

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Pentecost Sunday - May 24

Celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles,
acting as the "birthday of the Church."



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

Dear friends,

What a wonderful Easter celebration we shared! We were blessed with almost 400 in attendance, inspiring message, wonderful music, beautiful flowers, our cherished tradition of the Easter cross, Easter breakfast, and hearing the words He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! We live in the promise of the resurrection and know that our lives are in his hands. Thank you to all who participated in this joyous and holy time.

As we look at the church calendar, we see that it is packed with meetings and events. Six people will be confirmed this month. Thank you to Lynn Freitag for leading Confirmation this past year. We celebrate a baptism, and we celebrate with 4 young Cub Scouts on achieving a special award. We also have memorial services planned when we'll celebrate the lives of dear saints from our congregation, and we hold those families in our prayers. We have graduations to celebrate in June, as well as Synod Assembly, and VBS in July.

We have a very important Congregational Voter's Meeting on Sunday, May 17th at 10:30a to vote on calling our next Senior Pastor. Please be in prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions. Pray for our congregation and for our church. A special time of silent prayer will be available on May 9th in the sanctuary from 1:00-4:00p. Please consider attending.

One of the entries in the Christ in our Home devotional book was particularly timely and I encourage you to read it. It was the entry for Monday, April 27th. 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, and we're all equal at the foot of the cross.

Blessings on your faith journey,
Deacon Carole

Council Report April

Committee Reports:

Growth team:

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the Bingo event a fun and successful time. We will discuss with the Growth Team as to the frequency of Bingo events.

Upcoming events for the Growth team include the Chicago Cubs Game June 15, 2026. Chicago Dogs Baseball Game June 25, 2026 6:30PM game

EPLC Car Show will be coming back this year in August date TBD. Please watch the announcements for this fun event.

Call Committee:

Thanks to all the members of the Call Committee, a Pastoral candidate was presented to the Church Council and the vote was passed. The Meet & Greet was held Sunday April 26, 2026. Moving forward there will be an opportunity for members to meet with the candidate one on one. Please notify Deacon Carole or myself if you are interested in this opportunity

Synod Assembly June 5 & 6, 2026.

EPLC has 3 members going along with Deacon Carole who is rostered.

I was looking at the workshops they are offering and found nine workshops that cover concerns and issues I have experienced at EPLC. The workshops I hope to attend include:

- How to grow the church,
- Sunday isn't the First Visit discussing how to use the Web site, social medial, Google searches and live streaming.
- Why do good Ideas Fail? A hands-on tool for Problems that Keep Coming Back.

I will be excited to bring these topic back to EPLC and discuss with members.

Cathy Johnson, Council President

Official notice is being given that a **Congregational Voters Meeting**, for the purpose of voting on issuing a Letter of Call to Reverend Thad William ("Will") Fisher to serve as Senior Pastor at Edison Park Lutheran Church, will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 10:30a in the church sanctuary. That will be the only agenda item. Confirmed voting members in good standing are eligible to vote.

To: EPLC Council

From: EPLC Call Committee

Date: April 14, 2026

After a period of prayerful discernment, interviews, and careful review, the Call Committee is pleased to recommend Pastor Thad William (Will) Fisher to the Council for the position of Senior Pastor, with a vote of 6 yes's and 2 abstentions.

Below is a summary of our findings, how he aligns with our congregation's needs, and the considerations we discussed during our process.

Why We Are Recommending Pastor Fisher:

The committee was struck by Pastor Fisher's deep desire for a long-term "call." He is not looking for a stepping stone; he wants to be part of our community for many years and is eager to live in the parsonage. As a local resident, he already possesses positive relationships with our current staff, which will allow for a seamless transition. He has a clear understanding of where EPLC is currently and is energized by the need for new ideas while remaining flexible and focused on what is best for the congregation.

How His Gifts Match Our Congregation's Needs:

While the congregation expressed a desire for growth and a revitalized youth program, we believe Pastor Fisher brings a unique set of tools to achieve this:

- **Healing and Stability:** His background in therapy is a significant asset. We believe this will help resolve the lingering tensions from past departures and help our congregation move forward with a sense of peace.
- **Relational Ministry:** He is deeply committed to building personal relationships and getting to know every member of the church.
- **Youth Advocacy:** Despite being a seasoned pastor, he has extensive experience in youth programming and is passionate about being personally involved in our youth ministry.

Key Highlights from His Experience:

- **Conversational Preaching:** He utilizes a relatable, conversational style that invites the listener into the message.
- **Local Roots:** His existing familiarity with our community and staff reduces the "learning curve" typical of a new call.
- **Experienced Leadership:** He brings the wisdom of a seasoned pastor who knows how to navigate church life while remaining open to innovation.
- **Has experience with various styles of worship and believes all have a place in God's church.**
- **Conversational Preaching (in addition to conversational style) – biblical emphasis and relevance to current conditions of the individual's life.**

Specific Concerns and Considerations:

The committee spent significant time discussing two main points:

- **Age and Relatability:** the congregation initially hoped for a "younger" pastor. While Pastor Fisher is a seasoned pastor, we found him to be incredibly welcoming and relatable. We believe his heart for youth ministry bridges the age gap. Furthermore, we see an opportunity for him to eventually mentor a younger Youth and Family Coordinator to provide that peer-level connection for our students.

- Stated desire in second interview to mentor and direct the CYF person.
- Is cognizant of changes in youth and family ministry over the years and believes in meeting young people where they are (not waiting for them to come in).
- Pastor Will's experience with youth will enable our ministry to move forward even before a CYF coordinator is hired.
- Preaching Style: We acknowledge that preaching is subjective. While some committee members did not personally connect with his style during pulpit supply, the majority feel his conversational approach is a strength that will foster a more intimate connection with the Word during worship.

Recommendation and Next Steps

We believe Pastor Fisher checks the most important boxes for EPLC: he is a builder of relationships, a healer of past tensions, and a leader committed to our long-term future.

Clarification from Carolyn Nasheim, Chair of Call Committee:

The Call Committee reported a unanimous vote in favor of recommending Pastor Will Fisher as the Senior Pastor. There were 6 YES votes, and 2 abstentions. According to "Robert's Rules of Order" an abstention is not a vote, and not counted as a vote. There was incorrect information stated by one of the parishioners at the Meet & Greet meeting held on April 26th when they stated that it was not a unanimous recommendation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you at the meet and greet on Sunday. I appreciate your time and thoughtful comments and questions. I understand that not all of you got to ask your questions and some of you did not get answers that satisfied you, particularly since our time was limited. I remain open to continued conversations especially about topics that I deemed less appropriate for a public venue. If you would like to do that, I invite you to talk to Council President Cathy Johnson or Deacon Carole for help in setting that up with me.

It is clear that you all love the congregation and want what's best for it, on all sides of the topics discussed. I encourage you to talk with and listen to each other. Those with concerns have the right and even the responsibility to raise them in an appropriate and respectful manner. Those who do not share their concerns have the responsibility to listen respectfully and vice versa. When we do that, erring on the side of grace, we are more likely to learn something from and grow with each other.

May the Holy Spirit guide you to find common ground in each other and all things through the grace of the crucified and risen Christ!

Pastor Will

Pastor Will Fisher, MDiv, LCPC

"He said to them, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'" (Mk 10:14b, NIV)

EPLC May Calendar

Edison Park Lutheran Church — May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>North Hall South Hall Conference Rm Youth Rm Work Room Outside location or remote Nordblad Atrium Choir Room or Sanctuary</p>					<p>1 9:00a - Mission Quilt Makers 1:00p - 100th Anniversary Committee mtg 6:00p - Rising Stars 6:00p - Rising Stars</p>	<p>2 1:00p - Interment of ashes Dr Ed Kruse 1:30 - Cake & coffee following Interment of ashes 5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>3 9:00a - Worship & Weaver Baptism & Cub Scout award presentation 10:00a - Coffee Hour 10:00a - Sunday School 11:00a - Contemporary Worship & Confirmation 1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>4 6:00p - Boy Scouts 7:00p - Families Anonymous 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>5 8:25a - Easy Exercise Group 5:00p - Bell Rehearsal 6:00p - Rising Stars 6:15p - Choir 7:00p - Boy Scouts District Committee meeting 7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>6 6:00p Confirmation</p>	<p>7 8:25a - Easy Exercise 6:00p - Rising Stars 6:00p - Rising Stars 7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p>	<p>8 6:00p - Rising Stars</p>	<p>9 8:00a The Men's Ministry men's breakfast 1:00 - 4:00p - Prayer Meeting 5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 9:00a - Worship & Confirmation 10:00a - Sunday School 11:00a - Contemporary Worship 11:50p - Helen Reyes interment 1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>11 6:00p - Boy Scouts 7:00p - Families Anonymous 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>12 8:25a - Easy Exercise Group 5:00p - Bell Rehearsal 6:00p - Rising Stars 6:30p - Finance Committee 7:00p - Church Council 6:15p - Choir 7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>13 6:00p Confirmation 7:30p Youth Choir</p>	<p>14 8:25a Easy Exercise 6:00p - Rising Stars 7:30p - Al-Anon (Men) 7:30p - EPLC Book Club</p>	<p>15 9:00a - Mission Quilt Makers 6:00p - Rising Stars</p>	<p>16 5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>17 9:00a - Worship & Confirmation (4) 10:00a - Coffee Hour 10:00a - Sunday School 10:30a - Congregational mtg & vote 1:00p - Hungarian Reformed 6:00p - Boy Scout Leadership mtg</p>	<p>18 6:00p - Boy Scouts 7:00p - Families Anonymous 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>19 8:25a - Easy Exercise Group 5:00p - Bell Rehearsal 6:00p - Growth team 6:15p - Choir 7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:25a - Easy Exercise 7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 11:00a - Mabelle Ammentorp Memorial service (Atrium & Sanctuary) 5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>24 Pentecost 9:00a - Worship 10:00a - Coffee Hour 11:00a - Contemporary Worship 1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>	<p>25 6:00p - Boy Scouts 7:00p - Families Anonymous 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Bible Study</p>	<p>26 8:25a - Easy Exercise Group 6:15p - Choir 7:00p - Gamblers Anonymous</p>	<p>27 7:30p Youth Choir</p>	<p>28 8:25a - Easy Exercise 7:30p - Al-Anon (men)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 11:00a - Memorial service Barry Bleeker 5:00p - Worship</p>
<p>31 9:00a - Worship 10:00a - Coffee Hour 11:00a - Contemporary Worship 1:00p - Hungarian Reformed</p>						

Upcoming & Ongoing Events

2026 Confirmations	May 3, 10, 17
Prayer Meeting	May 9
Mother's Day	May 10
Congregational Mtg & Vote	May 17
Pentecost Sunday	May 24
Cubs Game	June 15
Chicago Dogs Game	June 25
Vacation Bible School	July 20–24
Rally Day	September 13
Confirmation BBQ	September 16
Trivia Night	October 10

Prayer Meeting – Saturday, May 9th 1:00-4:00p – Church Sanctuary

As we prepare our hearts for the congregational meeting scheduled for May 17th, we ask you to be in prayer for our church and our congregation.

You are invited to a time of silent prayer and reflection on Saturday, May 9th, between 1:00 and 4:00p. You may come anytime between these hours. It will be a time of silence both in the sanctuary and narthex.

EPLC Book Club 2026
 Second Thursdays @7:30 pm

Upcoming Dates:

- Mar 12: **America's First Daughter** (Dray + Kamoie)
- Apr 9: **Bloomsbury Girls** (Natalie Jenner)
- May 14: **Miss Morgan's Book Brigade** (Janet Skeslien Charles)
- 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)



Confirmation classes - Weds 6:00 pm thru May 13

Sunday School - Sundays at 10:00 am

Bell Rehearsal - Tuesdays 5:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal - Tuesdays 6:15 pm

Youth Choir - Alt Wednesdays 7:30 pm

(No Youth Choir on May 6th or May 20th.)



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 sister Ruth, from Elaine Horning



Sympathy and Prayers to Barbara Kruse and family on the death of her husband, Dr Ed Kruse, who passed away on April 13th. Service was held in La Crescent, MN. Committal service at EPLC on May 2nd at 1:00 pm .

Sympathy and Prayers to the family of Barry Bleeker, who passed away on April 15th. Memorial service will be at EPLC on May 30th at 11:00 am.

Sympathy and Prayers to Elaine Horning on the death of her brother, Roger Horning, who passed away on April 27th..



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, Steve Beshears, Bridget Bohan, Edward Bohan, Carol Bonk, Owen Charley, Lilly DeLeone, Roxie Hays, Gale Henningsen, Pam Hull, Bob Krimm, 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:



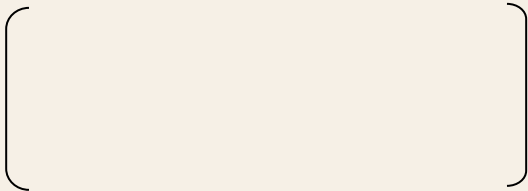


Come Worship with Us!

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

Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE-DATED MATERIAL



www.edisonparkchurch.com

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