



THE PARISH VISITOR

MAY 2021

Edison Lutheran Church

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27-28



Dear People of God,

In the 1998 film "Who Am I?", Jackie Chan plays a secret agent who loses his memory after falling from a helicopter. When he is found and asked what his name is, he responds with "Who Am I?", and that becomes his name for the rest of the movie as he tries to discover his true identity. At one point in this quest, Who-Am-I climbs to the top of the highest point he can find and shouts out dramatically to the world "WHO AM I!?!?", hearing nothing in return except the echo of his own question.

Though it has been 20 years since I've seen it, this scene still sticks with me, because it seems so representative of our modern world. Throughout our lives, our culture expects us to find the answer to that question: "Who am I?" We are expected to take the raw data of who we are (our likes and dislikes, our talents, our personalities) and construct it into a unique and meaningful identity for ourselves. Along the way, we are to take pieces of the various identities on offer (for example: political, ideological, racial, sexual) and adorn ourselves with them, wearing them on our car bumpers, our homes, our clothes, and our social media pages.

To fail to do this, we are told, is to fail to live authentically. If you aren't being yourself, expressing yourself, finding yourself, then how can you say you are really living? And if you find this project of identity to be too burdensome, and you shout out to the world for help, you get the same response that Who-Am-I got: nothing but the echo of your own question. The dogma of modern living is this: only you can define your own identity.

This, however, is the opposite of what we find in scripture. From the beginning of the bible and to its end, we read that it is God, not us, who establishes our identity. It is God alone who creates us. It is God alone who claims us. And it is God alone who judges us. The identities we build for ourselves are nothing more than straw which is burned up on that day when "the fire will test what sort of work each has done." (1 Corinthians 3:13)

God does not leave us alone to see what sort of identity project we can build for ourselves. God does not send us into ourselves to dredge up what we find there. Instead, God gives us an identity, the only one eternally worth having: Jesus Christ, child of God, chosen beloved, in whom God delights. In baptism, the Holy Spirit clothes us in Christ Jesus, making him our one true eternal identity.

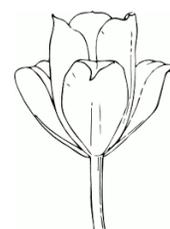
All other identities fade in comparison with this one. No longer must we take the identities the world offers and adorn ourselves with them, for we have been adorned with Christ. In the above quoted Galatians passage, Paul names some of the most important identities of his day (Jew or non-Jew, slave or free, male or female) and proclaims that these identities the world thinks so important "are no longer" because of our new identity in Christ.

While the particular identities being offered today have changed, the basic reality remains the same, that because we have been clothed in Christ, all other identities have lost their importance. Your race, your sexuality, your politics, your work, your birthplace, your citizenship; none of these identities are of ultimate importance. None of these things are who you are at your core. God alone has the right to define you, and God has named you with the identity of Jesus Christ: "My child, my chosen beloved in whom I delight."

Your Brother in Christ,

-Pastor John

Thank you Debbie & Peter Conijn for providing the lovely tulips for the Easter Sunday service.



Edison Lutheran Church Re-Opening Church Survey Results April 2021

The results are in! Sixty-nine folks responded to the survey and here are the results.

The survey indicated that 78% of the congregation have been vaccinated already and that 9% will be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, making our congregation less vulnerable to the Covid-19 bugs.

Regarding the question of how important it is that we meet in the sanctuary by summer, the statistics showed that just over 25% thought it very important for us to meet there sooner than later.

Continuing drive-in worship had a whopping 80% saying no, we don't need to continue with drive-in worship after in sanctuary worship starts up full time.

Offering an online option is very popular and should be continued according to the survey.

And lastly, the survey asked if conditions stay about how they are now, would you attend indoor worship and 45% said they would even with singing, 15% said yes with no singing and 40% were either unsure or said no they wouldn't worship indoors.

For now, taking all this into consideration, we on the reopening committee think it is important for our main Sunday service to continue as drive-in through the Summer along with the Facebook live stream. Plans are also underway to provide some evening services in the sanctuary as a way of tiding us over during the summer months, but we don't have specifics to share yet. This will depend partly on numbers in our county over the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

Drive-In/Livestream Sunday Worship at Edison Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for joining us for worship at drive-in, livestream, and online. The attendance for Sundays in April was great. Drive-in services saw 42 for the Good Friday evening worship and 161 attended the two Easter Sunday services the remaining Sundays of April averaged about 85 at the drive-in services. On-line views of the Sunday services averaged about 25 each week.

Please join us for worship at our regular time of **10:30 a.m.** As you drive into the parking lot, a greeter will hand you a bulletin along with a sealed cup that has grape juice and a small wafer. Children's bulletins are also available. A parking attendant will then direct you to a parking space to ensure proper spacing between vehicles. Tune your **FM radio to 98.7** so you will be able to hear the music and Pastor John as he leads the worship. If the weather is nice, feel free to roll down your windows, so you can hear others singing. We are also livestreaming the service through Facebook Live on our website. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service on our website. We will also have a recording of the service on our website in the afternoon that day. This will be our worship practice for the foreseeable future. If we are not able to host drive-in worship, we will post a notice on our website. Please note that we are constantly looking at when and how to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary. We do have a plan as soon as state and local health department rules allow us to return in-person. We are praying for that day to be soon!

We are looking for volunteers to assist with our Sunday morning drive-in worship services, ***including Lector for the readings***. If you would like to help, we would love to have you. You select the date(s) and duties, we will train you. To volunteer, contact the church office by phone at: (360) 766-6920 or by email: edisonlutheran@live.com



Pastor John's Bible Study -- Mondays at 7 pm

Join Pastor John and others for a weekly Bible Study via Zoom (zoom.us/join).
Weekly text and Zoom link are posted on the church website.

Meeting ID: 859 5506 0430

Passcode: 274209

Women's Bible Study -- Wednesday May 19th at 10 am

Join Linda Larsen for a monthly Bible Study via Zoom (zoom.us/join).
She will be using the current issue of Gather Magazine. Zoom link is on the church website.

Meeting ID: 899 1858 0521

Password: 287649

Thank You for Your Support! You are appreciated!

Drive results for: Pop-Up @ Edison Lutheran Church

100% WAY TO GO!

THANK YOU
Your blood donations helped us meet our goal!

YOUR IMPACT IS HUGE:

- 113** DONORS
- 102** UNITS OF BLOOD COLLECTED
- 4** FIRST TIME DONORS

On April 12th, 13th, 16th, and 17th, your Pop-Up Donation Center registered a total of **113 donors!** We welcomed **4 first-time donors** to the Bloodworks Northwest family, all thanks to you opening up your space. We were able to collect **102 units of whole blood**, which will help patients throughout the Pacific Northwest. The blood donations collected at the blood drive are critical to maintaining a stable blood supply for surgeries, medical emergencies and supporting patients battling life-threatening illnesses like leukemia and other cancers.

New Doors for the Church

New entrance doors have been installed at the church. They are lovely, with a cross in the center of each door.



OUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2020—2021		<i>*Committee Liaison</i>	
Jane Fraser, <i>President</i>	<i>*Worship & Music</i>	Jeanie Hertz	<i>*Social Concerns</i>
Kris Merritt, <i>Vice-President</i>	<i>*Parish Life</i>	Larry Forsythe	<i>Property & Management</i>
Karen Fisher, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>*Evangelism</i>	Bryan Galbraith	<i>*Finance</i>
Brad Wyman, Sr.	<i>*Property & Management</i>	Jerry Sells	<i>*Stewardship/Finance</i>
Gordy Dahl	<i>*Christian Education, Youth</i>	Linda Johnson	<i>Parish Life</i>
Cathy Smith	<i>Worship & Music</i>	Brooke Tyler	<i>*Youth</i>

Last Day of Sunday School: The last day of Sunday School is **May 16th**. See you in September. Have a great summer!



Lutherwood Camp: Registration is open for Bible Camp with overnight stays and onsite Day Camp. Please see their website for more information. www.camplutherwood.org. A reminder that Edison Lutheran helps with the cost for each child. Keep the office informed if you are registering your child for camp this summer.

Sunday School Food Drive: The Sunday School students are having a food drive during the **month of May**. Please bring all non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, and baby products to church. There will be a student to take your donation when you arrive for worship.

Friendship House: Edison Lutheran provides dinner for Friendship House on the **last Monday of every month**. Please contact Katy Olson or the church office for more information.

Thank you notes received

Josephine Caring Community

Thank you for your continued support. Your contributions help benefit our Senior and Child Care Programs. Josephine Caring Community is a Caregiving Community for all Generations. With donations like yours, Josephine Caring Community can continue their vision to be the community of choice where no one is left uncared for. Your continued support means the world to us and those we care for. Thank you!

Jessica Treat, Community Relations Director

Friendship house

Thank you for helping those in need. May God bless you for caring for your neighbors.
Sincerely, *Tina Tate, Executive Director*

Josephine Caring Community

To the members of Edison Lutheran Church, Thanks you for your generous cash donation this Christmas season. With your support we were able to buy craft items to help keep residents engaged and active. We appreciate your gift. *Blessings, Josephine Chaplains*

Local Area Events

Interested in hosting a Foreign High School Student: Burlington Lutheran in conjunction with Aspect Foundation is looking for people who want to open their homes and hearts to a high school student that wants to study in America and learn about us and our great country. For more information visit www.aspectfoundation.org or contact Amber at the Burlington Lutheran Church office at 360-755-0729.



By **Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee**, NWWA Synod

From the May 2021 Edition of *The Spirit*

In the book *Anxious People*, the author, Fredrik Backman, crafts a humorous, poignant, and wise story of a group of people thrown together because of a bank robbery. But the bank robbery is the least interesting part of the book. The characters, who seem flighty and weird and strange or just unlikeable at the beginning of the book, change into complex humans with such rich inner lives that you love each of them by the end of the story. This was one book that I was sad to see end because I wanted to continue with each character in their journey.

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people that surrounded Jesus that we get to know in the Gospels. These men and women who leave everything to follow Jesus – and who end up leaving Jesus after his arrest – only to once again connect with Jesus after his death and resurrection – are (we must admit) flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable.

Thomas who is skeptical throughout the Jesus story and who won't recognize Jesus until seeing his wounds.

Mary Magdalene who can't recognize Jesus until he calls her by her name.

The disciples locked in a room, afraid to go out, and finally just going back to fishing until Jesus shows up once again.

I mean, ask yourself:

Would we really have wanted John the Baptist over for a barbecue?

Would we really have accepted a woman who washed Jesus' feet as being justified when she extravagantly wasted an expensive bottle of perfume?

Would we have embraced the woman who bled for over a decade and invited her to our book club even after she assured us that she was cured and clean?

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people around me – on the news, on social media, in my neighborhood – and how I have judged them based on a very superficial understanding of who they are and what makes up their story. I call them ignorant or lazy, bigoted or uncaring, dirty or smelly or unclean in some way.

But as I continue to reflect on Backman's compelling story of seven "idiots" (as he calls them), and, as I continue to reflect on Holy Week, (even though it is now way past Holy Week), I see Jesus kneeling down and washing feet. I hear Jesus saying, "Peace be with you." I experience Jesus embracing disciples on a beach, offering them fish, and saying, "Feed my sheep." Loving and caring and forgiving – even though these humans are flighty, weird, strange and, at times, unlikeable.

None of us are Jesus. None of us can embrace the other as Jesus did. And yet, we are called, as sinners and as beloved children of God, to hear another's story. To listen. To reflect. To forgive. To ask for forgiveness. To engage. To be silent when needed and speak when necessary.

For my part, I repent. I repent for my judgment, for my verdict that I render without knowing the complexity of another's story, for my blindness to my complicity, for my withholding forgiveness in the name of self-righteousness, for my refusing to acknowledge my need for forgiveness, and for my judgment on who God loves and who God does not love (because, as I have been taught, if God only loves those I love, than I have remade God in my image).

So I ask you, dear Beloveds of NWWA Synod, with all of your stories, how may your stories be joined into the One Story? How may your hearts be open to the flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable (but always God's beloved) people that we are called to love? What are your thoughts, feelings, explorations, attempts, experiments? I'd love to hear how you are living into God's Holy Community of love, grace, compassion, justice and peace.

As for you, you are called. By name. Embraced, loved, and cherished – in all your flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable ways. And always, always, God's beloved.

+ *Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*

Northwest Washington Synod Event

Hunger Team: Are you interesting in finding solutions for hunger in the US and around the world? Then you should join us for our monthly meeting via Zoom **Tuesday, May 11th** at 7:00 pm. Find more information on our website, www.lutheransnw.org or contact the Edison Lutheran Church office.

Are You Smarter Than a Confirmation Student? Below is a question that our Confirmation Students have learned the answer to...Can you answer it?

How many Sacraments are there in the Lutheran Religion? Can you name them? page 11.

CARE TEAM. We encourage you to write a note to one of our congregation listed below. We have a number of Edison Lutheran members who are living alone or in care centers. In this COVID time, many of these people can no longer have visitors. It's been a full year since our church Care Team members have been able to visit these people. Please send them a card. Everyone likes getting mail and knowing that others are thinking of them. Something in their mail can really brighten their day.

Thank you.

Roberta DeMarre
1300 "O" Ave. Apt. 107
Anacortes, WA 98221

Judy Eitreim
14472 W Bow Hill Rd.
Bow, WA 98232

Irmtraud Gaertner
6903 Worline Rd
Bow, WA 98232

Anne Myers
14389 W Bow Hill Rd.
Bow, WA 98232

Arlene Omdal
1501 Collins Rd.
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Charlotte Steiner
Lighthouse memory Care
3502 K Ave
Anacortes, WA 98221

Wanda Peterson
7048 Worline Rd
Bow, WA 98232

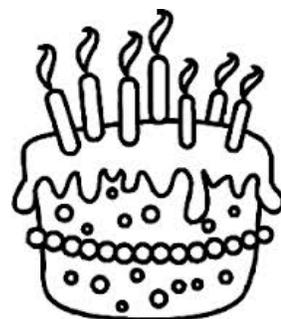
Ruth Sexton
1810 E Division Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Joyce Splane
13065 Marihugh Rd.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Thank you for making our congregation stronger!



5/1	Paxton Booth
5/1	Arlene Omdal
5/2	Irmtraud Gaertner
5/3	Tom Sheahan
5/7	Deanna Anderson
5/8	Liz Wallace
5/12	Tom Perry
5/14	Jane Fraser
5/16	Mandy Englund
5/17	Rondi Peth
5/18	Judy Sheahan
5/24	Brady Conijn
5/29	Daisy Galbraith
5/29	Jenifer Troxel
5/29	Marion Hoag



Parish Life Spring Dessert Fundraiser

Orders received by Monday 5/3 will be available for pick-up the following Sunday, May 9 after the drive-in worship service. Items are shown with minimum price. There may be limited availability on some items. Pick-up and payment Sunday after worship in front of the Fellowship Hall steps. (No-contact delivery could be arranged).

Contact Kris Merritt to place your order: Phone: 360-420-0261 (call or text), turn in Order Form after church on Sunday, or Email: 2granddaughtergrandma@gmail.com

Sunday May 9th (Mother's Day)	
Mother's Day Sugar Cookies (3-pack) \$5	Marionberry Mini Pie \$3
Frozen Blackberry Turnover (2-pack) \$5	Pie Cookies \$3 each
Monster Cookies \$1 each	Rhubarb Crisp \$6

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Dessert Date	Item Name	Quantity	Cost



All proceeds from the sales will go to the Social Concerns Committee to help out Helping Hands Food Bank and other places in our area that need help in these trying times. All donations will be accepted. If you'd like to donate and don't want sweets around your house, you may buy an item and pass it on. We are looking forward to helping our neighbors who can use a boost right now.

Prayer Requests



Remember in your Prayers: We pray for the family of **Gerald Slind**. We also pray for **Vic Jensen, Anne Myers, Jerry D. Anderson, Clay Marsh, Jerry Handlos, Bridget Pratt Luvera** (cousin of Darla Jensen's children), **Gary Englund** (father of Alex), **Jim Lindstrom** (Terri Olsen's brother), **Nancy Workman & Joanie Hirt** (cousins of Kris Merritt), **Jim Forbes** (Debbie Conijn's step-father), **Alice Brisbin, Judy Eitreim, Steven Dahl, Barry Christensen, Hank, Chris Isaacson, Taylor Isaacson, Edith Nichols**, and the ministry of **El Camino de Emaús Congregation**.

The Homebound: **Arlene Omdal, Charlotte Steiner, Roberta DeMarre, Ruth Sexton, and Wanda Peterson.**

Those in the Military: **Dustin and Rocio King.**

Please keep the church office current on your loved ones who are (or need to be) named on our prayer list. Office: 360-766-6920 Email: edisonlutheran@live.com

Serving in Worship - May

Date	Parking	Greeters	Lector	Bell Ringer	Council Member of the Day
2 May	Mark Johnson/Al Fredrickson	Cathy Smith/Jane Fraser Laura Engebretsen	Mark	Al	Kris Merritt
9 May	Chris Omdal/Bryan Galbraith	Cathy Smith/Sara Omdal RuthAnne Pocock	Chris	Bryan	Jane Fraser
16 May	Jon & Susie Aarstad	Terri Olsen/Susie Forsythe Jane Fraser	Cathy	Jon	Cathy Smith
23 May	Keith & Christie Peterson	Terri Olsen/Cathy Smith Jane Fraser		Keith	Larry Forsythe
30 May	Bryan Galbraith/Chris Omdal	Debbie Conijn/Jane Fraser		Bryan	Jeanie Hertz

We are looking for volunteers to assist with our Sunday morning drive-in worship services, **including Lectors for the readings**. If you would like to help, we would love to have you. You select the date(s) and duties, we will train you.

To volunteer, contact the church office by phone at: (360) 766-6920 or by email: edisonlutheran@live.com

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 <i>Easter 4</i> 9:00 a Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	26 7:00 p Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom 5:00 p Friendship House Meal	27	28	29	30	1
2 <i>Easter 5</i> 9:00 a Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	3 7:00 p Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom 7:30 p Property & Management	4	5 4:30 p Worship & Music Committee	6	7	8
9 <i>Easter 6</i> 9:00 a Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	10 7:00 p Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom	11 7:00 p Council via Zoom	12	13 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i>	14	15
16 <i>Easter 7</i> 9:00 a Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	17 7:00 p Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom	18	19 10:00 a Women's Bible Study via Zoom	20	21	22
23 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	24 7:00 p Pastor's Bible Study via Zoom	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26	27	28	29
30 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 10:30 a Drive-in Worship	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> 5:00 p Friendship House Meal					

To join any Zoom meeting by smartphone/tablet/computer:

Go to zoom.us/join and enter the appropriate meeting ID and Password. It may ask you to download and install the app. (See page 3 for Bible study ID and Passwords.)

To join any Zoom meeting by phone (audio only):

Call (253) 215-8782 and enter the appropriate meeting ID and Password. Long distance charges may apply. (See page 3 for Bible study ID and Passwords.)

Smarter Than A Confirmation Student from page 7:

We have two Sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion.



Monthly Newsletter of
Edison Lutheran Church
14201 Church Road
Bow, WA 98232

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 3
Bow, WA



May 2021

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming...Nurturing...Serving

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sunday School 9:00 am Sundays via zoom

Drive-in Worship 10:30 am Sundays

Livestream and Recorded online

at

www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

Please Join Us

All Are Welcome

Church Office:
phone: 360-766-6920
email: edisonlutheran@live.com
website: www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

Pastor John Guthridge
360-218-4131
pastor.guthridge@outlook.com