

Eden Evangelical LUTHERAN CHURCH

Life in Eden

Visit our Website



Christmas Worship Times

Friday December 24th at 5 and 7pm

There will be no services Saturday December 25th

Sunday December 26th 10:30am

From the Pastor

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free. You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David. Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us, to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant. This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way, to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

-Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah's prophecy-song in the beginning of Luke is so beautiful it is the assigned psalm to be sung (or read responsively) for the Second Sunday of Advent coming soon. So since this new church year is the year

of Luke for our Gospel lectionary, that means you will get two Lukan readings for the price of one that Sunday! It may be just because I'm a pastor, and I get really excited about these mundane sorts of things, but I think that's better than any Black Friday deal.

Luke is an exciting Gospel to read from this new year, because here is an entire book dedicated to showing us how God is not just in some lofty place up in the sky: but tangibly and really present *for you!* Luke says time and again how God is down here where we need God the most. Or as Zechariah put it: "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon *us* (not someone else, or someone more holy than us, but us)! God comes to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, (last I checked, that's you and me) and to guide our (yes *our*) feet into the way of peace."

This Advent Season, we wait, and look with twinkling hope toward the turning of the world, and the coming of the baby Jesus. I think one of the lost arts of our time is that of waiting. We tend to fill our idle moments with screens, candy crush, social media scrolling, or any number of other distractions. But we spend not enough time in holy waiting.

If you thought it was exciting that we get two Luke readings soon, wait until you get a load of this other thing I'm excited about: historical word origins! If we trace our modern word *wait* to its etymological roots, it comes from the Proto-Indo-European word *weg* which had the original sense of "to be strong and lively." Which means, waiting, far from some passive emptiness that we should avoid at all costs, is at its root supposed to be full of life and activity! Waiting is supposed to be a place where we gather strength and hold space in our livelihood for those that are to come. So take a pause with me here, despite (and to spite) the chaos of the world, the Omicron Variant and all the tumultuous roaring about us. And let us breathe, and wait. Let us wait in a strong and lively fashion, for God will surely not tarry in guiding our feet into the way of peace.

-Pastor Tommy.



December Birthdays

12-02	Anne Balko
12-02	Yvonne Robbins
12-06	John Dott
12-08	Kate Mattson
12-16	Lew Behning
12-16	Candy Simonen
12-22	Tammy Houtari
12-25	Alexis Walther
12-26	Sylvia Bosley
12-27	Alex Nelson
12-31	Steven Foster

Thank yous

Thank You to all our helpers for the Bazaar: Deb Perttula, Margaret Gosselin, Billie Lindquist, Patsy LaCombe, Ruth Lindquist, Lynn DeRoche, Brenda St.Martin, Sue Steinhoff, Jennifer Wood and children.

Raffle Item Winners:

Table Topper & Candle - donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Bonnie Bernard

Christmas Illuminary - donated by Pauline Elavsky - won by Jan Belen Basket, Scarf & Jewelery - donated by Anne Balko - won by Patty Nash

Placemats - donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Jan Belen

Christmas Kleenex Box Collection - donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Destiny Andrews

Camera - donated by Carole Murk - won by Jeramey Kulik

Table Runner & Candle - donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Barb Barnett

Gray Kleenex Holder - donated by Helen Scheuneman - won by Andrea Kulik

Scarecrow - donated by Patsy LaCombe - won by Tanya Borowski

Fall Picture - donated by Jean Hayes - won by Bruce Dausey

Quilt - donated by Lynn DeRoche - won by Patty Nash

Thank You to everyone, we made \$ 1,411.00

Thank You Helen Scheuneman & Jean Hayes

Greetings,

Thank you for allowing us to use your parking lot for the LeDemi Grand Trail Races on September 18th. We enclosed a donation.

Lois B

Members of Eden,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers for my Birthday. It was a wonderful surprise.

Doris Ritter

Thank you for letting us use your church to host my baby shower! Everything turned out great ! Thanks again!

Audree Hines

Thank you for allowing our runners to park in your parking lot during our event on Grand Island.

Lois & Jeff

Great Lake Endurance,LLC

26 West Street

Clintonville, WI.54929

(A \$200.00 donation went into the General Fund.)

...and hope does not disappoint us,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. -Romans 5:5

Dear People of Eden Lutheran in Munising,

As our season of Hope continues, I pray that you have been sustained by the love of God in Christ Jesus that you find in each other and in our work together.

This past year and a half has taught us something about the community of faith, and how important it is. Through this gift from God of being church, we received support, encouragement, fellowship, and partners in ministry. As we had to endure some isolation by pandemic restrictions, we appreciate all the more the joy of being together, and more than that, together in Christ.

Thank you for your financial support of the work of Christ that we do together as we accomplish far more than any one of us could do alone. The following designated gifts were received to date in the Synod Office in 2021:

1/15/21 Lutheran World Relief - \$25.00
6/07/21 World Hunger - \$200.00
6/14/21 Answer the Call - \$100.00
(Assembly offering)

May God continue to bless your efforts, as you are together in worship, and as you are sent into the world to share the good news.

Yours in Christ
Bishop Katherine Finnegan

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of Rita Patten From Her Family
Balance \$15,981.76

THE YOUTH MINISTRY FUND

Current Balance - \$4,657.55





Amazon Smile

Do you shop on-line? If so, you can make money for Eden on the Bay by shopping at Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a program where Amazon donates, at no additional cost, to charitable causes that you select. If you have been using Amazon Smile already, consider naming Eden on the Bay as your organization selected for these donations. If you haven't already been using Amazon Smile, it's easy to do. Simply go to smile.amazon.com to do all your Amazon shopping. (If you search "Amazon Smile" from your normal Amazon site, it will redirect you to the smile.amazon.com location.) From there you can choose the organization you wish to support. The site looks and acts like the regular Amazon site, but generates money for good causes, like Eden.

Pulpit Supply for Dec.

December 4&5 - Pastor Ellie Russey

December 11&12 - Elaine Robbins

December 18&19 - Pastor Jim Duehring

December 24th (Christmas Eve) - Pastor Jim Duehring

There will be no worship Saturday Dec. 25

December 26th- Pastor Jim Duehring

Assisting Ministers For Dec.

Saturday, Dec. 4 - Skylar Wood

Sunday, Dec. 5 - Volunteer Needed

Saturday, Dec. 11 - Brenda St. Martin

Sunday, Dec. 12 - Volunteer Needed

Saturday, Dec. 18 - Lyon Wood

Sunday, Dec. 19 - Lori Mattson

Friday, Dec. 24 - Christi Salo

Sunday, Dec. 26 - Bruce Dausey

Financial Snapshot For Nov.

		YTD
Income	\$ 7,757.00	\$ 120,240.56
Expenses	\$ 8,121.26	\$ 114,016.84



From The Bishop

*“For in hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.”*

~Romans 8:24-25

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

You have no doubt noticed the increasing darkness. The kids go to school in the dark, and soon, the school day will end as it began, in darkness. The hours of light are getting shorter and shorter, and people are grateful for lingering twilight.

How ironic that the most hopeful season of the church year begins as the darkness increases. In the weeks to come, we light candles on the Advent wreath, and it's not a moment too soon. These lights of hope stand against the growing darkness. And every week, as we add the flame of another candle, the light will increase and shine brighter even as the darkness comes sooner and lasts longer.

In this season of Hope, and as this year of Hope 2021 comes to its end, I share with you some things that I do see that give me hope:

1. Our congregations continue to find new creative ways to do ministry.
As I read through your newsletters, whether online or hard copy, I am impressed and encouraged by your continued efforts. Sure, some things have paused. Yes, some priorities have been re-evaluated and energies placed in new directions. Yet, this is all good as we continue to be church together and church for the sake of the world. I am grateful to the Spirit that is at work among and through us as the work of Christ continues.

2. We have wonderful pastoral leaders!

In the past few years, we have welcomed many new pastors and they bring new energy, perspective, and ideas. And our seasoned pastors and Licensed Lay Ministers have provided stability and the blessing of trusted relationships that keep congregational partnerships in motion and help reduce anxiety. And congregations in pastoral transition have been patient and involved, waiting for God's timing with hope. Perhaps we seek to convince instead of understand.

3. We have renewed joy in being together again...safely.

As pandemic restrictions have eased, Pastor Jim and I are once again happy to gather with you for worship. I do not mind wearing a mask if it means we can sing together and gather in the same space. I love hearing the voices of others raised in song and prayer. It has felt like salve on a wound to share the peace, sing alto to someone's soprano, and hear combined voices pray the Lord's prayer together in the rhythm and cadence of voices in unison. While I truly believe that some sense of community can be achieved and appreciated through Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook live, the joy and value of the community gathered in person is also true and real.

4. Our synod is newly connected through Lifelong Faith Formation, Pastoral Leader Check-Ins, and various Zoom meetings.

While I have missed being able to add lunch and snacks to in-person Synod meetings, in many ways we are more connected as a synod than we have ever been. Teachers and students from the Copper Country to Marinette, from Ironwood to Sault Ste. Marie gather in virtual classrooms and discussion groups. We are church together in a whole new way, gathering to discuss and wrestle with conversations about issues of race, scriptural interpretation, and to consider and plan various ministry efforts.

5. God is at work!

In all our efforts, in all our re-evaluations, in all the changes and future uncertainty, the Spirit of the living Christ is gathering, inspiring,

supporting, and guiding. We are discovering again what it means to be church, what the purpose of the Body of Christ is in this world, and who we are in mission together. I see a new hunger for deeper spirituality and for meaningful connectedness to God and each other. I see ministry efforts taking on a life of their own. I see details and pieces falling together. I see a willingness to experiment, to try new things, to jump even when the landing is unclear.

There is much to be hopeful for because of what we can see even as we continue to hope for that which is still becoming. As Advent candles are lit, as the glow from the manger bed grows brighter, as we strain to hear the songs of angels, remember that you are not alone. In hopeful anticipation of Christmas and a blessed New Year, I believe it is not too soon to share the following verse from “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” that speaks anew to our present circumstances:

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!*

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

