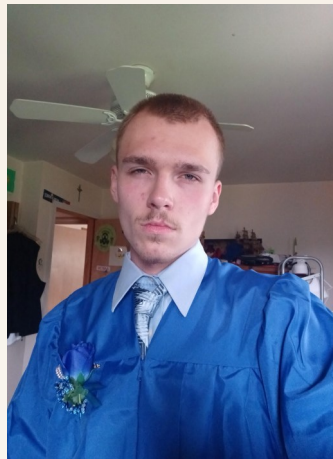
Cathy Johnson
Council President

Graduation Sunday

A tradition here at EPLC is to recognize members of the congregation who are graduating from High School. We recognize them during worship service and present them with the gift of a handmade quilt made lovingly by the Mission Quilt Makers team along with blessings and good wishes from the congregation.



Katarina Both



Aaron Bowman



Mary Doherty



Sean Gaertner



Teagan Heneghan



McKenna Rose Igelhart



John Jeffrey Romano



Ethan Zajac



EPLC June Calendar

Edison Park Lutheran Church — June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7 Graduation Recognition Sunday</p> <p>9:00a - Worship</p> <p>10:00a - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00a - Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p - Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p - Families Anonymous</p> <p>7:00p - AA</p> <p>7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise Group</p> <p>7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00p Boy Scout Committee meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise</p> <p>7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00a - Mission Quilt Makers</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00a - Worship</p> <p>10:00a - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00a - Contemporary Worship & Fellowship</p> <p>1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p> <p>6:00p - Eagle Scout ceremony</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00p - Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p - Families Anonymous</p> <p>7:00p - AA</p> <p>7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise Group</p> <p>6:30p - Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00p - Church Council</p> <p>7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11a - FSS Fire Alarm Inspection (duration: 4 hours)</p> <p>12p - Staff meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise</p> <p>7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p> <p>7:30p - EPLC Book Club</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00p - 100th Anniversary Committee</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00a The Men's Ministry men's breakfast</p> <p>10:00a - Memorial service for Jim Nagy</p> <p>5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>21 Father's Day</p> <p>9:00a - Worship</p> <p>10:00a - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00a - Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p> <p>4:00p - Downers Grove First United Methodist Church Youth Choir Concert</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00p - Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p - Families Anonymous</p> <p>7:00p - AA</p> <p>7:00p - Bible Study</p> <p>7:00p - Cubs game</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise Group</p> <p>9:00a - Onsite fiber optic upgrade</p> <p>6:00p - Growth Team Mtg</p> <p>7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise</p> <p>6:00p - Bingo / Night</p> <p>7:30p - Al-Anon (Men)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00a - Mission Quilt Makers</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:30a - Summer Choir</p> <p>9:00a - Worship & Barth Baptism</p> <p>10:00a - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00a - Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00p - Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p - Families Anonymous</p> <p>7:00p - AA</p> <p>7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise Group</p> <p>7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christine out this week - Pat</p> <p>6:00p - Staffing office M-F</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise</p> <p>6:30p - Chicago Dogs game</p> <p>7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00p - 100th Anniversary Committee</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:30a - Summer Choir</p> <p>9:00a - Worship & Barth Baptism</p> <p>10:00a - Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:00a - Contemporary Worship</p> <p>1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00p - Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00p - Families Anonymous</p> <p>7:00p - AA</p> <p>7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:25a - Easy Exercise Group</p> <p>7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>				<p>North Hall</p> <p>Conference Room</p> <p>Work Room</p> <p>Mortuary</p> <p>Sunday School Room</p> <p>South Hall</p> <p>Youth Room</p> <p>Outside location or remote</p> <p>Choir Room or Sanctuary</p> <p>Nursery Room</p>

Upcoming & Ongoing Events

Happy 100th Birthday EPLC!

February 2027 EPLC will begin its 100th year of ministry. We plan to celebrate for one year until February 2028. Save the date of September 18-19, 2027 for a special celebration.



The Anniversary Committee welcomes your ideas for celebrating. Our first task is to find a theme for our celebration. We are asking for your ideas. There will be a box at the Welcome table for you to put your ideas. If there is a special ministry or historical event you would like to highlight, please indicate that. Music has been an important part of our church life so there will be music events – any ideas? Committee members are happy to chat with you about your suggestions.

Members: Sally Benson, Rick Brown - council rep, Nancy Carlsen, Cindy Davies, Linda Egebrecht, Lynn Freitag, Carolyn Nasheim and Diane Wilk.

Thank you for your ideas and suggestions. Let's make that year very special.

Welcome New Members:


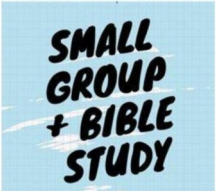
A New Member class will be scheduled some time in July.

BIBLE STUDY

Small Group Bible Study
Mondays 7:00 pm

7:00 P.M.

Our purpose is to grow in our faith and God's mission. If you are interested in being part of the group please email Cathy Johnson at Wacom318@hotmail.com.



EPLC Book Club 2026

Second Thursdays @7:30 pm

Upcoming Dates:

- Jun 11: **Heaven Adjacent** (Catherine Ryan Hyde)
- Jul 9: **The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell** (Robert Dugoni)
- Aug 13: **Wild** (Cheryl Strayed)
- Sep 10: **Gray Mountain** (John Grisham)
- Oct 8: **The Women** (Kristin Hannah)
- Nov 12: **In the Woods** (Tana French)
- Dec 10: **The Lion Women of Tehran** (Marjan Kamali)



Miscellaneous

Please contact Deacon Carole Edwards at (773) 631-9131 when you are hospitalized or if you would like a phone call or a visit. Even if you would rather not have a visit, we would still appreciate the opportunity to pray for your healing.

Gifts to the General Memorial Fund:

In memory of Elaine's brother and sister, Roger and Ruth, from Elaine Horning

In memory of Barry Bleeker from Deanna Jordan

In memory of Norelle Ammentorp from Michael Bania

Summer Choir at EPLC!

If you ever wanted to sing in church choir, but are worry about the time commitment, or wonder about singing in a group, then now is the perfect time to try it out!

Summer choir will meet once a month through the summer. We meet on the morning of in the choir room at 8:30am to run through a piece to be sung at the 9:00am service.

The dates will be June 28th, July 26th and August 16th. Mark your calendars! No prior experience is needed, no long term commitment. Just come and sing! If you like it, you are always welcome to join in the fall or talk to me about other opportunities here at EPLC. For questions, contact me, Kevin Zehme at Music@edisonparkchurch.com.

Hope to see you in Summer Choir!!



Benton and family, Cameron, Cayden, Colin, Dee, Ilsa, baby Holt, Jim, Joe, Juancho, Kala, Kiss, Laura, Margaret, Marlene, Martha, Mavis, Nancy, Sarah, Sue, Tim, Tom, Uwe, Jeanene and Jim Barnes, Bridget Bohan, Edward Bohan, Carol Bonk, Owen Charley, Lilly DeLeone, Roxie Hays, Gale Henningsen, Pam Hull, Bob Krimm, Pat Paustian, Kailash Prohuit, Lisa Reynoso, Lisa Rose, Carol Schafer, Michelle Sura, Judy and Mike Terpstra.

Scheduling a Baptism?

Contact the church office at 773-631-9131 to begin the process.

Scheduling a Wedding?

Contact the church office to get your date on the calendar, and we'll help you in the initial stages.

Feeling moved to give?

Scan the QR code with your camera to visit the giving page on our website:



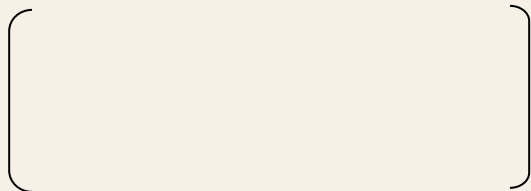


Come Worship with Us!

- 5pm Traditional Worship every Saturday
- 9am Traditional Worship every Sunday
- 11am Contemporary Worship every Sunday

Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE-DATED MATERIAL



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