

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
May 2024



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

Festival of Pentecost May 19-20

In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing Himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many ELCA worshipers wear red on the festival of Pentecost, recalling the red of the flames of the Holy Spirit.

The **Rev. Katherine A. Finegan**, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, will preside at Eden on Pentecost.

The Sunday service will include Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) and Graduate Recognition.

This year's confirmands are Braylin Calhoun, Trey Mattson, and Lena Wood.

Graduates include Cody Lincoln, Blake Walther, and Lyon Wood.

Please join in congratulating these young people on this milestone in their lives.

Our Heartful Sympathy

To the family and friends of Marlene Robbins, who passed away on April 24. Her visitation and memorial service are tentatively planned for June 22, here at Eden.

Refreshing the Prayer List

Pentecost seems an appropriate time to refresh Eden's Prayer List, as published in the weekly worship bulletin.

A half-page form is available in the narthex to add people to the Prayer List.

Names may also be emailed to the office at eden@jamadots.com. Please include your name, their name, and the duration to remain on the Prayer List. Thank you.

Annual Fish Fry

Sunday, June 2, following worship

It takes many hands to pull off this event. Organizers, supply and fish buyers, fish cleaners, fish fryers, kitchen help (before, during, and after). Salad, side dish, dessert, beverage, and condiment suppliers are needed also.

Please make your plans and sign up to now help and bring needed items. Sign up sheet is out. Thank you.

Minimum suggested donation is \$10 each.

Our Heartful Sympathy

To the family and friends of the Rev. Leslie E. Niemi, who passed away on January 22. Pastor Niemi's visitation and memorial service is tentatively planned for June 10, here at Eden.



- 5/02 Beryl Davis
- 5/08 Todd Brock
- 5/08 Violet Dennis
- 5/09 Stanley Jefferson
- 5/10 Matthew Mattson
- 5/13 Alex Paquette
- 5/21 Paula Brock
- 5/24 Madeline Cole
- 5/26 Curt Erickson
- 5/29 John Cromell
- 5/30 Bryan Burkhalter

Dear Eden Church Family,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers I received on my birthday. I thoroughly enjoyed them!
Love, Marlene Robbins

Dear Friends & Family of Eden,
 Again, thank you so much for the beautiful flowers at this time of year. I enjoy them a lot.
Again, Thank You, Billie Lindquist

Family and Friends at Eden Lutheran Church,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers! They really helped make my birthday special!
Margaret Gosselin

Thank you, Jean Hayes, for purchasing Eden's parting gifts for Pastor Tera Kossow and for making the presentation at the farewell party.

Thank you, Ruth Lindquist and Terry Kolbus! We so appreciate the important work you accomplish as Eden's Administrative Professionals.

Thank you, Ray Berg, for donating several boxes of craft, sewing, quilting, and office supplies. The collection was wonderful and useful. Thanks also to Lisa Case for delivering the boxes to the church.

Thank you to Brenda St. Martin, who cleaned out the Sunday School closet, she did a wonderful job!!!



GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



April 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income: \$7,995.96	YTD: \$42,391.70
Expenses: \$7,639.07	YTD: \$42,670.91

Feed the Pig

In the first quarter of 2024, gifts were to benefit the Get Away Drop In Center, a peer-support mental health recovery center serving Alger County. A total of \$89 was collected and given to this center.

In the second quarter of 2024, gifts are to help fund Eden’s fish fry (June 2) and Fourth of July bonfire.

With Pastor Tera’s departure, the pig also left. Ryan Graves volunteered his woodworking talents to create another piggy bank. Watch for it in a new location in the coming weeks.

Simply Giving

Through Simply Giving, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal form from your bank account. You determine the frequency and amount of your automatic gift. Sign-up forms are available in the office and from Ruth Lindquist.



GIVE SERVE



ATTEND GROW

Stewardship

RECOGNIZING GOD'S GIFTS & GIVING BACK IN GRATITUDE

FREE STORE
EDEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MUNISING, MI.

**THURSDAY
MAY 16**

1pm - 3pm & 4pm - 6pm

Cleaning, hygiene, paper goods, diapers & baby products

From The Pulpit

Embracing Christ's Blueprint: A Path to Uniting Leadership and Humanity

Dr. Lon Hider Eden Lutheran Church

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*, May 3, 2024

Today, we explore a blueprint for leadership that brings people together rather than tears them apart. One Sunday afternoon I visited a member of my congregation in the hospital, and because of her medications, she didn't recognize me. I figured out later that she thought I was her wayward nephew. After our greeting I told her I had just come from church, and she said, "You went to church!" And then, without missing a heartbeat, she said, "You know I don't like the new pastor as much as I do the old pastor."

This parishioner followed the accepted blueprint for leadership that inevitably compares one leader with another based on expectations of what that leader is supposed to do. The same was true for the original followers of Christ. When the bad guys killed their leader on the cross, they took his life and shredded their blueprint for leadership based on their expectations.

To appreciate Christ's wisdom on leadership we must doubt the current map of leadership tearing us apart. Our current blueprint must produce winners and losers. This is the story of human history. One group battles another, led by someone they believe will give them what they want. Our ugly history repeats itself because of our views on leadership.

So, what makes Christ different? Our leadership map promises to fix our external situation. Leaders manipulate us with promises to restore a mythical past or

lead us into a problem-free future. We then polarize over these contrasting blueprints.

Christ is more interested in addressing our internal situation. He is asking us, "What is your blueprint doing to your humanity?" Both political parties today claim that Christ is on their side, but neither allows Christ to claim them. Would Christ support the hate we see coming from the red blueprint or the blue blueprint? Christ's wisdom offers us a better humanity, not the endless recycling of divisive blueprints that make us ugly on the inside.

But does it work in the real world? Gandhi, Mandela, and Martin Luther King Jr. made it work because they followed the blueprint of Christ, who commanded us to love our enemies. Shirley Chisholm, a black presidential candidate from Brooklyn, New York, made a choice to show love to her enemy, paralyzed by an assassination attempt. He was the racist Alabama Governor George Wallace, whose blueprint said, "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!" She visited him in the hospital and showed him compassion. This encounter changed him, and he abandoned his prior segregation strategy. He had a new blueprint and a better humanity that made a difference in the world. May we adopt the blueprint of a better humanity.

Serving in May

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, May 4	George Balko		
Sunday, May 5	Joanie Hinsa		Patsy and Helen
Saturday, May 11	George Balko		
Sunday, May 12			Deb and Jim Perttula
Saturday, May 18	George Balko		
Sunday, May 19		Joanie Hinsa	Emily and Norma
Saturday, May 25	George Balko		
Sunday, May 26			Lynn and Billie

Altar Guild for May is Lynn DeRoche.

Serving in the Congregation during Worship

Worship Captains recruit people to help with worship.

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.

Thank you!

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

www.edenonthebay.org
906-387-2520
eden@jamadots.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dr. Lon Hider, 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, following the worship services. Its members are:

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



May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group 12-2 p.m. Feeding America	2	3 9-2 Office Open	4 5 p.m. Worship
5 10:30 a.m. Worship	6 9-2 Office Open	7	8 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group	9 10 a.m. Quilting Bee	10 9-2 Office Open	11 5 p.m. Worship
12 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 9-2 Office Open	14	15 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group	16 Free Store 1-3 p.m. & 4-6 p.m.	17 9-2 Office Open	18 5 p.m. Worship <i>Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly</i>
19 10:30 a.m. Worship Confirmation & Graduate Recognition	20 9-2 Office Open	21	22 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group 12-1 p.m. Book Discussion	23	24 9-2 Office Open	25 5 p.m. Worship
26 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28	29 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group	30	31	Terry is on vacation May 26-31