

Erickson Lutheran Church

Newsletter

July 2026 | A monthly update for our
congregation and community



Message from Pastor Heather

It's summer !!! Of course, I think that I have said that for the past two months, oh well, I am sure summer will get here. We must enjoy it when it comes.

I was blessed to attend the Anglican – Lutheran Study Conference in Gimli this past June and it was a wonderful experience meeting all my clergy colleagues from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, the Diocese of Rupertsland and new this year we welcomed the Diocese of Brandon!

I have met and will build relationships with clergy closer to our faith community, from Russell, Dauphin and Brandon! We heard from wonderful speakers and received an update from our MNO Bishop Jason, and National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.

One of the speakers I have mentioned before, Katja Brittain, who has been focusing on helping our Eastern Synod discern how to address Burdens to Calling: Faithful Leadership, Church Buildings and Discernment of how God is calling us to carry out our mission and ministry in our time and place, in our time and space.

Deacon Michelle Collins, our Assistant to the Bishop, updated us as well on the CLAY gathering for 2027 in Nanaimo, Lay training that she makes available to interested congregations, and the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). She announced at our conference that Lainie Nichols from our congregation (connected

through her grandmother Mary Nichols) that she has was chosen to represent our National church (ELCIC).

What is even more exciting is that she is the only volunteer chosen from the ELCIC!! God is gracious indeed, and she will be sharing her story of her time in Kenya this past year with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

We have invited Lainie to speak at our July 19, 2026, Sunday service and share her faith story and all about the Young Adults in Global Mission.



Gimli Wharf

I encourage you to come and hear her story and for us to work together to help her fundraise for her portion of this most exciting and gospel filled mission for Young Adults! I have included the invitation letter from our National Church and our sister church in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to help us support Lainie and the spreading of the gospel to more Young Adults!

In gratitude for our church family, **Pastor Heather**

Dear Erickson Lutheran Church,

We are thrilled to share with you that Lainie Nichols has been appointed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to serve as a volunteer in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program! The ELCA and ELCIC are connected through the Lutheran World Federation. Lainie is the only ELCIC volunteer and will serve in the United Kingdom for one year beginning later this summer.

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program, for volunteers ranging from 21-35, provides young adults with a life-changing year-long journey in international mission service. Through this program, Lainie and other volunteers will take part in work ranging from serving in companion churches, to teaching, to supporting social service ministries, to health and development projects.

And more significantly, as the volunteers walk alongside our companion churches and their host communities, they are transformed and informed, engaging in relationships of mutuality, interdependence, solidarity, and trust. Through this year of service, they become more aware of the ways in which God is active all around the world and join in the work of peace and reconciliation that God has called us all to do.

On average, the total annual cost to support one young adult in the program is over \$25,000. This includes training and periodic retreats, roundtrip travel to and from the country of service, full room and board, a small monthly living allowance, and basic medical insurance. As part of accepting this invitation to serve as a YAGM volunteer, Lainie is responsible for raising a minimum of \$10,000 toward her year of service. The ELCA will help to offset the remaining amount needed for the volunteer's support through additional generous gifts from other congregations and individuals. Any funds raised beyond the \$10,000 goal go to support the future development and expansion of the Young Adults in Global Mission program, as well as other YAGM volunteers.

We would like to invite your congregation to support Lainie this coming year and to lift up this work as a ministry of your congregation! Through Lainie's service alongside our global companions, your congregation can extend its ministry to another part of the world and become a part of the mission of this church. Lainie will be sharing her experience through newsletter updates throughout her time in service and you'll be able to witness firsthand the way God is working through her and those she is in accompaniment with.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting Lainie at the full \$10,000 fundraising amount, or any amount that feels comfortable for your congregation, and consider the ways in which you can also provide spiritual and personal support as all the YAGM embark on this journey of service. If you have any questions about giving a gift or would like to speak more about a donation, our contact information is listed below.

You are welcome to share a gift in a variety of ways. You can give through her donation page here: <https://give.elca.org/p2p/site/PZSdn/page/4xSvNR#/> To give by phone, please call 800-638-3522. To give by mail, please make your check out to "ELCA" and on the memo line, please include [GCS3630]. Send checks to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA, 22116-8009. You are also welcome to give online by going to www.elca.org/yagm/give and selecting [Lainie Nichols] from the dropdown menu. Again, please reach out if you have any questions or would like support with your gift.

Thank you for the ways that your congregation has supported Lainie Nichols thus far, and for the ways you'll walk with Lainie in this call to global mission service.

In faith,



The Rev. Benjamin Hogue
Director, Christian Community & Leadership Giving
Generosity Office of the Presiding Bishop



Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA Congregational
Office of the Presiding Bishop



Council met on June 7, 2026, following the service and potluck lunch. The minutes are posted in the Narthex. The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, August 16, 2026, following the service.

ELC Council Chair, Shaun Oakley contacted Bishop Jason Zinko regarding plans for moving forward in 2027, following Pastor Heather’s retirement at the end of December 2026. Council has decided that ELC will not be issuing a call for a pastor at this time, as it is not financially practical. A congregational meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2026, following the service to discuss plans for 2027. This date will be confirmed and announced three weeks in advance.

Council will arrange with Pastor Heather, as she is available, to lead communion services in 2027. Pastor Heather will also continue to officiate special events, such as weddings, funerals, Easter services, and other occasions, depending on her availability. Costs will be in accordance with MNO Synod guidelines.

Sunday, July 5, 2026, will be an outdoor Hymn Sing service, weather permitting, followed by a potluck BBQ. hot dogs and condiments will be provided. Disposable plates, cups, cutlery, and serviettes will be available; however, you are welcome to bring your own dishes. Please bring a lawn chair if possible; otherwise, chairs from the church will be used.

We are thankful for all the volunteers who help keep our church doors open. May God be with us on our journey!

In God We Trust, **ELC Church Council**



Erickson Lutheran Women News

At the June meeting, it was decided to make the following donations: \$500 to LAMP for Vacation Bible School and \$3,000 to Erickson Lutheran Church. The next Bible study will be held in September. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Submitted by Dolores Hall

JUNE OFERINGS:		
LOOSE		\$ 84.00
BUDGET/RECEIPTED		\$ 3,528.00
ONLINE	(CANADA HELPS)	\$ 803.86



Support Erickson Lutheran Church and its projects by donating:

- A) E-transfer to office.ericksonlutheran@gmail.com
- B) Through Canada Helps by clicking this link <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/22424>
- C) Mailing or dropping off offering/donation to Erickson Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 414, 30-3rd Street SW, Erickson MB R0J 0P0



No matter where we go or how far we roam, music always takes us home. Thank you to our choir for singing your faith at Carolyn Vogt's Celebration of life.

The hymn "Day by Day" ELW#790 sung by the choir was written in 1865 by Carolina Sandell Berg. When she and her father, a Lutheran pastor, were crossing a lake to Goteberg, Sweden, her father fell overboard. At the loss of

her father Carolina grew closer to her Heavenly Father. She learned God's comforting presence is near even during times of great loss.

Make this your "Day by Day".

*Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heavenly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Saviour, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.*

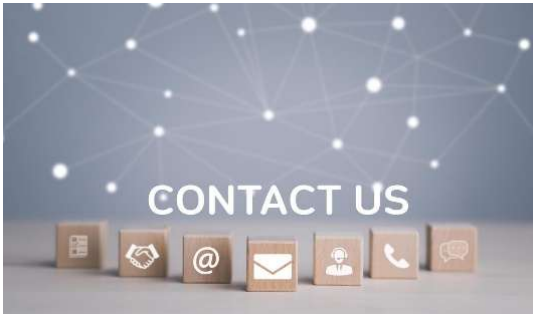
*Day by day, I know you will provide me strength
to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the
paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in
your enduring grace.
Saviour help me bear life's pain and sorrow till
in glory I behold your face.*

*Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when
my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand.
Saviour, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promise land.*



Sometimes memories sneak out of our eyes and roll down our cheeks. Music can do this to us. Give thanks to God for the privilege to sing together and have our faith stirred up.

In His service, Sue and Viola



Website Page: www.ericksonlutheranchurch.com

Emails: Pastor Heather: hhowdle84@gmail.com

Office: office.ericksonlutheran@gmail.com

Phone: (204) 636 - 2259

**Please note the Administrative Office is staffed by volunteers.
Please leave a message and your call will be returned.**

Erickson Lutheran Church

JULY 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

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
				1	2	3	4
Pastor Heather U: Sharon R: Marlenne	5 Hymn Sing Service outside (weather permitting) followed by Barbeque. All Welcome Sixth Sunday After Pentecost		7	8 Communion PCH Services 10:00 AM Erickson	9 Communion PCH Services 3:00 PM Sandy Lake		11
Pastor Heather U: Cathy, Sue R: Linda CA: Cathy	12 Communion Service followed by Coffee Seventh Sunday After Pentecost	13	14	15	16	17 Healthy Baby Program 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM	18 Hot Dog Sale Fundraiser on Main Street from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM for Lainie Nichols
Pastor Heather U: Earl, Val R: Mary	19 Worship Service, Lainie Nichols, Guest Speaker followed by Coffee Eighth Sunday After Pentecost	20 Deadline for ELC Newsletter articles	21	22	23	24 Pastor Heather Away	25 Pastor Heather Away
Lay Service U: Andrew, Jewel R: Jewel	26 Lay Service followed by Coffee Ninth Sunday After Pentecost Pastor Heather Away	27 Pastor Heather Away	28 Pastor Heather Away	29 Pastor Heather Away	30 Pastor Heather Away	31 Pastor Heather Away	