

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
July 2024



Dear People of Eden in Munising,

I write on behalf of your council to give you an update of a new possibility for pastoral leadership at Eden.

As you may know, Elaine Robbins has been discerning a call to ministry. Wartburg seminary offers a program called TEEM, Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. This program is a combination of academic instruction and on-site ministry training. A seminary student serves a congregation as its pastoral leader while at the same time taking online classes to better equip that student for the work they are already doing in the congregation.

On June 15, your council approved my proposal that Elaine Robbins serve as Eden's pastoral leader while she attends classes online at Wartburg Seminary.

What does this mean?

- That Elaine will be Vicar Elaine.
- That she will be authorized by me to preach and preside, perform baptisms, funerals, and weddings at Eden, and serve as Eden's Licensed Lay Minister.
- That Vicar Elaine will be a 2/3 time pastoral leader and a 1/3 time student.
- That at the end of her studies (3-4 years), Eden may choose to call her as Eden's full-time pastor.
- Pastor Lon Hider will serve as her local supervisor in addition to Wartburg's professors.
- That this partnership removes Eden from the call process for the time being.
- That this partnership will begin when the application process has been completed – late summer or early fall.

The path to becoming a pastor is very involved. Elaine must apply and be accepted into Candidacy and apply and be accepted into Wartburg as a student. She needs to complete essays, an interview, a background check, and a psychological evaluation – and all the while, her prayerful discernment continues.

This letter is to share with you that both Elaine and Eden's council, on your behalf, have agreed to take the next step in exploring a partnership that provides both consistent and ongoing pastoral care for Eden and contributes to the pastoral formation of one of your own, Elaine Robbins.

The council's decision was informed by two equally important realities:

1. That given the decline in the number of students in seminary, that a new seminary graduate pastor willing to serve Eden in the next 2-3 years is unlikely.
2. That there is joy in the opportunity to support one of your own as she learns and becomes a pastor of the Church.
3. That Eden is a congregation that extends grace to one who is still learning and knows how to work together to meet the demands of ministry.

I am grateful for the work of the Spirit in Elaine's life and for her gifts for ministry, and I am grateful also for the Holy Spirit that lives and moves among and through the people of Eden. God has provided this possibility. I pray God's blessings upon this journey that Vicar Elaine and Eden will take together, as you both continue to become what God has in mind for your future.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 21, 2024

Condensed meeting minutes. Full text of approved minutes is available in the sacristy.

Present: Pastor Lon Hider, Lynn DeRoche, Ryan Graves, Jean Hayes, Ruth Lindquist, Elaine Robbins, Brenda St. Martin, Jennifer Wood, Nathaniel Wood

Nathaniel Wood called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m. Pastor Lon led a devotion on the Lord's Prayer.

Elaine made a motion to approve the amended meeting minutes from March 10, 2024; Lynn seconded, and motion carried. Jean made a motion to approve the financial reports; Elaine seconded, and motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Lon notes that, as a retired pastor, he wants to do all he can within his limits. He sees his role as listening and understanding to absorb and learn about the church's history, to get to know each other, then move forward and lead together.

Lynn offered to document the prayer list process for review at a future meeting or via email.

Pastor Lon suggested improving the electronic system in the church. Pastor Lon, Ryan and Lyon Wood will suggest equipment to improve the livestream broadcast to present at next meeting. Nathaniel motioned and Lynn seconded; motion carried.

Old Business

CONSTITUTION - Congregational vote set for April 28 following service. Elaine will post to Facebook. Pastor Lon will announce at the Saturday evening service.

FEED THE PIG - There was a discussion about the piggy bank. It was decided to keep the process and the name, but to move it outside the sanctuary. Ryan volunteered to make a new bank.

FREE STORE: Quarterly audit was reviewed. Jennifer offered to start a free store fundraiser, tentatively set for the fall at the one-year anniversary of the store. Jennifer also expressed concern that a free store team is needed.

Matt Tulla joined the meeting. He suggested that Eden's musicians also attend worship and music committee meetings. The committee will meet on May 5.

Matt's rehearsal, wedding, and reception on May 9-10 were discussed. Matt asked about a payment plan to cover his wedding fees. Ruth suggested withholding Matt's \$75 per Sunday wage for three weeks to cover the fees. A formal use agreement is needed. Jean Hayes volunteered to check up on the cleaning after the event.

Ryan will draft an organist job description and letter to cover other issues.

New Business

Pastor Tera Kossow previously delivered Feeding America distributions to Lakeshore Manor residents. A new volunteer is needed.

Lynn DeRoche and Bruce Dausey will represent Eden at the synod assembly on May 18.

Lynn made a motion to remove Pastor Tera Kossow from the Pastor's Help Fund account at Peoples State Bank; Ruth and Terry will remain. Nathaniel seconded; motion carried.

The Lare family asked to use Eden if inclement weather prevents an outside wedding on July 20. If they use the building, they will need to pay the fee.

LMAS Health Department agreement with Eden needs to be renewed; tabled until the next meeting. Lynn will review the agreement.

A Death Benefit Claim was received from Athene Annuity & Life Co. from retired Eden Pastor Leslie Niemi. Brenda offered to contact the Niemi family to obtain documents to file the claim.

NGLS Child Protection Policy - Nathaniel will read this information for the next meeting.

Trinity Lutheran Church youth group will stay at Eden June 21-22 and offered their help. Window cleaning was suggested in areas where ladders are not needed.

Ruth suggested a four percent pay increase for Terry. Nathaniel motioned to raise Terry’s pay 80 cents an hour effective immediately, from the general fund; Jean seconded. Motion carried.

Ryan is spearheading the fish fry and will contact Curt Erickson to arrange.

Next meeting is June 9, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

Serving in July 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, July 6	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, July 7			
Saturday, July 13	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, July 14			
Saturday, July 20	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, July 21			Joanie Hinsa
Saturday, July 27	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, July 28		Joanie H. & Jean H.	Wood family

Altar Guild for July is Norma Dick.

Flower sponsor for July is Joanie Hinsa.

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!

Information from the Alger County Commission on Aging and the Alger Baby Closet is included in this edition of the Life in Eden as pages 10 and 11. The full monthly newsletter from ACCOA is available in the church office.

From the Pulpit

Rethinking Prayer: Insights from the “Our Father”

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*

Dr. Lon Hider

"...but when you pray, do *not* pray as..."
(Matthew 6:7).

In response to their plea, 'Lord, teach us to pray,' Jesus offered this prayer as a model for his disciples. Prayer is not new to the disciples; they have been praying their entire lives in the school of Judaism. Even today, devout Jews aim to pray 100 times a day using short blessings; this is how they "bless the Lord at all times" (Psalm 34:1). They weren't asking Jesus to simply 'tweak' their prayer methods. But to transform their approach to prayer.

In my first attempt at public prayer, I could have benefited from Jesus' help. As a high school senior at Big Bay de Noc, I was responsible for closing our commencement service with a prayer. I resisted the urge to rehearse, wanting it to be personal and heartfelt. But as the moment approached, panic set in. When my turn came, I stood frozen at the microphone. What followed was a jumble of random religious words that left the audience bewildered. I am sure even God in heaven turned to an angel and asked, "What did he say"?

My public stumble was a product of my religious community's stance on prayer, which was averse to written prayers. Today, as Lutherans, our community has adopted the opposite approach, favoring the use of written prayers. My point asserts that our prayer practices do not occur in isolation; instead, they reflect our religious circle of influence.

How we pray or choose not to pray mirror our beliefs about God and how we perceive God's interaction with us. The Lord's Prayer (properly understood) opens a window into our true beliefs about God and how the Divine interacts with humanity.

In Jesus' world, there were two ways to pray that represented everyone in the known world: the Jewish way and the Gentile way. These ways of praying are still with us in Catholic and Protestant forms. Jesus put it bluntly, "But when you pray, do NOT pray as (the method passed on to you) but pray this way, "Our Father who art in heaven..."

Next time, we will compare our way of praying with how Jesus taught us to pray.

Thank You

Your thoughtfulness has been a real blessing.

Thank you for the gifts and blessings for my graduation.

Cody Lincoln

Eden,

Thank you for your support these past two years and the gift for my confirmation.

Love, Braylin

Thank you

to Emily Cook and Norma Dick for providing such a wonderful luncheon in honor of the Graduates and Confirmation Students after the Sunday Service.

Thank you

to George Balko and Tom St. Martin for mowing the church lawn.

The church's lawn mower is broken. A lawn care service has been hired; your gifts toward this cost are much appreciated.

**June Financial Snapshot
(as of 6/26/24)**

Income: \$ 8,098.00 YTD \$58,616.70

Expenses: \$ 5,176.94 YTD \$53,392.91

Feeding America, Tuesday*, July 2

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, July 18

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

It's a Summer Thing

Eden's **book club** is on hiatus for the summer months. When it resumes this fall, the group will be reading about Mother Theresa (third Wednesday of the month).

The **quilters** are taking a summer break, returning in September (usually meet on the second Thursday of each month). Of course, they are probably still sewing quilt tops at home!

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

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>	<i>Prayer Requests for the Worship Bulletin</i>
<p>JULY BIRTHDAYS</p> <p>7/04 Tara Perttula 7/05 Katie Immel 7/06 Cary Sutherland 7/07 David Fulcher 7/12 Terry Lundbom 7/13 Tom St. Martin 7/13 Brenda Behning 7/14 Arlene Elavsky 7/15 Alaynah Rose Gatiss 7/18 Christian Cole 7/18 Kirt Harmon 7/18 Aliisa Paquette 7/19 Carmon Decet 7/20 Ray Berg 7/20 Patricia Hyry 7/23 Savana Lare 7/27 Michael Albright 7/27 Joanie Hinsa 7/27 Isabelle Mannisto 7/29 Paul LeVeque 7/29 Kathleen Lindquist 7/29 Marilyn Wood 7/31 Blake Walther</p>	<p>Prayer requests may be made by filling out the half page form available in the narthex. This information is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Person to be placed on/removed from the prayer list. - Reason for the request (optional) - Is a pastoral visit needed to the person/family? Yes/No - If a visit is needed, location of the hospital or facility to be visited. - The person will be listed in the weekly bulletin unless you indicate that they should not be named there. - Person submitting the request (optional) <p>The completed form should be left in the clear plastic hanging bin next to the inner office door or may be left on the secretary's desk. This information may also be provided by email to eden@jamadots.com. Ideally, we ask that you update this information when there is a change in circumstances for the individual we are praying for.</p> <p>The prayer list will be reset at least annually at the start of Advent, the beginning of the church year. The congregation will be reminded to update the status of people currently on the list starting four weeks in advance of Advent. If no request is received to retain a person on the list, they will be removed. The current prayer list can be found in the weekly bulletin posted on Eden's website https://edenonthebay.org/bulletin-and-livestream</p>

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



July 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-2 Office Open	2 12-2 p.m. Feeding America	3	4 <i>Independ- ence Day</i>	5 9-2 Office Open	6 5 p.m. Worship
7 10:30 a.m. Worship	8 9-2 Office Open	9	10 9-2 Office Open	11	12 9-2 Office Open	13 5 p.m. Worship
14 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	15 9-2 Office Open	16	17 9-2 Office Open	18 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	19 9-2 Office Open	20 5 p.m. Worship
21 10:30 a.m. Worship	22 9-2 Office Open	23	24 9-2 Office Open	25	26 9-2 Office Open	27 5 p.m. Worship
28 10:30 a.m. Worship	29 9-2 Office Open	30	31 9-2 Office Open			



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.

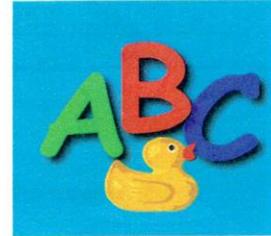


May 14, 2024

Dear Community Member,

The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates most parents will go through nearly 3,000 diapers during their baby's first year alone, costing nearly \$900.

The LMAS District Health department in partnership with the Great Start Collaborative (GSC), Early On, CAAM, and Early Head Start, is sustaining an **Alger Baby Closet (ABC)** located at the LMAS DHD - Alger Office.



The ABC assists expecting and new mothers and families with children from birth through age 3 with prenatal services, community education programs and essential care items.

The ABC program utilizes an "earn as you learn" process for obtaining "baby bucks", which can be redeemed for diapers, pack-N-plays, blankets, safety items and other essential care items. Baby bucks may be earned by any community member, however, the ABC aims to serve families with the highest needs.

Baby bucks can be earned by participating and attending:

- WIC appointments
- Immunization appointments
- Breast feeding classes
- Nurse & doctor visits (for mom or baby)
- Early On and/or MIHP (Maternal Infant Health Program) referral and visits
- Families First Home Visiting
- Early HeadStart
- Play groups & GSC literacy programs
- Health promotion activities/education (including smoking cessation assistance)

We know that when families struggle, children suffer. The ABC was created by neighbors like YOU, who care enough to help young parents in our community. Will you join us?

We invite you to visit the ABC at LMAS DHD (E9526 Prospect Street Munising) anytime during normal business hours (Monday-Thursday 8-4pm).

Please join us in helping every infant in Alger County have the essentials for care & safety in their first year of life.

Find us on 

Alger Baby Closet

Great Start Parent Coalition-Alger



MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE **MOBILE OFFICE IS COMING TO YOU**

The Secretary of State Mobile Office will be visiting
Alger County Commission on Aging
to provide service to
Seniors in Alger County to
complete Secretary of State transactions

Date: July 9, 2024
Time: 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
Location: 1604 Sandpoint Road, Munising, MI
49862

Book a visit to complete your Secretary of State transactions, including:



First-time
Michigan ID



Renew driver's
license or ID



Transfer title



Apply for/renew
disability placard

For more information or to schedule
your visit during this Mobile Office
event, contact

Kris Lindquist

at (906) 387-2439
coaki@jamadots.com



LEARNING FOR LIFE

A PRESENTATION BY THE ALGER COUNTY COMMISSION
ON AGING AND DR CONWAY MCLEAN,
DIRECTOR SUPERIOR FOOT AND ANKLE CENTERS

DIABETES: THE KEYS TO HEALTHY FEET

AND

WALKING WELL WITH ARTHRITIS

JULY 10th, 1 PM - MUNISING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 402 ELM AVENUE

DR CONWAY MCLEAN OF SUPERIOR FOOT AND ANKLE
CENTERS, AND THE AUTHOR OF HEALTH MATTERS, WILL BE
SPEAKING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME DIABETIC FOOT
CARE AND HOW TO LIVE BETTER WITH ARTHRITIS. LEARN
THE SIMPLE DIABETIC SELF-CARE PRACTICES THAT
REDUCE AMPUTATION RATES.

* FOR MORE INFO: DRMCLEAN@SUPERIORFOOTANKLE.COM *

Alzheimer's Association Presentation

ALZHEIMER'S IS NOT NORMAL AGING.

It's a disease of the brain that causes problems
with memory, thinking and behavior.

Join us to learn about:

- » The impact of Alzheimer's.
- » The difference between normal aging, and Alzheimer's and dementia.
- » The importance of early detection and the benefits of a diagnosis.
- » Alzheimer's disease stages and risk factors.
- » Current research and treatments available to address some symptoms.
- » Common warning signs.
- » Next steps and expectations for the diagnosis process.
- » Alzheimer's Association resources.

July 16
11am-1pm
ACCOA Office
1604 Sand Point Rd Munising, MI 49862
To register call
906-387-2439

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

We have lots of equipment in the Loan Closet for your use! We have walkers, transfer benches, canes, bath seats, commodes, crutches, toilet raisers, and wheelchairs, sit to stand lift, hoyer Lift. We also have a supply of different types of disposable undergarments. Call the Office at 906-387-2439 if there is something you need to borrow.

Info courtesy of Alger County Commission of Aging

