

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
December 2024



From the Pulpit

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*, November 15, 2024

Dr. Lon Hider

When We Pray, We Take Others Along

Last time, we looked at the geography of prayer. We don't send our prayers off to a distant God in heaven. The word for "heaven" in our passage is plural in the Gospel's original language. It's "heavens," which is also our word for sky. God inhabits the invisible space all around us. God is as close to us as the air we breathe.

The first and greatest gift of prayer is the Divine presence. This is the reward of prayer we receive when we close the door and quiet our minds. But then what? Prayer, by definition, includes words, not just presence. So, what do we say?

"Our Father, the God in our space, we hallow your name." The prayer begins in a challenging place for many modern readers. It sounds patriarchal, as if it limits God to a male figure of authority. I've pastored people who cannot (or will not) bring themselves to call God "Father" because of the abuse of male authority. They find it challenging to honor this name because it has served as a tool of oppression.

While this brief article can't address all the issues here, it can point out the larger invitation these words offer. The key word here is our Father.

Jesus tells us that even when we pray alone, we bring the rest of humanity with us. God is not merely my Father; God is our Father. "Our" is a possessive pronoun. He implies God belongs to everyone, just as the air is available for breathing. This availability of God—represented by "heavens"—is a shared gift. In fact, God is the source of us all, not a distant parent, but one who is as close as our next breath.

We humans want to believe that our group owns God. We think we are the ones God loves most because of our doctrines, nationality, practices, politics, etc. But when we do that, we create distinctions that justify the practice of hate. We cannot hallow the name of God when we limit the love of God. When we hear the word "hallow," we often interpret it as "obey the Father." Mothers used to say, "Wait until your father gets home," meaning punishment was coming because you broke the rules. But there are deeper meanings of hallow.

One of my favorite breakfast meals is toast on the edge of being burnt, smothered in peanut butter, and dipped in cocoa. When I have this meal, I reconnect with my

childhood. This was the meal we shared as a family. Even today, I "hallow" it with praises of "mmmmnnn." If you haven't had this meal, you can't truly hallow it because it's outside of your experience. When we are alone in God's presence, we come to appreciate this available God and feast on this presence.

But in this experience, "Our Father" reminds us that God is with us all. God is Our Father. When we don't bring others with us, we diminish the quality of the experience because we're missing a key ingredient: the love of God for everyone.

As the New Testament reminds us, how can I love a God I have not seen if I hate those I have seen? It's hard to hallow a God who limits His presence to only us or our group. But when we experience God in our space and hallow this available God—even to those outside our group—it changes how we see others.

We all breathe the same air. Our shared atmosphere is God. Maybe our world would be much better if we could embrace the "Our Father." The next time you pray, take everyone with you. Do as Jesus commanded. Pray for those you perceive as the problem. And it will expand your humanity.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
(Matthew 5:44)

Scripture Readings for December

December 1	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
<i>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)</i>				
December 8	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
<i>In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)</i>				
December 17	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
<i>In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)</i>				
December 22	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
<i>You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)</i>				
December 29	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
<i>The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)</i>				

Updating the Prayer List as published in the weekly bulletin

Effective December 1 (beginning of Advent and the church year), the prayer list will receive its annual update. Please update the status of people currently on the list. **If no request is received to retain a person on the list, their name will be removed.** The current prayer list can be found in the weekly bulletin and as posted on Eden's website <https://edenonthebay.org/bulletin-and-livestream>

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m.

Please join as we celebrate Christmas.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Would you like to help adorn the church with a poinsettia for Christmas?

If you do, please :

- 1) Order a plant from a local florist and they will deliver it here to the church for you, or you can purchase one and deliver it to the church by Monday, December 23.
- 2) Then, please fill out the form below and leave it in the office
No Later than Friday, December 20

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

On occasion of anniversary or birthday _____

Given in thanks to God for _____

Other _____

Your name and phone number: _____

Help Wanted

Financial Secretary/Treasurer – This position will be vacant effective January 1, 2025. Ruth Lindquist submitted her resignation at the October council meeting. For more info, the job description is available in the office. Resumes may be brought to the office.

Fill-in organist and/or pianist – Primarily for the Sunday service, Eden needs a fill-in organist or pianist when the regular musician is unavailable. Please inquire with Pastor Lon.

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting, October 13, 2024

Council Members Present: Pastor - Lon Hider, President – Nathaniel Wood, Vice President - Jean Hayes, Secretary - Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Ruth Lindquist, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Elaine Robbins

Nathaniel called the meeting to order at 11:58 AM

Opening Devotion:

Dwelling in the Word with reading from Ezekiel 37– read by Jennifer Wood, discussion followed.

Additions to the Agenda:

OLD: Job descriptions, Prayer list, Letter sent to organist

NEW: Free Store Anniversary, Advent, Free Store fundraiser

Ruth Linquist turned in her resignation letter, and suggested moving \$25,000 from the general fund to a six month CD at Peoples State Bank.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Elaine Robbins motions, Ryan Graves seconds all in favor - motion carried

Review and Approval of Financial Report:

Nathaniel Wood entertains a motions to approve, Ryan makes motion, Lynn seconds, all in favor - motion carried

Pastor's Report: Discussed AV set up. Lon brought up the idea of Eden

becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Lon Hider will research how much it will cost to join. Lon suggests celebrating Ruth's retirement - discussion followed. Discussion on advertising for a pianist to put into the musician rotation. Lon will create an ad.

Upcoming Church Events:

Thanksgiving Ecumenical services: Nov 26, 7 pm Ecumenical service. Brenda will ask George Balko about the service.

Old Business:

-Job descriptions: no updates. Lynn DeRoche and Lon will work on the musician job description / ad.

-Prayer list: updating the prayer list will be advertised in the newsletter.

-Letter to Organist: Nathaniel will check in with Terry to see if the communication was sent.

-Elaine update: Monday she had an interview with the Synod committee and it went well. She has been approved by the Synod.

New Business:

-Range Telecommunications service agreement - council discussed. Nathaniel will investigate.

-North Woods Volunteer program - council discussed. Communication will be added to the newsletter.

-Thank you from Great Lakes Endurance - donated \$200 to church.

-Free Store and Anniversary- council discussed and no plan was made.

-Free Store fundraiser - tabled

-Ruth's resignation letter - Lynn makes a motion to move \$25,000 from general fund to six month CD at Peoples state

bank, Nathaniel seconds, all in favor - motion carries. Council discusses open position - position will be posted in the newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30 PM
Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

An update from Elaine regarding church leadership

I am very excited to provide Eden with an accurate update regarding my upcoming role as vicar. First, what is a vicar? I had to look it up so I would know what I was going to be. A vicar is a candidate for ordained pastoral ministry who is serving the church while completing seminary.

As a vicar, I will have a lot of people supporting me. I will have mentors from the Northern Great Lake Synod and Wartburg Theological Seminary. At Eden, I will look to the congregation for prayers and encouragement as I strive to do my best for each of you.

I will begin as Eden's vicar on January 1. As your vicar I will be able to lead worship and funeral services, baptize and officiate weddings. My new role means that services I lead will include Communion.

I will be a part time employee so I expect that once a month we will have a lay person or guest pastor lead service. While I want to 'do it all', I know that being a vicar and a student will be very challenging so I will use the time off that is allotted by my part time status.

Harry and I are both very excited that we have the opportunity to serve Eden. I say that 'we' will serve Eden because Harry is my greatest supporter and will help me in all I need to be successful as your vicar. My next chapter is truly an answer to many, many prayers.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve God, Eden and our community.

Elaine Robbins

Flower Sponsors Are always appreciated. Flower sponsorship is \$30 a month. Your gift may be placed in the offering with a notation for flowers and your selected month. Flowers from your home garden are also welcome. *Thank you!*

Please support our **Youth Ministry Fund** by dropping off returnable cans and bottles to the church.

Volunteers Needed

Eden is looking for two volunteers to join the offering counter team. This involves one Sunday a month following the worship service. Please contact Ruth Lindquist, Joanie Hinsa, or the office.

Thank you!

Pastor Lon Hider for shepherding Eden Lutheran Church as our interim administrative pastor. Pastor Lon’s last worship weekend will be December 28 and 29. We are grateful for your guidance.

A farewell gathering will be held on Sunday, December 15.

November 30-December 1 worship

Elaine Robbins will lead worship service of the word.

Office Closed,

November 27-30 and December 1-12

Weekly Tuesday prayer group, 10 a.m.

All are to join us for Morning Prayer. We take time to talk about what is going on in our lives and those who are on our prayer list. We use a brief Morning Prayer service to pray for everyone on our prayer list by name.

Women of the ELCA Pizza Party

Thursday, December 12, 6 p.m.

At this annual event, the group will celebrate the work of 2024, and allocate the available funds to different church funds, groups and organizations.

Quilting Bee

Thursday, December 12, 10 a.m.

The Quilters meet at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, except in summer.

Book club, Wednesday, December 18, noon to 1 p.m. (third Wednesday)

Our book for November/December will be, “Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People” by Nadia Bolz-Weber. There are two copies available in the kitchen for \$5. It is also available on Thriftbooks.

Free Store, Thursday, December 19

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

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, December 19, 6 p.m.

This subdued holiday worship will be held at the United Methodist Church in Munising. All are welcome.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Eden’s Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 5, 2025. Inclement weather rescheduling is the following Sunday.

Financial Snapshot (as of 11/22/2024)

Income:	\$ 6,437.00
YTD	\$99,085.22
Expenses:	\$ 9,891.39
YTD	\$88,984.15

Revolving Fund Balances

As of 10/31/2024

Worship & Music Fund	\$2,021.17
Scholarship Fund	\$24,599.25
Seminary Fund	\$2,603.09
Help Fund	\$1,310.61
Memorial Fund	\$16,324.65
Youth Ministry Fund	\$3,428.61
Free Store Fund	\$1,230.24

Serving in December 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, November 30	George Balko	Dave and Carole E	
Sunday, December 1			
Saturday, December 7	George Balko	Dave and Carole E	
Sunday, December 8			
Saturday, December 14	George Balko	Dave and Carole E	
Sunday, December 15	Joanie Hinsa		
Saturday, December 21	George Balko	Dave and Carole E	
Sunday, December 22			
<i>Tuesday, December 24</i>			
Saturday, December 28	George Balko	Dave and Carole E	
Sunday, December 29			
Altar Guild for December – Bruce Dausey			
Flower sponsor for December – Christmas flowers are welcome!			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
December 3	Candace Dennis	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
December 10	Matt Tulla	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
December 17	Matt Tulla	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
December 21	Matt Tulla	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
December 24	Matt Tulla	
December 29	Matt Tulla	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe

Serving the congregation during worship

Please consider volunteering on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings to usher, read lessons and prayers, assist with communion, or host fellowship. Worship captains recruit people to help with worship. *Thank you!*

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship Services

3:30 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

Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable Clerk: Terry Kolbus

Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Ruth Lindquist

Maintenance: John Cromell

Custodian: Emily Cook

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

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)

Does Eden have your current contact info (mailing address, email, phone)?

Please complete the directory update form in the narthex or
contact the church office to update your information.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America




December 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship	2 <i>Office closed</i>	3 10 a.m. Prayer Group	4 <i>Office closed</i>	5	6 <i>Office closed</i>	7 3:30 p.m. Worship
8 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	9 <i>Office closed</i>	10 10 a.m. Prayer Group	11 <i>Office closed</i>	12	13 <i>Office closed</i>	14 3:30 p.m. Worship
15 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Fellowship gathering - Pastor Lon</i>	16 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	17 10 a.m. Prayer Group	18 <i>9-2 Office Open</i> 12 p.m. Book Club	19 Quilting 10 a.m. Free Store 1-3, 4-6	20 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	21 3:30 p.m. Worship
22 10:30 a.m. Worship	23 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	24 10 a.m. Prayer Group Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.	25 <i>Office closed</i>	26	27 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	28 3:30 p.m. Worship
29 10:30 a.m. Worship	30 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	31 10 a.m. Prayer Group	January 1 <i>Office closed</i>	January 2	January 3 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	January 4 3:30 p.m. Worship




Automate your offering with Simply Giving.
Forms are available in the office.



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Medicare Open Enrollment- Protect Yourself from Improper Sales Tactics

Plans can begin marketing on October 1st each year. Plans can send you mail and email. However, unless you are currently enrolled in the company's plan, they are not allowed to call, visit your home, or approach you in public to market their plan without your permission. Plans are not allowed to suggest they represent or are preferred by Medicare or any other government agency. Here are some red flags of potentially dishonest behavior by a plan agent or someone posing as a plan agent.

- Beware of people who offer you gifts to enroll in their plan. Gifts must be given to everyone regardless of their enrollment and cannot be worth more than \$15.
- Beware of people who pressure you to join their plan.
- Beware of people who say you will "lose your Medicare benefits" unless you sign up for their plan.
- Beware of people who offer "free" services or offer "extra benefits" for "signing up early."
- Beware of people who ask for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or bank information just to provide you with information about Medicare or their plan. A dishonest person could use this information to steal from you or enroll you in a plan without your permission.

If these occur, save all documents (such as an agent's business card or marketing materials) or other suspicious information (such as recorded messages or emails) and contact the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP). MMAP is Michigan's Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), which is funded by the government to help you detect, prevent, and report Medicare fraud. Call MMAP at 800-803-7174



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NORTH WOODS HOME CARE & HOSPICE

P.O. Box 307
Manistique, MI 49854-0307
800-852-3736
www.northwoodshealthcare.com
email: info@nwhch.com

Hello,

Have you ever felt a desire to help others? If so, North Woods Home Care and Hospice is looking for people like you! We have a robust volunteer program that includes a variety of different tasks. Most commonly, volunteering involves spending time in the home directly with patients to give their caregiver's respite. Volunteers may also help with administrative tasks in the office.

Our offices are located in Newberry, Manistique, Escanaba and Munising. If you'd like to help, please fill out a volunteer application and drop it off at one of our locations, or mail it to: P.O. Box 307 Manistique, MI 49854.

If volunteering is something you are unable to do, please pass this application along to someone who may be interested.

Thank you for your support,

Caleb Varoni
Administrator
North Woods Home Care and Hospice

Schoolcraft County
(906) 341-6963
Fax (906) 341-2490

Alger County
(906) 387-4834
Fax (906) 387-3028

Luce County
(906) 293-3090
Fax (906) 293-8166

Delta County
(906) 341-6963
Fax (906) 341-2490