September 2025 NEWSLETTER



Worship service 10:00am with backpack blessing followed by Rally Day



Edison Park Lutheran Church

6626 N Oliphant Ave, Chicago IL 60631

From Deacon Carole

Dear Friends,

How refreshing to welcome Fall and the cooler weather it brings. One glance at the church calendar will tell you we're back in full swing with something happening here almost daily. There are many activities planned and all are welcome to participate. It's a great way to connect with other EPLC members as well as meet new people from the community.

We're looking forward to kicking off the Fall season with Rally Day on Sunday, September 7th! It's a time to celebrate the return of fall programs – Sunday School, Confirmation, BLAST, Pathfinders, Choirs. Come and join us for worship at 10a and stay for all the festivities following the service. We'll have a Backpack Blessing at the 10a service as well. It'll be a great afternoon of food, fun, games and fellowship! We'll enjoy the music of "Doin Sixty!" featuring several of our own members. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us as well.

Later in the month we'll see the beautiful quilts that are created throughout the year by our Quilters. This is a wonderful ministry and they're always ready to welcome new members to their group. We'll have a special blessing for the quilts before they're sent to people in need.

Our annual Pet Blessing is coming up next month on Saturday, Oct. 4 th at 10:00a across the street in Monument Park. This is our 22nd year! We hold this event on the first Saturday of October each year as we celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi - the Patron Saint of Animals. It's a reminder that every creature is important, and provides an opportunity to celebrate and honor our loyal companions who love us unconditionally. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator. And thanks to Kevin, this will be the fourth year we'll have live music! This is the third year we're partnering with the Edison Park Community Council as they hold their 2025 Pet Expo offering pet related vendors. The pet blessing will be at 10:00a but we hope you can stay awhile and visit the booths and enjoy a time of fellowship!

In October we'll reach out to families who have lost a loved one since All Saints Day last year. All Saints Day will be celebrated the weekend of November 1 st and 2 nd. We'll read the names of members and former members who have died since last November 1 st, and we'll also read the names of those from the community whose funeral we officiated. If you would like to have someone remembered, please let me know by October 15th. All Saints Day gives us a time to especially remember, and give thanks for, all of our loved ones and friends who are home with God. We light a candle in their memory and reflect on all the ways our lives have been touched by them. You will be given an opportunity to light a candle in memory of your loved ones as well.

Please remember to pray for our congregation and staff as we go through this time of transition, as we search for a new Senior Pastor and a CYF coordinator. The Call Committee is providing updates on the call process, and we are actively recruiting for the CYF coordinator. Thank you to all who have stepped up to help in various areas of the ministry. Remember that God doesn't call the equipped, but he equips the called! Thank you for your faithful support and prayers!

Blessings, Deacon Carole

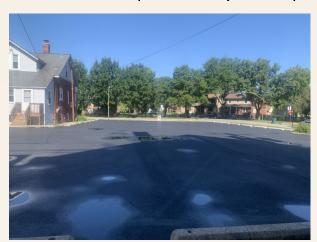
General Updates

August Updates

South Lot resurfaced and restriped



West Lot resealed: (will be restriped soon)



Offering Update

Some of you have asked how offerings have been in light of these challenging economic times. We realize that not everyone can give as generously as they'd like. Please know how much we appreciate and depend on all gifts, large and small, to keep our church running. Summer is typically a time when we see donations slow down a bit. But even though people are away on summer vacation, we still have expenses that need to be paid – utilities, insurance, salaries, etc. The staff works very hard to control expenses wherever possible, but our expenses always exceed our offerings. We are grateful for the monthly financial support from the EPLC Foundation. There are several ways to support our ministry electronically when you're away. You can give through Simply Giving, our website, QR code, or via text. Please see Deacon Carole if you need assistance with this.

Here's a snapshot of our offerings at the end of July. August financials will be available in early September.

Year to Date offerings through 7/31/25

Actual \$170,761 Budget \$184,970

Deficit (\$14,209)

Call Committee Update:

The Call Committee met twice in August. On August 10th, they met with Pastor Sunitha Mortha, Associate to the Bishop, for an orientation of the call process. Their second meeting was on August 24th when they began working on the Ministry Site Profile. The committee is seeking your input regarding the Senior Pastor position and is preparing a survey to be completed by the congregation. The survey will be available on Rally Day, September 7th, and will also be available to be completed on line. Please take time to complete the survey and share your thoughts with the committee. Members of the Call Committee are: Dale Ammentorp, Gary Berg, Diane Cherry, Shane Dupke, Carolyn Nasheim(Committee Chair), Brandon Rhame, Chris Staron, Kathy Tobin.

Please keep the committee and the call process in your prayers.

Previous Events

Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale - Sunday, August 17th



Update on Giving Kiosk

Many of you have enjoyed the convenience of using the Giving Kiosk in the narthex. As you've noticed, it's been inoperable for several months. This is due to a technical glitch between our electronic giving vendor Vanco and Apple. Once we did the required software update on the Apple iPad, it was no longer compatible with Vanco's Kiosk system. Vanco has been working on a replacement system but it is not yet available. We set up and tried another solution with a card reader attachment but found that would not be a suitable option. Vanco has assured us that we'll be notified as soon as the new version of the Kiosk becomes available. Until that time, you can continue to give by credit card using all the other electronic options: Simply Giving, our website, QR code, or via text. Please see Deacon Carole if you need assistance with this. New version of the Kiosk becomes available. Until that time, you can continue to give by credit card using all the other electronic options: Simply Giving, our website, QR code, or via text. Please see Deacon Carole if you need assistance with this.

Upcoming Events

EPLC Cubs outing - Sept 2nd, assemble at 4:00 pm, EPLC bus leaves by 4:30 pm

Backpack Blessing - during Sept 7th service at 10:00 am

Rally Day - September 7th following special 10:00 am service, 11am—2 pm

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

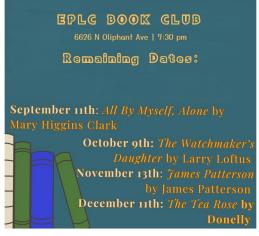
Confirmation BBQ - Wednesday, September 10th, 6:00 pm Details coming soon.

Confirmation Classes - Start Wednesday, September 17th

Blast, Pathfinders & Alpha classes - pending volunteer availability

Ongoing Events





Mission Quilt Makers update

Ouilters is a group that has been making quilts for Lutheran World Relief for 45 years. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning and would welcome more helpers to cut, tie or sew. It's a great feeling to know that these quilts will be sent around the world to those in need. We thank everyone for the donations of fabric, sheets and yarn.

Current members are Alice, Debbie, Jane, Lois, Lynda and Marilyn.

Prayer List



Cayden, Cameron, 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, John Hope, Lynne Inglesby, Don Johnson, Steve Johnson & family, Tricia Kay, Koenig family, Laura Krueger, Scott Lundgren, Chris & Michelle Mears, Helen Reyes, Rafael Reyes, Lisa Reynoso, Grace Rogel, Geraldine Rumsfield, Jeff Scheck, James Segefredo, Carol Skow, Roger Sroka, James Suty, Brian Winkelman, Mark Zimmerman, Donald Zouras.



Sympathy and Prayers to the family of Carol Ann Wierz, who passed away on July 28th.

Sympathy and Prayers to the family of Kristopher Hibbeler, who passed away on August 5th.

Sympathy and Prayers to Carolyn Nasheim and family on the passing of her brother, Jim, on August 25th.

Card Ministry update

The Card Ministry, handled by Carolyn Nasheim and Phyllis Doyle, thanks you for your generous donation of cards. We now have quite a sufficient amount and do not need any more at the present time.

Youth updates

We need volunteers to help with Sunday School, BLAST and Pathfinders! If you feel called to help with this ministry please see Deacon Carole.

Save the Date!

Concert of Hope – Saturday, November 8th at 8:00pm in the Sanctuary Local musician Steve Mazurowski - guitarist and vocalist – tickets \$10

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 773-631-9131to 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.

New Hope Food Pantry Needs:

The following items are needed at the NHFP:

Baby wipes, any brand; Diapers in size 4-5-6 for toddlers, or pullups; adult diapers; dry dog or cat food in bags.

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

IME VALUE—DATED MATERIAL

www.edisonparkchurch.com

Edison Park Lutheran Church 6626 N. Oliphant Avenue Chicago, IL 60631

