

Eden Evangelical LUTHERAN CHURCH

Life in Eden

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From the Pastor

Help O Lord! No one is loving any more; faithfulness has vanished from the peoples. Neighbor lies to neighbor; their words are smooth and duplicitous. May the Lord destroy all deceitful talkers, every boastful tongue and those who say. "With our tongues we will prevail; our lips are our own— who is our master?" "Because they oppress the helpless, because poor people sigh and moan, now I will raise up!" says the Lord. The promises of the Lord are flawless, like refined silver, freed from dross, purified seven times over. You, O Lord, will keep us safe and protect us always from this generation—where corrupt people strut proudly around and the scum of the earth hold high office. -Psalm 12

One of the comforting things about the psalms is that there is one for just about every situation in life. You can pick up the psalms and always find out that you are not alone. Faithful people have been feeling this way throughout the ages. So it is that when I picked up Psalm 12 this morning I felt like the psalmist could just as easily been writing today as she was between the 9th and 5th centuries BC. This same feeling of disconnect out in the world, and the longing for Justice, and the desperate need for God's steadfast love between neighbors is not new. We have mourned before the diminished faithfulness of the world. We are not alone when we look at the people holding high office and see corruption and scum of the earth sitting there.

God hears us when we cry, and God will rise up and defend the poor

and the oppressed. God is not silent. But as Luther writes in his Large Catechism concerning the Seventh Commandment: “Beware of the cries of the poor, if you should ever neglect them. Because they can complain to no one else, they will cry out to heaven. Such sighs and cries will have an effect too great for you and all the world to bear. For these cries will reach God, who watches over the poor, troubled hearts, and God will not leave them unavenged.”

The point of all of this is that we can trust in God, and God’s promises (which are purer than seven times purified silver). Even though the world rages on and is broken and full of awful things and injustices, God is not far off, but is here hurting with us and working alongside us. We can take comfort in knowing that faithful people have met these same injustices before, and still found refuge and strength in God. That refuge will not fail to show up. God’s word will not return to God empty, but like the rain that falls to the earth: it will nourish and create life defiantly. God will always be there with protection and love and safety, even when we are not.

-Pastor Tommy.





Pastor Tera's Intro Letter

Hello Siblings in Christ,

I'm excited to be meeting you and experiencing your community as I interview at Eden Lutheran May 20-22. What a blessing to feeling the stirring and swirling of the Holy Spirit bringing us together.

While I have only been to Munising once on a family trip around the UP on July 4th when I was around 12 years old, I am a Yooper by birth, having grown up outside of Gladstone. So, I must confess, I have been a life-long fan of Lake Michigan. I am, however, willing to give Lake Superior a chance to show me why it is the greatest of the Great Lakes.

To give you a bit of information about myself, I'm nearly 50 years old, and I have a little dog named Dilly. I have no children, and I was married for a few years, but sadly had to divorce. My mom died when I was 21, and my dad and step-mom are still alive and living in Gladstone. I am the oldest of six kids.

I have come to really enjoy car-camping, have been an avid reader all my life, and enjoy crocheting. Time spent in the Milwaukee Synod brought me a love of baseball, but not on television. Maybe it is just the joy of gathering with friends that made it so much fun. I do really like going to watch school sports. I might not understand all the rules and terminology, but being up close to watch games is so much fun.

I started working in Youth and Family Ministry at First in Gladstone in 2002. I can't believe that on July 1st it will be 20 years of working with congregations in some capacity! I went from there to Norway Lutheran outside of Milwaukee, and then back to First again. While there for that second position, I made the leap to seminary.

I graduated on May 17, 2015, and was ordained on May 22, 2015. I will spend my 7th ordination anniversary with you as I lead worship. I have spent my seven years in my first call in the remote prairie of north west South Dakota. There I serve a three-point parish that contracts with a fourth congregation to meet the financial requirements of having a full-time pastor.

I've come to realize in all my travels that every place is beautiful if you look at it closely. I was hesitant to look too closely at any congregation along Lake Superior, knowing that winters are rather harsh.

Amazingly, God said, "open your eyes." I started to look at pictures from the UP of snow and ice, and realized it was a beauty that I hadn't seen for quite some time.

I am eager to meet you, and to experience your part of God's country for just a few short days. I pray that our encounter is blessed to move forward, and that we will be looking ahead to a future together. And if it is not God's will, I pray that your pastor will come to you quickly, and that my place will be revealed.

May God bless us on our journey,
Pastor Tera Kossow & Dilly



The call committee met Wednesday, May 25th and unanimously voted to recommend Pastor Tera Kossow to the congregation to vote for her to be our new pastor. We will have a special Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 12th to cast that vote. Hope to see you there as we look prayerfully forward to this exciting time in the life of our congregation.

June Birthdays

6-03 Connie Nelson

6-04 Sam Sutherland

6-07 Duray Murk

6-09 Bonnie Bernard

6-09 MacKenzie Masters

6-11 Noah Ackerman

6-13 Natalie Brock

6-14 Paul Bajj

6-15 Jacki Miskus

6-17 Doug Lare

6-18 Cassius Lindquist

6-19 Van Ouellette-Ballas

6-21 Gloria Artibee

6-23 Abigail Brown

6-23 Kristine Dausey

6-28 Doris Hayrynen

6-29 Eric Artress

6-31 Robert Cornish

Thank Yous

Good morning, Eden,

I wanted to share our total numbers from the recent Feeding America food distribution in Munising. We were able to serve 312 households, 200 seniors, 251 children, 56 veterans and a total of 731 individuals. This is a new record for us! Thank you for your support and to your volunteers that helped facilitate this event.

Thank you,

Kristie Hechtman

Upper Peninsula Health Care Solutions

I would like to give a major thank you to the Eden Lutheran Church. As a poor college student, every dollar counts. I've come to greatly appreciate the scholarships and the community within the church. The money has been a wonderful blessing, and the church has helped shape who I am. Your thoughtfulness has been a real blessing.

I give you my sincerest thanks.

Paul LeVeque

Dear Eden Lutheran Church,

Greetings from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

Thank you for your generous support of outdoor ministry. For 90 years people have gathered in a authentic community on the shores of Fortune Lake to be refreshed, to have new experiences, and to grow in faith. God has blessed us! Thank you for allowing these meaningful moments to continue through your contribution.

This past year has taught us a lot. We are ever grateful for our beautiful facility and the opportunities it provides to be in God's creation. Music and art; they are balm for weary souls. Prayer and worship; they center our own lives while keeping us mindful of others. More than anything, we value relationships with God and with one another! The true magic of Fortune Lake happens when we gather together. As many campers have said, "We want to come back!!!" Christ meets us.

Your gift enables us to be here, to offer a safe space for people to explore their faith and to be themselves. As we sing in Jonathan Rundman's Hymn for Fortune Lake.

Thank you Lord for Fortune Lake,
where faith and friendships grow,
for music, joy, and beauty;
for love we've come to know.
We gather in community,
no matter where we're from.
Oh, let this be a place of grace
for years and years to come,
for years and years to come.

Throughout the pandemic, you have increasingly shown us how important Fortune Lake is to you. Thank you.

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner
Camp Director

Dear friends of Eden,

My sister Ruth would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent on her birthday. They are still very nice, and she is enjoying their beauty. Thank you,
Ruth & sister Pauline

THANKS A LOT!

Thank you for the scholarship. I used it for my books last semester.

Kelsea Ackerman

THANKS A LOT!

Thank you for the scholarship. I will use the money towards tuition and books!

Marissa Ackerman



Pulpit Supply for June

June 4&5- Elaine Robbins

June 12- Pastor Breanne Johnson

June 18&19-Kathy Godec

June 25&26-Kathy Godec

Bike Group June 28th

Eden will be hosting the Fuller Center Bike Adventure group on their way across the country. The Fuller Center for Housing is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian Housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. This Bike Adventure Group is part of a fundraising effort that is providing \$3.8 million raised funds to help end poverty housing.

Eden will be collecting food to help feed the bikers. Please consider donating **complex carbohydrates** like Whole Grains, Pretzels, Graham Crackers, Granola and Granola Bars, Apples, Bananas, Oranges, and etc. **Proteins** like Tuna packets, Eggs, Peanut Butter, Jerky, Almonds, Cashews, or other dried nuts, Etc. **Fats** like Olive Oil, Coconut Oil, Butter, String cheese, or sliced cheeses, etc. **Nutrients** like Energy Gel Packets, Emergen-C packets, Hummus & Fresh veggies, or spinach, etc.

Thank you for your support!

Honoring Our Seniors



Then & Now



Skylar Campbell & Jeff Tebear



Heather Nayback and Matthew Lindquist

Maddison Savola with Eric Lynch



Alex VanZandt and Jim Cotey



Eileen Gaynir and Lori Mattson

CONGRATS!





From the Bishop

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this, it is the Monday after our 34th Synod Assembly. We are in the second year of a three-year theme focused on the passage from First Corinthians, “And now Faith, Hope, and Love Abide, these three.” We know the greatest of these is love, but this year we are focusing on Faith.

Martin Luther describes faith as a “living, busy, active, mighty thing.” As Lutherans, we teach that faith is a gift. And yet, faith is dynamic and moving, less a package to be opened and more a relationship to be nurtured - less a possession, and more a commitment of trust. In these last couple of pandemic years when we have had to work harder to stay connected, I think we understand more clearly the part that we play in building and nurturing our faith community.

Synod Assembly is a perfect example of what we do to build our faith community and celebrate a wider view of church. I hope you felt connected as you gathered in person as a voting member, participated in the week of online workshops, or watched the business meeting livestream.

I believe for the most part, things went smoothly. The sound was a little uneven from conference to conference, but people were willing to repeat their question or comment until we all understood.

One thing that I do not believe was understood fully was the reasoning

and purpose of Resolution #7. In the fall of 2021, I was presented with the requirement to amend our constitution by our Churchwide Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, who was being proactive in ensuring the 60/40 balance of lay and clergy voting members at synod assemblies in order to forestall any disputes as to the legality of a given outcome in future elections. We are one a few synods who still have the provision in our constitution that all retired rostered leaders in attendance at Synod Assembly receive both voice and vote.

Concern over lay and clergy balance has not been an issue in our synod before as so many pastors who have retired have not stayed geographically in our synod. Many, after retirement, have stayed on our NGLS roster, but they have moved far away and never expected to attend Synod Assembly. In the last few years, this has changed, and more of our retired pastors have chosen to stay local and may well plan to attend Synod Assembly.

Granted, we are not the Florida/ Bahamas Synod, where I am guessing retired clergy outnumber active clergy and lay voting members combined, but the challenge to defend the constitutional requirement of at least 60% lay voting membership at Synod Assembly is the same.

Other synods have chosen different methods. Some ensure the balance by saying that:

1. No retired pastors are given voting privileges unless they are serving a congregation as an interim.
2. The retired pastors meet and agree who among them will represent their vote. The amount of voting members is a certain percentage of the total retired clergy population, often 10%.

After my conversation with Sue Rothmeyer, I sent an email to all our retired pastors presenting them with the issue. I invited them to a Zoom meeting and welcomed their input. If they could not attend the Zoom, I asked that they send me their thoughts via email. I welcomed their ideas as to how best to constitutionally ensure the required balance.

Currently we have, or soon will have, 61 retired clergy on our roster, 35 of which might reasonably be expected to attend Synod Assembly. If each congregation sends their full number of lay people, we would see about 170 lay people at Synod Assembly, which would allow 110 clergy to be voting members. Assuming that 79 congregations will send a clergyperson (knowing that some have a Licensed Lay Minister), this allows for roughly 31-32 retired clergy to be voting members.

If, like some synods, we went with 10% of retired clergy, that would only afford 6 retired clergy the privilege of voting. Wanting to maximize the number of retired clergy who could vote, the proposal was made to wait until registration closed, have a hard number of lay voting members and active clergy, and from that, calculate the remaining balance of 40% of clergy and how many retired clergy could then vote.

I am very glad that more retired pastors are choosing to stay on the territory of the NGLS. They offer invaluable support and wisdom to the church, helping the work of ministry in countless ways even after retirement. I continue to be deeply grateful for their partnership and willingness to help. Having to limit, even a few, from the privilege of voting at Synod Assembly is a reality that this resolution seeks to address as fairly as possible, maximizing the voting participation of retired clergy who attend Synod Assembly.

What can you do?

- Maximize the amount of lay people your congregation sends to Synod Assembly and pay attention to gender balance.
- Rotate Synod Assembly participation among your members, giving more people the joy and witness of being church together.
- Next year we will be in person. Please include travel expense, hotel expense, and registration cost in your congregational budget for next year. Registration will be more like it was pre-COVID, about \$180 per person.
- As always, the registration fee for retired clergy is waived.

Synod Assembly is energizing, joyful, informative, and Spirit blessed. We are church together, and never more so than when we worship and partner in ministry together. This year was good, but I look forward to us all being together, in person, next year.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan