

LIFE IN EDEN



A Letter From The Vicar

Dear Church Family,

I have decided to share a moment I recently experienced as I prayed before receiving Holy Communion, along with the thoughts I had as I considered it. Days after this experience, I felt compelled to write about it and submitted the piece to the Beacon as my next From the Pulpit article. Years before I became the person offering Holy Communion, I would approach the altar to receive Communion, praying for God to empty me so that I may be filled with the Holy Spirit. This was actually an imperfect prayer. I wasn't ready to surrender. So, I

often negotiated, adding a “but” or two. “Empty me so others may see Christ through me, but please let me still be funny.” Or, “But, I still might swear.” There were lots of buts. Eventually, I surrendered, ready to give up whatever had to be stripped away so that God could use me for God’s purpose. I still pray before I receive Communion. The prayer is often the same: “Help me to surrender myself so I may be filled with the Holy Spirit.” I pray not to get in the way of God’s work and that my faults do not get in the way of someone seeing God’s love. A week or so ago, I approached the altar feeling overwhelmed and heavy-hearted. Before I took the bread, I asked that God would bring me joy. And as quick as a flash, I thought of Jesus’ first

Have something you would like featured in a newsletter?

Reach out to Stephanie by the 20th of the month with info!



May 16th is the Walk & Talk event to bring awareness to mental health. This is a great way to show solidarity with our friends struggling with mental health. To register, call 906-387-0701 or email bsyers@mmhos.org.



Scripture **Readings for** **May 2026**

May 2 & 3

Acts 7:55-60

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 9 & 10

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 16 & 17

Acts 1:6-14

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 23 & 24

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

May 30 & 31

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

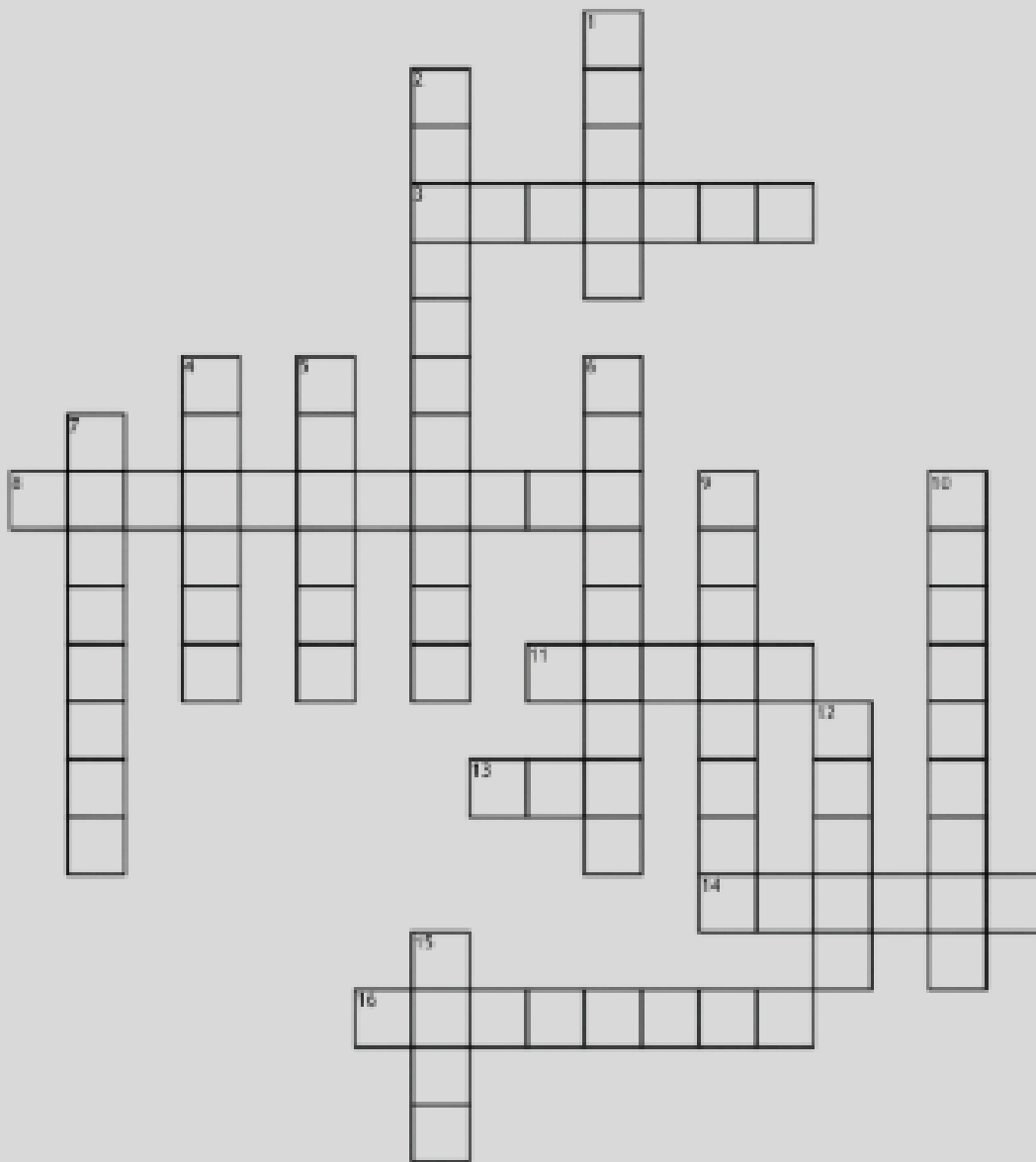
disciples. The people who were the closest to the living Jesus were rarely filled with joy. They were often confused about their mission; they gave up everything to follow Jesus, and that often led them into difficult situations. My quick prayer at the Communion table made me wonder what it means to follow Jesus today. Too often, Christianity is advertised as a path to happiness and ease. I saw this early on in the faces of Christian women that I admire. I admit that I wanted that and began attending church to hear the Gospel and to wear the smiles and peace their faces showed. As I moved further into my faith journey, I found something else. I found that following Jesus doesn't always bring joy. Following Jesus means work: letting go of prejudices you don't even know you carry and questioning all that you have believed to see if it aligns with Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus is not easy. If you are doing it right, it means surrendering yourself, without any "buts." It means being generous with your time, talents and finances to people in need, without judging them. Following Jesus has broken my heart as I have sat with dying people and walked with

with families in grief. Following Jesus has meant giving up what I wanted for what I am called to do. Following Jesus has meant I have had to be more mindful of my words and actions, more open to people whose lives I don't understand, and find ways to love people I don't like. Even the best Jesus follower doesn't like everyone, but still loves them. All of this, and I wouldn't change a thing except to follow Jesus more faithfully earlier in life. Because, despite all the work and surrender that comes with following Jesus, there is peace and joy. But God's peace and joy look different from what I imagined. God's peace and joy look like confidence and security—not because I have mastered surrender, but because I trust the One who is still teaching me how. So, come to the table. Come with your faith, your doubts, your "buts," and your burdens. Christ meets you there, too. God's peace and love,

Vicar Elaine



Mothers of the Bible



Across

3. Naomi and Ruth were also?

8. What was Lois?

11. Ruth was great grandmother to who?

13. Who is the mother of all living?

14. God hears our ? as well as our words

16. Where was Mary from?

Down

1. Timothy's father was a ?

2. Naomi was ? to Ruth

4. Timothy's mother's name was?

5. Who did Hannah leave with the priest Eli?

6. Mary was a tender ?

7. Hannah's name means what?

9. Elkanah's second wife

10. Who did Mary visit after she found out her pregnancy?

12. Who tempted Eve in the garden?

15. Oldest son of Adam and Eve



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

Tea Time!



Birthstone for May is Emerald.

The flower is Lily of the Valley.

05/02: Beryl Davis

05/08: Todd Brock

05/08: Violet Dennis

05/09: Stanley

Jefferson

05/10: Matthew

Mattson

05/13: Alex Paquette

05/21: Paula Brock

05/24: Madeline

Cole

05/26: Madeline

Cole

05/29: John Cromell

05/30: Bryan

Burkhalter

The Women's Tea at the Methodist Church was a truly lovely gathering filled with warmth, laughter, and meaningful connection. Tables were beautifully set, teacups in hand, as friends—old and new—came together to share stories and enjoy a peaceful afternoon.

From delicious treats to heartfelt conversations, the event created a space where everyone felt welcome and encouraged.

A special thank-you goes out to all who helped organize and host such a charming occasion—it was a wonderful reminder of the joy found in community and fellowship. We're already looking forward to the next one!



May Focus: Growth, Joy & New Life

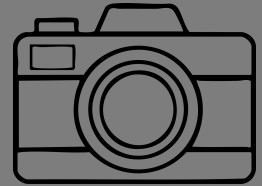
As we step into May, we are surrounded by reminders of new life—flowers blooming, trees budding, and longer, brighter days. This season invites us to reflect on the growth happening not only around us, but within us. Just as creation is renewed, we are reminded of the new life we have in Christ and the ongoing work He is doing in our hearts.

May is a time to embrace joy, to live with gratitude, and to continue growing in faith. Whether through time in prayer, serving others, or simply noticing God's presence in everyday moments, we are called to flourish where we are planted.

As it says in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

Let this month be a reminder to lean into God's promises, trust His timing, and celebrate the beauty of new beginnings.

Women Who Lead With Faith



Scan to give!

Through your gifts,
we are able to
continue the work
God has called us to
—welcoming all,
growing in faith, and
caring for those in
need.

Thank you for being
part of what God is
doing through Eden.



**PASTOR ELLIE, VICAR ELAINE, AND PASTOR
ANN**

04/12/2026

PRIDE FEST

Saturday, June 13th

**PLEASE LET VICAR
ELAINE KNOW IF YOU
ARE ABLE TO
VOLUNTEER YOUR
TIME THAT DAY.**

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meeting

April 19, 2026

Members present: Vicar Elaine Robbins, Norma Dick, Ryan Graves, Donna LeRoy, Kaye Methot, Lynn DeRoche, and Jean Hayes. Absent: Bruce Dausey.

Meeting was called to order by president Ryan Graves.

Opening Devotions were from a workshop for Working Together while navigating a changing Ministry Landscape. The first part of this was discussed, we will do this in 3 different parts.

Lynn made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as presented, 2nd by Ryan, motion carried.

Review and approval of Financial Reports was tabled until next meeting with a new format of the reports.

It was asked how our new custodian was doing? He is doing a great job.

Vicar Elaine's report was reviewed.

The synod offered a class on Equipping the Council: Donna LeRoy, Lynn DeRoche, Brandalyn Decet, Stephanie LaFolle, and Vicar Elaine attended by zoom.

Because of issues with cancellations being posted on TV6, Stephanie has enrolled us in their new online portal so we can post cancellations ourselves. Cancellations will also be posted on our website homepage.

Upcoming Church Events:

Fish Fry? Ryan will check on this and it will be decided at our May meeting.

'UP Pride Fest – June 13th Saturday – Kaye made a motion that we give \$150.00 Lynn 2nd this with monies coming out of the Evangelism & Hospitality line item. Norma will make a Banner and Tablecloth. We need more help with this on that day.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting May 17th, 2026

Eden Evangelical Church

May 2026

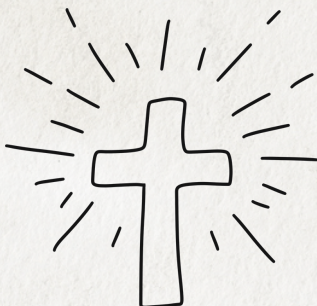
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28 10:30 a.m. Worship	29	30 10 a.m. prayer group	1 Office open 9-1 Vicar Elaine in office 10-2	2 11:00 a.m. Bible study	1 Office open 9-1	2 4 p.m. Worship
3 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Easter</i>	4	5 10 a.m. prayer group	6 Office open 9-1 Vicar Elaine in office 10-2	7 10 a.m. quilting	8 Office open 9-1	9 4 p.m. Worship
10 10:30 a.m. Worship Council meeting	11	12 10 a.m. prayer group	13 Office open 9-1 Vicar Elaine in office 10-2	14 1-3 p.m. & 4-6 p.m. Free Store 11:00 a.m. Bible Study	15 Office open 9-1	16 4 p.m. Worship
17 10:30 a.m. Worship	18	19 10 a.m. prayer group	20 Office open 9-1 Vicar Elaine in office 10-2	21 11:00 a.m. Bible study	22 Office open 9-1	23 4 p.m. Worship
24 10:30 a.m. Worship 31	25	26 10 a.m. prayer group	27 Office open 9-1 Vicar Elaine in office 10-2	28 11:00 a.m. Bible study	29 Office open 9-1	30 4 p.m. Worship

Free Store (third Thursday):

Open 1-3 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

Bible study (every Thursday besides the second Thursday):

11:00 a.m.



Please note: Office hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 1.

Vicar Elaine is in on Wednesdays from 10 to 2.

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship Services:

4 p.m. Saturday

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Physical address: 1150 West M-28, Munising, MI 49862

Mailing address: P.O. Box 360, Munising MI 49862

906-387-2520

www.edenonthebay.org

eden@jamadots.com

Office Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays, 9-1

Elaine Robbins, Vicar

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PastorOfEden@gmail.com

906-450-3344

Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable Clerk: Stephanie LaFoilie

Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Brandalyn Decet

Maintenance: John Cromell

Custodian: Emily Cook

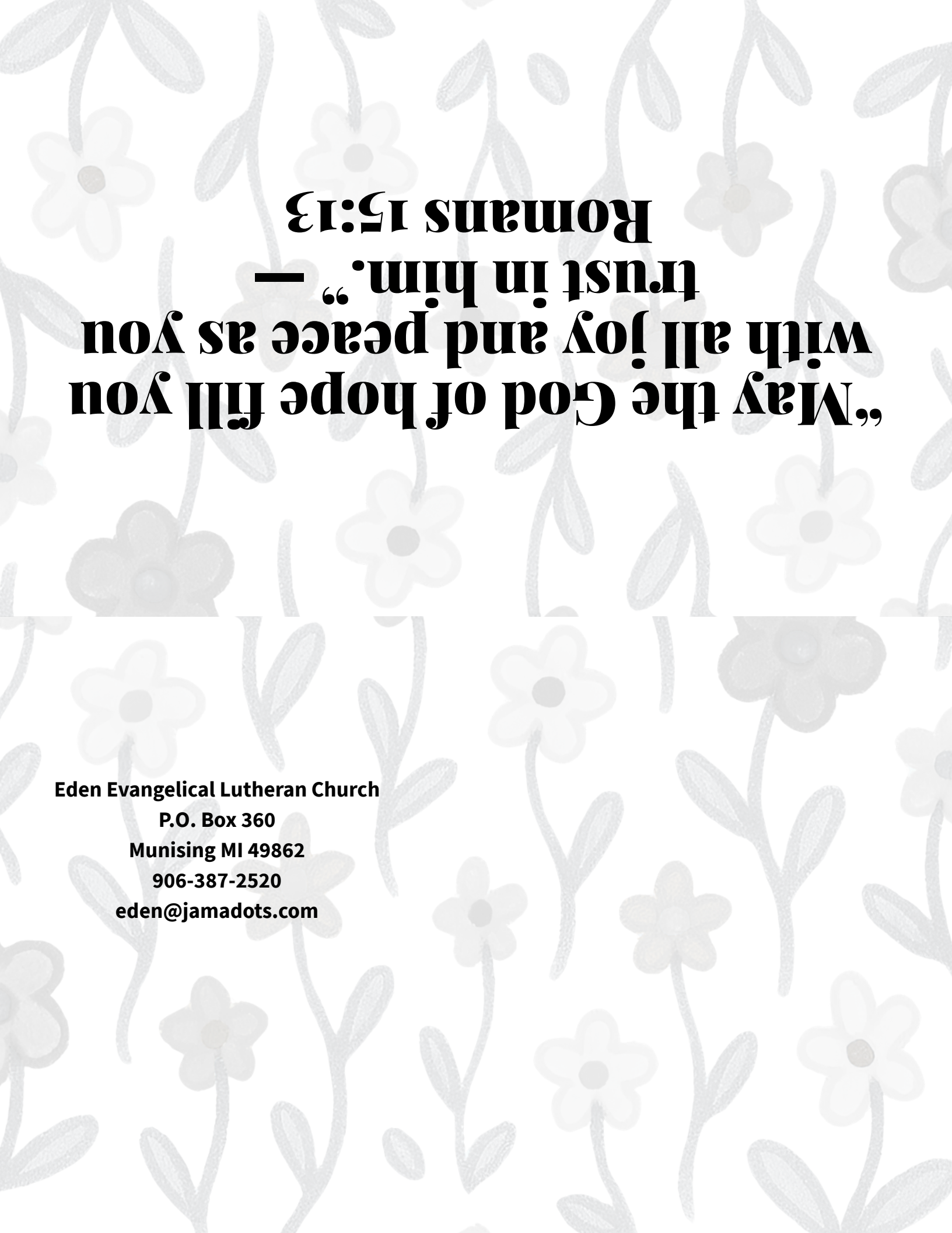
Website Administrator: Lyon Wood

The Congregational Council generally meets on the second Sunday of each month, after worship. All Eden members are welcome to attend.

Serving through 2026: Bruce Dausey, Norma Dick, Jean Hayes, Kaye Methot



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light gray flowers and leaves. The flowers are simple, five-petaled shapes with a central dot, and the leaves are elongated and pointed. The pattern is scattered across the white background.

**“May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace as you
trust in him.” —
Romans 15:13**

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 360

Munising MI 49862

906-387-2520

eden@jamadots.com