



6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 + www.edisonparkchurch.com + 773-631-9131
Mission: To be a people living, loving and serving as Jesus did...so that all may know Him.

Hi friends,

With Christmas fast approaching, the question is- are we prepared? That is what Advent is for. These next few weeks are a time of preparation for Jesus' arrival. In Isaiah, we will hear these words of hope throughout the Christmas season.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. How amazing is that God comes to us in the flesh? That's what Emmanuel means- God with us.

How do we prepare for Christmas? Here are some ideas.

- 1 Come to our worship services each weekend and experience the power of worshipping in community.
- 2 Hear God's word, sing songs and hymns of hope and praise for the coming of the King.
- 3 Come to the Lord's Supper to see, feel and taste God's grace.
- 4 Read the stories of Jesus' coming birth about all of the people who were a part of the Christmas narrative with your family and friends.
- 5 Find a way to help the under-resourced. Maybe by helping at a food pantry.

As we go through the month of December, there are events to celebrate and prepare us. On December 3rd we have cinnamon roll Sunday and writing cards to shut-ins.

On December 10th we have breakfast with Santa from 8-12:00

We still will have Small groups, Tap into Theology (Dec 5th) and Men's Breakfast (Dec 9th), and EPLC Bowling Dec 16th. Blast and confirmation, Thursday Toddler group and Mission Quilters, Book Club and Easy Exercise group, Church Council and Growth team and Sunday School.

When many churches are slowing down and looking inward, we are working hard to get the word (Gospel) out. Our staff and Council and Foundation are working hard to keep EPLC moving and our growth team is helping us to invite our neighbors to all of our events and services. We are excited and thankful that we are growing; we took in new members with families.

Our mission is still to go out and be disciples to all nations and help people to start or restart their faith journey. We will have many opportunities to reach out and share our faith and invite our neighbors to our church. Let's keep spreading the Good News of Jesus beyond our community of faith, by being people living, loving and serving as Jesus did... So all may come to know him.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Joe

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

Memorials

Edison Park Lutheran Church is grateful for the following donations:

In Memory of David Svenden,
Given by

Shirley Andersen
Monika & Mark Hemm
Alice & Jose Royo
Carolyn Wangrow
Nancy J Carlsen
Joanne Talley & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Oberschelp
Carolyn Nasheim
Linda G Storlie
Glenda J Sayre
Marge Doud
Ken & Paula Spengler
Cynthia & Neil Andersen
Kimberley & Mark Schaeffer
Charles & Alice Sklavantis and Julie Parisi
James A. & Deeva B Dragseth
Margot K. Hofman
Gary Duszak
Don & Lois Johnson
Jean Kelly, Fran Basksky, Carol Levy

In Memory of Jennifer Dotts, Given by Beth Giltmeir

In Memory of Shirley Bernat, Given by Kimberley & Mark Schaeffer

In Memory of Arline L Vullmahan, Given by Toni & Juan Juarez

In Memory of Arline L. Vullmahn, Given by Charlotte & Lenard Meyer

In Memory of Virginia Bane, Given by Charles Miceli, Jr.

In Memory of Herbert Ulrich, Given by Kimberly Ulrich

In Memory of Lois Maye, Given by Frances Barabas

In Memory of Mike Savardy, Given by Herbet and Sandra Schmeisser

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers Prayer List

Pam	Will Engel	Laura Krueger	Carol Colburn
John Grosse	Wendel Gaertner	Larry Ibe	Angela
Sue Mark	Vicky	Diane Romano	Jonado
Ginger Deitemeyer	Danielle Natale	Nicholas	Angie
Paul Davies	Georgann	Joan Noonan	Addie
Graham Bulawa	Diana Schillinger	Nancy Delort	Sandra
Angela Walsh	Synoma Hays	Helen	(Ingeborg's niece)
Christian Stevenson	Zev Jordan Weiner	Rafael	Phyllis Doyle
Ralph Kudsk	Annette Finder	Aleksandra	Cary
Marie Durkin	Sherry Allen	Jim Nasheim	Holly Lundquist
			Ilse

Window donations: **\$57,021.76**
Amount on match to date: **\$7,111.63**



The Veterans Task Force would like to thank everyone for your generous donations of snack items to the O'Hare Airport USO. Upon delivery we were greeted with a warm appreciation and thank you from the USO volunteers.

Dear Friends,

During this season of Advent – a time of watching and waiting - we prepare our hearts and look forward to celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. May we never lose sight that He is the reason we celebrate! As we reflect on this past year, and look with hope to the New Year, may we be reminded that we have a God who loves us unconditionally. He is a God who accepts us as we are, and carries us when the burdens are too much for us to handle.

For those who have lost a loved one, the holidays can be a very sad and 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 come to church 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 person they lost. Let people know you care – it's the best gift you can give.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, reach out to the people around you – your friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family members. Invite them to one of the Christmas services.

Maybe it's nothing more than a smile or word of encouragement. Be sensitive to those around you. As Jesus came to be the Light of the World, let His light shine through us. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in our church, families, schools, workplaces and neighborhoods.

As we prepare to close one year and begin a new year, perhaps filled with doubt and uncertainty, the words of Psalm 46 come to mind: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth. ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."


The Psalmist reminds us that regardless of what happens, we are never outside of God's care. God works through us, leads us, guides us, but is always holding us. Through all the trials we may face, God is holding our hand. As we look to the New Year, we need to remember to put our hope in the one who will never let us down. Money, success, fame, and beauty all end. But "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

We have been given the powerful gift of prayer. Even when we don't have electricity, we are still connected to the greatest source of all power. Remember that God is the world's best wireless connection! We don't need electricity, Wi-Fi, or money to connect to God. He's there for us 24/7 and ready to listen. And he might be the only one wanting to listen when we can't sleep at night! We'll never get a busy signal or get put on hold. We have the opportunity to offer our prayers of intercession on behalf of those in need. It costs nothing except a willing heart to pray. Please continue to pray for EPLC – for the staff, leadership, members, and for all who call this their church home. May this continue to be a welcoming place of worship and may we continue to seek God's guidance and blessing.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our ministry throughout the year.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season. God bless you and keep you in His peace!

Deacon Carole



Edison Park Lutheran Church

6626 N. Oliphant Chicago, IL 60631

773-631-9131

www.edisonparkchurch.com

Christmas Eve Services

3:00pm

5:00pm

9:00pm

Christmas Day

10:00am

New Years Eve

10:00am

**NO Service
on
Saturday, December 23rd**

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Remember your loved ones with a poinsettia for Christmas. Forms can be found at the Welcome Center. The cost is \$10.00 each. These are 6.5 inch foil covered pots with 6+ flowers. **Deadline for order will be Sunday, December 3, 2023.**

We're looking for volunteers:

Sign up at the Welcome Desk if you can deliver a plant to the homebound!



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



CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY

**DECEMBER 3RD DURING COFFEE
HOUR. \$3 PER ROLL**

YOUTH@EDISONPARKCHURCH.COM



**HELP US MAKE
CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR
OUR HOME BOUND
MEMBERS AND THE
RESIDENTS OF THE
DANISH HOME**

**DECEMBER
3rd**

WE WILL MEET IN THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM
AFTER THE 11AM SERVICE.
CONFIRMATION STUDENTS
CAN USE THIS TOWARDS
THEIR SERVICE LEARNING
REQUIREMENT



CYF NEWSLETTER

YOUTH@EDISONPARKCHURCH.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3rd: Help Make Christmas Cards for the homebound and residents of Danish Home. Meeting in the Sunday School Room after 11am service

December 3rd: Cinnamon Roll Sunday in North Hall during Coffee hour

December 10th: Pancake Breakfast with Santa. 8am-12pm in the South Hall

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesdays-
Blast- 5:45-6:45PM
Confirmation- 7:00-8:00PM

AGAPE-8:00-9:00PM
Thursdays-
Toddler Play Group 10-11AM

Hello everyone!

Thank you to everyone who participated and came together for our family and friends Thanksgiving potluck. We hope to see you all at our Pancake breakfast with Santa on December 10th in the South Hall.

On December 3rd, we will be having our annual cinnamon roll Sunday. You can purchase a cinnamon roll during coffee hour for \$3. On December 3rd we will be meeting in the Sunday School room to make Christmas cards. All ages welcome.

Blast and Confirmation: There are NO classes December 13th-January 3rd. Sunday School: There is NO Sunday School on December 10th, 24th or 31st.

Happy Holidays!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH

Santa Claus

Join us for a
pancake breakfast in
the South Hall.

**\$10 PER
PERSON**

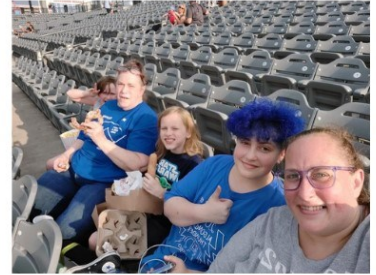
Take a free photo
with Santa

DECEMBER 10 | 8 AM - 12PM

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

CYF YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 has been an exciting year for us. We have had so many fun events. We appreciate all of you who have participated and volunteered. We could not do it without you! We hope to see you at more upcoming fun events in 2024! Happy Holidays!



Family and Friends Thanksgiving Potluck



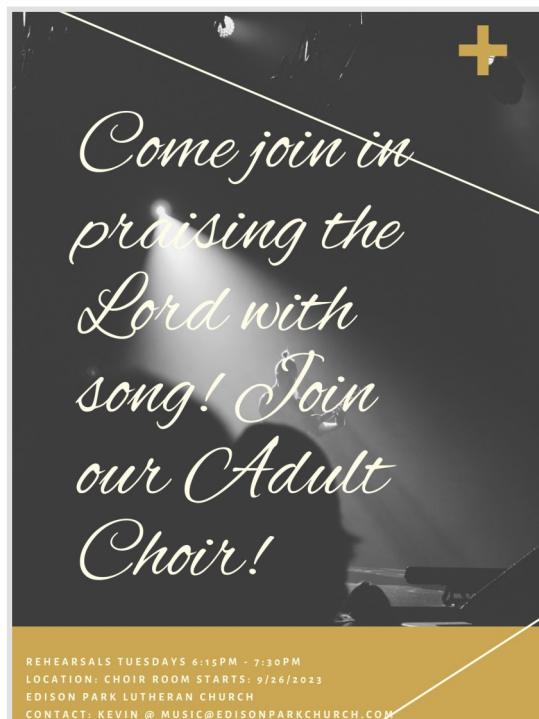
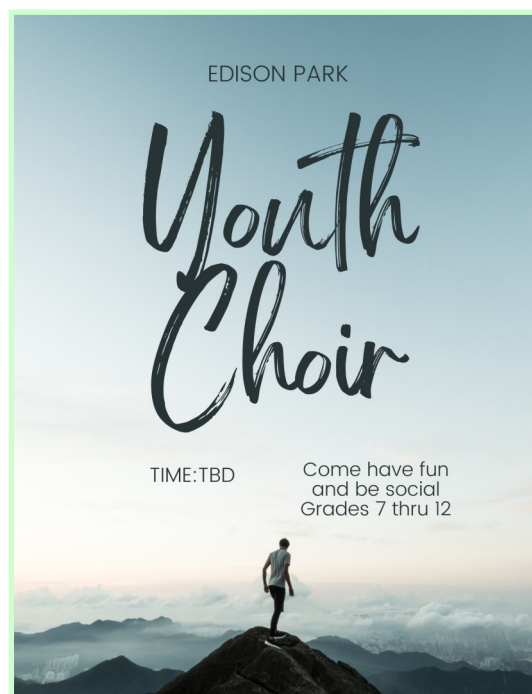
Our Family and Friends Thanksgiving potluck was so much fun. We had about 60 people join us for a delicious dinner. Thank you to Cindy and Lorene for all their hard work; as well all the others who helped set up, clean up and brought food to share. I am grateful our church family was able to celebrate together.

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

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, etc.

Christmas is coming very soon!! We are excited to present at the family Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm a service of lessons and carols for children and families. If you have a child in your family and would like them to be part of the service, Please see our Music Director, Kevin Zehme after or before any of the services, or call him at (773)551-1819 or email him at Music@edisonparkchurch.com, and he will be happy to give you more information about that service. We also have a practice after the 11:00 am service every Sunday to go over the music and what we will be doing. This is open to any child and family, so please come and be part of our Christmas celebration here at EPLC!!

Thank you!



Argentina Visit Recap 2023

We welcomed Professors Maggie Dreise and Gustavo LoSchiavo and three senior high school students: Brisa Fernández, Belén Gonzalez and Fabricio Villágran on Oct. 20 at a bleary-eyed 1:30 a.m. from O'Hare Airport.

Where to begin? There are so many people to thank from our church members and office staff for the smooth and successful visit planning for our partners from San Lucas in Grand Bourg, Buenos Aires, Argentina! From our members who freely opened up their homes to host guests overnight or planned a dinner outing; contributed food for the brunch, cooked, set up and cleaned up; offered timely driving transportation and financial support--and also to mention those who donated gift cards and souvenir gift bags for all the students. We are blessed to have you in our congregation. Thank you to all who volunteered and said 'yes! I'll help!'. **YOU ARE BLESSED!**

Blessed are the Van Drivers! Thanks to John Klaes and Glenn Davis for picking them up with their vans that evening (morning!) Scott Koenig for driving students and their luggage to Walther Academy and Kevin Zehme driving a van full to Loyola Academy for the NSCB concert.

Blessed are the Home Hosts:

Kim, Todd and Eric Couper, Lynn Freitag (who also donated pumpkins), Laura/ Scott Johnson, Cindy/Dave Davies for hosting our guests for 10 days in their homes. Lynn and Laura were responsible for getting the teachers to Walther each morning and pickup after school.

Blessed are the Dinner Hosts for the teachers during the week: Kathy/Marc Erlandson, Toni/Juan Juarez, Glenda Sayre/Gary Duszak, Pastor Joe/ Tammy Schultz, Laura/Scott Johnson and Lynn Freitag.

Blessed are the Food Prep/kitchen organization helpers: Lorene Laubach for her assistance organizing the Welcome brunch; the Square Dance dinner buffet and Oct. 29th coffee hour--PLUS Scott Koenig and James Segafredo for their generous contributions to the buffet and all those who made egg casseroles for the buffet. Jonathon/Debbie Jedd for help with decorations for the square dance. Duane Smart for helping with food shopping at Restaurant Depot.

Blessed are those who gave gift cards and unrestricted Financial Support: Linda Jareczek, Margo/Joe Sliwa, Carolyn Nasheim and Juan/Toni Juarez, Dave/Cindy Davies.

Blessed are the Ticket Donors to events that were provided by Kathy/Marc Erlandson to Chicago Botanic Gardens and Blue Man Group. Cindy/Dave Davies for Taylor Swift ERAs concert movie tickets and METRA/CTA fares transportation; Bruce/Jennifer Nelson for providing free tickets to fill the van to Northshore Concert Band event. Manolis Alpopianis for Reunion lunch/Ferris wheel tickets.

Blessed are the Early Risers! Special kudos to Marc Erlandson (who drove the van) and Kathy Erlandson.

Juan/Toni Juarez who accompanied our guests safely to the airport when it was time to depart.

So... what did we do with our guests? Fasten seatbelts!

Here's a rundown list of things our guests enjoyed while they were here in Chicago:

Soup 'N Scoops lunch and church tour, Notre Dame High School Freshman football game; Post-winning game pizza lunch at Countryside on Ballard Road (thank you, Coupers!); Chicago Botanic Garden Jack-o-lantern Lights walk; introductions during worship services; delicious Welcome Brunch buffet hosted Oct. 22; four (4) Walther Academy, Melrose Park shadow days with high school hosts; downtown Chicago visit #1 to Field/Adler Museum Campus, Buckingham Fountain, Maggie Daley Park, Millennium Park- (but The Bean is unfortunately under construction@);

Students ordering sub sandwiches in English from Tony's; shopping visit to Fantasy Costume; Lakeshore Drive, Wrigley Field picture op; dinner at El Nuevo Mexico on Clark Street; Blue Man Group show at Briar Street Theater; 'Trunk or Treat' afternoon fun at church parking lot; carving pumpkins together (for the students first time ever!); Buffet dinner and live beginner Square Dance in South hall with caller, Phil Rarick; Northshore Concert Band evening at Loyola Academy.

Downtown visit #2 via the NW METRA/CTA to visit Navy Pier and the Centennial Ferris Wheel ride; fried chicken lunch at Art Smith's Reunion restaurant, walk to Michigan Avenue--Jordan Store, Starbucks and Apple Store, Wrigley Building on Michigan Avenue.

Our guests also assisted serving clients one whole morning at New Hope Food Pantry and helped clean up; Superdawg lunch; FIRST SNOW! (they don't get snow in Buenos Aires!); Taylor Swift ERAs concert at the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge; trick or treating in the EP neighborhood; Taft High School varsity campus visit to Senior level Spanish Class (Thanks to Teri Guerra for facilitating); Downtown Visit #3 Billy Goat Tavern for 'cheeseburgers' and the United Center to see Jordan statue (Thanks Kim Couper for driving!); and lastly, our Farewell party at EPL.

The list above doesn't even begin to include all the wonderful, small conversations, incidental meals, (more shopping!) and personal stories we had the pleasure of sharing together. In the two weekends plus that our guests were among us, there were many opportunities at which Edison Park Lutheran members had chances to interact and connect. It is hoped that you found time to introduce yourself and participate in the many special events that were organized for their visit--and to build up our own church community fellowship.

Our five guests from Argentina are now safely returned to their homes near Buenos Aires on Nov. 2. We are so very thankful for their continued friendship for the last 11 years! We pray and hope our paths cross again in the future.

Blessings to all,
Cindy Davies

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

Help Decorate our Mitten Tree



Please help us fill our tree with new hats, mittens and gloves that will be distributed in the community to those in need. Both adults and children's items are needed. The collection will take place the weekend of November 25th through New Year's.



If you know someone who is having a hard time this holiday season, please invite them to church with you to be reminded of God's unending love for us.



Stuff a Holiday Stocking for The Night Ministry!

Thank you to everyone who filled a stocking with warmth and essentials for The Night Ministry of Chicago! The unhoused young people they serve will be so grateful for the warm gifts you have generously provided for them.

The final date to drop-off your Stuffed Stocking is **Sunday, December 3rd** by noon at the Welcome Center at EPLC. Please check off your name on the sign-up sheet and place the stocking in the labeled box. If you are still filling your stocking please see the list below of essential items that each stocking must include.

List of Essential Items per Stocking

- Small pack of tissues
- Full size deodorant
- Lotion
- Hand & toe warmers
- Mini/travel first aid kit
- Hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- A pair of Adult thermal socks (usually contain a little bit of wool)
- A pair of Adult men's warm gloves (waterproof or water resistant is helpful)
- An Adult warm winter hat (beanie style and dark colors preferred)
- Assorted candy (leftover Halloween candy works great as well as pre-wrapped hard candy)



As an option, please consider donating **Gift Cards** for the clients of the Night Ministry in lieu of other gifts outside of the items in the stockings. Suggestions would be McDonald's, Subway, Taco Bell, Dunkin' Donuts, Target, Aldi, Jewel Osco, Dollar Tree or Dollar General in \$5 - \$25 amounts. Gift Card donations can be given to Leslie or Carole in the church office.

Questions? Please contact Kendra Kelly at kekelly13@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting those in need during the Holiday season.

A BIG Thank you to everyone who filled a stocking with warmth and essentials for The Night Ministry of Chicago this Holiday season. EPLC donated nearly 45 stuffed stockings! The unhoused youth and young adults whom The Night Ministry serves will be so grateful for the warm gifts you have generously provided for them. A special thank you goes to Sheri Sears who generously donated her time and talent sewing the stockings, so that the rest of us could focus on filling them!

God's blessings to all at EPLC!
Kendra Kelly



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



Altar Flowers: If you would like to order altar, pulpit or baptismal flowers, please call the office or email Leslie (lmartinez@edisonparkchurch.com). We ask for one week's notice. Altar flowers: \$40 (for a set of two) or Pulpit or baptismal flowers: \$25

EPLC Medical Lending closet: Items available for loan: **walkers, wheelchairs, bath chairs, wheelchairs, toilet seats and crutches.** Please call the church office **773-631-9131** or email lmartinez@edisonparkchurch.com ahead so we can make sure we have the item you need.

Do you receive our Friday weekly email? Look for "News and events at EPLC" email in your spam, if not please call the church office 773-631-9131 or email Leslie @ lmartinez@edisonparkchurch.com

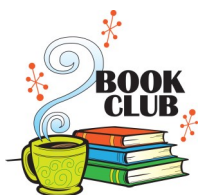
The Men's Ministry meets on the second Saturday of the month for men's breakfast at Jimmy's on Rand Rd 1440 Rand Road, Des Plaines at 8:00am.

Tap into Theology at Edison Park Inn on first Tuesday of the month from 7:30pm. This will be a time of looking at all that is going on in our city, country and world and how we respond. through the eyes of faith and what Jesus calls us to do and be.

Edison Park Lutheran Church book Club List

The Book Club meets the second Thursday of the month in the Atrium.

December 14th



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.

Pastoral CARE

Please contact Pastor Joe at 224-204-7554 or Deacon Carole Edwards at 773-580-3617 when you are hospitalized or whenever 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.



Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **David Svendsen.**

Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Joan T. Kinney.**

Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Wendy Seibel, dear friend **Patrick J. Cheeseman.**

Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Deacon Carole's uncle, **Martin Olszowka.**

Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of **Scott Lucke.**

Easy Exercise Class 55+ Every Tuesday and Thursday

@

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant

Exercise Class 55+

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:25am.

Chicago Fitness Plus Community Exercise Classes are offered at 30 locations throughout the City.

Each class lasts approximately 45 minutes. The exercises start slowly and easily and gradually progress to more difficult levels so everyone can participate. Each class focuses on cardiovascular fitness, strength training, flexibility and balance and is both enjoyable and effective.

We kindly request \$2.00 donation

Questions, please feel free to contact
Gary Duszak at 8bocks45car9@sbcglobal.net
or the church office 773-631-9131



Edison Park Lutheran Church
www.edisonparkchurch.com
Church office: 773-631-9131
Email: lmartinez@edisonparkchurch.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE

TODDLER PLAYGROUP



At Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 Oliphant Chicago, IL
www.edisonparkchurch.com



10am - 11am every Thursday

Playgroup offers caregivers a place to meet other moms. Play gives your kids a chance to play while providing an opportunity to connect with each other.



WHY PLAY?

As a parent being a part of a community activity can help you feel less alone as you are amongst peers. Children will have fun, make friends and grow in their social skills.

THINGS TO NOTE:

It's all about friendship!





EPLC

LET'S GO BOWLING

(Once a month From November 2023 thru May 2024)

Saturday, November 18th
Saturday, December 16th
Saturday, January 6th
Saturday, February 3rd

Saturday, March 2nd
Saturday, April 6th
Saturday, May 4th

ADULTS AND H.S. YOUTH WELCOME

Edison Park Inn @ 6:00 pm
Cost: \$15 per person cash/check at
the door - \$70 per person in advance
for the season (7 weeks/\$10 per week)
Checks payable to Edison Park Lutheran Church
Includes 3 games and shoe rental.

Please contact the church office to
reserve your spot.
lmartinez@edisonparkchurch.com
773-631-9131 or sign up at the
welcome desk.

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

Come Worship with Us...

Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE-DATED MATERIAL

www.edisonparkchurch.com
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Chicago, IL 60631

