

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".

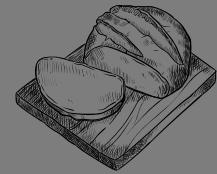
This year I plan to read two books with the council. We have already begun the first, *Leading on Purpose: Intentionality and Teaming in the Lutheran Context* by Eric Burtress.

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 LaFolle 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



Looking ahead:

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

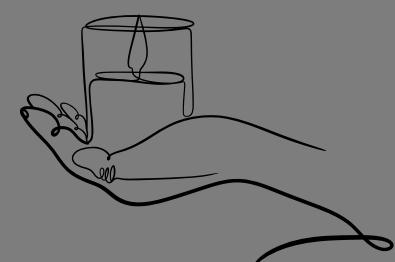
**Mark
your
Calendar**

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

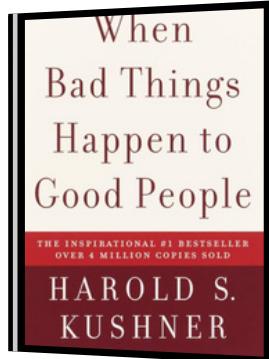
Memorial Fund: \$16,324.65
Youth Ministry Fund: \$3,428.61
Worship & Music Fund: \$2,021.17
Scholarship Fund: \$24,156.46
Seminary Fund: \$2,603.09
Help Fund: \$1,310.61
Free Store:

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

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.

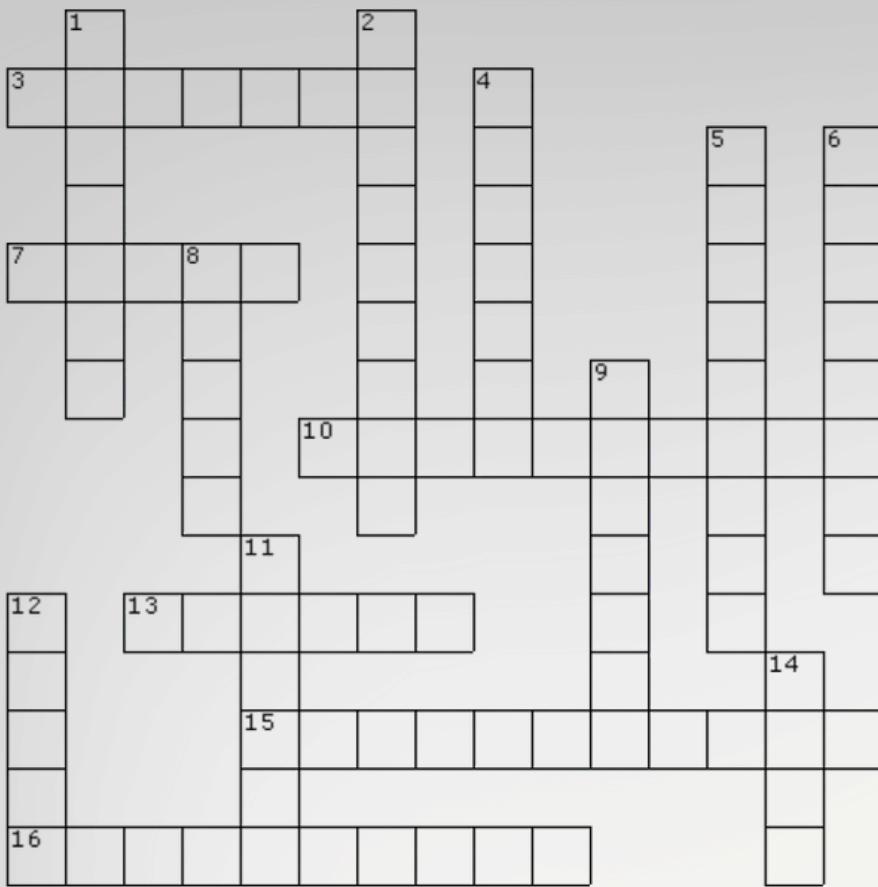
In Memory of Loved Ones
from Tom & Karen Derwin
In Memory of Mary Livermore
from Norma Dick, Emily Cook,
& Braylin Calhoun

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.



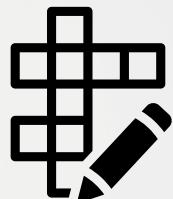
ACROSS

3 Sea of _____	6 Jesus grew up here
7 Residents of this city tried to build a tower to heaven	8 Moses led the people out of slavery in this land
10 Jesus was arrested in this garden	9 Joshua fought the battle of _____
13 Ancient Jewish kingdom	11 Noah's ark landed in the mountains of this region
15 Jesus was baptized in this river	12 God destroyed this city by fire
16 God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on this mountain	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.

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



Thank you.

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
10:30 a.m. 4 Worship with Bingo to follow	5	6	Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	7	8	9
10:30 a.m. 11 Worship Council mtg	12	13	12 p.m. book club Elaine in office 10-2 Office open 9-1	14	15	16
10:30 a.m. Worship	18	19	10 a.m. prayer group	21	22	23
10:30 a.m. Worship	25	26	10 a.m. prayer group	28	29	30

Book club (third Wednesday):

If you have suggestions for a book club reading, please let Lynn DeRoche or Joanie Hinsa 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 LaFolle

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

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