

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
August 2024



From the Pulpit

Rethinking Prayer: Insights from the “Our Father”

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*

Dr. Lon Hider

Last time, we began a series on the most recognized prayer in the world: "Our Father who art in heaven..." - the Lord's prayer.

Jesus gave it to his disciples in response to their question, "Lord, teach us to pray." But they were not first graders asking their teacher to teach them to read. They filled their lives with prayer, much more than most of us. They wouldn't need a lesson on prayer any more than a short-order cook needed a lesson on scrambled eggs.

What sparked their inquiry? It was the way Jesus prayed that challenged their preconceptions about prayer. In the world of Jesus, two distinct approaches to prayer prevailed. The Gentiles prayed with persistence, while the Jews prayed with performance. Christ points out the problem with both these approaches (Matthew 6:5-7).

Persistence and performance are not bad. But these perspectives say something about our view of God. Christ came to get us to explore how we see God. Does God need persistence and performance to answer our prayers? If so, then we picture God in transactional terms.

I dare say that many Christians see God in transactional terms. If we're persistent and "perform" the rules, God will reward us. If not, then God will punish us for our own good. But it begs the question, "Is God transactional?" Is prayer (or faith) like the line at the secretary of state? Will the reward we seek only happen if we stay in line as long as it takes and have our papers in order? Is repeating the Lord's prayer and saying it right with a clean heart the key to God answering our prayers?

What if Jesus came to reveal a different aspect of God? A God who is ever ready to bless us, regardless of our performance or persistence? This is the God of unconditional love, a love that transcends our actions and is always present, always comforting, and always reassuring.

Many times, I have stood by the bedside of someone in their final moments, surrounded by loved ones. In those sacred moments, we recite the Lord's prayer together, and tears would flow. We did not expect something in return. Instead, we felt God's presence.

God is always with us. ***This is the true reward of prayer***, the intimate connection with God in the highs and lows of life. No amount of persistence or performance can compare to this experience. Our God holds us in unwavering affection.

Serving in August 2024

| Date | Assisting Minister | Ushers | Fellowship Hosts |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Captain | | | |
| Saturday, August 3 | George Balko | Dave and Carol E. | |
| Sunday, August 4 | Joanie Hinsa | | Elaine and Harry Robbins |
| Saturday, August 10 | Brenda St. Martin | Dave and Carol E. | |
| Sunday, August 11 | | Joanie Hinsa | Bonnie Bernard & Jean Hayes |
| Saturday, August 17 | George Balko | Dave and Carol E. | |
| Sunday, August 18 | | | Lynn DeRoche |
| Saturday, August 24 | George Balko | Dave and Carol E. | |
| Sunday, August 25 | | | Billie Lindquist |
| Saturday, August 31 | George Balko | | |
| Altar Guild August 3-4 – Norma Dick August 10-18 – Joanie Hinsa August 24-31 – Brenda St. Martin | | | |
| Flower sponsor for August – needed. Flower sponsorship is \$30 a month. Your gift may be placed in the offering with a notation for flowers and your selected month. | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Serving in the Congregation during Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Captains recruit people to help with worship.</p> <p>Please consider volunteering on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings to usher, read lessons and prayers, assist with communion distribution, host fellowship, and even play music selections using the instrument of your choice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you!</i></p> | | | |

Happy Birthday!

8/02 Karlee Decet
8/03 Kelsey Brock
8/03 Karianna Virta
8/04 Brittany Brock
8/04 Via Ouellette-Ballas
8/07 John Nelson
8/10 Kelsea (Ackerman)
Vruggink
8/10 Marissa (Ackerman)
Graves
8/10 Matthew Lindquist
8/11 Riley Murk
8/12 Lynn DeRoche
8/17 Noel Mahoski
8/22 Patrice Evans
8/24 Ian Albright
8/25 Babe Stimac
8/26 Helen Mattson
8/28 Connor Nelson
8/28 Jack Nelson
8/28 Doris Ritter
8/31 John Evans

AUGUST



GLADIOLUS

Thank you and Updates

Dear Eden church family,

Thank you so much for the pretty flowers sent to me for my birthday.

They really brightened up the day.

Arlene Elavsky

Thank you to all for your gifts to *World Hunger* during the fellowship after Sunday worship.

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships were given to five Eden members earlier this year. Congratulations to Madeline Cole, Matthew Lindquist, Lori Mattson, Alex VanZandt, and Alexis Walther.

Feeding America, August 7

This food distribution (usually the first Wednesday of the month) happens in Eden's parking lot, noon to 2 p.m. Volunteers are welcome.

Free Store, August 15

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

Eden's **book club** is on hiatus for the summer months (third Wednesday of the month).

The **quilters** are taking a summer break, returning in September (usually the second Thursday of each month).

The **Wednesday morning prayer group** is also on break. Watch for its return after summertime.

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting
June 15, 2024

Present: Pastor - Lon Hider, President - Nathaniel Wood, Vice President - Jean Hayes, Secretary - Jennifer Wood, Lynn DeRoche, Ryan Graves

Nathaniel Wood called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Opening devotion: Nathaniel opened with the Lord's Prayer

Additions to the Agenda:

Lawn mower - New Business

Prayer request process – Old business

Recordable church events - New Business

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting

Minutes: Nathaniel entertains a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Lynn motions, Ryan seconds. All in favor - Motion carried.

Review and Approval of Financial Reports from Previous Meeting: Ryan entertains a motion to approve the financial report, Jean makes a motion, Nathaniel seconds. All in favor - Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: No pastor's report.

Old Business:

Death Benefit Claim, Athene Annuity & Life Company, Pastor Leslie Niemi - necessary document received and the claim was filed.

LMAS Agreement with Eden - requests three points of contact in case of an emergency. Council decides to offer one volunteer number in case of emergency and not three. Lynn offers to be one contact. Nathaniel entertains a motion to approve LMAS memorandum of understanding and we appoint Lynn as the point of contact. Ryan seconds, all in favor - motion carries.

Letter to Matthew Tulla - Ryan will make corrections, Nathaniel will give it to Matt.

2023 Audit Report for Free Store - audit is complete.

Prayer list updating process - a prayer process was presented with recommendations that it is published in the bulletin and the council agrees.

New Business:

New lawn mower - an estimate for lawn care for the season from Trudgeon Landscaping for \$1,680 and approved by the property committee was presented. Discussion followed. Nathaniel entertains a motion to accept the estimate, Ryan makes a motion, Lynn seconds, all in favor - motion carried.

Employee Job descriptions - missing job descriptions are web administrator and musician. Lynn volunteers to work with the web administrator and musician to write job descriptions.

Mail items – Alger Baby Closet - Council decided to share this information with the congregation and at the free store.

Recordable events – ex. baptisms, confirmations, weddings etc. Council discussed and concluded that these events should be added in the minutes. 2024 Confirmands: Lena Wood, Braylin Calhoun, and Tray Mattson (May 19, 2024) Weddings: Matt Tulla (May 10, 2024) Funerals: Pastor Leslie Niemi (June 10, 2024) “Significant Church Events” should be added to the agenda moving forward. Council agreed.

Meeting adjourned, 3:45 PM. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

Financial Snapshot

(as of 07/29/2024)

Income: \$7,948.46 YTD \$67,981.16

Expense: \$5,950.82 YTD \$60,264.30

Financial Notes

Net Income for the first six months of 2024 was \$5,719.22. (Eden's fiscal year is the calendar year.)

Savings have been gained by less snow plowing charges, changes in the water bill, and less pastoral expenses.

Special Offerings

The *Alger Community Food Pantry* received \$165.50. This was half of the gifts received during Lenten weekday services held at Eden.

Donations (primarily gathered around Christmas time) for *ELCA Good Gifts* have totaled \$125. For more information, please visit goodgifts.elca.org/

The *Get-Away Drop-in Center* received \$89 from contributions to the first quarter 'Feed the Pig' endeavor.

Gifts gathered through the *annual fish fry* were \$451. This amount does not include expenses incurred by the event.

| Free Store | Income | Expenses |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| | | |
| 2023 | | |
| July | \$96.77 | |
| August | \$363.25 | |
| September | \$31.43 | |
| October | \$212.50 | |
| November | \$245.00 | |
| December | \$210.00 | \$556.62 |
| 2023 totals | \$1,158.95 | \$556.62 |
| | | |
| Balance 01-01-24 | | \$602.33 |
| | | |
| 2024 | | |
| January | \$0.00 | \$410.91 |
| February | \$313.74 | \$203.15 |
| March | \$1,829.84 | \$211.85 |
| 1st quarter totals | \$2,143.58 | \$825.91 |
| | | |
| Balance 3-31-24 | | \$1,920.00 |
| | | |
| April | \$70.00 | \$73.00 |
| May | \$150.00 | \$469.25 |
| June | \$226.00 | \$239.09 |
| 2nd quarter totals | \$446.00 | \$781.34 |
| | | |
| Balance 6-30-24 | | \$1,584.66 |

Free Store Notes

Dollar amounts do not reflect material donations.

The Free Store received \$547 from the Lenten Soup and Service offering in 2024.

Bethany Lutheran Church (Escanaba) gifted \$1,187.84 in March 2024.

Scripture Readings for August

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| August 4 | Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 | Psalms 78:23-29 | Ephesians 4:1-16 | John 6:24-35 |
| <i>The Lord gives manna in the wilderness.</i> | | | | |
| August 11 | 1 Kings 19:4-8 | Psalms 34:1-8 | Ephesians 4:25-5:2 | John 6:35, 41-51 |
| <i>Taste and see that the Lord is good.</i> | | | | |
| August 18 | Proverbs 9:1-6 | Psalms 34:9-14 | Ephesians 5:15-20 | John 6:51-58 |
| <i>Invited to dine at wisdom's feast.</i> | | | | |
| August 25 | Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 | Psalms 34:15-22 | Ephesians 6:10-20 | John 6:56-69 |
| <i>Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord.</i> | | | | |

July 19, 2024

Dear People of Eden Lutheran in Munising;

Thank you so much for your financial support of the work of Christ that we do together. This year, as we focus on planting seeds of faith, your Mission Support has contributed to the faith formation of NGLS youth attending the National Gathering, Lifelong Faith Formation of people across our synod, and Lutheran Campus Ministry that plants seeds of faith in young adults – to name a few.

Thank you for your designated gifts received since January;

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1/17/24 – World Hunger - \$14.00 | 2/05/24 – World Hunger - \$13.50 |
| 3/14/24 – World Hunger - \$14.12 | 4/01/24 – World Hunger - \$13.00 |
| 5/10/24 – World Hunger - \$64.00 | 6/03/24 – World Hunger - \$29.77 |
| 7/01/24 – World Hunger - \$15.00 | |

With all due respect to the Apostle Paul, it is now WE who are planting ... together, making possible what each of us cannot do alone.

Thank you for your partnership!
Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

Balance - \$3,298.51

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance - \$16,025.60

In Memory Of

REV. LESLIE NIEMI

Tom & Brenda St. Martin

Jean Hayes

Gary & Karen Derwin

George & Anne Balko

Richard & Trudy Fedderson

James & Debra Perttula

Gregory Perttula

In Memory Of

MARLENE ROBBINS

George & Anne Balko

Joanie Hinsa

Claudia & Pepper VanLandschoot

Harry & Ruth Lindquist

Tom & Brenda St. Martin

Jean Hayes

Lynn DeRoche

Pauline Elavsky

In Memory Of

NAN TAUBE

Tom & Brenda St. Martin

Jean Hayes

Soup and Service

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*

Marion Luckey, St. John's Episcopal Church

April 12, 2024

Each year for the past 12 years (except during Covid) the Munising Ecumenical Team has offered a "Soup and Service" event on the first five Wednesdays of Lent and Good Friday and Easter Vigil services during Holy week. All were open to the entire community. Each year one or two community service organizations are selected to receive the free will offerings from those events. This year The Alger Community Food Pantry and Eden on the Bay Free store were selected recipients of the offerings. \$1094.00 was raised in spite of two of the "Soup and Service" events being canceled due to uncooperative weather. The offering was shared equally. We are thankful for the community churches who cooperated in providing the suppers and services as well as the generosity of those who attended.

The Ecumenical Team is a group of Christian Churches in the Munising area who cooperate to bring people of faith together for worship and activities and to try to address community needs. The churches presently involved are Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church. Lay and clergy members meet about eight times a year to share and plan events. All area churches are invited to join and everyone is invited to participate in the activities offered. For more information contact any of the participating churches.

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship Services
5 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: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dr. Lon Hider, Administrative Interim Pastor
lonhider@gmail.com
906-450-3258

Secretary and Financial Secretary: Terry Kolbus
Treasurer: Ruth Lindquist
Maintenance: John Cromell
Custodian: Emily Cook

The Congregational Council generally meets on the second Sunday of each month, after worship.
Serving through 2024: Lynn DeRoche, Jean Hayes, Vice President; Elaine Robbins, Nathaniel Wood, President
Serving through 2025: Ryan Graves, Brenda St. Martin, Jennifer Wood, Secretary



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



August 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 9-2 Office Open | 3 5 p.m. Worship |
| 4 10:30 a.m. Worship | 5 9-2 Office Open | 6 | 7 9-2 Office Open 12-2 p.m. Feeding America | 8 | 9 9-2 Office Open | 10 5 p.m. Worship |
| 11 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg | 12 9-2 Office Open | 13 | 14 9-2 Office Open | 15 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m. | 16 9-2 Office Open | 17 5 p.m. Worship <i>Mannisto Wedding</i> |
| 18 10:30 a.m. Worship | 19 9-2 Office Open | 20 | 21 9-2 Office Open | 22 | 24 9-2 Office Open | 25 5 p.m. Worship |
| 26 10:30 a.m. Worship | 27 9-2 Office Open | 28 | 29 9-2 Office Open | 30 | 31 9-2 Office Open | |



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