

Erickson Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2026 | A monthly update for our congregation and community



Message from Pastor Heather

September always seems to arrive with a mixture of excitement, anticipation and a little bit of anxiety. The rhythm in our communities’ changes as children and young people head back to school, university students return to their studies, teachers and school staff begin another year, and here in our rural communities, our farmers turn their attention to the harvest.

There is something reassuring about these familiar September rhythms. We know that the school buses will travel our roads (with some dust!), classrooms will fill up again, and combines will make their way into the fields. Yet this September also feels different. Many of us are carrying a sense of uncertainty about what is happening in our world.

Trade negotiations, tariffs and economic uncertainty have touched our communities in very real ways. International conflicts continue to remind us how fragile peace can be. There

can be frustration, anger and even fear about what the future may bring. We can find ourselves reacting quickly to the latest news, the latest political statement or the latest social media post.

Perhaps this is one of those moments when our faith invites us to pause.

Over the past few Sundays, we have heard Jesus ask his disciples a profound question: **“Who do you say that I am?”** (Matthew 16:15).

Jesus does not ask them what they think about the latest political situation. He does not ask them who they blame or whose side they are on. He asks them who they understand *Him* to be.

That question still matters. Because before we decide how we are going to respond to the world around us, perhaps we need to remember *who* we are and *whose* we are.

We are people who follow Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

That does not mean that Christians will always agree. We will have different political opinions, different perspectives about trade and economics, different experiences and different fears. But our faith calls us to something deeper than simply winning an argument or proving that we are right.

It calls us to love our neighbor, to listen, and to seek peace.

It calls us to remember that the person sitting across from us—even when we strongly disagree—is also created in the image of God. **Imago Dei.**

In our August newsletter I ended my message with those words, and I think they are worth carrying with us into September: *we are all Imago Dei—in the image of God.*

That includes the student who is nervous about walking into a new classroom. It includes the teacher who may be wondering how they will meet the needs of another group of students. It includes the farmer watching the weather and wondering what kind of harvest this year will bring. It includes the neighbor whose economic circumstances have become more difficult. It includes the person whose political opinions are very different from our own. And it includes people beyond our borders, including those with whom our country may presently be experiencing tension.

Every one of us is more than a position, a political party, a nationality, a social media post or an

opinion. Every one of us bears the image of God.

When I return to the Gospel of Matthew on September 6, we will hear Jesus speak about what happens when relationships become difficult: **“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.”** (Matthew 18:15).

Notice that Jesus begins with *relationship*. He does not tell us to broadcast the problem, gather a crowd, or publicly shame the other person. He begins with going to one another, speaking honestly and listening. And then, at the heart of this passage, Jesus gives us those beautiful words: **“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”**

Perhaps these are words our world needs right now.

We do not have to agree with one another about everything to gather in Christ’s name. We do not have to pretend that difficult things are not happening or ignore injustice or remain silent when something is wrong.

But we can choose *how* we respond. We can refuse to let anger have the last word. We can take a breath before reacting, and we can seek understanding before judgment. We can speak truth without cruelty and remember that Christ is already present in the conversation to help guide us.

As our children and young people begin another school year, we can pray that they will find classrooms where they are safe, welcomed and valued. May our teachers have patience and courage, and may they know that the work they do matters. May our farmers have favorable weather and a safe harvest. And may all of us, whatever September brings, remember that we do not face it alone.

The world may encourage us to choose sides quickly, to react loudly and to see one another as opponents. Jesus offers us another way...

Pause. Listen. Remember *whose* you are. Then respond with courage, compassion and wisdom. Perhaps this is what the harvest teaches us. We cannot rush the growing. We can only tend, wait, receive, and trust. And when the time comes, we respond to what God has placed before us.



My alb symbol was chosen to represent pausing with creation, harvest and Christ with hope.

The question remains the same: **“Who do you say that I am?”** And if our answer is Jesus, then perhaps the next question is: **“How will I live today because I belong to him?”**

May God bless our students, teachers, families, farmers and all who are beginning a new season this September. And may Christ’s peace be with us—not a peace that ignores the troubles of the world, but the deep peace that gives us courage to meet them without becoming people of fear, hatred or division.

We are all Imago Dei. And wherever two or three gather in Christ’s name, Christ is there.

**In Christ,
Pastor Heather**



Following our August 16 Council meeting, we held a Zoom session with Katja Brittain from the Eastern Synod (ELCIC) to discuss the future use of our building, community needs, operating

costs, and our direction for 2027. This information will be presented at an upcoming congregational meeting.

We invite all members to join us for a meeting in the church basement following the service on Sunday,

September 20, 2026. Refreshments will be provided. The discussion will focus on worship services and the use of our church in 2027. If you have any questions or concerns prior to this meeting, please contact Shaun Oakley at mywillalone@hotmail.com.

Regarding our digital ministry, we will continue to offer a live feed and updates to our Facebook page whenever a volunteer is available to manage them, though we cannot guarantee coverage for every service.

As summer winds down, please note that we will be printing 30 bulletins for upcoming services; we kindly ask that you share them if necessary. Additionally, there will be no Sunday School on September 6, 2026, so please join us for the potluck lunch following that service.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

In God We Trust,
Erickson Lutheran Church Council



Lutheran Women
in Mission

Erickson Lutheran Women News

The ELW Bible study will be on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM at Dolores’.

The topic will be: Fellow Citizens and Soldiers.

Bible references:

Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 2:11-20; Philippians 2:25-30; Philemon 1:1-3;
2 Corinthians 10:3- 4; Ephesians 6:10-18

Submitted by Dolores Hall

Music and Worship



Churches are meant for praising God, we need to be that church. The new hymn we will be learning in September is 706 “The People Walk”. Juan A. Espinosa, born in 1940, Spain, is a renowned Spanish singer and songwriter. His hymns and folk religious songs focus on social justice, faith and hope. This hymn is his only one in our ELW.

Enjoy the refrain “The people walk throughout the world together and cry out ‘Come, O Lord’; the people who long to claim the promise, God’s liberating Word”.

Choir

Choir rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 PM, Erickson Lutheran Church, where we live our faith and sing the story. Singing at worship is our personal involvement in the service. Everyone is welcome to sing with us, get our faith stirred up and praise God in a joyful way.

In gratitude Sue and Viola

AUGUST OFFERINGS:		
LOOSE		\$ 30.00
BUDGET/RECEIPTED		\$ 3,940.00
ONLINE	(CANADA HELPS)	\$ 803.86