

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
September 2024



From the Pulpit

Rewriting the Script: From Transactional to Relational Prayer

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*, August 2, 2024

Dr. Lon Hider

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others." (Matthew 6:5)

It is not uncommon during Thanksgiving for someone to offer a prayer. Usually, it is the most religious person in the family. Those who are not particularly religious brace themselves for what comes next. They pray (ironically) that the prayer won't turn into a sermon because the sermon is directed at them. Who wants someone to preach *at* them? The prayer is not so much a prayer but a mini-sermon disguised as a prayer.

When we read Jesus's words, we think of someone pretending to be something they aren't. They are a hypocrite. But the word's literal translation from Greek to English is "do not be like the actors." Those standing on the street corner are doing street theater. They are an actor who believes in the script given to them by their particular religious system.

The problem is not the sincere person standing before the turkey or on a street corner. They believe what they are saying. They "feel" what they are saying. The issue is with the script they inherited from their religious tradition. The prayer/actor believes he has something the listeners don't have. It sounds like selling. The job of the prayer actor is to help them want what they are selling.

So what is wrong with that? We saw last month that Jesus came to show us the true nature of God. This God is relational, not transactional. A 'transactional God' is a concept where God's love and blessings are seen as conditional, based on our actions or 'transactions'. I saw a meme saying God loves us unconditionally as long as we do what pleases him. If that makes sense to you, then you have a transactional God.

This is the religious script we inherited. It often implies that we need to make some transaction, such as following specific rules or rituals, and then God will be pleased. In my

tradition, we used the word "saved" to prove the transaction. The transaction depends on the religious system, but most of them are based on a God who needs something from us to remove his displeasure.

The prayer/actor is trying to help people close the deal with God. If they make the transaction, they will be better off with God. In the Jewish context of Jesus' day, what they were selling was the Jewish way of life they called the 'Law.' The one praying on the street corner was essentially an 'evangelist for the Law, a person who passionately promotes and defends the Jewish way of life. They would say, 'Look at me; I am blessed because I follow the Jewish script.' 'If you do the same, God will bless your life.'

But what if this script needs to be corrected? The content of the Lord's prayer rewrites the script toward a relational God. This correction offers hope for a more authentic and meaningful connection with God. We will explore this next time.

Fall Fest Bazaar – Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m

Please plan to attend this year's Fall Fest Bazaar. Proceeds support the work of Eden's Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) group.

Please consider donating baked goods, crafts, raffle items, plants, produce, and white elephant treasures. Items may be placed in the basement kitchen. No clothing or shoes.

Many volunteers will be needed for another successful bazaar. Please contact Elaine Robbins to help or with questions. Reach her at 906-450-3344. Thanks!

YOUTH MINISTRY
Balance - \$3,352.41

MEMORIAL FUND
Balance - \$16,196.65

In Memory Of
VIOLET (BABE) STIMAC
George & Anne Balko
Harry & Ruth Lindquist
Beatrice Stimac
Tom & Brenda St. Martin
Gary & Karen Derwin
Harry & Ruth Haglund
Joanie Hinsa

Special Meeting with Bishop Katherine Finegan, June 15, 2024

Council Members Present: Lon Hider, Lynn DeRoche, Jean Hayes, Ryan Graves, Brenda St. Martin, Jennifer Wood, Nathaniel Wood

Bishop Finegan called the meeting to order on June 15, 2024, at 4 p.m. Opening prayer given by Bishop Finegan.

New Business:

Bishop Katherine Finegan explained the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program. The candidate works with the congregation while attending seminary online.

Elaine Robbins has expressed interest in this program and has been meeting with Bishop Finegan. While in the TEEM program, Elaine would be a two-thirds time vicar at Eden and one-third time as a student. Elaine will need: to have an affirmation from the council, to complete the required paperwork for the program, and pay \$900 to begin the program. Pastor Lon Heider has offered to be her support mentor. This will take Eden out of the pastoral call process while Elaine is serving as vicar. Discussion followed.

Nathaniel makes a motion that we affirm our support of Elaine as a TEEM candidate - Lynn seconds, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Wood,
Council Secretary

Compensation Package

Health Gold – Member and Spouse
2/3 time Pastoral Leadership, 1/3 time student

Cash Salary	\$27,333	
Housing	8,000	
Subtotal		35,333
Social Security	2,703	
Defined compensation		38,036
Portico Services		
Pension (10%)	3,804	
Health (42%)	21,372	
Disability (.6%)	228	
Basic group life insurance (.4%)	152	
Portico total		25,556
Total		\$63,592

In addition:

- Three weeks of vacation including Sundays
- Continuing Education per Wartburg's TEEM program; two weeks for Wartburg's prologue week including Sundays
- Mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate
- Two-thirds time reflects 25-30 hours for congregational work with the option of arranging pulpit supply once each month.
- To begin when Elaine has completed all seminary and candidacy applications and interviews.

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 14, 2024

Council Members Present: Lynn DeRoche, Ryan Graves, Jean Hayes, Ruth Lindquist, Elaine Robbins, Brenda St. Martin

Jean Hayes called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Opening devotion: Prayer by Elaine Robbins.

Additions to the Agenda:

Old business: Count team rotation

New business: Vicki Ballas' request about the vegetable garden, Elaine's candidacy process.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Ryan, seconded by Lynn to approve June 15, 2024, minutes. Motion carried. The council would like to review the minutes from the June 15, 2024, meeting with Bishop Finegan at our next meeting.

Review and Approval of Financial Report: Motion by Lynn, seconded by Brenda, to approve financial reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Elaine Robbins presided at Nan Taube's burial service on June 17,.

Upcoming Church Events: Pastor Ann Gonyea will preside at Izzy Mannisto's wedding on August 17. Elaine will arrange to get her a key.

Old Business: Lynn is working on employee job descriptions, starting with the Admin Assistant portion of Terry Kolbus' duties, followed by the Accounts Payable duties. She will also do them for the IT support position and musician. Elaine requested that we add Pastor to the list.

There was discussion about the count team rotation. A new team may be needed to replace Bruce/Christi and keep it so that each team only counts once a month.

New Business: Thrivent Financial requested that we schedule them to speak to the congregation about legacy giving. We decided to decline the offer.

The council approved the request for use of the parking lot on July 27, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., by the Grand Island race committee. Racers will park at Eden and be bussed to the island. Elaine will place a sign the night before to discourage boat trailers from using our parking lot that day.

Alger County Communities that Care (AC3) sent a request for donation to support their programs. It will be included in the newsletter. (see page 10)

The Get-Away Drop in Center sent a thank you for our donation earlier this year from Feed the Pig.

Vicki Ballas requested that we consider paying \$150 for organic compost for the vegetable garden. Jean will contact her for more information.

The next step in the process for Elaine’s path to be a Vicar is an interview with the candidacy committee. We pray she will be successful in that effort, after which she can complete her application. The fee is \$900. Motion by Brenda, seconded by Lynn, to pay 50% (\$450) of the application fee from Eden’s seminary fund. Motion carried.

Significant Church Events: Pastor Lon Hider conducted the June 22, 2024, funeral for Marlene Robbins.

Meeting adjourned July 14, 2024, 12:25 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn DeRoche, Council Member

Scripture Readings for September

September 1	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9	Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
<i>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?</i>				
September 8	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
<i>I will praise the Lord as long as I live.</i>				
September 15	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 116:1-9	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
<i>I will walk in the presence of the Lord.</i>				
September 22	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalm 54	James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
<i>God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.</i>				
September 29	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
<i>The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes.</i>				

Happy Birthday!

September birthstone is sapphire. September flower is morning glory.

9/05 Elaine Robbins	9/11 David Decet	9/14 Vicki Ballas
9/16 Connor Masters	9/18 Corey Perttula	9/21 Hattie Cota
9/09 Patsy LaCombe	9/11 Joshua Huotari	9/24 Brenda St. Martin
9/17 Pam Kuivanen	9/19 Ruth Lindquist	

Serving in September 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain	Jean Hayes	Jean Hayes	
Sunday, September 1	Volunteer needed	Emily Cook and Braylin Calhoun	Joanie Hinsa
Saturday, September 7	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, September 8	Norma Dick	Harry and Elaine Robbins	Norma Dick
Saturday, September 14	George Balko	Brenda St. Martin	
Sunday, September 15	Joanie Hinsa	Patsy LaCombe and Helen Scheuneman	Jim and Debbie Perttula
Saturday, September 21	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, September 22	Joanie Hinsa	Curt and Judy Erickson	Curt and Judy Erickson
Saturday, September 28	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, September 29	Volunteer needed	Jean Hayes	Billie Lindquist
Altar Guild for September - George Balko			
Flower sponsor for September – Joanie Hinsa			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
September 1	Candace Dennis	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
September 8	Matt Tulla	Bruce Dausey and Christi Salo
September 15	Matt Tulla	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
September 22	Matt Tulla	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
September 29	Matt Tulla	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 distribution, or host fellowship.

Worship captains recruit people to help with worship.

Thank you!

Office closed - September 9-13 and 23-27

The church office will be closed while Terry Kolbus enjoys a well-deserved vacation.

August 31 and September 1

Rev. Jim Duering, Assistant to the Bishop, will lead worship services.

Feeding America, September 4

This food distribution (first Wednesday of the month, 12-2 p.m.) has moved to the Munising Wesleyan Church. (see page 11)

Quilting, September 12, 10 a.m.

Quilting resumes after a brief summer break. Meeting on the second Thursday of each month, all are welcome!

Tuesday prayer group, September 17

Resumes meeting weekly at 10 a.m. Please note day change. All are welcome!

Book club, September 18, noon to 1 p.m.

The group will discuss a book about Mother Teresa (third Wednesday of the month).

Free Store, September 19

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

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the friends and family of Babe Stimac, who passed away on August 2. Elaine Robbins presided at her graveside service on August 7.

Congratulations!

To Isabelle Mannisto and Jared Webb, who were married at Eden on August 17 by Pastor Ann Gonyea.

Thanks...

Thank you for the gifts for graduation and honoring me.

Cody Lincoln

Thank you!
Joanie Hinsa for sponsoring sanctuary flowers for the month of September.

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!*

**Financial Snapshot
(as of 08/26/2024)**

Income: \$7,941.95
YTD \$75,923.11
Expense: \$5,836.00
YTD \$66,100.30

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
906-387-2520

www.edenonthebay.org
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

Administrative Assistant 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, after worship.
All Eden members are welcome to attend.

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




September 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church


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





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ALGER COUNTY COMMUNITIES THAT CARE

*Alger County United and Thriving:
Promoting a safe and healthy environment for all.*

Dear Friends of AC3,

A report and a plea. First the report.

Alger County Communities That Care has been busy! With the help of a grant from Prevention Network, we have been able to fund many programs for youth and adults in our county. We'll highlight just two:

Navigate 360 is a program being utilized at Mather Elementary and Munising Middle/High Schools to use time children spend in detention in a productive way. Ten-minute modules are presented to students and are tailored to their current need. Some of the topics structured to help students are:

- *School Rules*
- *Calming Yourself*
- *Identifying Feelings*
- *Conflict Resolution*

Instead of suspension or punishment, which have proven to have no effect on behavior, the student is kept in the classroom so as not to disrupt their learning.

"Navigation 360 is helpful to use proactively as a redirection tool in our district goals to promote social and emotional learning in the students at Mather and it is early stages of use in the Middle/High School."—Wes Tweedale, Mather Elementary Principal

AC3 also funds the be nice. program in the Munising Middle/High School. Nice stands for Notice, Invite, Challenge, and Empower. This is a mental health/suicide prevention program which provides common language to address challenges that could be a mental health concern. Once a week, classes are shortened to provide a 20-minute segment of time for developing skills to empower students and adults to act when they see someone who needs help. (Reference TV6 on FB page)

A few additional projects we have funded are: free skate rentals, ski lift tickets, x-country skis for Superior Central Schools, the Barn Dance for everyone in Alger County, a 4-H Garden at Mather, supplies for the Youth Council's Career Fair, transportation costs for BigBrothers/BigSisters, and sensory items used to calm a child in all Alger schools.

We would like to continue these projects and be flexible to fund new initiatives. All of these require funds, and for that, we humbly ask for your support.

With gratitude,

Sandy J. Ehler
Sandy Ehler, AC3 Chair

AuTrain-Onota Schools
Community Action Alger
Marquette (CAAM)
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Burt Township School
Child and Family CFSUP
Commission on Aging
County Commissioners
Family Court Judge
Families against Narcotics
County Prosecutor
County Sheriff Grow &
Lead
Great Lakes Recovery
Great Start Collaborative
LMAS District Health
Department
MARESA
MI Works!
Michigan State Police
MADD
MDHHS
MSU Extension
Munising City Police
Munising Memorial Hospital
Munising Baptist School
Munising Public School
NorthCare Network
Sault Tribe
Superior Central School
Pathways CMH
Women's Center



ANNOUNCEMENT

*Munising Feeding America
Location Change!*

Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions and Feeding America West Michigan are excited to announce the new location for the Munising Mobile Food Pantry. We will be at the **Munising Wesleyan Church** for the remaining 2024 dates. See reverse side for map and logistics.

Please share our new site details with friends and family! We'll see you in September.

LOCATION

Munising Wesleyan Church
N6310 Knox Street
Munising, MI 49862

DATES

- September 4, 2024
- October 2, 2024
- November 6, 2024
- December 4, 2024

DETAILS

- Line up begins at 10:00 AM ET
 - **Please do not arrive before 10 AM**
- Cars may enter the highway on Knox St near Dollar General
- Line up will be on Knox Street
- Truck located in Munising Wesleyan Church parking lot



**MOBILE
FOOD
PANTRY**

To stay up to date on all the latest events in your area, visit www.feedwm.org



This page for mailing.