

Erickson Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2026 | A
monthly update for our
congregation and
community

Message from Pastor Heather



A Time for Every Season—and Every ‘Body’

As October arrives, the landscape around us begins its beautiful transformation. The fields have given much, the leaves are changing colour, and the days are growing shorter. Autumn reminds us that life is filled with seasons, and each season brings its own gifts, challenges, and invitations. And a bonus we don’t ever have to change our clocks again in Manitoba!

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a seminar to learn how to teach others about keeping active as we age, organized by Services to Seniors and sponsored by the Active Aging in Manitoba. “Before I became a Pastor, most of you know that I spent 38 years as a physiotherapist and it is a wonderful reminder that caring for our bodies is not something we should set aside as we grow older. Movement, in whatever form is appropriate for us, can help us maintain strength, balance, flexibility, and independence. Just as importantly, it can bring us together and remind us that we are not meant to journey through life alone.

With that in mind, we are looking forward to restarting our weekly low-impact exercise class for the fall and winter months and into spring. This is about much more than exercise. It is about friendship, encouragement, laughter, and making space in our week to care for ourselves and one another. Whether we move with ease or need to adapt an activity to our own abilities, there is value in showing up and doing what we can.

Sometimes, as people of faith, we can become so accustomed to giving—to our families, our communities, our churches, and those who need our help—that we forget that we, too, are worthy of care. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are to love our neighbours **as ourselves**. That small phrase matters. It suggests that love of neighbour and care for ourselves belongs together. Sometimes loving our neighbour as ourselves means remembering that we are also somebody's neighbour. We need care, encouragement, friendship and grace—and we need to be willing to receive them.

Perhaps the trees of October offer us another gentle lesson. They do not cling to every leaf simply because it has always been there. In its own time, each leaf is released. Even what is released can be a gift. There is no shame in change, and no failure in recognizing that our bodies, our abilities, and our priorities may change as the years go by.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, may we give thanks not only for the harvest from our fields and gardens, but also for the gifts of our bodies, our friendships, our memories, and the people who encourage us along the way. May we be willing to receive care as generously as we have offered it to others.

And may our church continue to be a place where people of every age and ability feel welcome—a place where we can move, rest, laugh, learn, worship, and grow together.

For in every season, and in every stage of life, we remain beloved children of God.



A tree of life in autumn

On our acreage, this tree has always reminded us of the tree of life. While the trees around it are beginning to release their leaves—returning them to the earth to nourish another season—it remains green a little longer. Even what is released can be a gift!

Perhaps that, too, is part of the wisdom of creation: each tree has its own season, its own timing, and its own way of giving and receiving. We don't all have to change at the same time. We don't all have to grow in the same way. And whether we are holding on, letting go, growing, resting, giving, or receiving, we remain part of God's good creation.

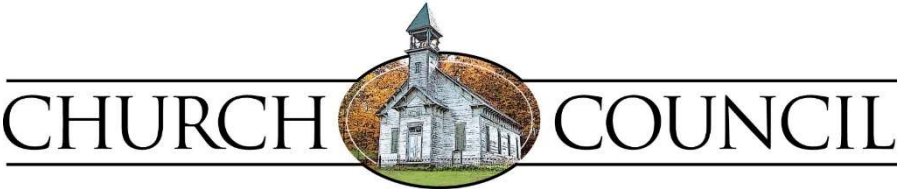
How do we live faithfully in the season of life we have been given—caring for ourselves, receiving from others, giving what we can, and trusting that all of it belongs within God's circle of grace?

With blessings for a beautiful autumn,

Pastor Heather

Autumn is a time to prepare for winter, and we are grateful for the harvest and the opportunity to share it with the people we love.

Council met on September 16 at Dolores Hall's home, where the discussion focused on finances and planning for 2027. The minutes from that meeting are posted in the narthex.



A congregational meeting was held after the Sunday service on September 20, with 26 people in attendance. It was confirmed that Sunday services will continue in 2027, as they have in previous years. Pastor Heather will retire at the end of December but will continue to lead monthly communion services. She will also be available for special services, including weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Anyone interested in leading a lay service in 2027 should contact Cathy, as the schedule will be prepared in advance. Viola and Cathy will meet as needed to organize services.

In reviewing the 2027 finances, the estimated cost to keep the church open is about \$137 per day, or \$50,000 per year. This goal is achievable with continued attendance, volunteer support, and rental of church amenities. In November, a form will be available for those able to volunteer as ushers, readers, or communion assistants.

Services will continue to be livestreamed and posted on Facebook for anyone to view. Twenty-five bulletins will be printed each Sunday, so attendees may need to share. Council's next meeting will be held on October 18 following the service.

We are blessed by everyone who helps keep our church doors open. Thank you all!

In God We Trust,
Erickson Lutheran Church Council

October Bible Study will be held on Thursday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Dolores’s home.

- **Theme:** Fellow Workers
- **Bible references:** 1 Corinthians 3:4–9; 2 Corinthians 1:23–24, 8:23–24; Philippians 2:25–30, 4:1–3; Colossians 4:10–11; 1 Thessalonians 3:1–5; Philemon 1:1, 23–24; 3 John 1:5–8
- **Thanksgiving display:** Set-up will take place on Saturday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m. Please bring items that morning or beforehand. Thank you.
- **Christmas potluck supper:** A Christmas potluck supper is being planned for Wednesday, December 2. Please save the date.

Shared by Dolores Hall



Music and Worship

It takes many people working together to prepare for Sunday worship. Thank you for your faith, help, and love.

Paul writes in Colossians 2:7, “Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.”

The hymn for October is #724, “All Who Love and Serve Your City.” In our hymn book, it appears in the Justice and Peace section. The words were written by Erik Routley, an English Congregational minister. The music was written by Paul D. Weber, an American composer, conductor, professor of church music, and ordained pastor in the ALCA.

Choir has returned, and everyone is welcome to come and sing with us on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Psalm 149 reminds us: “Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord; praise Him in the assembly of his faithful people!”

In faith and thanksgiving, Sue and Viola

SEPTEMBER OFFERINGS:		
LOOSE (NON RECEIPTED)		\$ 10.00
BUDGET/RECEIPTED		\$ 3,098.00
ONLINE	(CANADA HELPS)	\$ 803.86