

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Munising, Michigan

July 2025



All are welcome. Come as you are!

Dear Church Family,

June has been a month of learning much about this call I have accepted. My time management skills were tested as I prepared for Pentecost Sunday with the Annual Fish Fry, three funerals, Pride Fest, and sermon writing. Honestly, I felt very intimidated by the week, unsure if I could prepare for three funeral services. But I created a great work schedule that alleviated that stress. Caring for the hearts of three families was an honor, yet still new to me, and I feared that something clichéd or insensitive might come from my mouth.

If you haven't attended U.P. Rainbow's Pride Fest in Marquette, you'll find that it is much like any other festival. There are vendors selling handmade items, henna and balloon artists, craft and game booths, food trucks, and live music. The attendees range from families with young children, teens to seniors. There might be a few costumes, and there is a lot of color and bling. The atmosphere is one of celebration, hope and love. As a straight person, I didn't feel unwelcome or like I was 'crashing the party'. I wore my collar and my Eden Lutheran Church sweatshirt. Several times, I was thanked for being there. There is a strong church presence at Pride Fest. Our table was next to Messiah Lutheran from Marquette and an Episcopalian group. For the first time, the Northern Great Lakes Synod Christ's Kaleidoscope Team also had a table.

I visited many of the community support tables and learned about the services and goals of several programs. These included mental health support, Planned Parenthood, health departments, family support and suicide prevention and postvention (care for those left behind after a suicide). While I can't presume to know people's religious background, Christ was at work showing love and support to this at-risk community. (This is one of the most targeted communities by perpetrators of hate crimes.) I was proud to represent Eden and hope that we can form a few teams of two to represent Eden next year. This is an important way to share God's love with people.

My last service to officiate in June was an extra special one with the baptism of Elizabeth Decet, daughter of David and Brandalyn Decet. I have a special connection with the family. David and Brandalyn's wedding was the first that I officiated (with my internet certification.) David and Brandalyn have become active members of Eden. They often usher, host fellowship after service, and help when needed. Brandalyn began serving as our treasurer in January, and David has joined our audit team.

Lastly, I am happy to say that I have completed my first Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) module. The TEEM program has nine modules to complete before ordination.

In peace,
Vicar Elaine Robbins

Why Does Eden have a Fish Fry?

Prepared by Brenda St. Martin

With thanks to Jean Hayes, Joanie Hinsa, and Patsy LaCombe

On January 30-31, 1998, members of Eden participated in a congregational visioning process. The two-day workshop was facilitated by Dr. Mark A. Olson, one of the authors of the book, An Evangelizing People.¹

Within this workshop and certainly inspired by Eden's location on Lake Superior, a Vision for Ministry Statement evolved. Pastors Kurt and Mary Beth Kovanen wrote eloquently about this vision in March 1998.

Committed to Casting the Net

Caught in the net of God's grace, Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
will share the message of God's wondrous peace and reconciliation
that all people may be welcomed into God's harbor of hope.

We have a "glimpse" of God's vision for Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church. This "glimpse" is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us all enter a period of personal prayer and reflection of how this vision will impact our lives, as individuals and as a faith community. What follows are some "musing" that try to give meaning to some important "vision" words and phrases.

Caught in the net of God's grace... Through the waters of Baptism, through a death on a cross, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, God *has us* snug and secure. There is no fear of being lost in a sea of hopelessness. "Once you were nobody. Now you are God's people." (1 Peter 2:10)

Will share the message... God is calling *you* to share the message. Not just the "church staff," but *you* as an individual, you as a parent, you as an employee, you as a neighbor. You will share this message to all people. In this time and place. How?

- Through *praise* ... regular worship, personal prayer life, offering of time, talents and treasures in support of God's ministry.
- Through *righteousness* ... fellowship with others, listening to others, mutual conversation and consolation, through teaching Sunday Church School or Weekday Church school, attending adult bible studies, Man's Breakfast, Women at the Well.
- Through *compassion* ... introducing yourself to someone you don't know, inviting someone to worship or a church event, sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, volunteering to be in the nursery, opening the door wide enough so others can enter freely.

The possibilities are endless for sharing the message of God's wondrous peace and reconciliation in *your* own lives and in *your* own ways, with others. "In the scriptures it says: 'I spoke because I had faith.' We have that same kind of faith. So we speak ... all this is for your sake, so that as grace extend to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God." (Corinthians 4:13-15)

God's wondrous peace and reconciliation ... Life is an incredible gift. God is like a cheerleader, never losing spirit. There is "wonder" in what God has done and is doing. Being "sanctified" is being

¹ Life in Eden newsletter, December 1997

brought to forgiveness. The sins of the past are washed away. A glimpse of the future leads us forward in love. It has been said that faith does not demand anything but freely surrendered and joyously daring trust upon God's unfelt, untried, and unknown goodness.

That all people may be welcomed ... That means anybody and everybody. Rich or poor, educated or not, young or old. Church-goers and non-church-goers. Members and those yet to be members. This whole faith enterprise called Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church has achieved its purpose if ***one*** person comes to know Jesus ... and (who knows?) maybe that happened 10 years ago, or (who knows?) maybe it will happen tomorrow afternoon.

Into God's harbor on hope ... let us live in hope. Let us see that hope is not something momentary or occasional but rather comprehensive, and world embracing and life penetrating. There is more to do than recognize the sheer face of salvation and give witness to it: there are ***unnumbered*** details of grace, of mercy, of blessing, to be appreciated and savored. That's the wonderful gift of the "abundant life" that Jesus freely offers all. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

Peace be with you, Pastor Kurt and Pastor Mary Beth. ²

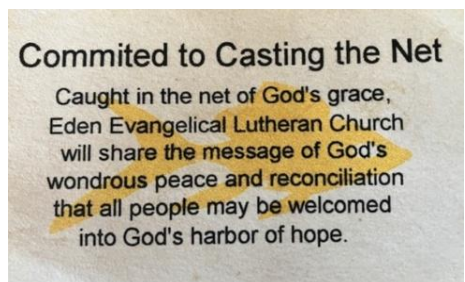
The Evangelism and Social Ministry Committee planned the first fish fry on April 26, 1998. The committee took Jesus' words of invitation, "*Come and have breakfast*" (John 21:12) to heart and freely fed all who were hungry. This was an act of praise, for it points to the One who feeds us with love and salvation.

Everyone received an imprinted pen as a reminder of the commitment for "Casting the Net." Also available was a magnet with the vision statement (for your refrigerator or file cabinet).³

Evelyn Balko, Jim Landfair, Jean Moore, and Sam Sutherland planned and organized. The cooks were Greg LaCombe and Curt Erickson, along with Jim and Sam. Wanda Wilder brought homemade bread; others brought salads and bars. Many more helped with clean-up. VanLandschoot and Sons provided whitefish for the fish fry and donated a fish net and sinkers to adorn Eden's sanctuary. Sydney's Restaurant provided carry home boxes for fish fry take-out orders.⁴

On May 23, 1999, the second fish fry became an annual event. Following the 11 a.m. worship, all were invited to have a delicious meal of fish, salad, and bread. The Biblical theme came from John 21:4-17. *After enjoying the meal of fish provided by Jesus himself, Jesus looks to Peter and asks him three times, "Do you love me?" After the third time, Peter was hurt, "So he told Jesus, 'Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.' Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep."*⁵

The third annual "Vision for Mission" fish fry was Sunday, May 7, 2000. A freewill offering supported the Fortune Lake Camp Scholarship Fund (camperships). Matching funds up to \$450 were applied for through Lutheran Brotherhood Upper Peninsula Branch 8076.⁶



² Life in Eden newsletter, March 1998

³ Life in Eden newsletter, April 1998

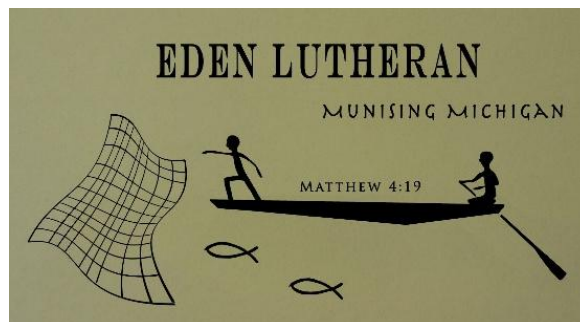
⁴ Life in Eden newsletter, May 1998

⁵ Life in Eden newsletter, May 1999

⁶ Life in Eden newsletter, May 2000

The annual fish fry has continued with traditions developed along the way. Worship often includes the hymn, “You have come down to the Lakeshore.” This song first appeared in the *With One Voice* hymnal (blue book); it is now in the “new” red hymnal.

You have come down to the lakeshore
 Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
 But only asking for me to follow.
 Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,
 Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
 On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
 Now with you, I will seek other seas.



Nick Hinsa, as a high school student artist, prepared this drawing around 2010 during Pastor Elisabeth Zant’s call. Nick based the image on Eden’s Vision for Ministry statement and Matthew 4:19, “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

The image has been used in the newsletter, worship bulletin, on t-shirts and polo shirts, and featured on the Facebook page entitled Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church. It can still be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/204974326210246>

With the cost of the fish, breadding, oil and propane rising, Eden began suggesting a minimum donation to cover the cost.

During the peak COVID years, the fish fry was suspended. The recent event held on June 8, 2025, may have been the 25th fish fry.

Each year, please come to worship and to the fish fry. Bring a dish to share, pitch in to help, support the endeavor with your gifts, and remember our Vision for Ministry. It is so much more than a tag line.

Scripture Readings for July

July 6	Isaiah 66:10-14	Psalms 66:1-9	Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
<i>All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)</i>				
July 13	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Psalms 25:1-10	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
<i>Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)</i>				
July 20	Genesis 18:1-10a	Psalms 15	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
<i>Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)</i>				
July 27	Genesis 18:20-32	Psalms 138	Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]	Luke 11:1-13
<i>Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)</i>				

**Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
May 4, 2025**

Council Members Present:

Vicar - Elaine Robbins, President - Ryan Graves, Vice President - Norma Dick, Secretary - Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Brandalyn Decet, Bruce Dausey, Brenda St. Martin, Kaye Methot,

Ryan Graves called the meeting to order at 11:58am

Opening devotion:

Devotion from, "Seed Sowers Devotions for Congregational Meeting in the Northern Great Lakes Synod" given by Elaine Robbins, followed by discussion.

Additions to the Agenda:

OLD:

NEW: Katie Schneider here to ask if she can start a community garden.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Bruce makes a motion, Kaye seconds - motion carries.

Review and Approval of Financial Reports:

Brenda makes a motion, Bruce seconds - motion carries.

Vicar's Report: April Harry and Elaine did two services at Medilodge, Easter went well with good attendance and thank you to everyone who helped with her mom's service.

Upcoming Church Events:

June 14 church will attend the UP Pride Festival. June 22 baptizing Elizabeth Decet. June 8 Fish Fry

New Business:

- Thank you from the Alger County Food Pantry
- Membership of Harry and Ruth Lindquist transferred.
- Katie Schneider (a master gardener) presents her idea of beginning a community garden in the community and asked if she could use the church property to begin a garden. A garden that the community would take care of to raise food for those in need. Bruce makes a motion to continue further planning with Katie and her group of creating a community garden on the church property, Kaye seconds - motion carries.
- Fishing tournament through the Munising Volunteer Fire Department - May 17-18. Norma makes a motion to permit parking by fishing tournament attendees, Jean seconds - motion carries. Norma will talk with the organizers about donations to park in our lot.
- Jean discusses an offer from Trudgeon's Landscaping for lawn care. \$1680 for the entire session. Brenda makes a motion, Kaye seconds - motion carries.

Significant Church Events:

Next Council Meeting:

June 22

Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wood, Council Secretary

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family and friends of Greg Mahoski, who passed away May 19. A memorial service was held on June 21.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family and friends of Dan Walther, who passed away on May 30. A memorial service was held on June 9.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family and friends of Arlene (Nesberg) and Paul Goodburn. Their burial service was held on June 10.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy

To the family and friends of Jeanne Jo (Burke) Lake, who passed away on May 29. Vicar Elaine officiated at her funeral service on June 12.

Welcome Elizabeth Ann Decet

On June 22, Elizabeth Decet was welcomed in Holy Baptism. She is the daughter of Brandalyn and David. Baptism sponsors are Zachary LeVeque and Stephane LaFolle.

Thank you, Eden Members!

Nearly 50 non-perishable items were recently provided to the Alger Community Food Pantry, from the collection basket in Eden's narthex. The food pantry can accept items if their 'best by' date is current or no more than one year past the date.



Thank you!

To everyone who brought food for the Annual Fish Fry on Pentecost Sunday. We fed approximately 45 people. We had plenty of fish!

Thank you to our fish cooks: Ryan Graves, Curt Erickson, Stan Jefferson, Jim Perttula, and David Decet.

Thank you to our set-up and clean-up helpers: Deb Perttula, Judy Erickson, Joanie Hinsa, Lynn DeRoche, Norma Dick, and Jean Hayes.

A good time and full bellies were had by all.

Looking Ahead

Bruce Dausey will be presiding minister:

- July 5 and 6
- July 26 and 27
- August 9 and 10

Weekly prayer group will resume in autumn.

Meets every Tuesday, 10 a.m.

All are welcome.

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.

Book club will resume in autumn.

Meets third Wednesday, 12-1 p.m.

If you have suggestions for future book club readings, please let Lynn DeRoche or Joanie Hinsa know. Everyone is welcome to join.

Quilting Bee

Thursday, September 11

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

Free Store, Thursday, July 17

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

Sunday, July 13, 2 p.m. (note date change) The fourth Sunday of each month, join Vicar Elaine and Harry to worship with Medilodge residents.

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of

Arlene Goodburn

Mike & Kathy Furlott

In Memory Of

Paul Goodburn

Mike & Kathy Furlott



Revolving Fund Balances

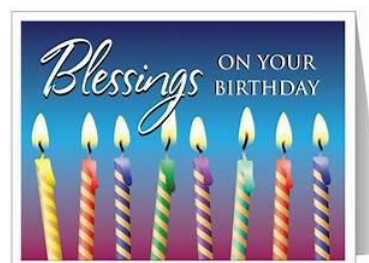
As of 6/13/2025

Free Store as of 3/31/2025	\$1,211.70
Worship & Music Fund	\$2,529.42
Scholarship Fund	\$23,829.19
Seminary Fund	\$2,756.33
Help Fund	\$1,311.44
Memorial Fund	\$15,398.71
Youth Ministry Fund	\$2,674.16

Financial Snapshot - As of 6/13/2025

Income:	\$7,219.55
Year to date	\$37,316.82
Expenses:	\$8,260.70
YTD	\$45,316.82

Please note that income is not keeping up with expenses.



Happy Birthday!

Birthstone for July is ruby.

Flowers are water lily and larkspur.

7/04 Tara Perttula

7/05 Katie Immel

7/06 Cary Sutherland

7/07 David Fulcher

7/12 Terry Lundbom

7/13 Tom St. Martin

7/13 Brenda Behning

7/14 Arlene Elavsky

7/15 Alaynah Rose Gatiss

7/18 Christian Cole

7/18 Kirt Harmon

7/18 Aliisa Paquette

7/19 Carmon Decet

7/20 Patricia Hyry

7/27 Michael Albright

7/27 Joanie Hinsä

7/27 Isabelle Mannisto Webb

7/29 Paul LeVeque

7/29 Kathleen Lindquist

7/31 Blake Walther

Serving in July 2025

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Saturday, July 5	George Balko		
Sunday, July 6			
Saturday, July 12	George Balko		
Sunday, July 13		David & Brandalyn Decet	
Saturday, July 19	George Balko		
Sunday, July 20	David Decet		
Saturday, July 26	George Balko		
Sunday, July 27			
Altar Guild for July – Norma Dick			
Flower sponsor for July – Joanie Hinsa			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
July 6	Candace Dennis	Lynn DeRoche and Donna LeRoy
July 13	Kimi Schierschmidt	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
July 20	Kimi Schierschmidt	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
July 27		Jean Hayes and Karen Derwin

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.

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

Where were you in 1965?

See a later page for a glimpse at the *Life in Eden* from years past.

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 or the church garden are also welcome.

Volunteer Help Needed

Your newsletter editor is looking to retire. The current newsletter is prepared in Word. Please speak with Vicar Elaine if you can help. Thank you.

WORSHIPPER OR WATCHER

Many of us suffer from a disease called "spectatoritis." We go to the theater and watch others do the acting. We go to a ball game and watch others do the playing.

Sometimes we carry this attitude to church. We watch the pastor do the worshiping. He reads the lessons, preaches the sermon, and offers the prayer. We are mere spectators.

This is the malady that accounts for so many people saying that they "don't get anything out of coming to church". The act of just "coming to church" has little value. It's what we do after we get there that counts. Our conscious and thoughtful participation in the service is just as important to its success as is the part the pastor plays.

We are expected to participate. Many hymns are prayers and should be sung by us with prayer in mind. Hymns of praise and gratitude should stir us to praise God and offer him our thanks for his gifts.

The sermon needs good listeners as well as a good speaker if it is to be effective. We should not be concerned with the pastor's diction or his choice of words, but with the truth he is presenting and how it affects our lives.

We're expected to take an active part in the prayers. We must make the petitions read by the pastor our own, adding silent prayers of our own and thinking of what we are actually saying as we pray the Lord's Prayer.

The anthem is not sung to show off the voices in the choir, but as a musical expression of praise, prayer or petition. We should keep our minds on the act of worship we have performed in giving our offering to promote God's work and not be watching others to see what and how they are giving.

In conducting a service of worship, our pastor is not performing for our entertainment, nor is he acting as a substitute for us. He is acting as a leader--leading us in worship as we come individually into God's presence. When we follow his leadership as worshippers rather than watchers we experience God's presence and receive strength from him for daily Christian living.

"THE LUTHERAN" INTO EVERY HOME

One of the real concerns of your pastor is the seemingly small number of copies of our LCA bi-weekly magazine which gets into the homes of our members. The name of the magazine is "The Lutheran".

Let's do all we can to get a blanket subscription for every home in the membership of Eden for 1966, into our new budget.

You see, ordinarily the publication costs \$3.00 per year. But if a congregation adopts the "every member" plan the cost is cut to \$1.50 per year. Special envelopes are distributed, and the balance which fails to come in is taken out of the annual budget.

The August 18th issue had a feature article on Upper Michigan, mentioning the congregational merger here in Munising. Did you see it?

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Beginning with September, our Eden worship services will include a "hymn of the month". We will begin learning new hymns as well as the background to old hymns. We will sing the "hymn" at each service for the entire month. A bulletin insert will appear on one of the Sundays explaining the background and setting of the hymn. Watch for it.

FINNISH SERVICE AT AU TRAIN

The September Finnish devotional service will be held on Sunday, September 12th, at the cottage of Pastor and Mrs. Niemi on Lake Au Train, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow the program. All Finnish-speaking members and friends in the congregation and the area are invited.

A house is built of logs and stone,
Of tiles and posts and piers;
A home is built of loving deeds
That stand a thousand years.
Victor Hugo

Celebrating 60 years! *Life in Eden* has been a regular monthly publication of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church since 1965.

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.

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: Terry Kolbus

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

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




July 2025

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9-2 Office Open Vicar Elaine 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	3	4 Office closed <i>Independence Day</i>	5 5 p.m. Worship <i>Bruce Dausey, presiding minister this weekend</i>
6 10:30 a.m. Worship	7 9-2 Office Open	8	9 9-2 Office Open Vicar Elaine 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10	11 9-2 Office Open	12 5 p.m. Worship
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 p.m. Medilodge	14 9-2 Office Open	15	16 9-2 Office Open Vicar Elaine 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	17 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	18 9-2 Office Open	19 5 p.m. Worship
20 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	21 9-2 Office Open <u>Life In Eden Deadline</u>	22	23 9-2 Office Open Vicar Elaine 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	24	25 9-2 Office Open	26 5 p.m. Worship <i>Bruce Dausey, presiding minister this weekend</i>
27 10:30 a.m. Worship	28 9-2 Office Open	29	30 9-2 Office Open Vicar Elaine 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	31		




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