

LIFE IN EDEN



A Letter From The Vicar

Happy New Year!

I can't believe that 2026 passed so quickly. I have been your vicar for a year now! I am so thankful for the support that you have given me, and Harry. You allow me room to grow, make mistakes, and learn. You encourage me and guide me. I began 2025 with a list of goals—some were met, a few were deleted, and some were marked “not yet”.

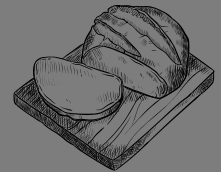
This year I plan to read two books with the council. We have already begun the first, *Leading on Purpose: Intentionality and Teaming in the Lutheran Context* by Eric Burtness.

This book focuses on proactive leadership and people-centered collaborative approaches to ministry that are grounded in Lutheran theology. The goal is to adapt strategies for health, growth, and revitalization.

The second book we will read is *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri J. M. Nouwen. This book was given to all who attended the bishop's conclave. This little book has been highly recommended and is written around the belief that “Fundraising is first and foremost a form of ministry.” I am excited for what we will learn from this little book and how we can replace financial insecurity with surety.

We begin the new year with a new face in the office, and new office hours.

Please attend Eden's
2026 annual
congregational meeting
(and potluck) on
**Sunday, February 15,
2026.**



If Saturday or
Sunday worship will
be cancelled due to
inclement weather,
a notice will be
posted on Eden's
Facebook page and
TV6 news.

Terry Kolbus retired effective year-end. Terry and her husband JB, also newly retired, plan to travel with their travel trailer and enjoy the leisurely pace that retirement affords them. Terry has been a valuable part of Eden for many years, doing much more than her job title requires. She kept Eden organized and running while we were between pastors, at least twice! She has helped me immeasurably. We thank Terry with all our heart and pray for her and JB to enjoy their retirement travels. The council voted unanimously to hire Stephanie LaFoille as Eden's administrative assistant and accounts payable clerk. Stephanie is a Manistique native, has a degree in marketing, has worked in various roles in both banks and credit unions, and has managed and done advertising for a high-end men's hair salon.

Stephanie brings financial experience, attention to detail, and creativity to her new position. Please welcome Steph when you see her in the office. As we begin 2026, I ask you to consider your vision for Eden this year. Where can we serve our neighbor? How can we spread the Gospel? What is God calling us to? What is your role in our ministry? Which leads me to - I need your help. As an assignment, I need a half hour of time from ten members to talk about these questions. We can meet at the church, a coffee shop, or your home. Please call or email me to schedule an appointment. I can't complete this assignment without you! Happy New Year! May 2026 be filled with God's blessings and assurance.

God's peace,

Vicar Elaine



**Mark
your
Calendar**

Looking ahead:

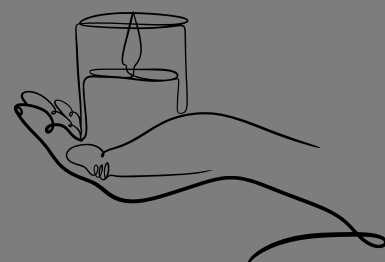
- Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 15th**
- Ash Wednesday is **February 18th**
- Daylight Savings Time is **March 8th**
- Easter is **April 5th**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthstone for January
is Garnet.

Flower is Carnation.

- 01/02 - Beverly Oas
- 01/03 - Patricia Savola
- 01/04 - Dawn Mattson
- 01/08 - Bruce Dausey
- 01/08 - Keira Albright
- 01/10 - Stephanie Dausey
- 01/10 - Kenneth Davis
- 01/10 - Connor Salo
- 01/10 - Kaye Methot
- 01/11 - Helen Scheuneman
- 01/13 - Kathy Baij
- 01/21 - Gabriel Cole
- 01/22 - Christi Salo
- 01/31 - Jean Hayes



BINGO

*at Eden on January 4th
following Worship service.
It will be a snack food potluck...*

*Please bring at least one prize
per household!*



Thank you!

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO BRENDA ST. MARTIN FOR HER
FAITHFUL SERVICE AS OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

THROUGHOUT HER TIME IN THIS ROLE, BRENDA'S DEDICATION, CARE,
AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL HELPED KEEP OUR CONGREGATION
INFORMED AND CONNECTED. HER WORK BEHIND THE SCENES WAS A
TRUE GIFT TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY!

AS WE THANK BRENDA FOR HER SERVICE, WE ALSO SHARE THAT
STEPHANIE LAFOILLE WILL BE STEPPING INTO THE ROLE OF
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MOVING FORWARD. PLEASE JOIN US IN
EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO BRENDA AND IN OFFERING SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGEMENT DURING THIS TRANSITION.

A Message From The Nominating Committee

Our Congregation Annual Meeting is coming up on **February 15th** and we need YOU. There are a number of ways that we can serve our church. The following areas will need to be filled at the annual meeting:

Congregation Council

We need three more people to fill upcoming vacancies. This is a 2 year term (2026-2027). 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 three more people to fill upcoming vacancies. This is a 3 year term (2026-2028). Three years may 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 for worship each week. The duties include changing the paraments and banners to the proper colors for the church season, 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 and help whenever you need assistance.

Audit Committee

We need one person to fill this 3 year term (2026-2028). The Audit Committee meets once a year to audit year-end financial reports of various committees.

Synod Assembly

We need two people to fill this 1 year term (2026). This requires attendance at the Synod Assembly which is usually held in May. Some years it is in person and other years it is online.

We are not sure what 2026 will look like, but we should know at our annual meeting. It is a great way to meet fellow members in our Synod and learn what is happening church wide.

Nominating Committee

We need 2 people to fill this 2 year term (2026-2027). The nominating committee tries to find willing members of the church to serve on various committees prior to the annual meeting.

If you would like to serve in any of these areas, please contact us or the church office.

God Bless,

The Nominating Committee:

Emily Cook, Norma Dick, Joanie Hinsa, Claudia VanLandschoot



Scripture Readings for January 2026

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

*Worship the Lord, O
Jerusalem; praise your
God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

*The voice of the Lord is
upon the waters. (Ps.
29:3)*

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

*I love to do your will, O
my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

*The Lord is my light and
my salvation. (Ps.27:1)*

Revolving Fund Balances 12/31/2025

Memorial Fund: \$16,324.65
Youth Ministry Fund: \$3,428.61
Worship & Music Fund: \$2,021.17
Scholarship Fund: \$24,156.46
Seminary Fund: \$2,603.09
Help Fund: \$1,310.61
Free Store:

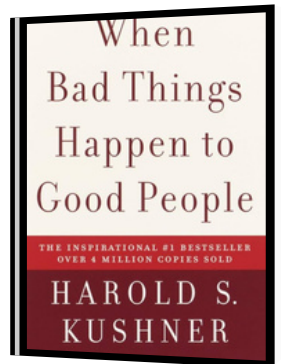
Please note: income is not keeping up with expenses.

November Financial Snapshot

Income: \$13,503.30
YTD: \$90,550.84
Expenses: \$14,258.93
YTD: \$104,445.73

o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

From the Book
Club...



The book that we will be discussing at our January meeting will be "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" by Harold S. Kushner.

Description:

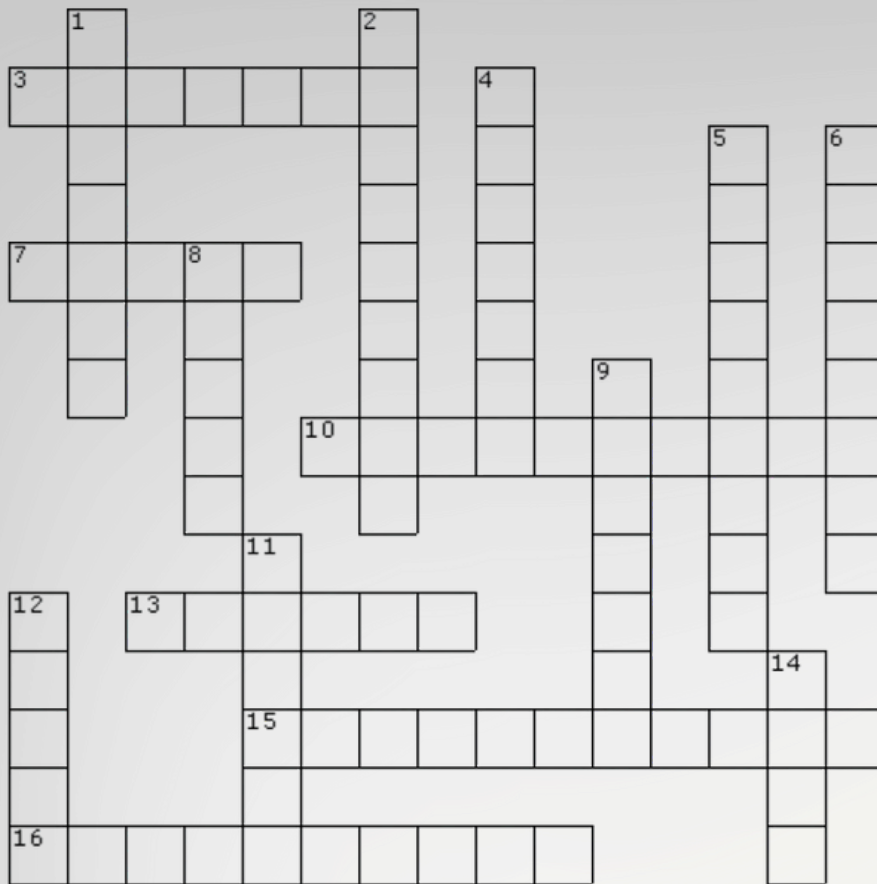
This thoughtful, life-affirming book by a distinguished clergyman will help you cope with hard times and personal pain. Filled with compassion, it will give you comfort and strength when tragedy threatens to take away your faith, and help you understand that God can fill the deepest needs of an anguished heart.

Thank you to everyone who shared poinsettias.

In Memory of Loved Ones
from Tom & Karen Derwin
In Memory of Mary Livermore
from Norma Dick, Emily Cook,
& Braylin Calhoun
In Memory of our Parents
from Dan & Joanie Hinsa
In Memory of Esther & Leonard Burkhalter and In Memory of Bill & Ellen Perttula
from Jim & Deb Perttula
In Memory Braden Petska
from Patsy LaCombe
In Memory of Dianna Jarvis & Connie Eade from Zac & Stephanie LeVeque
In Memory of Helen & Gary Mattson from Harry & Elaine Robbins
Given in thanks to God for Oliver "Ollie" LeVeque from Papa Harry & Granny Elaine



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!
A flower sponsor is needed for January.



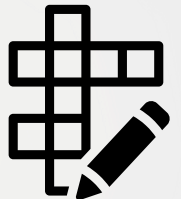
ACROSS

- 3 Sea of ____
 7 Residents of this city tried to build a tower to heaven
 10 Jesus was arrested in this garden
 13 Ancient Jewish kingdom
 15 Jesus was baptized in this river
 16 God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on this mountain

- temple was here
 6 Jesus grew up here
 8 Moses led the people out of slavery in this land
 9 Joshua fought the battle of ____
 11 Noah's ark landed in the mountains of this region
 12 God destroyed this city by fire
 14 Jesus turned water in wine at a wedding here

DOWN

- 1 Jesus was crucified on this hill
 2 Jesus was born here
 4 The Corinthians lived here
 5 The Jewish



**Please consider
 volunteering on
 Saturday
 evenings and Sunday
 mornings to usher,
 read
 lessons and prayers,
 assist with
 communion, or
 host fellowship.**

Thank you.

Rootbeer Rye Bread

- 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 c. shortening
 2/3 c. molasses
 1 qt. rootbeer (not sugar free)
 1/2 c. lukewarm water
 2 pkg. dry yeast
 3 c. rye flour
 7 to 8 1/2 c. white flour

Melt shortening, add molasses and rootbeer and heat. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add to molasses mixture. Add rye flour and white flour. Mix well and knead. Let rise until double in bulk; punch down. Shape into 6 loaves and let rise. Bake at 325° for 50 to 60 minutes. Brush with melted butter.

Ruth Godell



What's New?

We're excited to share that a new Bible Study is starting! Beginning soon, this informal group will meet Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., except on the second Thursday of each month (Quilting Day).



This will be a relaxed, discussion-based Bible study where participants choose together which book of the Bible to read, and we'll explore it at a comfortable pace. There are no lessons or workbooks - just open conversation, shared insight, and time in God's Word.

Whether you're new to Bible study or have been reading Scripture for years, this is a wonderful opportunity to gather, learn, and grow together. All are welcome - just bring your Bible!

Eden Evangelical Church

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10:30 a.m. Worship				1	2 Office open 9-1	3 4 p.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship with Bingo to follow	4	5	6 10 a.m. prayer group	7 Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	8 10 a.m. quilting Office open 9-1	9 4 p.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship Council mtg	11	12	13 10 a.m. prayer group	14 12 p.m. book club Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	15 1-3 p.m. & 4-6 p.m. Free Store 11:00 a.m. Bible Study Office open 9-1	16 4 p.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship	18	19	20 10 a.m. prayer group	21 Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	22 Office open 9-1	23 4 p.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Worship	25	26	27 10 a.m. prayer group	28 Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	29 Office open 9-1	30 4 p.m. Worship

Book club (third Wednesday):

If you have suggestions for a book club reading, please let Lynn DeRoche or Joanie Hinsä know. Everyone is welcome to join.

Free Store (third Thursday):

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

Bible study (every Thursday besides the second Thursday):

11:00 a.m.

Please note: Office hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 1. Elaine is in on Wednesdays from 10 to 2.

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship Services:

4 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: Wednesdays & Fridays, 9-1

Elaine Robbins, Vicar

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PastorOfEden@gmail.com

906-450-3344

Administrative Assistant and Accounts Payable Clerk: Stephanie LaFoilie

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 360

Munising MI 49862

906-387-2520

eden@jamadots.com