

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan

April 2025



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

From Vicar Elaine

I recently completed an assignment evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of Eden. A scoring scale and questions across nine areas helped determine where we thrive and where we have room to grow. The results showed that we excel in our relationships, leadership, and programs. Our congregation members respect one another and work well together. There are many long-standing relationships, and visitors and new members are welcomed not only into worship but also into conversation, activities, and community.



Our highest ranking was in leadership, and that doesn't mean me. This church is filled with leaders who play vital roles in church life. Some lead programs, some serve on the council, some prepare the altar for service, and some read during worship. It takes so many active, dedicated people for Eden to succeed. Thanks be to God for the service you do!

Our programs also ranked high, thanks to the commitment of those who lead and participate. For the survey, "programs" included worship, fellowship, faith formation, prayer, evangelism, outreach, and stewardship. The question wasn't about how many programs we offer, but rather how well we carry out the ones we have. Eden, you do them very well.

Reflecting on our strengths and all that we do at Eden left me feeling invigorated. It's easy to focus on what we lack - whether it's funds, staff, or people - but this survey reminded me of all that we are capable of. God has blessed us abundantly, and we will continue to use the resources we have to sustain our work and step into what He has planned for us next.

With gratitude,
Vicar Elaine

Fifty Days of Easter

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wilmington, North Carolina

<https://stmatthewsch.org/fifty-days-of-easter-2/>

Easter isn't just one and done. The resurrection of God's Incarnate Son Jesus changes everything. It is the beginning of the new creation, and Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. The early Church called Easter Sunday, Pascha, the same word for Passover. After baptizing Jesus, John the Baptist declared: "Behold, the Lamb of God" (1:29) to his disciples, who left to follow Jesus.

When Jesus, the spotless Lamb without sin, was crucified by Roman soldiers on the Day of Preparation (according to St. John's gospel), the day when Passover lambs were slain, He became the blood sacrifice who would save Jews and Gentiles from sin, death, and the devil.

After Christianity was no longer an illegal religion, church buildings began to be built. Early baptismal fonts were either cruciform (cross-shaped) or octagonal (eight-sided). Those adults and children being baptized took off their clothing, were baptized naked, and then were clothed in a new white robe, signifying their new life in Christ. The cruciform fonts declared that Baptism is always into Jesus' death and resurrection. Octagonal fonts declared Baptism is the new creation that began on the eighth day, the day the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

When we are baptized into Christ's death, the blood of Christ is spread over the lives of the baptized, and the angel of death will now pass over us forever. Just as Christ Jesus is risen from the dead, so will those who have been buried with Him in Baptism. Just as the Lord God freed Israel from bondage in Egypt and brought them safely through the water to be His redeemed people, so Baptism into Christ's death frees the baptized from slavery to sin, death, and the devil, and we are raised to be His own forever.

Just as the Lord God fed His people with manna in the wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land, so He now feeds us with the true Body and most precious Blood of Jesus, the Bread of Life (see John 6:51ff.), as we pass through the wilderness of this life to the Promised Land, a new heaven, and a new earth (see Rev. 21)!

We celebrate Easter, the queen of seasons, for a week of Sundays, and these fifty days culminate with the celebration of Pentecost, the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Join us each Sunday in Easter and joyfully proclaim the Church's victory cry: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



Lent Services 2025

April 2	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	United Methodist Church, Soup & Bread Service
April 9	Ecumenical Service	6 p.m. 7 p.m.	St. John's Episcopal Church, Soup & Bread Service
April 12 April 13	Palm Sunday	5 p.m. 10:30 a.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 17	Maundy Thursday	7 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 18	Good Friday	12:15 p.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 19	Easter Vigil	7 p.m.	St. John's Episcopal Church NO Saturday service at Eden
April 20	Easter Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

The gifts received at mid-week Lenten services will be given to the Alger Community Food Pantry and the Women's Center.

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.

Please join our Easter celebration!

EASTER LILIES AND SPRING FLOWERS

Would you like to help adorn the church with a floral gift for Easter?

- 1) Order a plant from a local florist and they will deliver it here to the church for you, or you can purchase one and deliver it to the church by Friday, April 18.
- 2) Then, please fill out the form below and leave it in the office no later than Wednesday, April 16.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

On occasion of anniversary or birthday _____

Given in thanks to God for _____

Other _____

Your name and phone number: _____

Scripture Readings for April

April 6	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
<i>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)</i>				
April 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
<i>Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)</i>				
April 20	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
<i>This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)</i>				
April 27	Acts 5:27-32	Psalms 118:14-29	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
<i>You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)</i>				

Celebrate Earth Fest 2025

Please refer to the complete schedule of events on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Tuesday, April 1 10 a.m.	Armchair Trips to View Nature's Pollinators, Fascinating World of Insects	Gallery Coffee Company
Tuesday, April 8 10 a.m.	Armchair Trips to View Nature's Pollinators, The Truth about Bats	Gallery Coffee Company
Tuesday, April 15 10 a.m.	Armchair Trips to View Nature's Pollinators, Bees Tales from the Hives	Gallery Coffee Company
Tuesday, April 15 6-7:30	Energy Auditing by Superior Watershed Partnership	Gallery Coffee Company
April 21 to April 26	Displays available	Munising School Public Library
Monday, April 21 10:30 -11 a.m.	Storytime for preschool children and their caregivers	Munising School Public Library
Wednesday, April 21 6-7:30 p.m.	Pumping Heat, John Forslin will lead a discussion about heat pumps	Munising School Public Library
Tuesday, April 22 6-7:30 p.m.	Carbon Capture Forest program with Steve Waller, environmental educator	Munising School Public Library
Tuesday, April 22 10 a.m.	Armchair Trips to View Nature's Pollinators, Hummingbirds	Gallery Coffee Company
Thursday, April 24 6-7:30 p.m.	Climate Change Jeopardy Game with Steve Waller	Munising School Public Library
Saturday, April 26 10 a.m. to Noon	Solar Array Open House	Munising Township Building
Tuesday, April 29 10 a.m.	Armchair Trips to View Nature's Pollinators, Facts about Spiders	Gallery Coffee Company

Eden Lutheran Church Council Meeting
February 9, 2025

Council Members Present: Vicar Elaine Robbins, Jean Hayes, Bruce Dausey, Norma Dick, Kaye Methot, Ryan Graves. Absent: Brenda St. Martin, Jennifer Wood, Brandalyn Decet

Jean Hayes called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Opening devotion: Vicar Elaine read a devotion from the NGLS Seed Sowers Series.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion by Bruce D, seconded by Ryan G to approve with the notation that officers were not elected after the annual meeting, motion carried.

Review and Approval of Financial Report: Motion by Ryan G. seconded by Norma D. to approve, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Vicar Elaine presented a written report with the highlights being that she has begun reaching out to members and visitations. She is attending the NGLS Lifelong Faith Formation "Growing Younger" via Zoom. Pastor Ellie Russey, Vicar Elaine's supervisor, attended worship and was very pleased with the energy at Eden. Pastor Ellie and Vicar Elaine will meet monthly. NGLS is now offering greater support for licensed lay ministers, Vicar Elaine will attend monthly meetings with this group.

Upcoming Church Events:
Ash Wednesday is March 5. Weekly Ecumenical services will be held throughout Lent.

Old Business:

Jean Hayes has contacted Range Telecommunications. The invoices are for our fire alarm system. Bills will be paid and service will remain in place.

With Matt Tula's resignation, we have several Sundays without a musician. Pastor Ellie Russey has offered to play when she is here monthly. Vicar Elaine will put an ad on Facebook for musicians.

New Business:

Officer election results: President-Ryan Graves, Vice President-Norma Dick, Secretary-Jennifer Wood (pending her acceptance of the position)

Peoples State Bank Accounts: Ruth Lindquist will be removed from all of Eden's accounts. Brandalyn Decet, treasurer, will replace Ruth Lindquist on the accounts. The Eden Youth account will be updated to Therese Kolbus, Brandalyn Decet and Elaine Robbins being the authorized signers. Thrivent Accounts: Therese Kolbus and Brandalyn Decet will be the new authorized signers. Bruce D. made a motion to approve the account changes, Norma D. seconded for approval, motion carried.

A donation will be made to the "All Night Graduation Party" in the amount of \$150. This is \$50 per Eden graduate. Kaye M. made a motion to approve the donation; Bruce D. seconded for approval; motion carried. Funds will come from the Youth Ministry Fund.

Thank you letters were received from Fortune Lake Bible Camp and the Women's Center in Munising. WELCA makes an annual donation to Fortune Lake Bible Camp. This year WELCA was able to donate \$500. WELCA also donated \$500 to the Alger County Women's Center. WELCA specifically wanted these funds to benefit women and families in Alger County. Both donations were made from funds raised at the Fall Fest Bazar.

Next Council Meeting: March 9, 2025
Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Robbins, Vicar

Scholarships Granted

Congratulations to recipients of the 2025 Eden Scholarship. Each received \$250 to use towards higher education costs.

Matthew Lindquist, Lori Mattson, Alex VanZandt, Alexis Walther, and Blake Walther.

Our Heartful Sympathy

To the family and friends of Helen Mattson who passed away on March 25. Funeral is at Eden on Saturday, April 5, at 1 p.m., with visitation at 11 a.m.

Weekly Tuesday prayer group, 10 a.m.

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. All are welcome.

Quilting Bee

Thursday, April 10, 10 a.m.

The Quilters meet on the second Thursday of each month, except in summer. All are welcome.

Book club, Wednesday, April 16, noon to 1 p.m. (third Wednesday)

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

Free Store, Thursday, April 17

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

Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m.

Join Vicar Elaine and Harry as we worship with the residents of Medilodge. (fourth Sunday)

Looking ahead

- May 18, Baccalaureate
- June 8, Annual Fish Fry
- June 8, Pentecost

Please remember to take your Easter lilies and spring flowers home a few weeks after Easter Sunday. Any plants left behind may re-appear in a church garden. **Thank you!**

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of

ARLENE GOODBURN

Roger & Nancy Thompson

Tom & Brenda St. Martin

Jean Hayes

Help Us Collect
Underwear and
Socks Donations



Throughout Lent we will be collecting new socks and underwear for women, men and children. All collected items will be donated to **Room at the Inn**. A basket will be in the narthex for donations.

Happy Birthday!

*Birthstone for April is topaz.
The flower is chrysanthemum.*

4/02 Melissa Nelson

4/04 Kris Madigan

4/05 Dale Immel

4/13 Joe Paquette

4/15 Lauren Nelson

4/19 Eric Brock

4/20 Debi Fulcher

4/21 Paula Ackerman

4/23 Margaret Gosselin

4/27 Lisa Cromell

Financial Snapshot

As of 3/16/2025

Income:	\$5,309.02
Year-to-date	\$19,267.68
Expenses:	\$5,844.79
Year -to-date	\$21,431.62

Revolving Fund Balances

As of 2/28/2025

Worship & Music Fund	\$2,529.42
Seminary Fund	\$2,604.73
Help Fund	\$1,311.44
Free Store (Jan 31)	\$1,691.09
Memorial Fund (Mar 21)	\$15,024.71
Youth Ministry (Mar 21)	\$3,349.41

Thrivent Action Teams

At Eden, Action Team grants have helped fund a taco fundraiser, hands-free rest room faucets, windows, and more.

To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, you must be a Thrivent client with membership.

An Associate Member is eligible to lead one Thrivent Action Team per year (clients without a relationship to a Thrivent life, health or annuity product).

A Benefit Member is eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per year (clients with a relationship to a Thrivent life, health or annuity product).

For more information, please visit www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

Scholarship Fund

Certificates of Deposit	\$24,348.07
Receipts	0
Disbursements	\$1,250.00
CD Balance 2-28-2025	\$23,098.07
Savings 1-1-2025	\$301.35
Combined Balance	\$23,399.42

Gifts to World Hunger

Courtesy of fellowship time after Sunday worship. Thank you!

August 2024	\$26.46
September 2024	\$45.00
October 2024	\$50.01
November 2024	\$21.00
December 2024	\$37.00
January 2025	\$46.25
February 2025	\$17.00

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Several Eden members and friends direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church. *Thank you!*

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you must be a Thrivent client with a Benefit Membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

For more information, please visit www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice

Serving in April 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Saturday, April 5			No Saturday Service
Sunday, April 6			Donna and Judy
Saturday, April 12	George Balko		Wood family
Sunday, April 13	Joanie Hinsa		
Thursday, April 17			<i>7 p.m. Maundy Thursday</i>
Friday, April 18			<i>12:15 p.m. Good Friday</i>
Saturday, April 19		<i>7 p.m. Easter Vigil Service</i>	<i>at St. John's Episcopal Church</i> <i>NO Saturday worship at Eden</i>
Sunday, April 20			NO fellowship on Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 26	George Balko		
Sunday, April 27	Joanie Hinsa		
Altar Guild for April – Lynn DeRoche			
Flower sponsor for April – needed			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
April 6	Kimi Schierschmidt	Jean Hayes and Karen Derwin
April 13	Kimi Schierschmidt	Lynn DeRoche and Donna LeRoy
April 17	Kimi Schierschmidt	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
April 20	Candace Dennis	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
April 27		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.

Where were you in May 1965?

The first issue of Life in Eden was published. See page 9 of this LIE.

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

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.

DR. FRY TO SPEAK NEARBY

Members of Eden will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience on Tuesday, May 18, to hear "Mr. Protestant" of the USA, namely, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of Lutheran Church in America, and former chairman of the Lutheran World Federation.

It will be Ecumenical Emphasis Evening at the synodical convention at Marquette. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Northern Michigan Univ. (Exact location to be announced later.)

This may perhaps be the only time that Dr. Fry will have occasion to be guest preacher here in the Upper Peninsula. It will behoove us to make a special effort (only an hours drive) to hear him on May 18.

Henry Nelson will be Eden's delegate to the convention at Marquette.

PASTOR TO MINISTER TO PRESBYTERIANS

Pastor Niemi will begin holding a 9:30 a.m. Sunday service at the First Presbyterian Church of Munising on May 9. He and Eden's Council was approached about the matter on April 19 and consented to it. In addition to the service each Sunday Eden's pastor was asked also to call upon their hospitalized at the hospitals.

The Presbyterian session consented to the use of the Lutheran form of Service, as well as the use of our usual vestments. Pastor William Payne of Marquette is the moderator for Munising's Presbyterian Church. Bill Ryan is the clerk of their Session.

+ + + +

"As for man his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth. The wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." Psalm 103.

"A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Proverbs 15

"LIFE IN EDEN" - May Issue
Volume 1, Edition 1.

Serving: Eden Lutheran Church
Spruce and Onota
Munising, Michigan
Leslie E. Niemi, Pastor

LIFE IN EDEN STAFF

The following persons have volunteered during the past month to be on the "Life in Eden" staff (for a year):

Nancy Hammond, Shirley Heikkinen, Anne Hurst, Lil Johnson, Alma Merrill, Betty Niemi, Lois Pirlot and Hilda Wilbur. Several more would be welcomed.

In addition to several from the above listing, the following helped us put out our first issue in March: Irene Bonner, Anna Lundbom.

GIFTS TO PUBLICATION ACCEPTED

Generally, publications like "Life in Eden" are financed in congregations by gifts from its readers. Inasmuch as our Eden '65 budget is a very slim one, we too are forced to appeal to our readers to help to subsidize Life in Eden. We will, therefore, in future issues publish the names and gifts of donors (unless the donor otherwise instructs) in a special "thank you" column.

The money received will go into the cost of publication, e.g., stencils, postage, addressing. Any overage in our income will go for the financing of our spanking new A.B. Dick 525, which cost us \$450. (We had budgeted only \$300 for such a machine.) Thank you in advance.

Gift: Margaret Niemi - \$2.00 Thankyou.

ADDRESSES NEEDED

We are attempting to revise the mailing list for both the congregation and the Life in Eden publication. If you know of anyone who'd desire Life in Eden, please phone the same to Shirley Heikkinen, 2052. Specially are we desirous of getting the up-to-date addresses of servicemen and college students.

Also in preparation for Eden's 60th Anniversary observance, we will be asking for the addresses of all confirmands and/or former members of Eden. Get ready.

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

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



April 2025

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 a.m. Prayer Group	2 9-2 Office Open 7 p.m. Ecumenical Service	3	4 9-2 Office Open	5 1 p.m. Helen Mattson funeral No Saturday worship
6 10:30 a.m. Worship	7 9-2 Office Open	8 10 a.m. Prayer Group	9 9-2 Office Open 7 p.m. Ecumenical Service	10 Quilting 10 a.m.	11 9-2 Office Open	12 5 p.m. Worship
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 9-2 Office Open	15 10 a.m. Prayer Group	16 9-2 Office Open 12 p.m. Book Club	17 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	18 9-2 Office Open 12:15 p.m. Good Friday	19 No Eden Saturday Worship 7 p.m. Easter Vigil St. John
20 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Easter</i>	21 9-2 Office Open <u>Life In Eden</u> <u>Deadline</u>	22 10 a.m. Prayer Group	23 9-2 Office Open	24	25 9-2 Office Open	26 5 p.m. Worship
27 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 p.m. Medilodge	28 9-2 Office Open	29 10 a.m. Prayer Group	30 9-2 Office Open			



Automate your offering with Simply Giving.
Forms are available in the office.



GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.

