



The Reminder

March, 2019 - April, 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 are entering the period of the church year known as Lent, a time when the days lengthen (that is the origin of the English word, "Lent") and the long, cold, sometimes brutal winter soften into spring. It is a time when we focus on Jesus' journey to the cross, to suffer and die and then to rise again. Our theme for this lent and the Wednesday services will focus on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. But while we focus on Jesus' suffering and death, without the joy of Easter our faith would be in vain. We would not be Christians if the only thing that brought us together was a remembrance of suffering and death. We gather together knowing that pain and suffering are redeemed in life and everlasting life. We know that God is with us in our times of trouble and that the last word is not death but new life.

I read a little story recently about a man who had visited his doctor and been told some hard news. As the sick man was leaving turned to his doctor and said, "Doctor, I'm afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You are a Christian man and you don't know what is on the other side."

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side of the door there came the sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice that dog? He had never been in this room before. He did not know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear but with gladness.

Because Jesus lives, we will live also. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

I hope to see you in church this Lent as we remember Jesus' journey to the cross and this Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and our hope in him.

In Christ,
Pastor Kegel

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

Church Office Hours

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

Prayer Requests (as of 3/3/19)

- ◇ Karen Bartel
- ◇ **John Cherry (John Cherry's Uncle)**
- ◇ Viola Collins-Brown
- ◇ Steve Dwyer
- ◇ **Marge Erickson (Rebecca Heneghan's grandmother)**
- ◇ **Michael Freeman (Relative of Rose's)**
- ◇ Julie Gaertner
- ◇ Beth Hansen
- ◇ Heneghan Family
- ◇ David Hibbler
- ◇ **Erik Hultman (Martin Both's bother-in-law)**
- ◇ Les Kinney
- ◇ Laurie Knodel
- ◇ Ralph Kudsk
- ◇ Robert Schafer
- ◇ Richard Sears
- ◇ David Wetzel
- ◇ The sympathy of the congregation to Margo and Joe Sliwa on the death of her mom, Joan P. Nykiel
- ◇ The sympathy of the congregation to the family of Norma Klaage

Baptism

Olivia Luna Siuty - January 12, 2019

Memorials

Edison Park Lutheran Church is grateful for the following:

To the General Fund:

In memory of Mario Bane, from Marylou and Joe Bane
In memory of Violette Angell from Kathy Angell Bilodeau
In memory of Fran Otto from Ron Otto
In memory of Audrey Graser from Diane Wilk

To the EPLC Foundation:

In memory of Audrey Graser from Barbara Smith, Karen Svendsen, Virginia Sorensen
In memory of Shannon Suty from Barbara Smith

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Phyllis Doyle, Gary Duszak, Lynn Freitag, and Barbara Kruse who volunteered their time for two months to cover the phones in the office and help with other duties while Judi recuperated from surgery!

MARCH AND APRIL CALENDARS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE

Thank You and Farwell

Dear Friends,

Being forced to make a decision I hadn't even dreamed of making for another several years, I have resigned as Parish Administrator, effective May 1, 2019.

For one month short of fifteen years I have had the privilege and delight of working at the church where **grew up. It's been a lot of fun putting together so many events, such as over-night trips, day trips, baseball game outings, White Fence Farm Chicken lunches, Drury Lane performances, New Year's Eve dinners and block parties, to name a few. It also has been rewarding working in the office preparing bulletins, announcements, etc. and "holding down the fort."** Thanks to everyone who sent prayers and wishes during my 12 week rehab from falling down the stairs. The cards, visits and food were especially just what I needed.

I will miss you'all! If you are going thru Birmingham on your way to Florida please be sure to stop by and say hi. Thank you for being a huge part of my life!

Fondly,
Judi Eastwood

Office Position

EPLC will be hiring part time office help.

Hours will be Monday – Friday 9a-1p

Interested candidates must be familiar with Microsoft Office software (particularly MS Word, Excel, Power-Point, Publisher), social media, website management, podcasts, have a pleasant and positive attitude, and excellent attention to detail. For more information, please contact:

Deacon Carole at 773-580-3617 or send email to:
cedwards@edisonparkchurch.com

Pastoral Care

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

Council Update

At the February 19, 2019 Council meeting, we welcomed new members:

Gary Berg, Maureen Cassaro, Tina Stafen, and Joan Yost.

The following officers were elected:

Carolyn Nasheim, President, Kevin Burkum, Vice President

Wayne Ammentorp, Treasurer, Gary Berg, Secretary

Other actions taken by Council:

- **Approved Judi Eastwood's request for a one month extension on moving out of the Youth House**
- Approved the hiring of a temporary position for office
- Appointed a task force for Constitution process: Kevin Burkum, Phyllis Doyle, Wayne Ammentorp, Pastor Kegel
- Safety Ministry should narrow focus
- **Shepherd's Watch training workshop on April 6th**
- Council members will be available at the Welcome Desk on Sundays between 8:45—10:30a

From the Treasurer

January Income	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	January Deficit
\$36,049	\$36,049	\$56,428	(\$13,002)
January Expenses	YTD Actual Expense	YTD Budget Expenses	YTD Shortfall
\$49,051	\$49,051	\$58,428	(\$13,002)

January was a typical month as far as expenses and income. We did not receive a gift from the Foundation in January. This explains the difference in the actual income and the budgeted income. Expenses for the month were a little more than \$9300 less than the budgeted amount for the month. This brings me to a discussion that I want to have with the congregation about the time of transition that we are in. The normal angst that happens when a senior pastor gets a call elsewhere has been increased by the loss at the same time of a music director that the congregation loved. The council has been working to bring stability back to the congregation but there has been a consistent stream of rumors and questions. The truth of the matter is that giving has been slowly decreasing over the last couple of years despite the information that the financial committee and I have been giving the congregation.

Expenses have been watched closely by the council and have been contained in the budget and in actuality. We have done that by using our properties to control expenses more efficiently and that has caused more whispers and rumors. The real problem is that income has continued to drop so decisions will become even harder as we go forward. The Foundation is unsure if they will be able to continue to making up the difference between expenses and income. There is a discussion that they would take over the costs of taking care of the church property and the congregation would be expected to pay for salaries and some other expenses. **That would mean that some decisions coming up would be made harder if there isn't a reasonably sizable growth in giving.** I present this as a plea for help from the council for all of us to consider in the coming months. I know the generosity of this church and the desire to pull together and be positive. **One last thing I'd like to ask is to please speak with your council members. They are there to represent the congregation and have the desire to discuss these issues with everyone that has concerns.**

Wayne Ammentorp
Treasurer

Note from the Call Committee

The call committee has met with our Synod representative, and we are pleased to report we have four candidates that are interested in being considered as our next called pastor. Our next step is setting interview dates and times with the candidates. Stay tuned!

Message from the Deacon We've begun our Lenten journey. We placed the mark of the cross in ashes on our foreheads and are reminded of our human mortality and frailty. Dust to dust, ashes to ashes. A stark reminder of where we came from and, where, all other factors being equal, we shall return. The answer is that while we gather to remember who we are, we also gather to remember who God is - and what God has done for us in and through Jesus. We gather - because - all other factors are not equal! God has given us a way out of our plight of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust". It is the way of the Cross. The death of Jesus was God's way of placing a sign of infinite value upon that which would otherwise be worthless. God has committed himself to us - and given to us a sign of that commitment - the cross. It is a reminder of how we were marked with the sign of the cross at our baptism and sealed in Christ forever. The mark of the cross is a mark of ownership. These ashes remind us that we are Christ's - that he died so that we might live. We are also reminded of the events of Holy Week - and of how the victory of Jesus over sin was won for us on Good Friday. And we accept the grace and forgiveness that marks us as a redeemed child of God. And we remember that through all of this, God is with us. Lent is a journey towards the cross. And towards a tomb, and the mysterious, unending joy of those who found that tomb empty. Blessings, Deacon Carole Edwards

FOUNDATION CORNER

"SOMEONE IS SITTING IN THE SHADE TODAY BECAUSE SOMEONE PLANTED A TREE LONG AGO."

Warren Buffett

Since 1965 donations to the Edison Park Lutheran Foundation have helped sustain the life of Edison Park Lutheran Church. Since it was established, approximately \$2,500,000 has been gifted to EPLC to sustain and grow its ministry. While there have been significant donations made throughout the history of the Foundation, EVERY gift matters.

The twelve original members of the Foundation each donated the sum of \$100.00 to start the Edison Park Lutheran Church Foundation. The Foundation has been relied upon more and more over the last few years, and has answered the call whenever it has been asked. We are now asking for your help. At this time, we are instituting our **inaugural Founders' Challenge**. **Just as those twelve members of EPLC donated \$ 100.00 all those years ago, we are asking that each giving unit of our Church donate the sum of \$100.00 to match those original funds.**

We are aware that not everyone can afford to donate. We ask, as always, that you give as you are able. We will happily accept any and all donations, no matter how big or small. Remember that a donation of at least \$250.00 will allow you to have your name placed on the Foundation Plaque. For those who wish to match the value of the original Founders donations, the equivalent donation adjusted for inflation is roughly equal to \$750.00. Even if you are unable to donate, please keep the Foundation, its members and the Church in your prayers so that we may continue our mission.

From the relatively modest sum of \$1,200.00, our fund has grown to more than \$2,600,000.00. Think of all that **we can do if we meet this Founders' Challenge.**

Children's Ministry News



Our Sunday School Children enjoyed a Sensational Sunday focused on LOVE. The kids played musical chairs, had to collaborate to complete the verse John 13:34 (A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another) and made creative valentines.

Our individual classes have been learning the story of Jesus blessing the children and the Lord's Prayer. **Throughout March the classes will examine stories about Jesus. These include the sower and the seeds, Jesus calming the storm and the widow's offering.**

Our next Sensational Sunday will focus on PRAYER as the Lent season begins.

Cherub BLAST has been exploring the Lord's Prayer and Love reinforcing the Sunday School lessons. The class will explore miracles and parables throughout March.

Join us throughout Lent at our Wednesday Evening Holden Service at 7:00. We will be reflecting on one of the seven last words spoken by Christ in message and art (know, truth, here, forsaken, thirsty, finished, commend, believe). Be on the lookout for colorful posters representing each word to be on display in The Atrium throughout the next weeks.

Preschool News

Throughout the month of February, Preschool was very busy! We explored China as we celebrated Chinese New Year. We enjoyed a Valentine Pajama Party! All kids and families enjoyed treats and a movie in the North Fellowship Hall. We also visited the Stahl Family Theater for a performance of the Three Little Pigs.

As March begins, we will Blast Off into space! We will study planets, the sun and moon, rockets and space travel. We will travel to the Cernan Space Center for a visit to their sky theater for our very own show. This is a family favorite field trip!



Summer Trip to beautiful Colorado!

EPLC's youth and family ministries are heading to the mountains. From June 24th thru July 1st, Phil Mauro will be leading a group to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp near Fort Collins, Colorado. Families and Youth are welcome to join for the camp offers a wide variety of activities.

The youth will be hitting the trail on a three day long backpacking excursion in the mountains. Hiking the trails will allow us to experience God's creation up close and personal. Families can enjoy the many different amenities the camp has to offer (i.e. high ropes course, small hiking trips, archery, frisbee golf etc...). A White Water Rafting trip is also available for additional cost.

Please consider joining us in our journey to mountains and see the majesty of the mountains given to us from our Creator and Lord. See Phil with any questions.

Upcoming Dates and Activities for Youth and Families:

- St. Patrick's Day Youth Mixer-Mar. 15th
- Youth Pancake Breakfast - Apr. 14th
- First Communion Sunday - Apr 14th
- EPLC's Easter Egg Hunt- Apr. 20th
- Confirmation Sunday - May 19th

Youth Pancake Breakfast:

Join us on Psalm Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 am for a free will pancake breakfast fundraiser. All donations will go towards helping our youth and family programs. Come for the pancakes, stay for the fellowship.

EPLC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt:

Who will be the one to find the Golden Egg this year? Our very own Annika Kristensen found it last year and she'll tell you it was life changing. Join us on Holy Saturday, April 20th at 1pm in the South Hall. Bring your baskets!

Trivia Night Thank You!

A huge thanks to those who helped out with, donated to, or participated in our 2nd Annual Mardis Gras themed Trivia Night. We had over 140 people plus 50 kids, double the amount from last year and we raised over \$2300!!! It was TONS of fun with my favorite moment being the kids parade through the crowd. I'm looking forward to doing again next year. Again, thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Confirmation Class Trip to FFC's Climbing Wall:

Last week I thought the kids have been working really hard in class and they deserved a break. Then a young man from FFC in Park Ridge staff contacted me about a possible field trip to use the wall. Its was meant to be, the kids got a day off from class and we got to have some much needed fun.

I was very impressed with all of their climbing abilities (much better the mine). Josh Dupke even got close to a wall record. Estelle Wendorf pictured below was climbing different contours with great ease and success. These kids continue to impress me on a daily basis. They are kind, giving and God has blessed them with a thirst for knowledge. I thoroughly enjoy leading them in class and in their faith journey. As we head into the home stretch and as our confirmands get ready to take their next big step, please keep them in your prayers. Pray that God keeps his loving spirit in their hearts. Pray that they remain steadfast in His mission. They are REALLY good kids I am very Blessed to be their teacher.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved with our youth and family ministries, please contact me. I am forming a Youth Task Force and would like to hear your opinions and ideas on the direction of our youth programs.

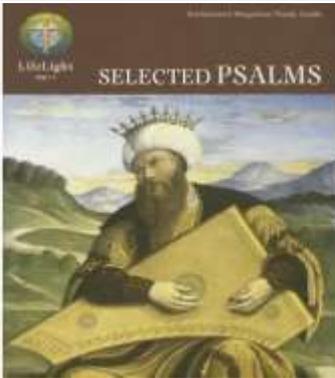
Thank you and God Bless!
Phil Mauro
Youth & Family Ministry Director

WORSHIP

Bible Study Opportunities

+Bible Conversation & Prayer, Sundays 8 am

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



NEW! Adult Bible Study, Wednesdays at 10:30 am

"The gospel is God's power to all who believe"

Everyone is invited to join a new Bible study on the Psalms starting Wednesday, March 27th at 10:30a. We have had a very rewarding and enriching study on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans during the fall and winter, but are now going to look at selected Psalms. The Psalms are the songs of the Bible written by King David and King Solomon sung by God's people through the ages. We can think of Jesus singing the psalms, monks in the middle ages and many of us today reading and singing these gems of faith. Please join us!
Sign up at the Welcome Desk in the narthex.

Holy Week

- ◆ Palm Sunday Weekend—April 13/14

Youth Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 14 9:00a-11:30a

- ◆ Maundy Thursday—Noon and 7p

- ◆ Good Friday—Noon and 7p

There will be NO Saturday service on April 20th as we wait for the sun to rise on Easter morning.

Easter Sunday, April 21

- ◆ 6:02a Sunrise Worship
- ◆ 9:00a Festival Worship
- ◆ 10:30 Festival Worship

Outreach

Night Ministry Service Event

We will be serving a meal on Sunday, **March 17th** for the Night Ministry. This time, the location will be at 10 S. Kedzie from 4 - 6:00 PM. We will be serving chili for the meal, with the Confirmation class preparing homemade cookies. We need 4 - 6 servers to arrive at 3:00 that day and transport the meal to the location. If you're able to serve, please sign-up at the Welcome Center. Cash donations would be greatly appreciated for items to go with the meal. Thank you for supporting the Night Ministry. Contact Kathy Erlandson with questions.

THANK YOU FROM THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Thanks for your generosity, the Night Ministry was able to spread holiday cheer throughout the month of December. Stockings, gifts, warm meals cookies and hot chocolate brightened the spirits of those who visited the Health Outreach Bus, Youth Outreach Van, and youth holiday parties across our housing programs.

Thank you for the part you played in bringing the magic of the holidays to those struggling with poverty and homelessness on Chicago's streets.

Warmly, The Night Ministry

Fellowship

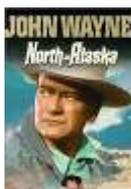
Movie Night—Saturday, March 16 at 6:30p



A Bag of Marbles is a Second World War autobiographical novel by the French Jewish author Joseph Joffo. It tells the story of his flight, as a small boy, with his brother Maurice to escape from Nazi occupied France to the Zone Libre.

Saturday, April 27 at 6:30p

North to Alaska Sam and George strike gold in Alaska. George sends Sam to Seattle to bring George's fiancée back to Alaska. Sam finds she is already married, and returns instead with Angel. Sam, after trying to get George and Angel together, finally romances Angel, who, in the meantime, is busy fighting off the advances of George's younger brother, Billy. Frankie is a con man trying to steal the partners' gold claim.



knowing that they might never see them again. But what a great asset these young men provided to every major combat unit in Europe. They saved many American lives as they collected intelligence on German troop **strength and armored movements.** "A postwar army report found that nearly 60% of credible intelligence gathered in Europe came from these former German Jewish men who were name Ritchie Boys."

Mrs. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story of New York City's Greatest Female Detective and the 1917 Missing Girl Case That Captivated a Nation is our selection for our April 11 meeting. Another title that sums up the story by Brad Ricca, or does it? This is a true story about Grace Humiston (a lawyer, detective and first woman US District Attorney) who joins forces with her partner, Julius J. Kron, to find the missing 18-year-old Ruth Cruger. This case had many twists and turns including uncooperative police officers, secret boyfriends and underground tunnels. This book was nominated for the 2018 Edgar Awards for Best Fact Crime.

Such wonderful books that we hope you will enjoy and will join in the discussion.

Men's Breakfast—Second Saturday, 7:30a, Jimmy's Restaurant, 1440 Rand Road, Des Plaines, IL

EPLC Book Club Meeting – Nordblad Atrium
Thursday, March 14 and April 11, 2019, at 7:30 pm

The title of our March selection *Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler* by Bruce Henderson really tells you the plot of the book. As Hitler was gaining popularity in Germany, Jewish families had to make the heart wrenching decision to send their young sons to safer countries and then on to America,

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

San Lucas/Edison Park Lutheran Partnership Continues

For the third time in as many years, students and teachers will visit Chicago in an intercultural exchange from April 27 thru May 6. Five high schoolers, four girls and one boy, will be paired with students from Walther High School, staying with Walther families and shadowing students in classes for four days while being immersed in US culture and the English language. Students will also do some sightseeing and spend time with EPLC families while not at Walther.

Our guests will require housing the evenings of Saturday, April 27 and Thursday, May 2 through Sunday, May 4. They will return to Argentine on Monday, May 5th. If you have an interest in hosting one or two of the students and would like more information, please contact Phil Mauro or Kathy Erlandson.

Donations to help with travel expenses would be greatly appreciated. Kindly place them in an envelope marked "Argentina".

Thank you, as always, for welcoming this new group of visitors and showing them our amazing EPLC warmth and hospitality while providing the experience of a lifetime for these students!



Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE-DATED MATERIAL

www.edisonparkchurch.com

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6626 N. Oliphant Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631



Seven Last Words



Please join us Wednesdays throughout LENT as we focus on the Seven last words spoken by Christ. Families can reflect each week during our children's message / devotion.

Wednesdays, March 6 through April 10

12 noon Holden worship
Soup lunch following at 12:30p
Community Dinner at 5:00-6:30
7:00p Holden Evening Prayer