

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
November 2024



From the Pulpit

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*, October 11, 2024

Dr. Lon Hider

The Where of Prayer

In the end, prayer grants us the quiet confidence that we are seen, known, and loved by a God who is always present.

We will see how this connects with the most performed and persistent prayer we know... *"Our Father, who art in Heaven...."*

When we were in Chicago for twenty years, we developed close relationships. We had "our people". But then we moved to the U.P., and those relationships faded. What had changed? It was the distance that undermined these once close relationships. Long-distance relationships are hard to maintain because humans need closeness and immediacy. We felt this with Covid and those awful Zoom meetings. While this was better than no connection, there is something artificial and unsatisfying about the whole thing. It is the distance that diminishes the reward.

In prayer, many of us imagine we are telegraphing our prayers to a distant God in Heaven. Fortunately, God's excellent hearing ensures that He always hears our requests, which is comforting. The first phrase in the Lord's prayer would seem to support our imagination, "Our Father, who art in heaven."

But is God a distant God? I have a long-distance relationship with a friend, and occasionally, we connect through email, and every couple of years, I visit. Most of the time, he is in my heart but not on my radar screen. Those who are in my space get my attention and my affection.

But what if our imaginations have it wrong? What if God is not distant at all? In the original language of the Lord's prayer, the Greek word for Heaven is "Ouranos." Notice it is plural. It is not "Heaven" but the heavens. When we stand outside, the heavens surround us. We call it the atmosphere that extends from the top of the sky to the horizon's edge. It only ends where our feet touch the ground. I am still inside the heavens if I move 100 feet or 1000 miles.

The Lord's prayer, drawing from Jewish cosmology, does not isolate God up in Heaven (although God is there also). God is in our heavens. God is in our space.

This means prayer is more like a conversation with a friend over a picnic table than a telegram. The reward is the experience of God in our space.

To have this experience, we must reimagine where God exists in our relationship. God is not distant. God is as close as the air we breathe.

But we also need a practice that connects us to God in our space. I struggle to be present with people when trapped in my thoughts. I might think about my work, hobbies, or a thousand other things and pay little attention to the person beside me. It takes a conscious choice to focus on them and their words. When I do this, the person comes alive in the present in my space. The same is true of God.

When Jesus says to go into your closet and shut the door, he invites us to focus our attention on the God with us. When I pray this way, I experience God. Typically, I focus on my breathing. This gets my overactive mind to quiet down and be present in the present. When my mind quiets down, it is like the clouds part, and I experience God in my space. I have my reward with a God who is never far away.

All Saints Day – November 1

All Saints Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint --a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus.



Scripture Readings for November

November 3	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Psalm 119:1-8	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
<i>Happy are they who seek the Lord with all their hearts. (Ps. 119:2)</i>				
November 10	1 Kings 17:8-16	Psalm 146	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
<i>The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)</i>				
November 17	Daniel 12:1-3	Psalm 16	Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
<i>My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope. (Ps. 16:9)</i>				
November 24	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Psalm 93	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
<i>Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)</i>				

Updating the Prayer List as published in the weekly bulletin

Effective December 1 (beginning of Advent and the church year), the prayer list will receive its annual update. Please update the status of people currently on the list. If no request is received to retain a person on the list, their name will be removed. The current prayer list can be found in the weekly bulletin and as posted on Eden's website <https://edenonthebay.org/bulletin-and-livestream>

Prayer List Process

Prayer requests may be made by filling out the half page form available in the narthex. This information is requested:

- Person to be placed on/removed from the prayer list
- Reason for the request (optional)
- Is a pastoral visit needed to the person/family? Yes/No
- If a visit is needed, location of the hospital or facility to be visited.
- The person will be listed in the weekly bulletin unless you indicate that they should not be named there.
- Person submitting the request (optional)

The completed form should be left in the clear plastic hanging bin next to the inner office door or may be left on the secretary's desk. This information may also be provided by email to eden@jamadots.com. Ideally, we ask that you update this info when there is a change in circumstances for the individual we are praying for.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship **Tuesday, November 26, 6:30 p.m.** **Eden Lutheran Church**

Please join as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our partners in the ecumenical church group (Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopalian Church, and the United Methodist Church). *Time and location subject to change.*

Help Wanted

Financial Secretary/Treasurer – This position will be vacant effective January 1, 2025. Ruth Lindquist submitted her resignation at the October council meeting. For more info, the job description is available in the office. Resumes may be brought to the office.

Fill-In organist and/or pianist – Primarily for the Sunday service, Eden needs a fill-in organist or pianist when the regular musician is unavailable. Please inquire with Pastor Lon.

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting, Aug 11, 2024

Council Members Present: Pastor - Lon Hider, Vice President - Jean Hayes, Secretary - Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Ruth Lindquist, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Elaine Robbins

Jean called the meeting to order Aug 11, 2024, 12:00 PM

Opening devotion: Prayer from Lynn

Additions to the Agenda:

Sexual harassment policy (New business)
Point of contact for Matt (New business)

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Elaine made a motion to approve, Lynn seconded, motion carried.

Review and Approval of Financial Report: Jean entertained a motion to approve the financial report. Brenda made a motion. Elaine Seconded, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Burial of Babe Stimac. Lon reports that Elaine will be stepping into the role of pastor and Lon will be mentoring.

Lon brought up having two dedicated cameras wired into the system to cover all of the front of the church. A flat screen TV 50" also to see sermon notes. Discussion followed. Lynn made a motion to approve up to \$2000 to purchase two cameras and a wide screen TV and accessory items funds coming

from the memorial fund. Brenda seconded, motion carries.

Upcoming Church Events:

Bazaar - around the first week of October; Mannisto Wedding

Old Business:

Employee job descriptions: "Administrative Assistant to the Pastor" description was discussed.

New Business:

Elaine Robbins Compensation & reimbursement package: package was discussed to clarify any points. Upon Elaine's beginning pastor Lon will no longer be our paid interim.

Feeding America - location change & thank you: Will relocate to the Wesleyan church in Munising.

Who is checking in with Elaine Robins this month?

Sexual harassment policy: This will be tabled until next month.

Point of contact for Matt - Lon will be the point of contact.

Significant Church Events: Burial of Babe Stimac.

Next Meeting Date: September 8, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Wood
Council Secretary

**Eden Lutheran Church Council
Meeting, Sep 8, 2024**

Council Members Present: Pastor - Lon Hider, Vice President - Jean Hayes, Elaine Robbins, Treasurer - Ruth Lindquist, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St. Martin, Ryan Graves

Jean Hayes called the meeting to order at 11:55 AM

Additions to the Agenda:

Elaine will discuss plans for a kid's element in our Sunday services.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Tabled until the October meeting, since not all members had a chance to review, and they weren't with the hard copy documents provided.

Review and Approval of Financial Report: Motion by Brenda S, seconded by Ryan G, to approve. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Lon purchased a TV and other equipment for our live stream broadcasts that came to less than \$2000. The group reviewed possible camera locations for a more permanent set up.

Elaine updated events toward her candidacy. She completed her psych exam which concludes what is needed for a meeting of the Candidacy Committee Oct 7. Wartburg Seminary has her admission paperwork, pending the Candidacy Committee's decision. Her last day at Peoples State Bank is Dec 20.

Upcoming Church Events: The Fall Festival bazaar will be held Oct 12.

Old Business:

Employee job descriptions are complete for the Admin Assistant/Accounts Payable Clerk and the Treasurer.

Elaine reviewed a draft Sexual Harassment policy and will email to council members after minor corrections.

New Business:

Elaine R is planning a children's segment for Sunday services beginning Sept 22.

Lyon Wood made some electrical adjustments to the organ which solved a problem Matt Tulla had noted. Matt has suggested an upgrade to the organ. After a brief discussion, the council concluded that this is not a budget priority given the other expenses we have.

There is a revised counter schedule for the remainder of 2024 to account for the loss of the Bruce Dausey/Christi Salo team. Volunteers for another counter team would be greatly appreciated and keep the duties to once a month for everyone involved.

Communion wine options was a topic on the agenda, but no one present knew who created the agenda item or what changes were to be considered. Given that the council had discussed this while Pastor Tera was here, it was decided to keep things as they are.

Significant Church Events: No recordable events were noted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn DeRoche, Council Member

Friends & Family of Eden,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers I received on my birthday. I took a picture of them so I could enjoy them even longer.

Love, Arlene Posont

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family and friends of Robert (Bob) Belfry, who passed away on September 25. His memorial gathering was held on October 15.

Thank you!

To Bruce Dausey and Christi Salo for their years of trustworthy service as offering counters.

Thank You!

To Judy Erickson, Helen Scheuneman, Joanie Hinsa, and Jean Hayes who packed up 70 quilts to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Judy transported them to Escanaba and from there they will be shipped. Impressive work by Eden's quilting group!

Volunteers Needed

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

Fall Back ...

And be on time for worship on Sunday morning, November 3. Saturday service time changes to 3:30 p.m. the following weekend, November 9.

November 2-3, and November 30-December 1

Elaine Robbins will lead worship service of the word.

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, November 14, 10 a.m.**

The Quilters meet at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, except in summer.

Book club, Wednesday, November 20, noon to 1 p.m. (third Wednesday)

Our book for November/December will be, "Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. There are two copies available in the kitchen for \$5. It is also available on Thriftbooks.

Free Store, Thursday, November 21

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

November 27-29, December 2-13

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

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

Happy Birthday!

*Birth stone for November is topaz.
The flower is Chrysanthemum.*

11/05 Sean Sutherland
11/12 Jason Lindquist
11/13 Jean Mattson
11/14 Debra Perttula
11/17 Bette Immel
11/17 Jacob Mahoski
11/22 Pauline Knuttila
11/22 Lori Stein
11/23 Karen Derwin
11/24 Scott Lindquist
11/30 Michelene Dausey

Fall Fest Recap

The Annual Fall Bazaar was a wonderful success! We raised over \$1,600 for Eden's Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. WELCA uses these funds to support many ministries.

This annual event could not happen without the support of everyone who baked, donated items for sale and raffles, worked the event, set up or packed up. THANK YOU each and everyone.

A very special thank you to the women who have run this event for years for your advice to the new crew and for being there to work. We could not have done it without you. It was truly amazing how many hands it took to make this a success.

Congratulations to our raffle winners and thank you to everyone who donated the wonderful prizes.

Traditional star quilt, donated by Pastor Tera Kossow – won by Judy Shellnut
Handmade quilt, made and donated by Lynn Deroche - won Rob Douglass
Handmade fall quilt, made and donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Gail Cromell
Curly maple charcuterie board and snowman, donated by Patsy LaCombe - won by Gail Cromell
Color Street Nails basket of nail sets, appliques and accessories, donated by Norma Dick - won by Jean Mattson
Original painting by Jean Hayes - won by Carmon Decet
Handmade Afghan, made and donated by Joanie Hinsä - won by Jean Mattson

We are thrilled with this successful event and look forward to next year.



Financial Snapshot (as of 10/28/2024)

Income: \$6,977.00
 YTD \$92,648.22
 Expenses: \$4,327.10
 YTD \$78,358.86

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of
 ROBERT (Bob) BELFRY
 Tom & Brenda St. Martin

Revolving Fund Balances

As of 9/30/2024

Worship & Music Fund \$2,021.17
 Scholarship Fund \$24,156.46
 Seminary Fund \$2,603.09
 Help Fund \$1,310.61

As of 10/25/2024

Memorial Fund \$16,324.65
 Youth Ministry Fund \$3,428.61

Free Store Year-to-Date Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Balance
			\$602.33
January	\$0.00	\$410.91	
February	\$313.74	\$203.15	
March	\$1,829.84	\$211.85	
<i>1st qtr</i>	<i>\$2,143.58</i>	<i>\$825.91</i>	<i>\$1,920.00</i>
April	\$70.00	\$73.00	
May	\$150.00	\$469.25	
June	\$226.00	\$239.09	
<i>2nd qtr</i>	<i>\$446.00</i>	<i>\$781.34</i>	<i>\$1,584.66</i>
July	\$115.00	0	
August	\$25.00	\$381.74	
September	\$100.00	0	
<i>3rd qtr</i>	<i>\$240.00</i>	<i>\$381.74</i>	<i>\$1,444.92</i>

**Excerpt from *Seed Sowers*
 Devotions for Congregational
 Meetings in the Northern Great Lakes
 Synod**

<https://nglsynod.org/dataarchive/ngls/pdf2024/Seed%20Sowers%20Devotion24.25.pdf?t=1721154280>

**Seven Prayers with Seven
 Scriptures as we anticipate the
 election... (Continued from October)**

***When we feel defeated, or don't
 want to engage with others...**

When our despair causes us to withdraw; O Lord, remind us that we belong together.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

~Matthew 5:9

***When your mental health is
 affected...**

When our anxiety keeps us up at night; God Who Watches Over Us, grant us restful sleep. "I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety."

~Psalm 4:8

***When fear of what might happen
 overwhelms us...**

When hope seems but a glimmer; Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.

~James 3:18 "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace."

~Loving Your Neighbor in Election Season from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. <https://www.wichurches.org/>

Serving in November 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, November 2	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, November 3			Joanie Hinsa and Billie Lindquist
Saturday, November 9	George Balko		
Sunday, November 10			Norma Dick
Saturday, November 16	George Balko		
Sunday, November 17	Joanie Hinsa	Jean Hayes	Jean Hayes
Saturday, November 23	George Balko		
Sunday, November 24		Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa	
Tuesday, November 26		Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Saturday, November 30	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Altar Guild for November – Christi Salo			
Flower sponsor for November – needed			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
November 3	Candace Dennis	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
November 10	Matt Tulla	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
November 17	Matt Tulla	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
November 24	Matt Tulla	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa

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!*

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
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 Accounts Payable Clerk: Terry Kolbus
Treasurer and Financial Secretary: 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)

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.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



November 2024


Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



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