



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

July 2026 Newsletter

“Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope and Love.”

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/estherlutheran>

A SEASON OF FAITHFUL ABUNDANCE

August is a season of abundance. Gardens are producing like crazy, and many of us are busy canning, freezing, and storing up for the winter ahead. Before long, I'm sure we'll begin seeing fresh garden produce shared in the narthex once again—a wonderful reminder of the generosity that grows from God's good creation and from caring hearts within our congregation.

That spirit of sharing connects beautifully with our Gospel readings this month. We hear of Jesus feeding the five thousand, walking on the water, responding to the persistent faith of the Gentile woman who begged him to heal her daughter, declaring that his church will be built upon the rock of Peter's faith, and finally reminding his followers that those who lose their lives for his sake will truly find them.

As we continue our **"Behold the New Has Come"** faith-building initiative, we are rediscovering our baptismal promises and asking what they look like in everyday life. I encourage you to join in the weekly devotions sent out each Monday and available on our website. I look forward to the conversations these devotions will inspire as we grow together in faith.

Our *Behold* journey reminds us that we gather within these beautiful church walls to worship, pray, learn, encourage one another, and renew our spirits. But the church is not the building. The church is God's people, sent into the world.

Our mission continues wherever we go—at work, at school, in the grocery store, at the café, in our neighborhoods, and around our kitchen tables. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every meal shared, every story of faith, and every encouraging word becomes an opportunity to point someone toward Christ. The Gospel stories this month remind us that following Jesus isn't only about believing; it's about living. It's about putting our faith into action. It's about trusting him in the storms, offering what we have to those in need, welcoming those who feel like outsiders, standing on the solid rock of faith, and discovering that a life lived for Christ is a life truly found.

My prayer is that, as we enjoy the abundance of this season, God would use each of us to reflect Christ's love wherever we are. May our lives become a harvest of faith, hope, and love that nourishes those around us, points others to Christ, and gives glory to God.

Peace,
Jewel

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist Sara Skoglund
Lois Rosenquist Ricky Hart
Margaret Wehking
Lynnsy Kamrud – daughter of Gary & Karen Tuil
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Chris Clapshaw – step-brother of Mark Ratajesak

Family and Friends of Katie Jahnke, Colleen
Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns,
Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, Kathy
Wilkins, Ivy Christensen, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson,
and Dale Flemming

SERVING IN AUGUST

Pastor: August 2- SAM Jewel Townsend, August 9 –
SAM Jewel Townsend, August 16- Megan
Townsend, August 23 - Esther Youth, August 30-Pr.
Dennis Preston

Organist: Marcia Guenther

Altar Care: Donna Pederson

Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER

Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER

Lay Reader: Anna Hagen

Communion Assistant: NEED VOLUNTEER

Birthday Card Sender: Anna Hagen



PASTORAL CARE – If you or someone you know
would like a visit and for emergency pastoral care,
please contact Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Tiffany Orsello	8/01
Dave Bunde	08/04
Danialle Dreger	08/04
Terry Sather	08/05
Eugene Arvidson	08/06
Jackson Grundeen	08/06
Evan Lenzen	08/07
Landen Nistler	08/08
Brianna Skoglund	08/10
Samara Price	08/12
Nathan Arvidson	08/13
Todd Wunderlich	08/14
Eliza Krueger	08/16
Presley Bosl	08/17
Addison McCarty	08/17
Bev Arvidson	08/18
Oliver Sanvik	08/18
Heather Sather	08/22
Donna Pederson	08/22
Deanna Vik	08/23
Vincent Orsello	08/24
Jacob Bunde	08/29
Cora Schlosser	08/29
Sara Skoglund	08/31

If you would like to be on our email list, please
contact:

secretary@estherlutheran.net

Visit our website at estherlutheran.com

We encourage you to keep up on the happenings
of our synod and the ELCA, along with our partner
ministries, by going to our website

www.estherlutheran.com and clicking on the
“Faith Formation Resources” tab to find many
great resources waiting for you to explore,
including our synod newsletter “Northern Lights”.



2026 Proposed Budget	\$107,114.0
Budgeted contributions YTD	
as of 6/30/26	\$53,557.00
Actual contributions YTD	
as of 6/30/26	\$49,930.30
Difference YTD as of	
6/30/26:	\$+3,626.70



Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab "ways to support Esther Lutheran Church" and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R>, or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.



Items from July Council Meeting that need to be addressed soon:

- The roof is leaking so will be needing to replace a portion of the roof - probably with a metal one on the main portion of the church.
- The leaks around the bell tower will need to be investigated on what is the appropriate thing to do.

We welcome you to join in the weekly "Behold the New Has Come" devotions available on our website estherlutheran.com on the "Behold" tab. Devotions



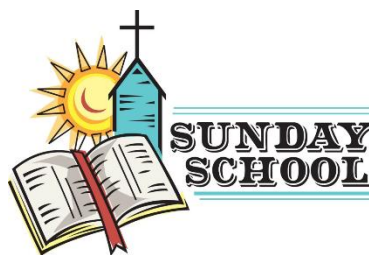
are posted to the website and emailed out each Monday. If you are not currently on the email list and want to be, please notify Mandy in the office. Each weekly

devotion includes a challenge for the week.



Confirmation classes will begin again in September with A Get-to-Know-You Potluck and Planning Night on Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m. Students and their parents are invited to attend.

We welcome everyone from 7th grade through adults to join the class, whether you are preparing for confirmation, have already been confirmed, or would simply like a refresher on the faith. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jewel Townsend.



Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 13th! We welcome all children ages 3 through 6th grade to join us.



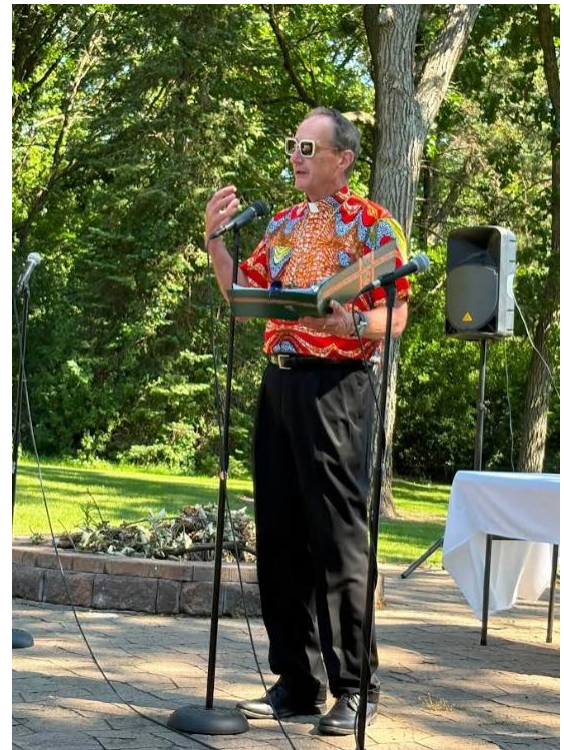
Ice Cream Still Available!

If you missed the Ice Cream Social, you're in luck! We still have individual cups of ice cream available in the basement kitchen freezer. Feel free to help yourself and place your donation in the box provided.

Suggested donations:

- \$2.50 per cup
- 5 cups for \$10
- Quarts (limited supply): \$8 each

And don't forget—pie and ice cream will be served during fellowship this Sunday, before and after worship - we hope you'll join us for a sweet treat and good conversation!



We will celebrate the start of the school year with a Back-to-School Blessing and Prayer, followed by a Backpack Blessing during the Children's

Sermon. We hope you'll bring your backpacks and join us for this special day!

**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to Rodney Peterson for hosting Worship by the Water, all who helped, the choir, and also staff from the ELCA. It was a very special day!



WELCA did not meet during the month of July as we had so many things going on with Worship on the Water, Pork Chop Dinner, and of course our Ice Cream Social & Country Store. Our attendance was down again this year. We had 163 in 2025 and 118 this year. Not sure if the closed roads and/or the extremely hot weather had anything to do with the attendance. As of last Sunday, there were 106 individual ice cream cups available to sell at \$2.50 each or 5/\$10. There are also 3-quart containers for \$10 each. Please put money in the freezer if you wish to purchase.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & COUNTRY STORE 2026:

ATTENDANCE	118
Country Store Income	\$445.00
Ice Cream Social income	\$1,820.00
Whipping Cream	\$176.40-\$25
Gift card from Elden's	\$151.40
Credit as over charged us	-\$44.80
Buns	\$58.40
Ground Beef	\$98.86
Ham	\$20.38
Ice Cream cups	\$167.96
Butter	\$5.96
Raspberries	\$17.52
Strawberries	\$9.76
Eggs	\$1.47
Sr Perspective	\$104.04
The Independent	??
TOTAL EXPENSES:	-\$590.95
NET PROFIT:	\$1,229.05

INCOME FROM SOCIAL & COUNTRY STORE:
\$1,674.05

THANK YOU:

Naomi Circle: Furnished custards and made ice cream. Martha Circle: Furnished pies and served.

Ruth Circle: Advertised with extra signs because of road closures, furnished pies, and worked the Country Store. Elden's: Gave us \$25 gift card. Diamond Jim's of Nelson: For about 200# of ice. AND ALL WHO ATTENDED!

Next WELCA meeting: August 9th at 8:30 am.
Reminder to bring basket items for Convention Silent Auction

PORK CHOP DINNER 2026:

ATTENDANCE: 168

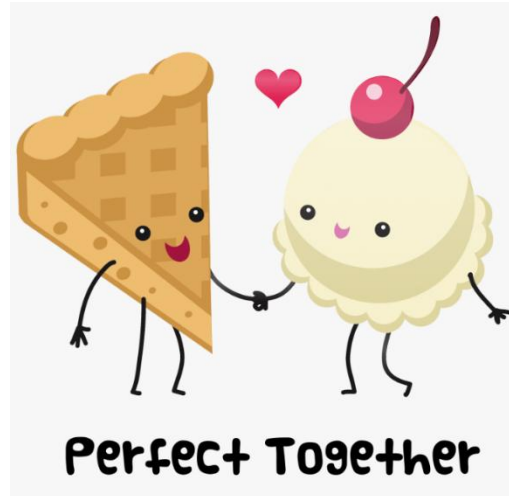
Deposit	\$3,471.00
Expenses:	
Starting Cash	\$600.00
Alex Rubbish	\$100.00
Douglas Grant Pork Producers	\$120.00
Larry Doll Beans	\$115.22
Monica Wesen supplies	\$210.78
Miltona Meats	\$319.41
Luella Thom buns \$87.22 (40.00 gift card)	\$47.22
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,523.63
NET INCOME:	\$1,958.37
EACH ESTHER & FAITH RECEIVES:	\$979.19

THANK YOU:

To all from Esther who worked, volunteering so many phone calls were not needed, and to all those who supplied bars. It was another successful event for Esther and Faith.

Luella Thom





August 2026 “Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love”

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Fellowship before & after worship</i> 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost <i>Fellowship before & after worship</i> 8:30 am - WELCA 10 am – Worship led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	10	11	12 Council 6 pm	13	14	15
16 Twelfth Sunday of Easter <i>Fellowship before & after worship</i> 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by Megan Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	17 Christian Education Meeting 6 pm	18	19	20	21	22
23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Fellowship before & after worship</i> 10 am – Worship lead by Esther Youth 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	24	25	26	27	28 Newsletter Articles due	29
30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Fellowship before & after worship</i> 10 am – Worship led by Pr. Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	31	Sept. 1 9 th Grade Confirmand Bible Verse Due	2	3	4	5

Join us for Sunday Fellowship each week before and after worship. Come early and stay after to catch up with friends and meet new ones. Coffee, juice and treats provided.

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