



The Reminder

December 2018—January 2019

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, IL 60631
www.edisonparkchurch.com 773-631-9131

EPLC Worship Times

Saturday 5p Sunday 9a & 10:30a
Sunday School 9a

A Message From Pastor Kegel

Dear Friends,

We have just celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War. It was a time of remembrance and reflection. Some of you may be familiar with the Christmas truce during the first year of that war in 1914. For a few hours, enemies behaved like brothers. Christmas Eve was all quiet on the Western Front which stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps. Trenches came within fifty miles of Paris. The war was only five months old and approximately 800,000 men had been wounded or killed. Every soldier wondered whether or not Christmas Day would bring another round of fighting and killing. **But something happened: British soldiers raised "Merry Christmas" signs above their trenches and soon carols were heard from German and British trenches alike.**

Christmas dawned with unarmed soldiers leaving their trenches, though officers of both sides often tried unsuccessfully to stop their troops from meeting the enemy in the middle of Noman's Land for songs and conversation. Exchanging small gifts — mostly sweets and cigars — they passed Christmas Day peacefully along miles of the front. At one spot the British played soccer with the Germans who won 3-2. In some places, the spontaneous truce continued the next day as neither side was willing to fire the first shot. Finally the war resumed when fresh troops arrived and high command of both armies ordered that further "informal understandings" with the enemy would be punishable as treason.

"All is calm, all is bright." May this Advent and Christmas be a time for you and your families and friends to renew bonds of love and affection. Set aside grudges and grievances and let Christ's peace and love surround you. Come to worship and thank God for the gift of the Savior.

In Christ,

Pastor Kegel



Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

4:00p - Contemporary Family Service

9:00p & 10:30p—Candlelight Worship with Communion

Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 25th

10:00a—Festival Worship with Harp

There will be no New Year's Eve Worship Service

To be a people living, loving and serving as Jesus did...so that all may know Him.

Church Office Hours

8:30a-10:30a—Sunday
 8:30a-3p — Monday through Thursday
 8:30a-12:00p—Friday

Prayer Requests (as of 12/2/18)

- ◇ **Rich Bake (John Cherry's cousin)**
- ◇ Karen Bartel
- ◇ Viola Collins-Brown
- ◇ Rob Burke
- ◇ Robert Byrnes
- ◇ Karen Dwyer
- ◇ **Amanda Dymbroski (Phil Mauro's niece)**
- ◇ **Rob (Lynn Freitag's brother)**
- ◇ Baby Wyatt Gibson (Julie and Bob Walters grandson)
- ◇ Audrey Graser
- ◇ Mary Hanson
- ◇ **Baby Jackson (Friend of Phil's)**
- ◇ Cindy Juarez
- ◇ Les Kinney
- ◇ Ralph Kudsk
- ◇ Martina Lance (Barb Sanders friend)
- ◇ John Lund
- ◇ **John O'Malley (John Cherry relative)**
- ◇ **Harry Noice (Jennifer Nelson's brother-in-law)**
- ◇ Kim Piskorowski
- ◇ Sandy Placko
- ◇ John Rose
- ◇ Robert Schafer
- ◇ Richard Sears
- ◇ Avery Smith
- ◇ **Christine Smith (Phyllis Bober's granddaughter)**
- ◇ **Clarice Smoot (Marilyn Baalson's sister)**
- ◇ Virginia Sorensen
- ◇ Kenny Thuman
- ◇ **Amy Vullmahn (Arlene's niece)**
- ◇ David Wetzel
- ◇ **Payton Williams (Barb Williams' granddaughter)**
- ◇ Richard Whitney

Baptism

Dean Lucas Nordmeyer

To the family of Shannon Suty
 To the family of Lois Jedd

Memorials

Edison Park Lutheran Church is grateful for the following:

In memory of **Shannon Suty**:

to the **Foundation** from Dale and Diane Peters, the Hemm Family

to the **General Fund** from Beth Burke and Family

to the **Music Fund** from the Hemm Family

In memory of **Jeff Wilk** to the **Foundation** from his wife, Diane.

Please contact Pastor James Kegel or Deacon Carole Edwards when you are hospitalized or whenever you would like a visit. If you would rather not have a visit, we would still appreciate the opportunity to pray for your healing.

We'd love to visit you in your home, or meet you somewhere for coffee anytime. Please let us know you would like a visit.

We have a great pastoral care team consisting of Pastor Kegel, Deacon Edwards, Stephen Ministers and many others who are eager to visit when there is a specific need, or just for conversation.

Call Pastor James Kegel at 773-631-9131 ext. 226 or Deacon Carole Edwards at 773-580-3617.

Please Note:

Due to low attendance at the New Years Eve service last year, we will not have a New Years Eve service this year. NYE is on a Monday, so we look forward to seeing you at our worship services Dec. 29th and 30th. Blessed New Year to you!

Ushers & Altar Care Are Needed

We are in need of people to usher at both the 9a & 10:30a services as well as altar care. Please see Judi at the Welcome Center or in the office for details.

Music Ministry News

Lessons and Carols Christmas Program—Sunday, December 16th — 10:00a

Please note: only one service this day

All choirs—children's, adult, and handbells will participate

Please join us following the service for a special coffee hour. We need donations of goodies, and help with set up and serving. This will be a wonderful way to thank our musicians and singers, and help begin your Christmas celebration! Please call Carolyn Nasheim (847-729-0163) if you can help.

Youth musicians

We were blessed to have Victoria Arriazola playing flute for us recently at the 9AM service. We would like to welcome and encourage any youth who play an instrument, or sing, to be part of our music ministry! If your child would like to **take part in our music ministry, please reach out to Sarah Kovach or Jeff Lathom. It's always a joy to have our youth share their talents with our congregation!**

A Message From the Deacon

Dear Friends,

As we prepare our hearts during this season of Advent, and look forward to celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, we realize that another year is drawing to a close, and a new year is only weeks away. For those who have lost a loved one this year, the holidays can be a very painful time. I encourage you to seek out those who might be hurting at this time of year. Call and offer to spend time with them, listen to them, and invite them to church to worship with you. Pray for **them and ask God how he might use you to be a blessing in their life. Many times we fail to reach out because we're afraid of saying the wrong thing, so we avoid the person, or we avoid bringing up their grief. Most will tell you that it's better to risk saying the wrong thing, than nothing at all.** Let people know you care and that you want to walk the journey with them.

Sometimes the most meaningful thing you can do, is to let that person know you remember the one they lost. Two letters I received on All Saints Day, along with gifts to our ministry, reminded me of that. One person wrote, **"Thank you for remembering my wife Linda at your All Saints Sunday worship service. Please accept the enclosed gift as a token of my appreciation...Thank you again for remembering her with me this Sunday."** And another, **"Thank you very much for the invitation to take part in this service. A small donation for remembering Tom!"**

Let people know you care – **it's the best gift you can give.**

Christmas and New Year Blessings to you and your family!

Deacon Carole Edwards



Foundation Corner

"You better watch out, you better not cry. You better not pout I'm tellin' you why."

The last thing any child wants this time of year is to find themselves on the "naughty" list. The implications of such a thing happening is a powerful tool that parents often use to their advantage this time of year to ensure better behavior from their children. **The funny thing is, the real reason for Christmas is the ultimate escape for all of God's children from the "naughty" list.** God sent his Son to Earth to perform the ultimate sacrifice for His people. While we all get caught up in the trappings of the Holiday season, we should all take time to remember the true meaning of Christmas. We should all rejoice that, no matter **what our shortcomings are, if we truly believe and are repentant, we will forever be removed from the "naughty" list.**

Since 1965 donations to the Edison Park Lutheran Foundation have helped sustain the life of Edison Park Lutheran Church. Since it was established, over \$2,000,000, have been gifted to EPLC to sustain and grow its ministry. We welcome your gifts during this festive Christmas season and throughout the whole year.

Please ask a Foundation Director if you would like to know more. Directors are: Dale Ammentorp, Joe Bartel, Barry Bleeker, Mark Dupke, Gary Duszak, Kurt Gustafson, Monika Hemm, Rick Janci, Wayne Oberschelp, Paul Speciale, Alice Rybak, and John Romano.

A blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from the EPLC Foundation Board of Directors!

Children's Ministry News

Sunday School Update

Our Sunday School enjoyed another "Sensational Sunday" in November. We focused on GRATITUDE. The kids made a centerpiece craft, created a collaborative list of things they were thankful for and wrote thank you notes to special people. This theme carried through to our individual classes as teams of teachers came up with creative activities for our groups.

-I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds—

Psalm 9:1

Our next Sensational Sunday will be December 9. Please join us as we focus on "Angels" and the beginning of the Christmas Story!

Thank you to all who donated to our New Hope toy drive! We collected quite a lot of toys and books for those families.



BLAST begins again on Wednesday, January 16

Our Cherub BLAST kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt throughout the sanctuary. They loved having the whole church to themselves as they explored the altar, sacristy, and narthex. For our next few weeks we will be focusing on The Christmas Story. The kids will make angels, and their own manger scene. Last Wednesday this year is December 12th.

Preschool News

Our Preschoolers had a very busy November! We worked on fine motor skills as we completed our third skills workbook. We also made many Thanksgiving projects.

We are looking forward to Advent and learning all about the Holy Family. We have been reading about Isaiah's message of a child king coming to save the world. We can't wait to hear the rest!



Upcoming Family Event: Preschool Family Movie Night

"The First Christmas" on Friday, December 7, 2018

6:30—8:00 pm in the North Hall

Please join us for a family movie night! On Friday, December 7, from 6:30—8:00 pm, kids can wear their coziest pajamas and enjoy a movie, crafts and hot cocoa bar! Parents can enjoy holiday fellowship.

Free-will offering will be collected for hot cocoa and treats. Thank you for your support!

Email Jennifer with RSVP's at jwilliams@edisonparkchurch.com



Dear Friends,

Season's greetings and best wishes to everyone as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. One of the requirements we ask of our Confirmands is to write sermon notes during the service. Twenty are needed by the time we conclude our classes in May. You may have seen a youngster frantically writing notes with a tiny pencil as Pastor Kegel delivers one of his wonderful sermons. A couple of questions require the kids to **interview family members or friends about their thoughts on the day's message. The goal with the interview questions** is to encourage faith based discussions with the students and their loved ones. My favorite section in the sermon notes however, is when I ask them to Stump the Youth & Family Ministry Director with a question. When they offer a question, this usually means they are really paying attention. A couple of times the kids have forced me to **research or confer with Deacon Carole and Pastor Kegel but shhhhh, they don't need to know that.**

As with any class assignment (teachers know this best), sometimes life gets in the way and recording 20 sermon notes is next to impossible. Wanting my students to succeed, I offer them other options such as helping with **Sunday School. The younger children enjoy having them in class, plus they soak up the day's lesson just by being there.** Another option given to earn a sermon note credit is via some type of service project. The projects vary from **student to student and it doesn't matter what they do as long as they put an hours worth of work in and they help someone or something in need.**

The kid's service projects have **REALLY** impressed me and I wanted to share some of their works with you. One student let on that he helps disabled children in a play production designed for special needs students to design and put on a live play. Another student helped out at a blood drive for a couple of hours. Some helped out **as we drove a bunch of snacks to the USO at O'Hare airport so service members can enjoy a bite to eat when they are passing through.** A couple of us assisted a congregation member winterize her house, in which she graciously donated an accordion **to the church because we helped her (watch for a musical children's message in the near future).** Lastly, another student Estelle Wendorf (pictured) took it upon herself to start a Coat Drive at her school.



God Bless and Merry Christmas,
Phil Mauro

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY UP COMING EVENTS
Confirmation Class and Club 3:16

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Wednesday Dec 5th | Stocking Stuffing for the Night Ministry (6pm, North Hall) |
| Sunday Dec 9th | Anne Sather Cinnamon Rolls at coffee hour \$3 each! |
| Wednesday Dec 19th | Christmas Party (6pm, North Hall) |
| Saturday Jan 12th | Feed My Starving Children |
| Fri Feb 1st - Sun Feb 3rd | Lutherdale Retreat |
| Feb 23rd | 2nd Annual Trivia Night |

*If you would like to contribute to the Youth and Family Ministry in anyway please contact Phil.

Family Ski Trip!
Saturday January 5th, 2019
2pm to 10pm

The Boy Scouts have invited EPLC for a fun and exciting afternoon/evening of skiing at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa (7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva, WI 53147). This is a great and affordable opportunity for beginners as The Grand Geneva offers: 20 ski runs and a 6 acre terrain park, discounted Ski/Snowboard Lift & Rental Pricing, discounted Food Packages Ice Skating & Sledding, Spa Discounts (attn: non-skiers), Room Discounts (Spend the night if you want. Indoor Pool, Whirlpool, Great Restaurants, 1st class rooms & service.). Ride with us (church van holds 14 people and leaves at 1pm) or drive on your own. Please dress for the weather and contact Phil via email if interested (pmauro@edisonparkchurch.com). Grab your skis and meet us on the slopes! Flyer available at the Welcome Desk.

Bible Study Opportunities

+Bible Conversation & Prayer, Sundays 8 am

Meets every Sunday to discuss the gospel in our everyday lives. All are welcome.

+Adult Bible Study, Wednesdays 10:30 am starting again January 9th

“The gospel is God’s power to all who believe”

Pastor Kegel leads this group in discussing St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans to grow in faith and understanding together. The text *Lifelight Series:*

Romans Part Two is used, the cost is \$10.

Winter Choir Rehearsal Schedules

Beginning Wednesday, January 9

7:00p—Adult Choir

Beginning Wednesday, January 16

4:30—5:15p—ages 3-K

5:15—6:00p—1st—6th

7:45p—Praise Team

Beginning Thursday, January 17

5:30p—Handbell Choir

A Midweek Conversation With God

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30p in the Sanctuary

This week we will be using a method of praying called, Lectio Divina. Will also have time for specific prayer requests.

"Lectio Divina", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us.

Feel free to connect with Gerri Huffman at 708-898-5820.

Wednesday Community Dinner Starting again on

January 16

5p—6:30 pm

South Hall

All are invited.
Free will donation.

Fellowship

Movie Night—does not meet in December
Saturday, January 19 at 6:30p

EPLC Book Club Meeting – Nordblad Atrium
Thursday, December 13, 2018, and January 10, 2019, at
7:30 pm

The December selection, Hillbilly Elegy. A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance will provide us with a thought provoking discussion. According to the book jacket, it is "a deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country... that of white working-class Americans."

in January we selected a very timely book about North Korea which is a country that is constantly in the news. The Girl with Seven Names is the autobiographical story by Hyeonseo Lee who lived in and escaped from North Korea. When a famine struck in the 1990s, she began to question the poverty and repression in her country. At the age of 17, she escaped but lived under the fear of capture and repatriation for 12 years. During that time, she worked to free her family. What an awe inspiring story.

Men’s Breakfast—on hiatus till further notice

Outreach

Mitten Tree Collection: Help us decorate the Mitten Tree, located in Nordblad Atrium. We will be collecting new hats, scarves, and gloves again this year so that those less fortunate can keep warm. The collection will start November 24th and continue through New Year’s Day.

Holy Family Little Learners

Once again, we will be collecting gifts for Holy Family School students. The children look forward to this with great excitement, and for some, this will be the only Christmas gift they will receive.

This year, we’ve been asked to buy gifts for the first and second grade students. First grade ages are 6 -7; second grade 7 - 8.

The procedure for the collection for this age group is a bit different than previous years. It is suggested that gifts be in the \$20 to \$25 range for the children. Gifts should NOT include clothing, cosmetics or items with violent themes. Some great choices are age-appropriate games, art supplies/projects, books, and toys.

DUE DATE is Sunday, December 16th.

Mission Quilt Makers are again requesting sheets to be used as middles or backs for our quilts. Full size or larger are excellent.

The Christmas Cookie Basket event made \$930.00 this year. **The money was distributed to ELCA Good Gifts for women’s business loans, water wells and farm animals. THANK YOU!**



NEW AT EPLC Van Ministry!

Do you wish you could join us at church but you no longer drive? Many years ago, dear saints Don Weernink, Ed Ammentorp and others, drove the church van on Sunday mornings and picked up those who needed a ride. We're thrilled to launch the return of this much needed ministry! We're grateful to Pam and Armando Arriazola for volunteering to drive the van and pick up those needing a ride! You'll

be picked up in time to attend the Sunday 9:00a service. After the service, stay and enjoy a time of fellowship at the coffee hour, and after that, you'll be driven back home!!

- If you need a ride, please call Deacon Carole Edwards at 773-580-3617 so we can schedule your pick-up time.
- If you'd like to help with this ministry, either with scheduling or driving the van, please call Deacon Carole.

Budget Presentation

Sunday, January 20 @ 11:30a
North Hall, Lower Level

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27 @ 11:30a
Sanctuary

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual meetings for the **budget presentation and discussion**, and the **Annual Meeting** in late January. *The Finance Committee and Council are working on the budget, and changes will be made to reduce expenses to align more closely with the congregations willingness to support ministry through general offerings..*

Year-end giving through December 31 is vital as we aim to finish the year well.

Your financial support of Edison Park is life-giving to our congregation and community.

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving which keeps Edison Park vibrant.

December, 2018 and January, 2019 Calendars
Are available on-line at www.edisonparkchurch.com

or

You may pick them up at the Welcome Desk



Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE-DATED MATERIAL

www.edisonparkchurch.com

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Lessons and Carols Christmas Program Sunday, December 16th — 10:00a Only one service this day

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th

4:00p—Contemporary Family Worship

9:00p and 10:30p-Candellight Worship

Christmas Day , Tuesday, December 25th

10:00a—Festival Worship