# LIFE IN EDEN

## Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church Munising, Michigan March 2025



### Lent Services 2025

March 5	Ashes to Go	12 p.m.	Corner of Elm Avenue and Superior Street		
March 5	Ash Wednesday	7 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church		
March 12	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church, Soup & Bread		
		7 p.m.	Service		
March 19	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m.	Eden Lutheran Church, Soup & Bread		
		7 p.m.	Service		
March 26	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church, Soup & Bread		
		7 p.m.	Service		
April 2	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m.	United Methodist Church, Soup & Bread		
		7 p.m.	Service		
April 9	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m.	St. John's Episcopal Church, Soup & Bread		
		7 p.m.	Service		
April 12-	Palm Sunday	5 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church		
13		10:30 a.m.			
April 17	Maundy Thursday	7 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church		
April 18	Good Friday	12:15 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church		
April 19	Easter Vigil	7 p.m.	St. John's Episcopal Church		
April 20	Easter Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church		

Ashes to Ashes and Dust to Dust: Why Lutherans Receive Ashes on Ash Wednesday http://www.faithlutheranla.org/blog/ashes-to-ashes-and-dust-to-dust-why-lutheransreceive-ashes-on-ash-wednesday February 25, 2019

Many non-Lutherans wonder why their Lutheran friends or family members wear ashes on their forehead at the beginning of Lent. Are they showing off? Are they trying to stand out? Is it some weird secret church ritual? What does it mean? Should I get them too?



There are three reasons why Lutherans go to church to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. First, the ashes remind people of their sinfulness. Second, the ashes remind people of their mortality. Third, the ashes remind people that they have been redeemed. Let's unpack this a bit.

Since ancient times, God's people have used ashes as a sign of humble repentance (e.g. Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3: Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). This tradition was carried on by the early church and remains an important tradition today. When one willingly goes up to a pastor and receives ashes on his/her forehead, they are admitting that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation. They are admitting that they have sinned not only against their neighbors, but against God Himself. The ashes show demonstrate that without God, all people are spiritually dead. The ashes remind the wearer of their need to repent and confess in order to be turned back to God. The ashes demonstrate our pleading that the Lord would purify us. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as He loves us.

The receiving of ashes on Ash Wednesday also remind people of their mortality, which is the direct result of God's condemnation of our sin. God said to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes serve as a solemn reminder that the price of sin is death. Man cannot escape death. Often, people today feel as if they are invincible. It's easy to feel like we're at the top of the world, capable of doing anything that we desire. We keep ourselves busy doing "good" things, but fail to recognize that in reality we are dead men walking. People don't like to think about death. Our culture has seemingly sterilized death. We make every attempt to avoid death. Death is uncomfortable. And, that's why ashes are so important. They are the physical reminder that God created man from the dust of the earth and one day all men will return to the dust of the earth. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust. The ashes force us to remember that we are merely mortal and that God alone is sovereign and reigns for all eternity.

Ashes also tell us the good news of the Gospel! You see, ashes aren't just smeared randomly or haphazardly across people's foreheads. The ashes are given in the shape of the cross. In receiving the ashes, we remember that our Lord Jesus took on the fullness of our humanity. He who was sinless became our sin. Jesus the Christ was crucified on a cross. He was crucified for you. He descended into hell where he endured the fullness of the wrath of God on your behalf. Then Jesus conquered death through His resurrection. He was resurrected for you. In doing so, He has taken the ashes of our past and created in us new life, allowing us to live forever in the holy presence of God! He has redeemed His children, making us clean and new. Through the cross of Christ, the power of death has been destroyed. Through the cross there is life. The cross-shaped ashes on our foreheads proclaim the good news that sin and death have been conquered through the cross of Christ.

In many Lutheran Ash Wednesday services, the Lord's Supper immediately follows the receiving of ashes. We, who were once dead in our sins, we who deserve to die, come to the Lord's Table literally wearing the cross of Christ. Here, at the Lord's table, those who have humbled themselves before the Lord, who have admitted their sin, who know they deserve death, are instead given the new life that is only found through the body and blood of our loving Lord Jesus. Here, at the Lord's table, those marked with the cross of Christ are raised up, strengthened through God's mercy, love, and grace, and sent forth into the world to proclaim the good news.

Ash Wednesday is March 5. You are encouraged to find a local Lutheran church so that you, too, can join in this special occasion in which we humbly come before the Lord, repent of our sinful ways and receive the free gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Interestingly, the ashes Lutherans receive are traditionally made out of the palm branches used previously on Palm Sunday, a day when people rejoiced and praised Jesus only days before they turned on him and yelled "Crucify Him!" (Matthew 27:22; Mark 15:13; Luke 23:21; John 19:6) This serves as a powerful reminder that people are sinful, death is real, but Resurrection Day (Easter) is coming! Come, all are welcome. All are in need of salvation. Let the Lord use the ashes of your past to create in you a clean heart and new life in Him.

March 2	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-	Luke 9:28-36		
			4:2	[37-43a]		
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)						
March 9	Deuteronomy 26:1-	Psalm 91:1-2,	Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-1			
	11	9-16				
God will give the	God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)					
March 16	Genesis 15:1-12,	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17—	Luke 13:31-35		
	17-18		4:1			
In the day of tr	In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)					
March 23	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1- Luke 13:1-			
			13			
O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)						
March 30	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-	Luke 15:1-3,		
			21	11b-32		
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. (Ps. 32:11)						

#### **Scripture Readings for March**

#### **Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

Jan 12, 2025

**Present:** Vicar Elaine Robbins, Vice President Jean Hayes, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Ryan Graves

#### **Opening devotion:**

Vicar Elaine read a devotion from the NGLS Seed Sowers series.

#### Additions to the Agenda:

OLD: Treasurer position fill NEW: Several items of correspondence received by the office

#### **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting**

**Minutes:** Motion by Lynn D, seconded by Brenda S to approve, motion carried.

#### **Review and Approval of Financial Reports:**

Motion by Brenda S, seconded by Ryan G to approve, motion carried.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Vicar Elaine has officially started at Wartburg College, doing her first learning module. She will have office hours from 10-2 Wednesdays and her normal day off will be Monday. Elaine conducted the regular service at MediLodge on Dec 22.

Upcoming Church Events: Vicar Elaine will preside at the Sally Ruska funeral this week.

#### **Old Business:**

Jean took the Range Telecommunications correspondence and invoice to review.

After interviews, it is recommended that the treasurer position be offered to Brandalyn Decet. To provide for an orderly handoff, we will pay both Ruth Lindquist and Brandalyn for a month to provide a transition period.

The council accepts Matt Tulla's resignation as organist.

#### New Business:

The council reviewed the revised 2025 Budget, which included updated pay and benefit information for Vicar Elaine. Vicar Elaine Robbins has a designated housing allowance of \$8000 in her compensation package. Motion by Lynn D, seconded by Ryan G, to approve the revised budget. Motion carried.

Correspondence from Farms for Folks, a program of Alger County Communities that Care (AC3), requested financial support for the program. It will be included in a future newsletter for information.

A quote from Jim's Music for further improvements to the sound system was tabled for a future meeting.

The congregation annual meeting will be Feb 2 after services. A potluck of finger foods, similar to what is served at fellowship, is planned.

Next Council Meeting: The newly elected council will meet briefly after the Feb 2 annual meeting to elect officers. The next regular council meeting is planned for Feb 9, unless the annual meeting needs to be rescheduled to that date.

Meeting adjourned 12:45 PM Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Lynn DeRoche, Council Member Eden,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, they helped make turning 80 a little better. *Thank You, Jean Hayes* 

To my friends and family at Eden, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for my birthday. They help me remember that spring is coming??? *Again, thank you. Billie Lindquist* 

#### **Our Heartfelt Sympathy**

To the friends and family of Arlene Goodburn, who passed away February 7. Private family services will be held.

#### **Our Heartfelt Sympathy**

To the friends and family of Carolyn Kolbus, who passed away February 16.

#### Saturday Worship Time Change March 15

With the Daylight Savings Time change, Saturday worship changes to 5 p.m.

#### 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.

#### Quilting Bee Thursday, March 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, March 19, 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, March 20

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

#### Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m.

(fourth Sunday) Join Vicar Elaine and Harry as we worship with the residents of Medilodge.

#### **Looking Ahead**

- Easter, April 20



- Pentecost, June 8

Happy Birthday! Birthstone for March is amethyst. The flower is violet.

3/01 Stephen Dausey 3/05 Brent Brock 3/06 Rochelle Cotey 3/06 Gordon "Duke" Snyder 3/09 Jane Guyott 3/12 Derek Lewis 3/23 Laura Lewis 3/26 Bailey Masters 3/26 Bailey Masters 3/27 Morgan Sontag 3/28 Nick Sontag 3/30 Bobbie Foster 3/31 George Balko

#### **Election Results from Annual Meeting**

<u>Church Council</u> Ryan Graves (2024-2025) Brenda St. Martin (2024-2025) Jennifer Wood (2024-2025) Bruce Dausey (2025-2026) Norma Dick (2025-2026) Jean Hayes (2025-2026) Kaye Methot (2025-2026)

Nominating Committee Joanie Hinsa (2024-2025) Claudia VanLandschoot (2024-2025) Norma Dick (2025-2026) Emily Cook (2025-2026)

<u>Altar Guild</u> Lynn DeRoche (2023-2025) Joanie Hinsa (2023-2025) Patsy LaCombe (2023-2025) Christie Salo (2023-2025) Karen Derwin (2024-2026) Norma Dick (2024-2026) Elaine Robbins (2024-2026) Brenda St. Martin (2024-2026) Paula Ackerman (2025-2027) Marissa Graves (2025-2027) Donna LeRoy (2025-2027) Debbie Perttula (2025-2027)

<u>Audit Committee</u> Joanie Hinsa (2023-2025) Billie Lindquist (2024-2026) David Decet (2025-2027)

<u>Synod Assembly</u> (May 15-17) Lynn DeRoche Jennifer Wood

#### Financial Snapshot (as of 2/26//2025)

Income:\$ 5,304.51YTD\$11,760.29Expenses:\$ 8,726.10YTD\$15,346.73

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

Memorial Fund in Memory Of RAY BERG George & Anne Balko James & Debra Perttula

#### **Revolving Fund Balances**

As of 1/31/2025; *as of 2/24/20	025
Free Store	\$1,691.09
Help Fund	\$1,311.44
Memorial Fund*	\$14,785.71
Scholarship Fund	\$29,649.42
Seminary Fund*	\$2,604.73
Worship & Music Fund	\$2,529.42
Youth Ministry Fund*	\$3,499.41

Tradition states this prayer was on the breastplate of St. Patrick.

Christ with me Christ before me Christ behind me Christ in me Christ beneath me Christ above me Christ on my right Christ on my left Christ when I lie down Christ when I sit down Christ when I arise

#### Eden's Women of the ELCA group (WELCA) donated \$500 to Fortune Lake

Dear Fortune Lake Supporter,

Generosity is contagious. Recently I had a conversation with a donor whose daughter had been coming to camp for some time. Four years ago, the family was new to the community, and the daughter was initially invited to attend Fortune Lake for free through a local scholarship opportunity. That first week at camp helped her to experience the love of God in ways she never had. Her mom was excited to see that not only had she felt safe and had a fun time, but she also came home singing songs about Jesus. Fast forward to the next winter. The family found themselves in a different financial situation, instead of needing a camp scholarship, they were now ready to pay for camp and cover the cost of another youth to come for free, just like their daughter had the summer before. This pattern has continued each year, with multiple youth experiencing God's love, ever widening the circle. Like ripples from the rock thrown into Fortune Lake, the effects multiply beyond our understanding.

Daily I witness love graciously poured out on behalf of others through your financial support of this ministry. Often, those gifts are multiplied in ways we may never imagine or understand. God is that.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Fortune Lake. As always, we promise to use your gifts well. Your love and generosity are certainly contagious, and we couldn't do this important work without you.

Thanks be to God! Grace & Peace Amanda Rasner – Camp Director

#### WELCA donated \$500 to the Women's Center

Dear Eden Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Women's Center and its emergency shelter, Harbor House, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00. That is a wonderful gesture of kindness from you.

Your willingness to help women, men and children in our community survive the trauma of domestic violence or sexual assault in their lives makes all the difference for them. At the Women's Center, our mission to provide services to survivors and their families of domestic violence and sexual assault is dependent on Community support. In FY2024, we provided 4,277 shelter nights for more than 334 individuals of domestic or sexual violence and 5,067 support Line Calls. The need for our services, unfortunately, exists in our communities.

Thank you again for supporting our programs.

Sincerely, Jennine Frazier Executive Director, Women's Center

## Serving in March 2025

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts	
Saturday, March 1	George Balko			
Sunday, March 2			Billie and Jean	
Ash Wednesday, March 5				
Saturday, March 8	George Balko			
Sunday, March 9			Brandalynn and David	
Saturday, March 15	George Balko			
Sunday, March 16			Karen and Lynn	
Wednesday, March 19				
Saturday, March 22	George Balko			
Sunday, March 23			Patsy and Helen	
Saturday, March 29	George Balko			
Sunday, March 30				
Altar Guild for March – Karen Derwin				
Flower sponsor for March – no flowers during Lent				

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

#### **Help Wanted**

*Musician* – Primarily for the Sunday service, Eden needs an organist or pianist. Please inquire with Vicar Elaine.

#### **Volunteers** Needed

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

**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 (through March 8) 5 p.m. Saturday (beginning March 15) 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 <u>PastorOfEden@gmail.com</u> 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: Bruce Dausey, Norma Dick, 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.





## March 2025 Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 3:30 p.m. Worship
2 10:30 a.m. Worship	3 9-2 Office Open	4 10 a.m. Prayer Group	5 9-2 Office Open 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday	6	7 9-2 Office Open	8 3:30 p.m. Worship
9 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg Spring forward	10 9-2 Office Open	11 10 a.m. Prayer Group	12 9-2 Office Open 7 p.m. Ecumenical Service	13 Quilting 10 a.m.	14 9-2 Office Open	15 5 p.m. Worship
16 10:30 a.m. Worship	17 9-2 Office Open	18 10 a.m. Prayer Group	19 9-2 Office Open 12 p.m. Book Club 7 p.m. Ecumenical Service	20 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	21 9-2 Office Open	22 5 p.m. Worship
23 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Worship</b> 2 p.m. Medilodge service 30 <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	24 9-2 Office Open 31 9-2 Office	25 10 a.m. Prayer Group	26 9-2 Office Open 7 p.m. Ecumenical Service	27	28 9-2 Office Open	29 5 p.m. Worship
Worship	Open					



#### Farms for Folks 2025

In the summer of 2020, the Farms for Folks program (FFF) started home deliveries of fresh food from local farmers to Alger County neighbors who struggled to access high quality food. Our increase in deliveries each year demonstrates the need is growing.

Participants felt the quantity of farm products was enough for two weeks. So, in 2024 we delivered to about 20 households on even weeks and 20 different households on odd weeks: 6 weeks each, over a 12 week period. We had three delivery areas: Western Alger County, Munising and Grand Marais. We hope to increase our numbers to 48 households in 2025.

#### Farms For Folks' success depends on

#### The Community:

•FFF is funded entirely by donations from community members and businesses.

·Each year, we have been able to grow thanks to these donations. •We are grateful for the incredibly generous community in which we live.

#### The Farmers:

•Participating farms supply fresh vegetables, bread, pork, honey, eggs, chicken, and mushrooms and more. •Farmers are paid full market price for their product.s

•Almost all the participating farmers have been with us from the start. FFF farmers care for our community members.

#### The Volunteers:

•Are wonderful, dedicated, incredibly reliable, and really enjoy seeing the FFF families.

•Like the farmers, we have volunteers who have been with us from the start and every year we have more coming on board to help. Enough can't be said about the volunteers' reliability and dedication. We could not do FFF without them.

#### The Families:

· This year to qualify, households must meet 2 or more of the below criteria

- · Live anywhere in Alger County and
- · Do not have access to a car or
- · Are a senior citizen, veteran or are disabled and Most times do not have enough money to buy fresh groceries or
- · Are a Medicaid or SSDI recipient or
- · Need to frequent the food pantry often to make ends meet or
- Have no access to the closest farmers market and no ability to have a garden of their own or access to a neighbor's garden.

• No income or eligibility information is required; we believe in treating our community members with dignity, respect, and trust. To date, this has proven to be an honest system for recruiting those households that could benefit from FFF.

- ·Are encourage strongly to share if they feel they have too much.

#### SIGN UP FOR 2025 IS APRIL 1-30 ONLY

#### Our fundraising goal for 2025 is \$13,000.

•Hope to deliver to 48 households, over 12 weeks (mid June -Mid September)

•Cost per bag delivered estimated at \$40-45. As we all know, food prices and energy costs continue to rise.

•Each bag of food includes fresh produce, and on some weeks may include eggs, mushrooms, meat, bread or more.

·Each bag includes recipes/info specific to bag contents

·Your contribution is exclusively for Farmer's payments for their contributions, small volunteer gas stipends, and a few supplies.

Any support you can give will be deeply appreciated. Please feel free to reach out via email, text or phone with any questions.

Sincerely, Elise Bunce - Farms for Folks Organizer 413 Maple St, Munising MI 49862 906-250-4825, eliseb@tds.net

This program is supported by







26 40

Participants

Volunteers

8

8

Year

2021

Farms

•Will receive 6 bags of produce and farm products over the 12 weeks .

•Receive information/recipes corresponding to bag contents.

#### Letter from the Vicar

February has been a very exciting month at Eden. Our annual meeting was a great success. One very exciting thing that happened at the meeting was that four people who had never held a voted position joined one of guilds or committees for the first time. New member Donna LeRoy and Marissa Graves have joined the altar guild. Emily Cook has joined the nominating committee and David Decet has joined the audit committee. People taking leadership roles for the first time is vital to the growth and strength of Eden.

At the annual meeting Jennifer, Nathaniel Wood and family gifted Eden with a beautiful replicated page from the Gutenberg Bible. This framed page is currently displayed in the narthex.

On February 23rd, Eden welcomed Donna LeRoy and Brandalyn Decet as new members. Donna has already been a very active volunteer at Eden and Brandalyn has taken on the role of Treasurer after Ruth Lindquist's retirement. We welcome these ladies and thank God for these new sisters in Christ.

Pastor Ellie Russey has offered to play the piano for Sunday service when she visits as my supervisor. Pastor Ellie is amazingly talented and her music greatly elevated the service. One Sunday a month Pastor Ellie meets with me as my supervisor to discuss my class work, service presentation and to share her wealth of knowledge. Additionally, Pastor Ellie answers all my questions when I am stumped by how to proceed preparing a service or sermon. Pastor Ellie was a great blessing to my life when she was our interim pastor and is blessing me once again. My gratitude for her is immeasurable.

The Ecumenical Committee has met to plan the Lenten season. The full schedule is in the newsletter and will be on our website. The Wednesday soup suppers and services are so important for continuing and building ecumenical relationships. The leaders of the other churches that form the ecumenical group have been very generous with offering me support and advice. I am thankful to have this wonderful group beside me as I grow in my role as your vicar.

This year I approach Lent from a much different position than in the past. I have never given Lent the attention that I will this year. I am looking forward to all that I learn about this season. I invite you to include Ash Wednesday, Wednesday night and Holy Week services in your Lenten journey. Together we can dive deeper into what Lent means and how we choose to honor this sacred time.

God's peace, Vicar Elaine



Thank You to the Wood Family

At the Annual Meeting Nathanial Wood presented Eden with a reproduction of a page from the original Gutenberg Bible. The page is a gift from the Wood family which they brought home from their trip to Germany. While in Germany, the Wood family toured the Gutenberg Museum, home of the original Gutenberg printing press and two of the surviving copies of the original Gutenberg Bible. The page that the Woods gifted Eden is from the Gospel of John. The page is absolutely beautiful. It was manufactured using the letter press technique and hand coloured using tempera paint and gold ink.

Thank you to Jennifer, Nathaniel, Lyon, Skylar, and Lena

Help Us Collect Underwear and Socks Donations



Throughout Lent we will be collecting new socks and underwear for women, men and children. All collected items will be donated to **Room at the Inn**. A basket will be in the narthex for donations. This page for mailing