

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



New Website Page: www.ericksonlutheranchurch.com
New emails: Pastor Heather: hhowdle84@gmail.com
Office: office.ericksonlutheran@gmail.com

**Please note that volunteers staff the Administrative Office.
If you require assistance, kindly leave a message and your inquiry will be addressed promptly.**

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HEATHER



Welcome to March! Where the World Day of Prayer is held usually on the first Friday of the month, we will be hosting it on the Thursday March 5th at 2 pm. Please invite all your friends from other churches or faiths as well. The message is from Nigeria this year and the theme is "I Will Give You Rest, Come" based on Matthew 11:29-30. This theme invites people to find rest in God's love and community support, addressing the burdens of shame, systemic oppression, poverty and

despair by offering rest, transformation, and hope according to World Day of Prayer International.

Also, it is important to reflect, discern and pray about what and how God is calling us to do ministry in our community and our Synod. We are part of the Synod, and the Synod is part of us, and there has been three Pastors that have accepted calls in other areas, and my retirement at the end of this year will allow for us to transform how we share and live out the gospel. I have subscribed to the Canada Lutheran online which allows me to connect and review all the past messages from our MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko, but also the other Bishops across Canada and of course our National Bishop's messages. They all are sharing similar challenges to what we are facing here, smaller Sunday attendance with an aging congregation that are hopeful for a renewal of some kind to help carry on our ministry for us and others. It is clear that it will be less centered around full-time Pastors or Deacons. There are lay leadership training and mentoring resources available

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from the Lutheran Theological Seminary that can be helpful. And how can we help support our sister churches in the Synod that are having similar challenges, or even other churches around our community? Can we worship together, share the same space, realize that there is more that unites us than divides us? We are one body in Christ, let us talk about how we can work towards that with other denominations, and perhaps become a place for Spiritual Care while still maintaining our Lutheran faith and identity.

I invite everyone to be part of this journey of what new life in our congregation and community of faith will look like. We can start by reading Bishop Jason's messages in the Canada Lutheran, and particularly this March edition, but also all the messages from this past year.

"God is bringing us new life, even when it is hard to see it" So I pray that we will be people who look forward with hope to what God is preparing for us" Bishop Jason Zinko

The trend is towards ecumenical shared ministry, increased lay leadership, multi-faith and inter-faith gatherings and space sharing. As we gather for our AGM after our March 1st service and potluck, we can keep all these things in our hearts.

As we continue through Lent towards Palm Sunday, and Holy Week, we sometimes try and avoid *Good Friday*. We might find it difficult to do Easter in a different way. It also is tough to acknowledge Good Friday in a new way. It seems counterintuitive to 'celebrate' Jesus' death. We do not celebrate but we come together to commemorate this part of Jesus' journey on our behalf, this part

of Jesus' story. *All our welcome to join our service at 10:30 a.m. April 3rd.*

We are to honor Jesus' life and journey up to His death while holding onto the significance of the event. And because we have lived through the history of the fullness of the Easter week, we wouldn't be celebrating Jesus' resurrection without the events of Good Friday!

I have met with our worship and music team to give the day the recognition it deserves, and we encourage as many people as possible to join.

We will be dividing the service into seven parts that describe the chain of events from betrayal, denial, aloneness, accusation, suffering, crucifixion, and the death of Jesus on the cross.

We of course will start the service in silence and end in silence with no paraments but will have seven candles lit, one for each of the stages that lead up to Jesus' death. As each stage is experienced with short readings and music, we will douse that candle until all the candles are out.

We then enter the Saturday vigil time and use it to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus, and wonder if we would remember his promise that he would rebuild the temple in three days, if we would remember his promise to the world that he would return and bring peace to the world not vengeance?

Are we prepared for what the resurrection means to us as followers of Christ? To tend to the sick, the oppressed, the poor, and to love, act kindly and do justice.

Can we show our faith and beliefs in action for the marginalized without judgement? Can we consider ways in which you can help those less fortunate than ourselves this Lenten journey and during our special Easter services to come?

We can also use more volunteers to help with our services and events, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or our Council. We are to share and live out the Gospel message of love and justice in God's name.

In gratitude for our church family,

Pastor Heather



Council met February 11, 2026, at Dolores Hall's home. There is a copy of the minutes on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The next Church Council meeting will be held Sunday, March 15, 2026 after the Worship Service.

We accepted Pastor Heather Parrott-Howdle's retirement letter effective at the end of December 2026.

The congregational meeting was cancelled for February 15, 2026, and we will meet at a later date to discuss redevelopment and services for 2027. Pastor Heather will continue with communion services, funerals, and weddings in 2027. We appreciate the years of dedication and continuing with

serving us and the community as needed. Thank you, Pastor Heather.

Sunday School continues the 1st Sunday of each month. Currently there has been no attendance. We continue to invite the youth, and all are welcome to attend.

March 1, 2026, is our Annual General Meeting and extra booklets are available in the Narthex.

We are thankful for everyone's continuing participation with keeping our church doors open.

We will continue in our journey with God's guidance.

In God We Trust, **Church Council**



The new hymn for March is "Bring Many Names" printed in the new hymn book "All Creation Sings." The Bible cites almost two hundred names and titles for Jesus. Some we often hear are Teacher; Good Shepherd; Comforter; Wonderful Councillor; Saviour; Redeemer; Healer.

Brian Wren wrote the lyrics for this hymn. Brian has written words raising awareness of theology in hymns. He uses unfamiliar names in this hymn to highlight different aspects for God's nature, ministry, and divine role;

Strong mother God; Warm father God; Old, aching God; Young, growing God; Great living God. The music was written by composer Carlton R. Young.

Come and join us at the church on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for choir.

**Sue and Viola
Worship and Music**

Erickson Lutheran Women NEWS

Ministry to Women

Women's Bible study is Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Dolores's.

Topic: Giver of Courage.

Bible passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11;

Galatians 6:1-2;

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Erickson Lutheran Church. This year's service was prepared by Christian women of Nigeria.

A big thank you to all who came out to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, those who worked, and donated items.

All was much appreciated.

Submitted by Dolores Hall

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**Please support the
Erickson Lutheran Church
and our projects**

You can support the Erickson Lutheran Church and its various projects by donating or an online offering via:

- e-transfer
office.ericksonlutheran@gmail.com
- Through Canada Helps by clicking this link
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/22424>
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God's Blessings

To God Be the Glory!



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

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FEBRUARY OFFERINGS:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| LOOSE | \$ 40.00 |
| BUDGET | \$ 3,138.90 |
| ONLINE | \$ 803.86 |
| MEMORIAL DONATION | \$ 150.00 |

Erickson Lutheran Church

MARCH 2026

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM and Sunday School the 1st Sunday of Month at 10:30 AM

Website: www.ericksonlutheranchurch.com [www.facebook.com/ EricksonLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/EricksonLutheranChurch)

Donation E Transfers gratefully accepted: office.ericksonlutheran@gmail.com P.O. Box 414 – 30-3rd Street SW Erickson Manitoba R0J 0P0 - 204-636-2259

| U = Usher/Host R=Reader CA = Communion Assistant | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Pastor Heather U: Mary R: Linda | 1 st Service of Word followed by Potluck Lunch and Annual General Meeting. All Welcome Second Sunday In Lent | 2 ND | 3 RD Healthy Baby Program 10:00 AM to Noon Choir - 7:00 PM | 4 TH | 5 TH The World Day of Prayer service at 2:00 p.m. This year's service was prepared by Christian women of Nigeria. | 6 TH Services to Seniors Exercise Classes 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | 7 TH Clocks Spring ahead an hour at midnight Sunday morning |
| Pastor Heather U: Rhonda, Mary R: Rhonda CA: Mary | 8 TH Communion Service followed by Coffee Third Sunday In Lent | 9 TH | 10 TH Choir -7:00 PM | 11 TH | 12 TH Communion PCH Services 10:00 AM Erickson 2:30 PM Sandy Lake ELW Bible Study at Dolores' House 7:00 PM. Theme – Giver of Courage | 13 TH | 14 TH |
| Pastor Heather U: Andrew, Jewel R: Marlene | 15 TH Hymn Sing Service followed by Coffee and Church Council Meeting Fourth Sunday In Lent | 16 TH | 17 TH Choir -7:00 PM | 18 TH | 19 TH | 20 TH Deadline for ELC Newsletter articles | 21 ST |
| Lay Service Cathy U: Cathy, Sue R: Sylvia-Linda | 22 ND Lay Service followed by Coffee Fifth Sunday In Lent | 23 RD | 24 TH Choir - 7:00 PM | 25 TH | 26 TH | 27 TH | 28 TH |
| Lay Service Dolores U: Earl, Val R: Linda | 29 th Lay Service followed by Coffee Palm Sunday | 30 th | 31 st Choir - 7:00 PM | Exercise classes Fridays 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m. starting March 6. Dates subject to change. Please sign up for updates and schedule changes by calling Shanna at Services to Seniors at 204-636-7895 or email areas@mymts.net , or follow Services to Seniors Serving Erickson, Onanole, Sandy Lake, Rolling River and Areas on Facebook. | | | |