

# LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Munising, Michigan  
May 2025

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Hello Eden,

I can't believe that we are saying hello to May! It is almost summer!

The Lenten season services were deeply moving, despite a few weather-related cancellations. I was really looking forward to participating in Ashes to Go, which was unfortunately part of the Ash Wednesday weather cancellations.



I attended my first Easter Vigil at St John's Episcopal Church. It was a beautiful service and attending all the Holy Week services made Easter even more meaningful.

Easter at Eden was amazing! Candace and Michael Dennis offered their contemporary music, and we added more of the sung liturgy to the service. It was wonderful to see the church so full of people. I hope those who attended for the first time, or the first time in a long while, will feel moved to join Eden for worship again soon.

While I don't have a grand total to report, the number of socks, underwear and bras collected for Room at the Inn was very impressive. Thank you to everyone who donated.

May will be another busy month. We will celebrate Munising High School graduates Kate Mattson, Lauren Nelson and Tessa Salo at the May 18 service, with a special fellowship after service. The commencement service will be Saturday, May 24. May will also bring more of our snowbirds home! It is always such a good feeling to see their familiar faces at worship.

I hope this short but sweet note finds you excited to see how God will be at work at Eden in May and how God will use Eden for God's work.

God's Peace,  
Vicar Elaine Robbins

## Memorial Day - a lost lament

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/05/memorial-day-lost-lament/>

By [David Daubert](#)

*This article originally ran on May 26, 2016.*

Six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, in response to Exile in Babylon, Jeremiah wrote, “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more” ([Jeremiah 31:15](#)).

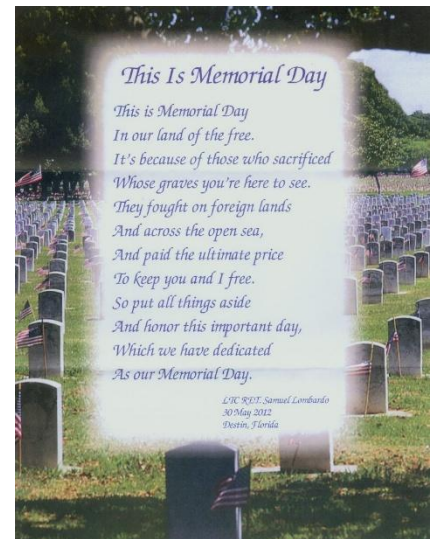
These same words would appear again in [Matthew’s Gospel](#) after Herod sent in troops to slaughter children in Bethlehem in hope of killing Jesus. They are the lament of a nation whose children have been killed. They are the cries of mothers whose children have died way before their time.

All too often young people are sent into the front lines of battle. Thousands of miles away, back home parents worry. When news of fighting comes on the news, they find an uneasiness that refuses to be put to rest. In the back of their minds they wonder, “Will my child come home alive?” There are few reunions happier than those of families reunited after time away at war. There are few sorrows deeper than when there is a knock on the door and someone says your son or daughter will not be coming home at all. We expect our children to stand at our graves as we are returned to the earth. We do not expect to mourn at their graves as they are lowered into the ground.

The church may be one place left where real voice can be given to the pain that people suffer and the grief to which Memorial Day points.

[Memorial Day](#) started out as a way of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers after the Civil War - a way of remembering that with war comes death. Officially declared a national holiday in 1971, Memorial Day was a big deal in many communities. Everything was closed. There was a parade and the Scouts, school bands and community groups all marched through the community and out to the cemetery on the edge of town. The fact that the parade ended with a program, a 21-gun salute and the sounding of “Taps” at the cemetery added a sense of solemnity to the occasion. The parade was as much a procession to the graveyard as it was a parade of its own.

Today, Memorial Day is most often viewed as the unofficial start of summer. It is a day for picnics, boating and other outdoor activities. People look forward to it with a lot of anticipation since, for many, it is the first three-day weekend in a few months. Plus, it is the first one where people across the country can count on warm weather and a chance to spend an extra day off outside since last Labor Day. Sadly, most people barely notice that it is a day about death and the cost of war.



Throughout centuries of history, the Bible gave voice to [the laments](#) of people whose children had died as the collateral damage of the decisions of others. Grounded in Scripture, the church may be one place left where real voice can be given to the pain that people suffer and the grief to which Memorial Day points.

It may not be a religious holiday or a day that has any significance in the church year. But Memorial Day is a day of lost laments. It has fallen through the cracks of boating and picnics. The church is called to reflect, remember and pray that the last graves of the fallen have been filled. It is unlikely to be true. But as God's people, Memorial Day's lament calls the church to pray that it might be so one day soon.

## Scripture Readings for May

<b>May 4</b>	Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
<i>You have turned my wailing into dancing.</i>				
<b>May 11</b>	Acts 9:35-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
<i>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.</i>				
<b>May 18</b>	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
<i>The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.</i>				
<b>May 25</b>	Acts 15:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29
<i>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.</i>				

## Mothering God: A Reflection on Mother's Day in Worship

<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/1018/>

May 1, 2018

Amanda Highben, Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio

Mothering God, you gave me birth  
in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
"Mothering God, you gave me birth,"  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 735*



When I gave birth to our daughter Cecilia, I was still in seminary and serving as the youth director at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zanesville, Ohio. Needless to say, it was a full and challenging time as my husband Zeb and I balanced our jobs, my education, and our halting, on-the-job education in parenting. One of the clearest things I remember is the exhaustion. In the first months of Ceci's life, I was convinced I'd never sleep again.

Thankfully, our St. John's community was a great source of strength and support for us. The parishioners delighted in Cecilia's birth and helped us in countless ways, from simply holding her during worship to bringing us meals and offering to babysit. The congregation nurtured us through this time of transition, and we will be forever thankful for such a gift.

Still, St. John's is not unique in this regard. Many churches do a wonderful job of welcoming and supporting families. As Mother's Day nears, congregations are once again preparing to bless and honor the mothers in their midst. Because I've served five different churches, I've seen mothers recognized in worship in various ways. I have even heard entire sermons devoted to Mother's Day, though there is nothing in the lessons to warrant such preaching.

It is critical to be aware that Mother's Day is not joyful for everyone. Remember the diverse and complex life stories of your people. The couples struggling with infertility. The children and adults whose mothers have died tragically. Those who have been hurt by or have strained relationships with their mothers. Women who cannot or chose not to have children, but have been endlessly told by contemporary culture that only motherhood can truly fulfill them. Families with two fathers. Women struggling with post-partum depression.

All of this is complicated by our cultural determination to "romanticize" motherhood, which makes it difficult for mothers to talk openly about their challenges without feeling ashamed. In other words, if we fail to be thoughtful in our worship planning, a variety of women, men, and children might feel hurt or excluded when we intend exactly the opposite.

Yet: The commandments tell us to honor our parents, and the desire to bless mothers is good and Christ-like. It is an impulse that springs from a place of love. If we ignore it altogether in worship on the grounds that it is a secular holiday and not part of our liturgical calendar, then we risk conveying the implicit message that reasons for celebration in people's everyday lives don't matter to the church; we risk conveying the harmful belief that the Christian faith is disconnected from the world beyond our sanctuary walls.

This year, then, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection on the seventh Sunday of Easter consider how your congregation might recognize mothers in ways that are sensitive, inclusive, and faithful to your context. Perhaps this means focusing more on the *act* of mothering, or lifting up Biblical images of our mothering God (see Isaiah 49.14-16 and 66:13, or Luke 13:34). The petition for mothers in the Prayers of Intercession is also appropriate and poignant (Sundays and Seasons, Sunday May 13, 2018). Above all, pray that everyone who gathers for worship on this day will encounter Jesus' unfailing, all-embracing love.

**Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
March 9, 2025**

**Present:** Vicar Elaine Robbins, Jean Hayes, Bruce Dausey, Norma Dick, Kaye Methot, Brenda St. Martin, and Treasurer Brandalyn Decet

**Absent:** Jennifer Wood, Ryan Graves

Vice-President Norma Dick called the meeting to order.

**Opening Devotions:** Vicar Elaine read a devotion from the NGLS Seed Sowers Series.

**Review and Approval of Previous Meeting**

**Minutes:** Motion by Jean, second by Bruce, with the notation that the monies for the All Night Senior Party was \$150.00 and it was taken out of the Youth Ministry Fund. Motion carried.

**Review and Approval of Financial Reports from the previous month:** Motion by Bruce, second by Kaye, motion carried, and it was noted that our expenses are more than we are taking in.

**Vicar's Report:** Elaine noted that the Ecumenical Group has been a great help to her. She has signed up for a Coaching Class. She did a funeral service for Arlene Goodburn.

**Upcoming Church Events:**

Sign-up for Lenten Soup & Bread for the Lenten Service on March 19.

Maundy Thursday Service on April 17 – strip the Altar – Altar Guild; Elaine will talk to Joanie Hinsa about this.

Good Friday there will only be one service – the Ecumenical Service on Friday, April 18, at 12:15 p.m.

Easter Vigil - April 19 – St. John's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20 - Eden – 10:30 a.m.

May 18 will be a Baccalaureate Service at Eden for our three graduates – Jean will get the gifts and order a cake.

June 8 will be the Fish Fry – Elaine will contact Curt and Ryan to head this up.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** We have two new counters, Donna LeRoy and Karen Derwin; Lynn and Jean will take them on as partners. Brenda made a motion we accept them, Kaye second, motion carried.

There was a request from the Alger Baby Closet for donations – this will be posted in the June Life In Eden and we will put out a donation basket in June.

Kimi Schierschmidt is willing to play the piano for our service sometimes. Bruce made a motion we accept her, Kaye second, motion passed. Elaine will see if there can be a schedule set up.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 13, 2025, following service.

**Meeting adjourned.** Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Hayes

**Annual Fish Fry  
Pentecost Sunday, June 8**

Eden's annual fish fry will follow the Sunday service. Please plan to bring an item to share; a sign-up sheet is available.

***Minimum suggested donation is \$10 each.*** We need to cover the cost of the fish, breading, oil, and propane. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this another success.

### **Congratulations!**

Kate Mattson, Lauren Nelson, and Tessa Salo, Eden's 2025 Munising High School graduates!

Baccalaureate service at Eden will be Sunday, May 18. Their graduation ceremony will be May 24.

### **Weekly Tuesday prayer group, 10 a.m.**

All are welcome. 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.

### **Quilting Bee**

**Thursday, May 8, 10 a.m.**

The Quilters meet on the second Thursday of each month, except in summer.

**Book club, Wednesday, May 21, noon to 1 p.m.** (third Wednesday)

If you have suggestions for future book club readings, please let Lynn DeRoche or Joanie Hinsa know. Everyone is welcome to join.

**Free Store, Thursday, May 15**

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

**Sunday, May 25, 2 p.m.**

(fourth Sunday)

Join Vicar Elaine and Harry as we worship with the residents of Medilodge.

### **Our Heartfelt Sympathy**

To the family and friends of Paul Goodburn, who passed away on April 10. Private family services were held on April 12.

### **THANK YOU**

A sincere Thank You for the Ladies of Lutheran and for those that assisted with the luncheon for our Mom's funeral. It was greatly appreciated and a blessing on a long and difficult day.

*Thank You, Gary Mattson*

*A special thank you to Dan and Joanie Hinsa for providing a lovely Easter lily plant in memory of their parents.*

### **Looking Ahead**

- Pentecost, June 8
- Annual Fish Fry, June 8
- Father's Day, June 15

### ***Happy Birthday!***

*Birthstone for May is emerald.*

*Flower is hawthorne.*

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

## MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Helen Mattson

George and Anne Balko

Yvonne Robbins

Jean Hayes

Tom and Brenda St. Martin

Tom and Karen Derwin

Joanie Hinsa

Duane and Arlene Posont

Curt and Judy Erickson

William and Kristina Tidd

Charles and Erica Mattson

## Revolving Fund Balances

As of 4/23/2025

Worship & Music Fund	\$2,529.42
Scholarship Fund	\$23,399.42
Seminary Fund	\$2,756.33
Help Fund	\$1,311.44
Memorial Fund	\$15,322.71
Youth Ministry Fund	\$2,674.61

## Free Store Quarterly Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Balance			\$1,666.56
January	\$24.53	0	
February	\$24.53	\$45.96	
March	\$24.53	\$482.49	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$73.59</b>	<b>\$528.45</b>	<b>\$1,211.70</b>

Income is the result of offerings at Eden that are designated for the Free Store. No monies have been taken from the general fund and there is no budget item for the Free Store.

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

## Northern Great Lakes Synod

### Assembly, May 15-17

This year's Synod Assembly will be at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

As the synod gathers, we invite you to consider how your church, your congregation, and the Synod together, nurtures seeds of faith. 1 Corinthians 3:6, "*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth*", speaks to an arc of growth where the Apostle Paul planted seeds of faith and that is all. It was Apollos who watered them, nurtured those seeds, and witnessed some growth, and of course, he only witnessed the growth, he did not cause the growth. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to find ways to nurture and provide opportunities, space, and encouragement for faith to grow.

Eden's delegates to this year's synod assembly are Lynn DeRoche and Jennifer Wood. Vicar Elaine will attend as well. Visitors are also welcome and are encouraged to register.

<https://nglsynod.org/synod-assembly/>

### Where were you in 1965?

See a later page for a glimpse at *Life in Eden* from 1965.



## Serving in May 2025

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Saturday, May 3	George Balko		
<b>Sunday, May 4</b>	Joanie Hinsa		Joanie Hinsa
Saturday, May 10	George Balko		
<b>Sunday, May 11</b>		Jim and Deb Perttula	Donna and Lynn
Saturday, May 17	George Balko		
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Joanie Hinsa		Karen and Norma
Saturday, May 24	George Balko		
<b>Sunday, May 25</b>			Brandalynn and David
Saturday, May 31	George Balko		
<b>Altar Guild for May – Donna LeRoy</b>			
<b>Flower sponsor for May – needed</b>			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
May 4	Candace Dennis	Jean Hayes and Karen Derwin
May 11	Kimi Schierschmidt	Lynn DeRoche and Donna LeRoy
May 18	Kimi Schierschmidt	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
May 25		Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa

### Flower Sponsors

Are always appreciated. The cost 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.

### 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.

### In Our Prayers

Please prayerfully consider visiting and/or sending a card to our members residing in long-term care homes.

Pauline Elavsky  
Harbour View Assisted Living Center  
1518 Sand Point Rd  
Munising, MI 49862

Pepper VanLandschoot  
Jacobetti Home for Veterans  
425 Fisher Street  
Marquette, MI 49855

Norma Secreast  
Medilodge  
300 West City Park Drive  
Munising, MI 49862



## MEMBER MILESTONES

### ELEVEN EDEN YOUTH FOR CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, June 6, Pentecost, eleven young people who have been instructed by two pastors during the year will be presented for confirmation and adult membership. Pastor Tom Asuma began the class instruction in October and your present pastor took over in March.

The Confirmation Rite will be held at the 2nd Service and their first Holy Communion service will be on June 13. They will be dressed in white gowns and will be presented with gifts from the congregation and their certificates.

Our new adult members are: Fred and Harry Baij, Susan and Robert Belfry, Donna Carr, Paula Lukowski, Michael McCullom, Paddy Malone, Bonnie Pirlot, Judy Seglund and Barbara Spencer.

May God richly bless them and keep them faithful to Christ and His Church.

### ADULT MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED JUNE 6

On Sunday, June 6, Festival of Pentecost, at the 1st Service, twelve new members will be received into Eden's membership. Some of these will be received by Confession of Faith and others by the Rite of Confirmation.

These folks have just completed the recent pastor's Adult Membership Class, which has met each week for eight weeks.

### SENIORS TO BE RECOGNIZED, JUNE 6

Eden's Mather High '65 graduates will come to church, 2nd Service, on June 6, Festival of Pentecost, dressed in their graduation gowns. This is a vital milestone in their lives and we are glad to share its significance in the presence of God's people. It is significant also that they will in a body witness the confirmation vows which they themselves made three years earlier. (12)

Eden's '65 Seniors are: Beverly Bakkum, John Boucher, Claudia Carberry, Kathryn Merrill, Don Mickelson, Linda Norlin, David Olson, Tom Reynard, Susan Rutila, Dennis Skoglund, Wayne Trombly, and Janet Wilder. Congratulations!

### PASTOR CONDUCTS 4 MAY FUNERALS

On May 3, 4, 5 and 13, Pastor N. conducted funerals for Frank Rinnemaki of Eben, Toivo Walimaki of Eben, Albert Lampinen of Detroit, formerly of Munising, and Impi Saari of Republic.

May God comfort the mourners from whos midst these loved ones have been taken.

### WEDDING BANNES

Gary Maki and Alice Kesti, Doug LaCosse and Kathryn Merrill, William Barnett and Theresa Cousineau, purpose to enter into the holy estate of Matrimony, according to God's ordinance on the 13th day of June, 26th day of June, and, 26th day of June, respectively. They desire that prayer be made for them that they may enter into this union in the Name of the Lord and be prospered in it. If any one can show just cause why they may not be joined together, I exhort him to make known such objection. This is the final reading.

### HANNAH JOHNSON MEMORIAL

A new congregation seal has been purchased for Eden. It is used for all important documents, certificates, and letters. Our new seal will have in the middle the LCA symbol of a cross protruding out of a tree that's bearing fruit. It has the wording, Lutheran Church in America, Eden Lutheran Church, Munising Michigan. The cost of the seal is \$18.50.

This seal press has been given to Eden as a memorial to Mrs. Hannah Johnson, by Mr. and Mrs. Anton Louis, Sr. Our sincere appreciation for this fine gift to our congregation.

### CHUCK, PAT AID DISTRICT

Pat Nybeck and Chuck Olson will be two teachers who will appear at four area church school workshops in our Hiawatha District, assisting other teachers in introducing new Sunday Church School materials. The new curriculum calls for new materials in September for grades 4, 6, 8, and 10. Eden workshop: June 29.

**Celebrating 60 years! *Life in Eden* has been a regular monthly publication of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church since May 1965.**

## **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](http://www.edenonthebay.org)

[eden@jamadots.com](mailto:eden@jamadots.com)

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Elaine Robbins, Vicar

[PastorOfEden@gmail.com](mailto:PastorOfEden@gmail.com)

906-450-3344

Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable Clerk: Terry Kolbus

Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Brandalynn Decet

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 2026: Bruce Dausey, Jean Hayes, Kaye Methot

Serving through 2025: Ryan Graves, Brenda St. Martin, Jennifer Wood

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



# May 2025


## 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 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	5 9-2 Office Open	6 10 a.m. Prayer Group	7 9-2 Office Open	8 Quilting 10 a.m.	9 9-2 Office Open	10 5 p.m. Worship
11 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 9-2 Office Open	13 10 a.m. Prayer Group	14 9-2 Office Open	15 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	16 9-2 Office Open	17 5 p.m. Worship
18 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Baccalaureate</i>	19 9-2 Office Open	20 10 a.m. Prayer Group <u>Life In Eden</u> <u>Deadline</u>	21 9-2 Office Open 12 p.m. Book Club	22	23 9-2 Office Open	24 5 p.m. Worship
25 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 p.m. Medilodge service	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office closed	27 10 a.m. Prayer Group	28 9-2 Office Open	29	30 9-2 Office Open	31 5 p.m. Worship



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