

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
February 2025



Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, February 2

Please attend Eden's 2025 annual congregational meeting.

It will be a "light potluck."

Please bring snacks, appetizers, sandwiches, and desserts. Thank you.

Hello church family!

I can't believe that my first month as vicar is coming to an end. It has been a whirlwind, I have been busy. I always wondered what a pastor did all day! lol This month I have provided a memorial service at Bowerman Funeral Home for Sally Ruska and written my first "From the Pulpit" for the Munising Beacon. I have been reaching out to members by phone and began visitations. Please contact me if you would like a visit or know someone in need. Providing support for our members and others in need is a very important part of my role as vicar.

I have officially begun my studies at Wartburg. I intended to hit the ground running, but found my first assignment is to read the Gospels in full. That is a time consuming first assignment and I read slowly, taking notes and highlighting my way through the text. I peeked ahead and the next assignment is less time consuming.

I have taken advantage of additional educational opportunities. Via Zoom, I attended a Synodical Youth Ministry Board of Leaders (SYMBOL) forum. The SYMBOL board provides monthly forums regarding youth related topics. The January topic was communicating with youth. The forum provided information and best practices for communications with youth via phone, text and email. These practices are for the protection of the youth and the leaders. The February forum will include a presentation from Vance Blackfox, the ELCA Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. Mr. Blackfox will provide information about the ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement.

I also joined the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) Lifelong Faith Formation class, "Growing Younger: Sharing Ideas and Strategies to Engage Young People." This class meets once a month via Zoom. The first speaker was amazing. So energetic, passionate and real. The takeaway was that we need to focus on what Jesus means to our youth TODAY. The promise of eternity is of less importance when you expect to have another 60+ years of life. I was thrilled that focus was on Jesus and not entertainment.

As I enter my second month as your vicar, I plan to find a good rhythm to my work/study schedule. Being at Eden has allowed me to add 'coffee at Mom's' back to my schedule. Morning coffee with Mom and Dad was standard before I joined Peoples State Bank and had to

be at work before 8:30. Coffee time is a very special part of my day and I am thankful for this time with my mom.

In February, I will also continue contacting members and work to create a visitation schedule for people that I will be visiting monthly. February will also be a time to plan Lent activities and continue learning how to be the best vicar that I can be for you.

I now have office hours and a weekly day off. I will have a day off each Monday and office hours each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Of course, unexpected events could happen which would modify my schedule.

I am available to you other than just the Wednesday hours. You can call the church to schedule a visit in your home, my office or out for coffee or lunch.

Peace, Vicar Elaine

* * *

A Message from the Nominating Committee

Our Congregation Annual Meeting is coming up on February 2 and we need YOU.

There are a number of ways we can serve our church. The following areas that will need to be filled at the annual meeting are:

Congregation Council

We need one more person to fill upcoming vacancies. This is a 2-year term (2025-2026). The Council meets once a month and basically handles the business of the church. The Council reviews the financial reports and deals with any old and new business.

Altar Guild

We need one more person to fill upcoming vacancies. This is a 3-year term (2025-2027). Three years might sound like a big commitment, but since the Altar Guild has 12 members, each person serves one month per year. The Altar Guild prepares the worship space each week. The duties include changing the paraments and banners to the proper colors for the church season (white, blue, purple, green, red), setting up the Table of the Lord for communion, filling the candles with oil and trimming the wicks, posting the hymn numbers listed in the weekly bulletin, watering the plants, etc. We will train you and help you whenever you need assistance.

Synod Assembly

We need one person to fill this 1-year term (2025). This requires attendance at the Synod Assembly which is usually held in May. Some years it is “in person” and other years it is “on line”. We are not sure what 2025 is going to be, but we should know at our annual meeting. The Synod Assembly is a great way to meet fellow members in our Synod and learn what’s happening in the Synod and churchwide.

Nominating Committee

We need one person to fill this 2-year term (2025-2026). The Nominating Committee tries to find willing members of the church to serve on the Council, Altar Guild, Audit Committee, Synod Assembly and Nominating Committee prior to the Congregation Annual Meeting.

If you would like to serve in any of these areas, please contact us or our church secretary, Terry.

May the Holy Spirit open our hearts to hear where God is calling us to serve in His church.

God Bless,
The Nominating Committee:
Claudia VanLandschoot and Joanie Hinsa

* * *

***Living Lutheran* magazine**

December 17, 2024

We listened—print is coming back.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/12/we-listened-print-is-coming-back/>

There are few instances where we can recall people publicly admitting they were wrong, though as humans we should be saying that more often. However, this is one of those moments.

Last year *Living Lutheran* ceased as a print publication and continued as a digital-only service because of financial constraints. Running a monthly publication grew too expensive during a time of consolidated resources and shrinking readership. Since then, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff have heard from many of you who have shared concerns about members who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

We heard you—and listened.

At the request of Bishop Eaton, we have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication. Beginning in 2025, *Living Lutheran* will again appear in your mailboxes with four issues a year (spring, summer, winter and fall). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year/per subscriber for a congregation group plan (minimum 10 copies).

To start receiving the print magazine, sign up at livinglutheran.org/subscribe/

You will be invoiced before June 2025 for your subscription. If your subscription didn't lapse at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when it expires.

Rostered ministers will continue to receive a gratis copy of the magazine and don't need to sign up for a subscription—we already have your addresses.

If you have questions, please contact us at livinglutheran@elca.org or call us at 800-638-3522.

Thank you for your support in the past—and in the future. We look forward to again sharing in print our church's stories of God's people living their faith.

The History of Valentine's Day

by Kathryn Haueisen

2.14.2019

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/post/the-history-of-valentines-day>

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. Charles M. Schulz

We've barely lugged all the holiday trappings back to wherever they were before Thanksgiving. Now we're surrounded with reminders to get something (preferably something chocolate) for Valentine's Day.

How did a Christian martyr from the third century end up being used to market flowers, candy, romance-themed movies and cards?

Valentine's Day is likely named for several saints. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* mentions three Saint Valentines, all with a connection to February 14. One was a Roman priest; one a bishop in modern Terni, Italy; and the third, a saint in the Roman province of Africa.

A ruthless Roman emperor: One Valentine, a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, was executed on February 14, around the year 278 A.D.

Rome was engaged in a variety of bloody campaigns during that era, so Emperor Claudius needed a large, strong army. However, he had a recruiting problem. Potential soldiers weren't eager to sign up for his military campaigns.

Claudius concluded the problem was that Roman men preferred being home with their wives and children over fighting his endless battles. Not to be deterred, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements.

Valentine thought that decree unjust and continued performing marriages for couples in secret. When Claudius learned of this, he ordered Valentine arrested, beaten to death, then beheaded. A legend evolved that while in jail, Valentine left a note for his friend, the jailer's daughter. According to the legend, he signed the note, "Your Valentine." It's a sweet legend, with no verifiable evidence.

From martyrdom to romance-themed gifts: Regardless of which Saint Valentine is behind the holiday, history is vague on how the martyrdom of some St. Valentine got connected to this annual prove-your-love holiday.

One theory is that the February 14 date is close to the annual Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. At these festivals, young women put their names in a box, and young men drew out a name. In the fifth century, Pope Gelasius put an end to the festival and set aside February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. Over time the day was set aside to exchange love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers.

Love that transforms lives: Regardless of which historical Valentine is the one behind this annual tradition, February 14 is now another well-established gift-giving occasion. The observance is good for the economy, but there are other ways people express their love for others.

How do you express your love? Whose love has transformed your life?

Scripture Readings for February

February 2	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Psalm 84</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>
<i>How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)</i>				
February 9	<u>Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]</u>	<u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</u>	<u>Luke 5:1-11</u>
<i>I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)</i>				
February 16	<u>Jeremiah 17:5-10</u>	<u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:12-20</u>	<u>Luke 6:17-26</u>
<i>They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)</i>				
February 23	<u>Genesis 45:3-11, 15</u>	<u>Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</u>	<u>Luke 6:27-38</u>
<i>The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)</i>				

Thank you!

To everyone who helped in any way for the 2024 Eden Bazaar. We made a total of \$1,864.50.

With all our other monies from donations for funeral luncheons and so forth, we were able to make these gifts.

\$750 to the Free Store

\$750 to the Food Pantry

\$500 to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

\$500 to the Alger County Women's Center

Thank You Ladies (WELCA) for a job well done!

A Valentine's Day Prayer

*I said a Valentine prayer for You
and asked the Lord above
to fill your heart and bless your soul
with the precious gift of love.*

*I asked Him for sincere love
the kind that's meant to stay
just like the generous love
You give to those You touch each day.*

*I prayed for love from family
and from every cherished friend
then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.
(author unknown)*

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting, December 8, 2024

Council Members Present: Pastor Lon Hider, President Nathaniel Wood, Secretary Jennifer Wood, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Elaine Robbins

Nathaniel Wood called the meeting to order at 11:52.

Opening devotion:

Devotion by Lon Hider, followed by discussion.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Nathaniel makes a motion to approve the November minutes, Ryan Graves seconds, all approved, motion carried.

Review and Approval of Financial Report:

Lynn DeRoche makes a motion to approve the financial report, Ryan seconds, all approved, motion carried

Pastor's Report:

Lon give last report. He suggested a tech meeting before he leaves. Lynn, Elaine Robbins and Lon will schedule a meeting.

Upcoming Church Events:

Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

Old Business:

Lynn gave an update from the Nov Free Store.

Musician - Lon will finish the ad this month. Lynn will finish writing the musician job description.

New Business:

- Musician rotation expectations; council discussed
- 2025 Mission Support Commitment from the Synod for \$4,600; signed and will be sent back
- Northern Great Lakes Synod Donation Report
- Treasurer position opening was discussed. Lynn will post the position to Indeed.
- Chamber of Commerce - Nathaniel entertains a motion for the church to join the chamber of commerce for \$165 for a standard membership for the year; funds will come from "Communications, Ads and Website" funds, Ryan makes a motion and Nathaniel seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion favored. Elaine will talk to Terry about signing up online.

Significant Church Events:

Ray Berg burial, December 5, 2024

Next Council Meeting: January 12, 2025

Meeting adjourned Dec 8, 2024 1:24pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

Thank you, Ruth Lindquist

Ruth has resigned/retired as Eden's Treasurer and Financial Secretary. She remained following her initial resignation to help train the new treasurer.

As an active member of Eden, Ruth has also served on the finance and stewardship committee and as the capital building fund treasurer and committee member.

Thank you for your 36 years of dedication to the well-being of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Welcome, Brandalyn Decet

Please join in welcoming Brandalyn as Eden's new Treasurer/Financial Secretary.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Zac LeVeque. He recently spent his weekend painting the Pastor's Office.

Dear Pastor & Friends of Eden,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for my birthday. It really made my day.

Love, Sylvia Bray-Bosley

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.

Quilting Bee

Thursday, February 13, 10 a.m.

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

Book club, Wednesday, February 19, noon to 1 p.m. (third Wednesday)

The book club selection for January and February is "Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans. Copies are available in the kitchen. We plan to cover sections I - IV in January and finish in February. 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, February 20

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

Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.

(fourth Sunday)

Join Vicar Elaine and Harry for worship with the residents of Medilodge. The residents love visitors. You will get more than you give from this experience.

Volunteers Needed

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

Help Wanted

Primarily for the Sunday service, Eden needs a musician. Please inquire with Vicar Elaine.

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

CHRISTINE (Tina) BAIJ
Tom and Brenda St. Martin
Harry and Renee Baij

In Memory of

PAUL BAIJ
Tom and Brenda St. Martin
Harry and Renee Baij
Joanie Hinsä
Jean Hayes

In Memory of

RAY BERG
Candy Simonen
Billie Lindquist
Tom and Brenda St. Martin
Jean Hayes
Bonnie Bernard
Arlene Posont
Harry and Ruth Lindquist
Joanie Hinsä

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

Looking Ahead

- Ash Wednesday, March 5
- Daylight Savings Time, March 9
- Easter, April 20
- Pentecost, June 8

Happy Valentine's Day

Revolving Fund Balances

As of 12/31/2024

Help Fund	\$1,311.44
Memorial Fund	\$16,701.65
Scholarship Fund	\$24,649.25
Seminary Fund	\$2,604.73
Worship & Music Fund	\$2,021.17
Youth Ministry Fund	\$3,428.61

Free Store Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
			\$1,444.92
October	\$75.00	\$287.68	
November	\$520.00	\$39.88	
December	\$575.00	\$618.80	
4th qtr	\$1170.00	\$946.36	\$1,666.56
Totals	\$3999.58	\$2935.35	

Happy Birthday!

*Birthstone for February is amethyst.
The flower is violet.*

2/03 Patricia Erickson
2/03 Vicki Lindquist
2/03 James Perttula
2/04 Joe Ackerman
2/10 Kristie Cota
2/10 Trey Mattson
2/11 Billie Lindquist
2/13 Harry Lindquist
2/14 Judy Erickson
2/15 Evan Cromell
2/19 Logan Peters
2/20 Michele Albright
2/21 Chris Lindquist
2/26 Pauline Elavsky
2/27 Zachary LeVeque
2/27 Jacob Mattson
2/27 Steve Peffers
2/29 Danielle Belfry

Serving in February 2025

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, February 1	George Balko		
Sunday, February 2	Joanie Hinsa	David and Brandalyn Decet	Annual meeting light potluck David and Brandalyn Decet
Saturday, February 8	George Balko		
Sunday, February 9			
Saturday, February 15	George Balko		
Sunday, February 16		Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa	
Saturday, February 22	George Balko		
Sunday, February 23			Joanie Hinsa
Altar Guild for February – Joanie Hinsa			
Flower sponsor for February – Joanie Hinsa			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
February 2	Candace Dennis	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
February 9		Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
February 16		Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
February 23		Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche

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!*

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!*

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.

Elaine Robbins, Vicar

PastorOfEden@gmail.com

906-450-3344

Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable Clerk: Terry Kolbus

Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Brandalyn 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: Jean Hayes

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



February 2025

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ 3:30 p.m. Worship
² 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Annual Congregational Meeting</i>	³ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	⁴ 10 a.m. Prayer Group	⁵ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	⁶	⁷ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	⁸ 3:30 p.m. Worship
⁹ 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	¹⁰ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	¹¹ 10 a.m. Prayer Group	¹² <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	¹³ Quilting 10 a.m.	¹⁴ <i>9-2 Office Open</i> Valentine's Day	¹⁵ 3:30 p.m. Worship
¹⁶ 10:30 a.m. Worship	¹⁷ <i>9-2 Office Open</i> President's Day	¹⁸ 10 a.m. Prayer Group	¹⁹ <i>9-2 Office Open</i> 12 p.m. Book Club	²⁰ Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	²¹ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	²² 3:30 p.m. Worship
²³ 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 p.m. Medilodge service	²⁴ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	²⁵ 10 a.m. Prayer Group	²⁶ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	²⁷	²⁸ <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	March 1 3:30 p.m. Worship



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



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.



