

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
June 2024



Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly, May 18, 2024 **Lynn DeRoche, Eden's Representative**

I was happy to represent Eden Lutheran Church at the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) Assembly on May 18. I attended with other members of Conference 8 at Messiah Lutheran in Marquette, with seven other conferences joining in by video from remote locations near their homes. The assembly business included recognizing important events such as ordination anniversaries, retirements, and deaths of rostered leaders in the last year. We also voted for various NGLS committee members, approved the proposed budget for 2024/2025, and approved clergy compensation guidelines.

The Bishop's report discussed the challenges in finding candidates to fill vacant clergy positions in the NGLS. Since 2019, the candidates entering the course of study to become ministers of Word and Sacrament have steadily declined from 335 to 125. This greatly reduces the pool of available graduates who would be looking for a first call ministry. There are 17 current calls involving 23 of the 77 NGLS congregations. Bishop Finegan talked about the need to reimagine how we meet the needs of our members, with greater emphasis on lay leadership being an important part of that discussion. Her complete report is available on the NGLS website at <https://nglsynod.org/dataarchive/ngls-assembly/2024/BishopReport24pdf.pdf?t=1716228799>.

Every year the NGLS offers a variety of Zoom workshops leading up to the assembly. These are available to anyone who wants to attend, not just the assembly delegates. One workshop this year was about a new Social Statement that the ELCA is writing on Civic Life and Faith. It discusses civic participation and the relationship of church and state. A draft version is currently posted for reading and comment at https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Civic_Life_and_Faith_Draft.pdf.

An interesting part of the workshop was an explanation of the process for developing and approving social statements. It is a very deliberate process and works hard to access and consider a wide range of viewpoints before a statement is adopted. I hope to read this statement in more detail this summer. Another very interesting workshop talked about Bible translation and how the translator's approach influences the results. Comparing various translations can give insight into a translator's choices and help provide a deeper understanding of texts. I hope to attend more workshops next year, whether I represent Eden at the NGLS Assembly or not.

Lynn DeRoche

Our Heartful Sympathy

To the family and friends of Nan Taube, who passed away on May 5. Graveside service will be at Maple Grove Cemetery on Monday, June 17, 5:30 p.m.

Our Heartful Sympathy

To the family and friends of Rodger Swanson, who passed away on May 24.

Congratulations

To Matt Tulla and Seth Fortin, who were married here at Eden on May 10.

Financial Snapshot as of May 24, 2024

Income: \$6,775.00 YTD \$49,166.70

Expenses: \$5,500.07 YTD \$48,215.97

Book Club Update

Eden's book club is on hiatus for the summer months. When it resumes this fall, the group will be reading about Mother Theresa.

Annual Fish Fry, June 2

Eden annual fish fry will follow the Sunday service. Hopefully the sign-up sheet is full now, but feel free to bring an item to share. Minimum suggested donation is \$10 each. Thanks to everyone for helping to make this another success.

Feeding America, June 5

This food distribution (first Wednesday of the month) happens in Eden's parking lot, noon to 2 p.m. Volunteers are welcome.

Pride Fest, June 8

Messiah Lutheran Church is again sharing their table space with us. The festival

starts at 1 p.m. at Mattson Lower Harbor Park in Marquette. We would like someone at the table from 1 to 6 p.m. If you'd like to spend an hour or more at the table, please let Elaine Robbins know.

Rev. Leslie Niemi Memorial Service, June 10

Monday, June 10, at 1 p.m. at Eden, with Bishop Katherine Finegan and Rev. Paul Kelto officiating. The family will greet relatives and friends one hour prior to the service and at a social gathering following the service.

Quilting Bee, June 13

Come join the quilters; all are welcome because everyone can tie a knot. The quilters will take a summer break, returning in September (usually meet on the second Thursday of each month).

Free Store, June 20

Open 1-3 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Occurs on the third Thursday. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jennifer Wood.

Trinity Lutheran Church, June 21

This small youth group will stay overnight at Eden, and will help with a service project. Thank you.

Marlene Robbins Memorial Service, June 22

Visitation will be on Saturday, June 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Eden. Rev. Lon Hider will conduct Marlene's memorial service at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery. A luncheon will follow.

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 10, 2024

As approved at the April 2024 meeting.

Council Members Present: Pastor Tera Kossow, Jean Hayes, Jennifer Wood, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Ryan Graves, Elaine Robbins

Pastor Tera called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m.

Opening devotion:

Dwelling in the Word with reading from 1 Corinthians, followed by discussion.

Additions to the Agenda:

Old Business: Free Store news, questions Matt Tula has about his wedding. New Business: New council member to replace one that is absent, Brenda St. Martin has a concern.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Financial Report:

Motion made by Lynn DeRoche, seconded by Ryan Graves, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tera is updating the membership roster. Using the current membership guidelines we have 180 active members. She is working on cleaning out a file cabinet with unused documents.

Old Business:

A congregational meeting to approve the revised bylaws was set for Sunday, April 28, at the 10:30 a.m. service. A short meeting will be held at the end of the service to approve the revised bylaws. A council member (council president) will make an announcement at the Saturday service stating if any church member would like to attend this meeting on the 28th they are welcome.

Free Store update - the store received a sizable donation from Bethany Lutheran in Escanaba and will be using those funds to buy more supplies over the next few months. Ideas were discussed about future funds and fundraising to continue this outreach program. Brenda suggested that the free store not stock items that are available at the

Alger Community Food Pantry. No consensus was reached.

Matt Tulla requested to be able to use alcohol for communion at his wedding (which will be held at the church this spring). After referencing the Wedding and Building Use Policy the council members decided that it is allowed. Jennifer Wood will contact Matt and send him a copy of that policy.

New Business: It was brought to the council's attention that Bruce Dausey's attendance at council meetings has been lacking and per bylaws can be replaced. Elaine Robbins volunteered to finish Bruce Dausey's council term. Brenda St. Martin made a motion, Lynn DeRoche seconded, motion carried.

Approval of Braylin Calhoun, Trey Mattson and Lena Wood for affirmation of baptism and confirmation - all were in favor / no opposed.

Jennifer Wood will write Bethany Lutheran a thank you letter for their generous donation to the Free Store at Eden.

Feed the Pig - Ryan Graves volunteered to make a new donation box for quarterly donations. New name to follow. The spring quarter donations will be for the fish fry and the 4th of July bonfire.

Farewell potluck for Pastor Tera will be held on Sunday, March 24, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Bacon, deviled eggs and olives are welcome.

The delegation of Pastor Tera's tasks - email: we will ask if Terry will take this on. Newsletter and monthly Munising Beacon article - Elaine Robbins. Pastor Tera informed the council that Lyon Wood has expressed interest in managing the Google calendar, website, bulletin pdf. The council discussed payment and duty options. Elaine made a motion to pay Lyon Wood \$100 per month for the upkeep of the Google calendar, the website, posting the pdf of the bulletin and embedding the Facebook live video. Ryan Graves seconded. Motion carried.

Donation request for Senior All Night Party Committee at the high school Lynn DeRoche made a motion to donate \$150 from the youth fund, Elaine Robbins seconded - motion carried.

Brenda expressed her concern regarding the phrase, ‘other marginalized groups’ as it appeared in the annual meeting minutes because these minutes were published in the Life in Eden, and therefore posted on the public webpage.

Brenda noted that the annual report did not include an annual audit report for the Free Store. Pastor Tera instructed Jennifer to obtain the report form from the office and complete it. Jennifer

Wood made note to add that to the Free Store to-do list.

Elaine Robbins brought up that she is willing to be available for the church when Pastor Tera leaves. The council discussed options that will be brought up with the bishop at our meeting on Monday, March 11.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

Serving in June 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, June 1	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, June 2			Fish Fry – Everyone!
Saturday, June 8	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, June 9	Joanie Hinsa		
Saturday, June 15	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, June 16			Joanie Hinsa
Saturday, June 22	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, June 23	Joanie Hinsa		
Saturday, June 29	George Balko	Dave and Carol E.	
Sunday, June 30			

Altar Guild for June is Patsy LaCombe.

Serving in the Congregation during Worship

Worship Captains recruit people to help with worship.

Please consider volunteering on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings to usher, read lessons and prayers, assist with communion distribution, host fellowship, and even play music selections using the instrument of your choice.

Thank you!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- 6-03 Connie Nelson
- 6-04 Sam Sutherland
- 6-07 Duray Murk
- 6-09 Bonnie Bernard
- 6-09 MacKenzie Masters
- 6-11 Noah Ackerman
- 6-13 Natalie Brock
- 6-14 Paul Baij
- 6-17 Doug Lare
- 6-18 Cassius Lindquist
- 6-19 Van Ouellette-Ballas
- 6-21 Gloria Artibee
- 6-23 Abigail Brown
- 6-23 Kristine Dausey
- 6-29 Eric Artress
- 6-30 Robert Cornish

Thank you to Eden's Women of the ELCA group for providing carnations on Mother's Day. This is a long-standing and lovely tradition of WELCA.

Thank you to Debbie Perttula for coordinating the flower gifts on Mother's Day and the celebration cakes on Pentecost.

Thank you to Eden's quilting group for gifting handmade quilts to our high school graduates.

Thank you to Jean Hayes for coordinating Eden's gifts to our confirmands and graduates.

Thank you to Josh Farmer for mowing the church lawn. More volunteers are always welcome for mowing and grass trimming.



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Shining the Light of Christ from the Northern Great Lakes Synod
Reprinted from *Northern Light*, Volume 36, Issue 3, | May-June 2024

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

~John 12: 24

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

The season of gardening is almost upon us. When I was a child, my mother would cajole, plead, and bribe me and my siblings to take a turn weeding in the garden. I always resisted, disliking not only the bending in the hot sun, but the time away from play, even as I had just complained that there was nothing to do.

After my family and I moved to Republic, my husband and I agreed to try gardening. As we planned and planted, I regretted not having paid more attention to all the wisdom that I know my mother had about gardening, but I was too reluctant a student.

It was a surprise to me then, as I weeded the garden, when I unintentionally uprooted a green bean seed that had already sprouted, and what surprised me was how the seed was literally disappearing into the sprout. As I held this disturbed sprout in my dirty hand, I could see that the seed had been split open by the urgent growth of this little tendril shoot that sprung from the mysterious depth of the center of this seed, no bigger than...well...a bean seed. The two halves of the seed that flanked the sprout were pushed to the sides, up and away, and they were getting smaller as the sprout gathered what remained of the seed into itself for upward growth.

I had never seen a seed sprout, not that I could remember, not that I had ever paid attention. And I was newly in awe of the miracle that God provides with seeds and dark earth, water and sun. And then to think that

this small sprout would, and indeed did, grow into a bush full of green beans, despite all the weeds that surrounded it. One small seed was transformed into a gallon freezer bag full of long and plump green beans, beans that graced our table at more than a few meals, where my children could count on me to say, just as my mother had, “These beans are from the garden.”

God is in the business of new life and transformation, most particularly, transforming death into life. And we are both privileged and burdened to witness the current and ongoing transformation of the Church. Death is hard. We suffer it. We would rather not die. And yet, there is no Easter without Good Friday.

This spring, in this Easter season of new life, the congregation of St. James in Marinette, Wisconsin, will give new life to the Church as their church closes. Its end will also be a beginning as it loses itself in support of other ministries and participation in other communities of faith. And yet, St. James will never be lost. It will be remembered and honored as any beloved whose life we celebrate. As in all things, it had a beginning and it will have an end, that God transforms into beginning again.

Just as Jesus the Christ was transformed. Through the open and empty tomb, we are given the clear message that death is not the final word. The grain that was buried for three days is still bearing fruit – as the faithful gather, as they are equipped, as they are sent to plant seeds of faith – seeds that lose themselves in new growth and yield a harvest to a world hungry for the presence of God in Christ Jesus. May God bless your seed sowing efforts, both in the dirt of your garden and in the world.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan

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

www.edenonthebay.org
906-387-2520
eden@jamadots.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dr. Lon Hider, Administrative Interim Pastor
lonhider@gmail.com 906-450-3258

Secretary and Financial Secretary: Terry Kolbus
Treasurer: Ruth Lindquist
Maintenance: John Cromell
Custodian: Emily Cook

The Congregational Council generally meets on the second Sunday of each month, following the worship services. Its members are:

Serving through 2024: Lynn DeRoche, Jean Hayes, Vice President; Elaine Robbins, Nathaniel Wood, President

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



June 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5 p.m. Worship
2 10:30 a.m. Worship Fish Fry	3 9-2 Office Open	4	5 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group 12-2 p.m. Feeding America	6 10 a.m. Quilting Bee	7 9-2 Office Open	8 5 p.m. Worship <i>Pride Fest, Mqt 1-6 p.m.</i>
9 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	10 9-2 Office Open <i>1 p.m. Rev. Niemi Memorial Service</i>	11	12 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group	13	14 9-2 Office Open <i>Flag Day</i>	15 5 p.m. Worship
16 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Father's Day</i>	17 9-2 Office Open	18	19 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group <i>Juneteenth</i>	20 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	21 9-2 Office Open <i>Trinity Lutheran Church overnight</i>	22 5 p.m. Worship <i>11 a.m. Marlene Robbins Memorial Service</i>
23 10:30 a.m. Worship	24 9-2 Office Open	25	26 9-2 Office Open 10 a.m. Morning Prayer Group	27	28 9-2 Office Open	29 5 p.m. Worship
30 10:30 a.m. Worship						