

Dear People of Eden,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with God's grace. I am excited to walk alongside you as your administrative pastor. Together, we are entering a transitional space as we seek what is next in our faith journey.

However, transitions are hard. We grieve what was lost, and we get anxious about the future. But transitions are necessary for all those "who walk by faith and not by sight." "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind" (Philippians 3:12-14).

My name is Lon Hider. I am a recently retired ELCA pastor, thrilled to rejoin this wonderful community. Your church got me started several years ago under Pastor Ann.

You helped me transition from being an evangelical pastor to a rostered ELCA pastor.

In your season of transition, my role as an administrative pastor has three components:

1. Provide pulpit supply (I will do most of that myself).
2. Ensure pastoral care (either myself or others).
3. Consult the council (be a resource in this transitional space).

I am a Yooper who has pastored seven Yooper churches, including one in Manistique in the 1980s. I recently retired as the pastor of Christ the King in Escanaba. Christ has been my guiding light, and I am eager to share His love and grace with all of you.

I am grateful for this opportunity to see where the Spirit will take us. I look forward to getting to know my traveling companions. May our hearts be united in love for God and one another as we journey together in faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Lon