

## *Christmas Eve Services*

5:00 PM Children and Family Service  
7:00 & 9:00 PM Contemporary Service  
11:00 PM Traditional Service

The Sacrament of communion will be celebrated at all four services.  
Individual candles will be lit at the latter three services only.

There will be one service on Sunday, December 25th at 9:15 AM.  
On Sunday, January 1st we will have one combined service at 10:30 AM



## Words from the Pastor

by Pastor John

Four days. That's how long it took. Four days from Totenfest Sunday (November 20<sup>th</sup>), that Sunday where Eden Church remembers all our members who died over the last year, until the death of our next Church member. On Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, on Thanksgiving Day, Ruth Keller our dear friend left this world to be with God. Since her death I have thought about our next Totenfest service and how Ruth's name will be one of many that will be on the Totenfest list. I wonder who else might be on that list. It could be me or even you. Are you ready?



We often don't like to think about our own death and we seldom talk about it, but it is something that barring the return of Jesus Christ from heaven, we will have to face. My question to you again is are you ready? When I ask about being ready, I'm not asking if you have a will prepared, though that's important. I'm not asking if you have enough life insurance, though that's something to consider. I'm not asking if you had "the talk" with your spouse or your children, though I think you should. I'm asking if you are prepared to meet God. To quote Amos 4:12, "...prepare to meet your God..."

The quote from Amos comes to Israel amidst language where God is calling His people to change, to repent, to turn to him in a proper relationship. The words are applicable to you and me today. Are we properly related to God? Are we in a place where we can die knowing that we will be better off and that heaven is before us?

So many today believe that surely they will be better off when they die. It's the default idea that we will be ushered into heaven when we die, but is that true? If you are a close student of the Bible, you see that it teaches and especially Jesus teaches that heaven isn't the natural end point for us when we die. Jesus teaches that something radical must happen to us before we are ready for heaven. Do you know what it is?

I'm writing this article for you. As your pastor I will most likely be the one to preach your funeral. I will be the one to comfort your family. More than anything I want to be able to assure them that you were in deed prepared to meet God. I want to be able to assure them that you are like Paul the Apostle who said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

If you are not sure you are ready, please give Pastor Mike or me a call at the Church office. We would be more than happy to meet with you and to share the teaching of the Bible. We would be happy to go through the words of Jesus and teach you what he said about life, death, heaven, hell and how you can be ready to leave this world and go to God when your time comes. I don't know what this year will hold for you, but I pray that each of you will prepare to meet your God.

*Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.*

## Youth News

by Erin Swank



### A Huge Thank You!!

Last month the youth gathered to bake for the congregation in hopes that they would support Oasis Center. The youth were beyond excited when they found out how generous you were towards their efforts in helping battered women and children. Thank you for the \$728 you donated!! We are going to be using \$200 to purchase supplies, write a check for the rest and hopefully have an Oasis Center representative come and speak to the youth this month. Thank you again for your generosity!



### Youth Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased Little Caesar Pizza kits!

All of the proceeds went towards the youth group summer mission trips, and the total amount raised will be announced on Sunday morning after the order has been placed. All of the money will go towards our trips to Nashville, TN and West Virginia. If you placed an order with a youth or at church, please come and pick up your order from 5:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 13. We do not have freezer space to store orders, so please mark your calendars!!!

### NO Confirmation & Youth

There will be no confirmation classes or youth group the week of December 25, because of Christmas.



### Summer Youth Trips

The deadline for summer youth trips is quickly approaching. Youth who are in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade are traveling to Nashville, TN to work with CSM. This organization connects us with the poor and disenfranchised of society. We have done a variety of work over the years: cooked and served meals, worked at a medical warehouse, created emergency food boxes, weeded a community garden, but most of all we get to build relationships with people and hear their stories. This trip is from June 3-8, and the cost is \$350 (includes everything) and requires a \$65 non-refundable deposit due on January 29. The high school youth will serve with REACH Work-camps, an organization that works with families that cannot afford necessary home repairs. This trip will be on July 14-21, and the cost is \$470 (which includes everything) and requires a \$50 non-refundable deposit. I really hope that if you are a youth, you will sign up soon and go on a life-changing trip with us!!! If you have questions, please contact Erin at 656-4330 or [eswank@eden-ucc.org](mailto:eswank@eden-ucc.org).

### 30 Hour

### Famine

The youth will again be inviting the congregation to journey with



them as they participate in the 30 Hour Famine. This event asks them to go without food for 30 hours to identify with those who go without food everyday, and to raise funds to support the work of World Vision who ministers to people with those needs and more around the world. The event will be on January 13-14. The youth will be telling you more about it as the event approaches. We hope that you will join us in prayer as we start and to think about how you might support financially the work of World Vision.

# Sunday School News

by Joann McCoy

## Christmas Program!!

The Christmas Program will take place on December 18th at the 10:30 service of worship. Please drop your children off at Sunday School at the usual time and take their coats with you because they will not be returning to their classrooms.

The teachers will bring the children to the 10:30 service and they will sit with their classes. After the 2 year olds sing, they can join their parents or stay with their teachers. The older children will sit with their class during the entire program and meet up with their parents after the program. Please have your children bring big smiles and their singing voices. See you at the program.



Until Every One Comes Home®

## VETERAN'S APPRECIATION COMMITTEE SAYS "THANKS!"

A big thank you from the Veteran's Appreciation Committee headed up by George Willaredt and comprised of members Chuck Weiss, Harold Humphries and Roger Huber, who've overseen collection of miscellaneous personal care items for our active military veterans serving both state-side and at duty stations abroad. Over the past month, priority mail packages have been sent to a half dozen of our Eden military family, and additional supplies have

been donated to the USO Center at Lambert International. To date, over \$700 in additional funds have been donated to continue this effort over the next several months. There's still time to make a financial contribution, if you care to do so. Simply use one of the white envelopes and mark your donation:

"VETERAN'S APPRECIATION."

*(Also, a "tip of the cover" to WWII Veteran, John Koch, who was also active with the founding and activities of this Appreciation Committee until he had to report to Sick Bay.)*

## Health and Wellness

by Joyce Gusewelle



### *Teenage Depression/Suicide – Helping Friends in Trouble*

We all have bad days, or weeks, or even months. We all feel overwhelmed at times. Things usually get better. Sometimes that's hard to remember when you're down. But stress, depression and even suicide happen in the lives of people young and old.

Problems get people down. We feel tense, fearful or angry because things are changing – they seem out of control. It's hard to manage. More than 2,000 Minnesota middle and senior high school students were asked how they handle serious problems in their lives. Can you guess what they said? They either try to handle the problem themselves or talk to their friends. It's important to think about how to help yourself as well as a friend who comes to you.

Wednesday, January 4, 2012, Tom and Fran S. will join us for Youth Night at 7:00 PM. Their daughter died by suicide at the age of 26. They will share with us ways to help ourselves and our friends during depression and if they talk about suicide.

All youth are welcome whether they regularly attend Youth Night or not and whether or not they are members of Eden. Parents, grandparents, friends – encourage the youth in your life to attend!

This presentation is for youth only. In February we are planning a presentation for adults: parents, teachers, coaches, etc. There will be more information about that later.

### Blood Pressures

Blood pressure screenings will resume again in January but in a new location. While our worship services are being held in the Fellowship Hall, I will be taking blood pressures in the church office near the volunteer desk. So just enter through the front office door. In January, I will be available after the 8:00 AM service and until the 10:30 AM service on January 8 and 22. Watch the weekly schedule in the church program for future dates.



### *Upgrading to a new TV?*

Donate your old TV (27" or larger) to the Eden Church Adult Education Program. Contact Pastor Mike at [mmarx@eden-ucc.org.org](mailto:mmarx@eden-ucc.org.org), 656-4330.



# Reflections on Worship

by Jake Gosselin

*A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3*

Our Sunday morning routine has certainly been rocked with the recent changes in worship venue. While the sanctuary is a far better worship space than the Fellowship Hall for multiple reasons, I believe this experience is beneficial for the health of our church. Sometimes it can be so easy to fall into routines that are mind-numbing and lose their value. A change in environment gives us the opportunity to view things with a fresh perspective. For example, maybe different aspects of the liturgy will jump out at you in ways they have not before. During this Advent season, we pray that God's grace will prepare us for the coming of the Lord. This year not only is this a spiritual preparation, but it is also material. We are literally preparing different places to worship. While the complications of worshiping in the Fellowship Hall or gym seem quite grim, there is still hope and we trust God that he will continue to hold everything together. Sometimes, our spiritual preparation for the Lord's coming also seems quite grim. Thankfully, his grace is greater than our pain and struggles. For the next few weeks (or months) as we continue to adjust to a new environment and make material preparations for our Lord, let it remind us of the spiritual preparations that are of utmost importance.

## **Eden Music Rehearsal Schedule for January-May 2012**

### **Monday**

Cherub Choir 6:00-6:30PM (Choir Room)  
Sonshine Choir 6:30-7:15PM (Choir Room)  
Handbells 7:15-8:15PM (Sanctuary)

### **Tuesday**

Praise Band 6:00-7:15PM (Fellowship Hall)  
Praise Choir 7:30-8:30PM (Choir Room)

### **Wednesday**

Chancel Choir 6:00-7:15PM (Choir Room)

## Choir Practice



Until we can use the Sanctuary again in March, if we have a funeral, we will need a team of volunteers to convert the Fellowship Hall from worship space to eating space and then back to worship space after the funeral luncheon. If you would be able to help with set up or take down, please contact Ed at 656-4330 or [espengler@eden-ucc.org](mailto:espengler@eden-ucc.org).

## Eden Church Is Your Place for Adult Christian Education

by Pastor Mike

*“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15*

Study of the Christian Scriptures is vital for a correct understanding of God and his will for our lives. At Eden Church, we are striving to provide many opportunities for study, both in Adult Sunday School Classes and in Bible Study Groups. You are invited to attend one or more of the following studies. Some are in session now and some begin on January 8. More information about the studies is posted on the Eden Website and will be available in church during December worship services.

### Eden Adult Christian Education Studies

#### **SUNDAY**

- 9:15 AM Sanctuary: Comparative Religions (begins Jan. 8, 2012)  
Rev. John Roberts
- 9:15 AM Classroom A: Courageous Living for Men (begins Jan. 8, 2012)  
Rev. Mike Marx - sub: Matt McSparin
- 9:15 AM Classroom B & C: *What Happened When Women Say Yes to God* by Lysa TerKearst  
(begins Jan. 8, 2012) Mindy McSparin
- 9:15 AM Fellowship Lounge: Journey to an Abundant Life (began Nov. 6, 2011)  
Errick Cameron - sub: Greg Erspamer or Myles Cameron
- 9:15 AM Parlor: Disciple Bible Class – *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn (began Nov. 27, 2011)  
Elizabeth Marx - sub: Jeff & Sue Eddinger

#### **WEDNESDAY**

- 6:30 AM Fellowship Hall: Men’s Bible Study – Genesis  
Rev. John Roberts— sub: Rev. Mike Marx
- 7:00 PM Classroom B & C: *Daniel Bible Study: Handwriting on the Wall* by David Jeremiah  
(began Sep. 14, 2011) Darrell Duewer— sub: Gail Duewer
- 7:00 PM Classroom D: Bible Stories 101 (began Sep. 14, 2011)  
Linda Erspamer & Cyndi Schiber — sub: Greg Erspamer
- 7:00 PM Leather Lounge: Knowing God (began Sep. 14, 2011)  
Jake Gosselin — sub: Ethan Duewer

#### **THURSDAY**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Off Site: Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)  
contact Sue Eddinger for information
- 1:30 PM Eden Village: Faith Builders Adult Bible Study  
Vickie Klopmeier — sub: Tom or Alice Wetzell

#### **FRIDAY**

- 12:30 – 2:00 PM (bi-weekly) Fellowship Lounge: Women’s Bible Study – Hebrews  
Mindy McSparin

I wish everyone a wonderful and blessed Advent and Christmas  
and a safe and prosperous New Year.

## Thank You

Thank you to Pastor John, Mrs. Highlander and the Prayer Minutemen for their prayers during the recent illness and ultimate passing of my sister, Joanne Fouceh. I am truly grateful for their prayers and everyone's expressions of sympathy.

*Doris G.*

Thank you to the Ladies Guild for the beautiful flowers and all those who sent cards for our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

*Elmer and Gwen E.*

Thanks to Eunice Highlander and the Prayer Minutemen for all their prayers while I was in the hospital and home recovering. I also want to thank Pastor Mike for all his prayers and visits and I can't say enough about my wonderful family who is still helping me. Love you all very much.

*Gwen E.*

Thank you to all my friends and family for a wonderful 80th birthday party. It meant so much to me, and I appreciated it very much. Thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts, but most of all thank you to all who attended. It was a most enjoyable day, and I enjoyed visiting with everyone. God has been so very good to me and has given me such wonderful friends and family. Most of all He has given me the chance to know Him as a Christian. I want to thank Pastor Marx for the beautiful prayer he gave at the party. Thank you to everyone and especially Sandy, Sharon and families.

*Sarah B.*

Thank you so much for your recent donation. Your gift will be used to support the independence and well being of seniors, people with disabilities and their families in our community.

*Faith in Action Edwardsville/Glen Carbon*

The members of Eden Church wish to express their sympathy to the family of Lorene K. She is survived by her daughter, Janice B.; son, Dennis and two grandchildren.



Ruth K.. She is survived by two sons, James and Dale; three daughters, Mary A., Linda K. and Betty K. and six grandchildren

---

## Recently Baptized at Eden:

*Matthew Joseph F.* born on April 13, 2011. He is the son of Michael and Kathleen (C.) F. His sponsors are Stephen C. and Jennifer K.



---

Thank you for your donation to Hitz Memorial Home. Your generosity, combined with the thoughtful gifts of other friends, is a very important part of the Home's commitment to excellence in long term care.

*Hitz Memorial Home*

Thank you for your generous donation. You are helping deserving families right here in our community. The Pantry continues to be blessed with a community who recognizes the need for the Pantry.

*Glen Ed Pantry*

I thank you for your very generous gift to our mission. You know, whenever I get down so very low in funds, God has sent an Angel with a gift of help. This angel was you. Thank you again and bless each of you.

*Uni-Pres Kindercottage*

# SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

### What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

### What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.


"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_  
13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  
19                      16                      14                      6

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."  
3                      12                      26                      7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



903 N. Second Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Periodical  
Paid at  
Edwardsville, IL

Eden

United Church of Christ

Worship Services  
8:00 AM Traditional  
9:15 & 10:30 AM  
Contemporary  
Sunday School  
9:15 AM  
Classes for all ages

---

Church Office 656-4330  
Hours M-Th 8:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Friday 8:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Fax 656-4384  
[www.eden-ucc.org](http://www.eden-ucc.org)

*“For the man who uses well, what he is given, shall be given more”*  
Thank you for contributions to the Glen Carbon-Edwardsville Food Pantry which serves those in need in our Community. For more information call the Pantry at 656-7506, 656-2963 or 656-8965.

***Suggested Donations:***  
***Canned Meat, Pasta and Vegetables***  
***Containers are found in the Annex and Narthex of the Church***

Going Green: We are offering you the option to receive the newsletter by email only. If you are interested, send your email address to Sue at [ssperduto@eden-ucc.org](mailto:ssperduto@eden-ucc.org) and let her know you would like to receive your newsletter electronically .

The *Eden Leaflet* will be published on January 23, 2012. All submissions must include a name and phone number and be received in the office by January 12, 2012. We reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

**Next Deadline: 1/12/2012**  
**Next Issue: 1/23/2012**

*The Eden Leaflet (USPS 310-430) is published bi-monthly by Eden United Church of Christ, 903 N. Second Street, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Periodicals Postage paid at Edwardsville, IL and additional mailing offices.*