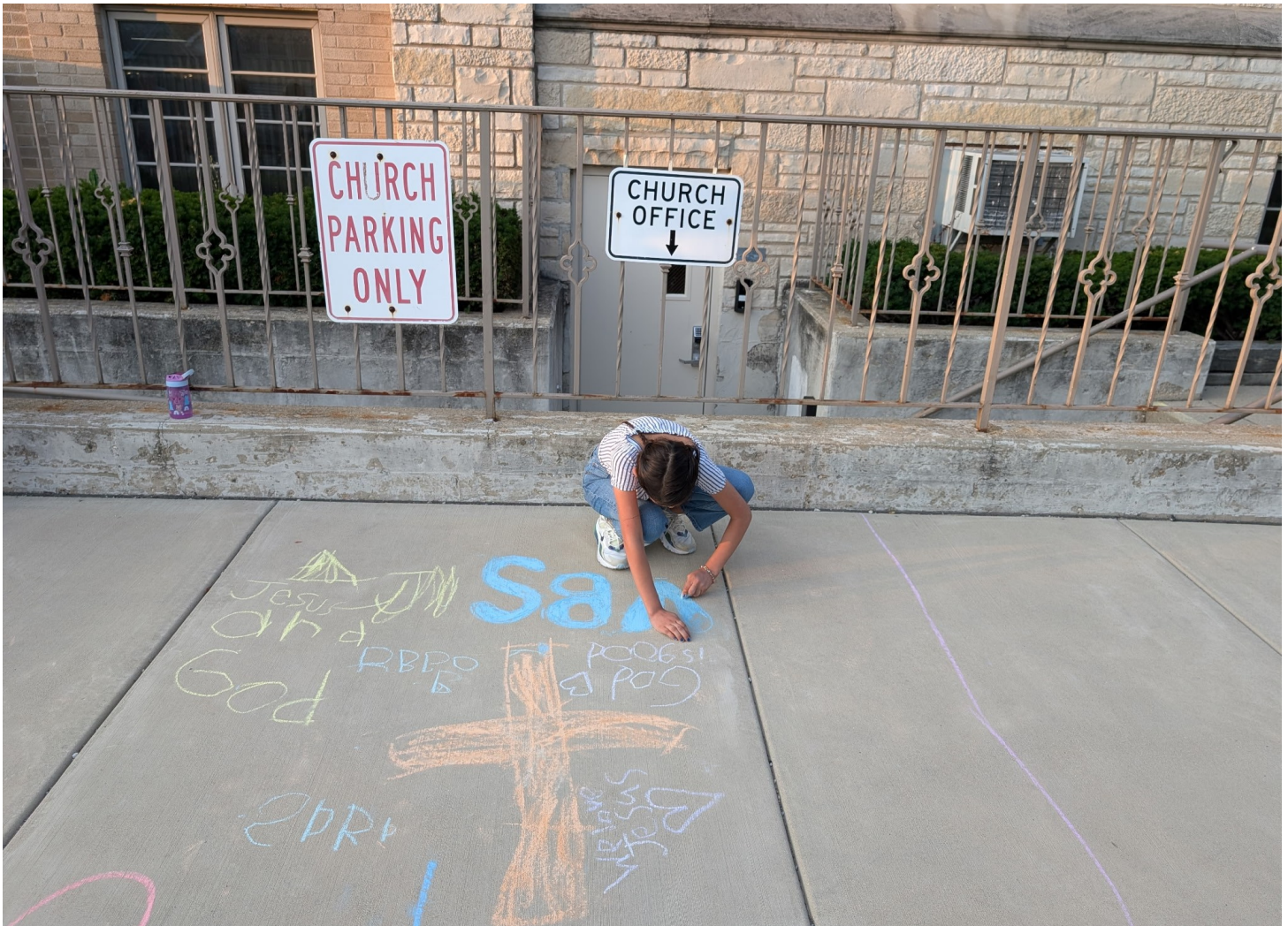


# August 2025 NEWSLETTER



VBS July 21st—25th 2025

Thanks to all the volunteers: Lynn Freitag, Heidi Koenig, Deanna Evers, Cathy Johnson, Katie Styzek, Chris Staron, Sara Heiderscheidt and Kevin Zehme. Thanks also to Marge Speciale for the cowboy hats!



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

edisonparkchurch.com (773) 631-9131



# From Deacon Carole

Dear Friends,

I'm always fascinated when I see unusual things in nature and I try to take a moment and enjoy the experience. And I sometimes wonder if there's a message in that experience.

A few years ago, I happened to notice a small plant growing from the side of my garage – yes – on the actual brick wall of the garage! It was growing out of the mortar. I studied it for a few moments and marveled at the fact that it was such an unusual place to show signs of life!

So it made me think about us – where God has planted us, and how we're using the gifts God has blessed us with. Sometimes we get caught up in our own circumstances and think we can't be of any help to someone else. Yet, it might be our very own experiences that can help us walk alongside someone else in pain, and then be a blessing in their life. Or maybe you have some extra time to help someone with their shopping or yard work. Or, maybe God is putting it on your heart to spend time with someone who is sick, or in a nursing facility.

We have been so blessed with many volunteers who have stepped up to help during this time when we are searching for a new Senior Pastor and a CYF co-ordinator. Last month we had a terrific week with VBS. Thank you to Lynn and all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make that week so memorable. Lynn has also volunteered to help with Confirmation in the Fall. Thank you to Mark Dupke for volunteering to schedule the Acolytes. We're still looking for volunteers to lead Sunday School, BLAST and Pathfinders. If you enjoy working with young people and feel called to help in any of these areas, please let me know.

These past few months, we've enjoyed hearing messages from several different pastors. One member told me that he really enjoys the variety of the various supply pastors. And it's a good reminder of why we come to church. We come to worship God, and it's not dependent on who the pastor is that day. It's a time to gather from our different walks of life, pause and reflect, and come together as one body of Christ to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the many blessings we have received. Another member emailed this a few weeks ago: "I have a friend who is interested in attending services on Saturdays. I told her how peaceful and calming the services are and she liked the idea, so hopefully she will attend." And last Saturday, she did attend, accompanied by the member who invited her. I was so happy to meet her friend and I hope she continues to come. I was excited to see the Holy Spirit working in that situation. Many of you started coming because someone invited you. Who can you invite to hear the Good News?

The staff has been busy working on the Fall calendar, planning for many of the events we enjoy each year. Rally Day is the kick off for Fall programming. We'll have one service that day, followed by our traditional pot luck. This event will require a lot of help, so please consider signing up to volunteer.

I encourage you to ask God to reveal ways he can use you in the lives of others. If a plant can take root in a most unlikely place as mortar, God can plant us where we are most needed, even if that means getting out of our comfort zones. We're blessed to be a blessing. Find someone in need and share your gifts.

Blessings,  
Deacon Carole



# From Council President

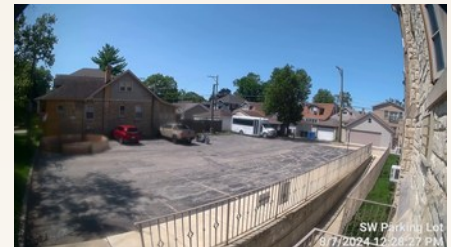
## August Updates

**Call Committee:** The Executive Committee, along with Deacon Carole and Carolyn Nasheim had a zoom meeting with Synod Bishop Curry and Pastor Mortha. The discussion focused on getting the Call Committee up and running and the possibility of engaging an interim pastor during the time we are without a senior pastor. The Council will be discussing this at its August meeting. The Call Committee will have their first group meeting with Pastor Mortha in August.

**CYF:** As we advertise and interview for the CYF position, it was extremely satisfying to learn that many members volunteered to assist with this summer's VBS. A big 'thank you' to Lynn Freitag for coordinating, and Kevin for leading the music portion. It was awesome to hear the kids sing at the Sunday service.

### Property:

1) Council voted to allocate un-dedicated memorial gifts to re-pave the south parking lot. Patchwork maintenance has been done for the last 25 years. Harry Henningsen and John Romano Sr. volunteered to coordinate. They met on-site with contractors and reviewed project bids. Fortis Paving was selected to perform the work which is scheduled for August.



2) We have waited almost two years for ComEd to wrap the Avondale Ave electrical lines so tuck-pointing could take place on the north transept wall. Tom Benson volunteered to help contact ComEd. We are hoping resolution is coming within a week or so. Tom reached out to the president of ComEd and has spent countless time and energy to explain our situation. Fingers-crossed! Thank you Tom for your help!



3) You've probably noticed that the church has not been as cool during the recent month. Unfortunately, the rooftop AC units (three for the Sanctuary and one for Nordblad Hall) have been experiencing mechanical issues. Richard Burke helped resolve electrical related events. We've engaged an HVAC contractor to work on the refrigerant and compressor issues.



Did you know you can contribute directly to the property fund? Just mark your envelope "Property" and it will be used to help resolve these and other maintenance issues at EPLC.

Jonathan Jedd President, EPLC Council



# Previous Events

## 2025 Vacation Bible School - July 21st - 25th

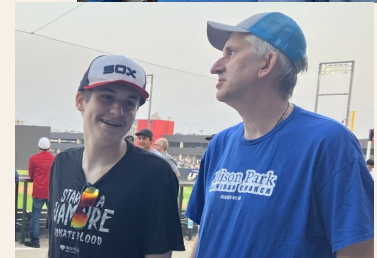


Thanks to the volunteers: Lynn, Heidi, Deanna, Cathy, Katie, Chris, Sara and Kevin. Also thanks to donations of cowboy hats from Marge Speciale and an anonymous donation of ice cream.

You all made the week special!



## Chicago Dogs Baseball Game - July 31st 2025





# Upcoming Events

Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale - August 17th 12–2 pm



Rally Day - September 7th following special 10:00 am service

Volunteer Appreciation Day - postponed to Spring of 2026

Confirmation BBQ - Wednesday, September 10th, 6:00 pm Details coming soon.

Confirmation Classes - Start Wednesday, September 17th

Blast, Pathfinders & Alpha classes - pending volunteer availability

Bells & Choir Rehearsals - Start Tuesday, September 9th. Additional details coming soon.

# Ongoing Events



The **Pickleball Club** is up and running for the 2025 season. We are playing on Mondays at 5:45 pm at Kirk Lane Park Jonquil Terrace & Waukegan Rd in Niles



Please email or call the church office and let staff know th interested. You will be added to the Pickleball Group and r updates.

[office@edisonparkchurch.com](mailto:office@edisonparkchurch.com) / 773-631-9131

EdisonPark  
Reverend Church



## EPLC LET'S GO BOWLING

(ONCE A MONTH FROM SEPT 2025 THRU APR 2026

RIVER RAND 191 S. River Road

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month at 6:00 pm  
beginning in September.

The rate will be \$15/per person per week  
plus \$4 to rent bowling shoes.

## EPLC BOOK CLUB

6626 N Oliphant Ave | 7:30pm

Remaining dates for 2025:

August 14th: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

September 11th: *All By Myself, Alone* by  
Mary Higgins Clark

October 9th: *The Watchmaker's  
Daughter* by Larry Loftus

November 13th: *James Patterson*  
by James Patterson

December 11th: *The Tea Rose* by  
Donnelly

Dates will be:

SEP 27, OCT 25, NOV 22, DEC 27,  
JAN 24, FEB 28, MAR 28, APR 25



# Prayer List



IN OUR

## Thoughts and Prayers

### Prayer List

Andy, Cayden, Cameron, Cierra, Debbie, Delaney, Denise, Duane, Harley, Ilsa, Jim, Kala, Kathy, Martha, Robert, Roger, Rosann, Sue, Tim, Tom, Bill Bobor, Elvera Coburn, Vi Collins Brown, Kevin Dwyer, Joy Graser, John Grosse, Milt Gustafson, Roxie Hays, Rich Heath, Lynne Inglesby, Don Johnson, Steve Johnson & family, Tricia Kay, Koenig family, Laura Krueger, Scott Lundgren, Chris & Michelle Mears, Jim Nasheim, Helen Reyes, Rafael Reyes, Lisa Reynoso, Geraldine Rumsfield, Jeff Scheck, James Segefredo, Carol Skow, James Suty, Brian Winkelman, Mark Zimmerman, Donald Zouras.

**Sympathy and Prayers** to Carolyn Cheeseman and Suzanne Batch and their families on the passing of their father, Robert "Bob" Seibel who passed away on July 17th. Service was held on July 26th.



**Sympathy and Prayers** to Jay Wierz and family on the passing of his wife, Carol who passed away on July 28th.

## Children, Youth & Family Ministry

### CYF Update

We're actively working to fill the vacancy of the Children Youth & Family & Digital Marketing Coordinator position. This is a part time position and requires being on site during afternoons and evenings, Sunday mornings, and being available for weekend retreats. This position is responsible for all youth programming, retreats, youth fundraising efforts, as well as family outings and activities.

In addition, this position handles all social media and digital marketing efforts.

This position reports to the pastoral staff. A full job description is available.

As we work to fill this vacancy, we are in need of volunteers to help with summer activities and in the Fall, with Sunday School, and with the Wednesday youth programming. If you enjoy working with youth and would be willing to give your time and energy, please let Deacon Carole know, and if you know of any good candidates for the CYF position, please pass their information along to her as well.

# 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.

## Worship Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help serve during worship services. Please consider helping us in the following ways. We create a monthly schedule of worship volunteers for these roles:

**Ushers** greet people as they arrive and assist with seating.

**Lectors** read scripture passages during the service.

**Communion Servers** assist with distribution of Holy Communion.

Please contact the church office if you wish to serve in one of these ways.

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to order altar, pulpit or baptismal flowers, please call the office. We ask for one week's notice. Altar flowers: \$46 (for a set of two) or Pulpit or baptismal flowers: \$28.

## 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 our giving page.

Thank you for your support!





# 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](http://www.edisonparkchurch.com)

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