

LIFE IN EDEN

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Munising, Michigan
October 2024



From the Pulpit

Reprinted from the *Munising Beacon*

Dr. Lon Hider

The Way of Prayer: From Performance to Presence

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their many words.” (Matthew 6:7)

In ancient times, Gentile prayer relied on repetition. The pagan gods were not omniscient, as Jesus highlights in Matthew 6, and didn't know what you needed until you asked. These gods were like distracted humans with superpowers, focused on their own concerns. If you wanted their attention, you had to be the "squeaky wheel."

It's like a child in a supermarket who wants candy. She either flatters or whines to get what she wants from a distracted parent. If flattery doesn't work, persistence becomes her only option. The Gentile prayer method involved both—starting with flattery and continuing with nagging.

Performance vs. Genuine Connection

In Jewish practice, blessings were linked to performance, while Gentiles believed the gods responded to persistence. But Jesus offers an alternative: don't pray like the rest of the world. Pray to a God who already knows what you need. Like a loving parent, God's attention is on you, and the reward is knowing that you matter to Him.

Jesus shifts the focus from religious performance or persistence to an intimate connection with God. Prayer is not about effort; it's about trust and rest in a God who sees and cares.

Brother Lawrence and the Practice of Presence

Mystics like **Brother Lawrence**, a 17th-century monk, understood this deeply. He said: "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees."

Working in the monastery kitchen, Brother Lawrence found God in every task. For him, prayer was not confined to church; it flowed through the daily, ordinary moments. His practice reminds us that we don't need elaborate rituals to reach God. He is already present in the simple, everyday moments.

The Present Moment: A Sacred Encounter

Sometimes, prayer's reward sneaks up on us when we quiet our minds. The aroma of morning coffee, a peaceful moment in nature, or the Lord's supper can awaken us to God's presence. Mystics intentionally create these experiences by focusing on the present moment, where God's love is always waiting.

The past is gone, and the future hasn't arrived. All we have is this moment, rich with God's presence.

Living the Prayer of Presence

Brother Lawrence's example invites us to reconsider our own approach to prayer. It's not about getting God's attention—it's about recognizing that we already have it. Whether washing dishes, driving to work, or sitting in silence, God is with us.

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

Next time we will see how this connects with the most performed and persistent prayer we know... "Our Father, who art in heaven..."

Scripture Readings for October

October 6	Genesis 2:18-24	Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
<i>You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)</i>				
October 13	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
<i>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)</i>				
October 20	Isaiah 53:4-12	Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
<i>You have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. (Ps. 91:9)</i>				
October 27	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
<i>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)</i>				

Reformation Sunday – What is it, and Why Does it Matter

September 30, 2022, by Bruce Reyes-Chow

<https://sojoy.org/reformation/>

Every year on the last Sunday in October, many churches set aside the day as “Reformation Sunday.” If you didn’t grow up with this practice, you may wonder where this tradition comes from, and why some congregations continue to practice it. So ... what is Reformation Sunday, and why should we care?

The History of Reformation Sunday

Our story begins in the 16th century – 1517, to be exact. Bear with us here – what follows is a very simplified explanation of complex theological, political, and economic events that all coincided.

Across Europe, the Roman Catholic Church was engaged in one of the greatest fundraisers in all of history.

If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church (called

“Indulgences”) promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died.

There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time. And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.

November 1 was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church’s calendar.

The day before a German Monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral.

Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. ***Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.*** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy.

His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn’t go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants.

Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.

Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

October 31, 1517, was a long time ago. Why does it continue to matter and be remembered in our churches today?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

We all have a family story – how we got to this point in history. Stories about parents and grandparents, about the things that have shaped our families over the years. Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives.

On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: ***God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.***

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better.

Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better.

We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers

that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call “church.”

Happy Reformation Sunday!

Happy Birthday!

Birthstone for October is opal.

The flower is a marigold.

10/6 Norma Dick

10/7 Dylan Cromell

10/7 Claudia VanLandschoot

10/13 Denis Harbath

10/16 Stacey Masters`

10/16 Arlene Posont

10/17 DeeJay Paquette

10/18 Heidi Paquette

10/19 Lori Mattson

10/20 Cheri Lare

10/26 Christine Jefferson

10/27 Tessa Salo

10/30 Gerald Tahtinen

10/30 Daniel Hinsä

10/31 Margeurite Davis

Quilting Bee, October 10, 10 a.m.

The Quilters meet at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, except in the summer. The quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief each fall. Quilts are also prayerfully presented to Eden's high school graduates and to those in need locally.

Donations such as cotton fabric, sheets (for quilt backing) and thread are also welcome. We have plenty of yarn for now.

If you can use a pair of scissors or tie a knot, there is something for you to do to help. All are welcome, even if you can only join part-time. Along with being productive, it's a wonderful time of fellowship and (of course) coffee.

Since 2003, the Eden Quilting Group has sent 559 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, plus given to graduates and anyone who needs one. The Country Circle of Eden got this started years ago. When they were all gone, Sylvia Moe kept it going.

Now there is a core group that keeps quilting, including Karen Derwin, Lynn DeRoche, Judy Erickson, Margaret Gosselin, Jean Hayes. Joanie Hinsa, Billie Lindquist, Debbie Perttula, Helen Scheunemann, Candy Simonen, and anyone who would like to join.

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.

Volunteers are needed for another successful bazaar, such as help with set up, during the bazaar, and clean up after the bazaar.

Please consider donating baked goods, crafts, raffle items, plants, and produce. White elephant treasures are also welcome, such as seasonal and home décor, small appliances, sports equipment, and more (in clean and working condition).

Items may be placed in the basement kitchen. No clothing or shoes.

Please contact Elaine Robbins to help, have a question, or need to schedule a pickup of donated items. Reach her at 906-450-3344. Thanks!

Serving in October 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Fellowship Hosts
Captain			
Saturday, October 5	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, October 6	Joanie Hinsa		Lynn DeRoche
Saturday, October 12	George Balko	Dave and Carol Eglsaer	
Sunday, October 13		Joanie Hinsa	
Saturday, October 19	George Balko		
Sunday, October 20			Joanie Hinsa
Saturday, October 26	George Balko		
Sunday, October 27		Jean Hayes	Jean Hayes
Altar Guild for October – Elaine Robbins			
Flower sponsor for October – Arlene Posont			

Date	Musician	Offering Counters
October 6	Candace Dennis	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe
October 13	Matt Tulla	Norma Dick and Joanie Hinsa
October 20	Matt Tulla	Jean Hayes and Lynn DeRoche
October 27	Matt Tulla	Helen Scheuneman and Patsy LaCombe

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!*

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!*

Thank you!

To Arlene Posont for sponsoring sanctuary flowers for the month of October.

Dear Eden Members,

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement you sent me for my birthday. The flowers were a wonderful gift for my birthday and are lovely.

Doris M. Ritter

Dear Eden Lutheran Church Congregation, UPHCS Team is sending along a big thank you for partnering with our team in bringing the Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantries monthly to Munising. Due to its success we have outgrown our site and are re-locating to Wesleyan Church, N6310 Knox Street in Munising. We appreciate the warm hearts of your members volunteering, and for the use of tables and even coffee!

Thank you so much!!!!

Great Lakes Endurance
28 West Street
Clintonville, WI

We want to express our thanks and gratefulness for allowing us to use your parking lot for our runners for our Grand Island Trail Run on July 27, 2024. In appreciation, please find enclosed a donation of \$200 to your church. We wish you the best in all your work.

Sincerely, Jeff Crumbaugh & Lois Bressette

Race Directors

Weekly Tuesday prayer group, 10 a.m.

All are welcome 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, October 10, 10 a.m.

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

Book club, October 16, noon to 1 p.m.

The group will discuss a book about Corrie ten Boom (third Wednesday of the month).

Free Store, October 17

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

Youth Ministry Fund

Balance - \$3,428.61

Please support our Youth Ministry Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles to the church. Special thanks to Jean Hayes for her diligent support by handling the returns.

Memorial Fund

Balance - \$16,216.65

In Memory Of
VIOLET (BABE) STIMAC
Candy Simonen
Arlene Posont

Scholarship Fund (as of 8/31/2024)

Savings	\$ 226.03
Certificates of Deposit	\$23,930.23
Balance	\$24,156.46

Financial Snapshot (as of 09/27/2024)

Income:	\$ 7,878.11
YTD	\$83,801.22
Expenses:	\$ 5,258.62
YTD	\$72,972.87

Excerpt from “Shining with the Light of Christ,” the Northern Great Lakes Synod Newsletter, July-August 2024

<https://nglsynod.org/dataarchive/ngls/NotesQuotes/2024-0708.pdf>

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” ~Ephesians 4:32

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I’m on Facebook. I do not comment often, unless it is to wish someone a “Happy Birthday”. I see recipes and gardening tips, anniversary announcements and pictures of baptisms. I also see people I know and love posting polarizing memes that demonize those with whom they disagree. And I suspect the post that was shared can trace its origin to those countries most interested in sowing seeds of discord and division in our country.

It is concerning, especially as we journey towards our November elections and all that is at stake in our votes.

I do not write to tell you how to vote. That is not the way of the ELCA Lutheran Christian. I do write to encourage you to be mindful of how you engage in conversation and discernment leading up to this year’s election. There are people in your congregation who love you and who disagree with you. Will you demonize them? Will you lump them in with those you deem to be unworthy? Or will

you extend grace, be kind, and forgive them for not agreeing with you?

Abraham Lincoln, who shepherded the United States through the Civil War, stated “America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

I hope and pray that as tensions rise, as political lines are drawn, as alliances are declared, that our communities of faith will remain places of civil discourse, open conversation, and unified in our commitment to proclaim Christ and work for his mission.

We are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of God – not Republicans, not Democrats, not independents. The lens we apply to politics is that of the open tomb, to weigh and assess the policies and positions of candidates based on how well they align with the priorities and example of Jesus. This, of course, is not so easily done. But the task becomes easier if we consider what is important with others, in our community of faith, employing conversation, prayer, and debate that allows for mutual respect in the midst of varying perspectives.

I encourage you to be careful of what you post and find out first:

1. Is it true? Check the news source.
2. Who generated the post? Do not be an unwitting accomplice to outside influencers.

3. Does it further the conversation? Or simply drop an emotional zinger meant to inflame and increase anxiety.

Keep in mind that conversation around such important and complicated subjects is best held in person. Social media provides a distance that reduces meaningful discussion to soundbites and allows people to be their worst selves. Do not be your worst self. It is at times such as this that the Church and your church can be a place of not just civility, but of safety and hope.

Whatever the election results, whatever the reaction to those results, we, the body of Christ, will continue to be united in ministry for the sake of the one who died and rose to save.... even those who nailed him to the cross. By the grace of God, our forgiveness will be just as inclusive and will bear witness to the power of Christ to heal, to reconcile, and to find a way forward...together.

*Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan*



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...

(Continues in November)

*On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations...

When our anger leads us to roads of rage; Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursuit it.” ~Psalm 34:14

*When the news is disturbing...

When hopelessness troubles us; Gentle God, may we know Your presence is with us.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” ~John 14:27

*When social media posts or politics threaten friendships...

When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us; reign in us.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” ~Colossians 3:15

*As political signs are posted...

When we see our neighborhoods covered in blue and red signs; Creator God, remind us You created every one of us, all our neighbors, in Your image.

*“If it is possible, so far as it depends on
you, live peaceably with all.” ~Romans
12: 18*

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.

Thank you!



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



October 2024

Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>Office CLOSED</i>	3	4 <i>Office CLOSED</i>	5 5 p.m. Worship
6 10:30 a.m. Worship	7 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	8 10 a.m. Prayer Group	9 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	10 Quilting 10 a.m.	11 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	12 5 p.m. Worship Fall Fest 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Council mtg	14 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	15 10 a.m. Prayer Group	16 <i>9-2 Office Open</i> 12 p.m. Book Club 1:30 p.m. Budget mtg	17 Free Store 1-3, 4-6 p.m.	18 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	19 5 p.m. Worship
20 10:30 a.m. Worship	21 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	22 10 a.m. Prayer Group	23 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	24	25 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	26 5 p.m. Worship
27 10:30 a.m. Worship	28 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	29 10 a.m. Prayer Group	30 <i>9-2 Office Open</i>	31		



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