

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026



Gathering Music

*“Lord, Prepare Me
to Be a Sanctuary”*
(MV # 18)

Welcome

An open notebook with lined pages is shown from a top-down perspective. The right page is the focus, featuring the word "Announcements" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A small, blue hyacinth flower with a green stem and leaves is placed on the right page, its head resting near the top right corner. The notebook is open on a light-colored, textured surface. The left page is also visible, showing horizontal lines.

Announcements

Support your Local
FOOD BANK

this Thanksgiving

Erin United Church

115 Main Street

is providing a drive-thru opportunity
to DROP OFF your donations on

Saturday, October 3, 2026 • 10 am – Noon

DROP OFF will be at the rear of the church

MOST NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE:

CANNED FRUIT • FLOUR • COOKING OIL • SUGAR • INSTANT COFFEE

SPAGHETTI SAUCE • COOKIES • CRACKERS • FRESH PRODUCE

CLEANING & HYGIENE PRODUCTS

GROCERY GIFT CARDS (RECEIPTS FOR CARDS OVER \$25)

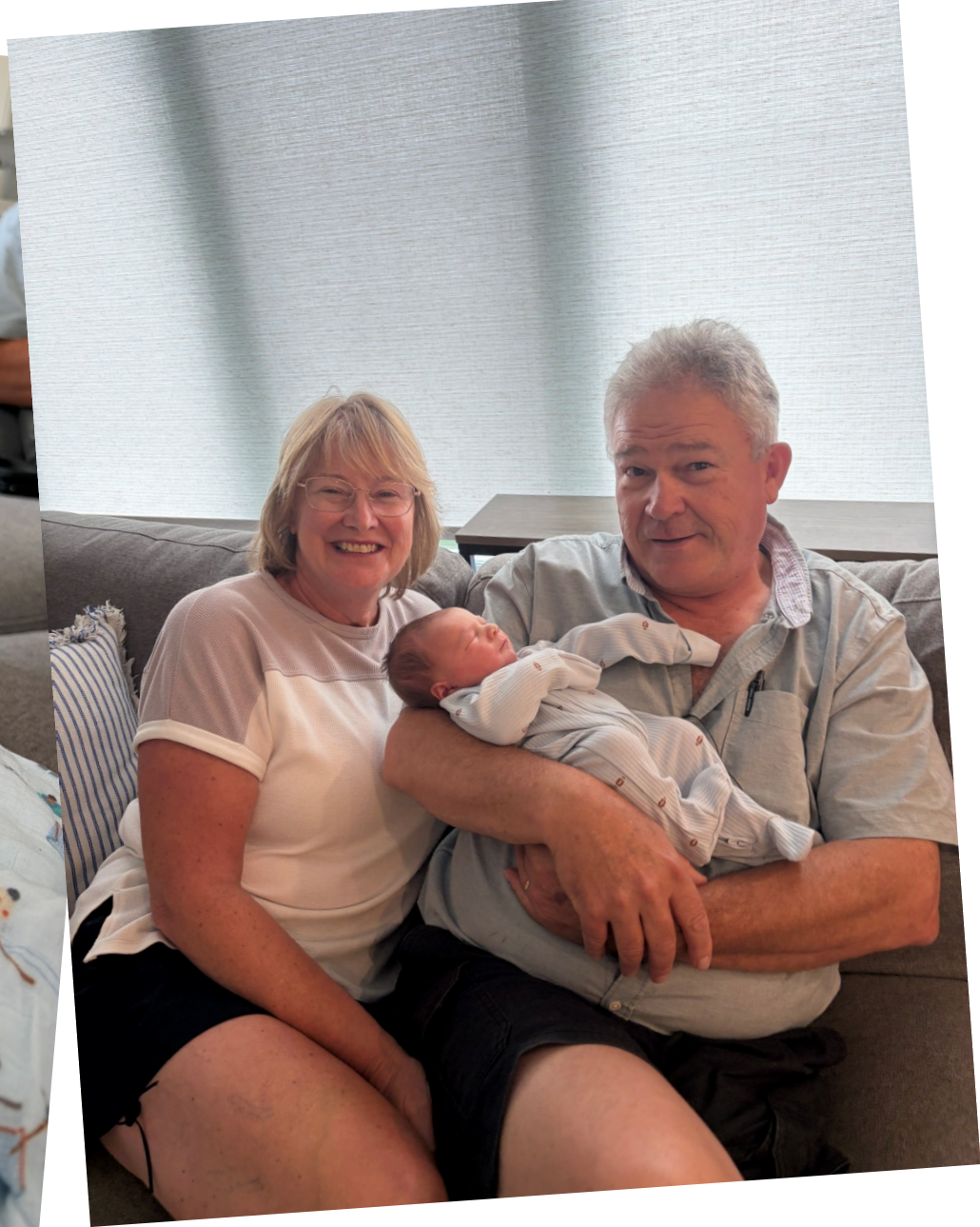
**Join us at Erin United Church and show your support for the
East Wellington Community Services Food Bank. HELP LOCALLY!**



Eli Knight, September 8th



Charlie Rees, August 15



Big Sister Emma and Charlie **Grandparents and Charlie**

Light the Christ Candle



We light this candle to remember that God is present in all things. As surely as the smallest of lights transforms the deepest shadows of any room, God is here, with us, always. Amen.



Prelude

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Call to Worship

Like the peoples long ago, we are journeying in stages.

Our lives unfold, not all at once but piece by piece.

Sometimes the forward movement is small.

Sometimes we may feel we are being called to take enormous leaps in faith.

On all days of the journey, we can know that God is with us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

- 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.



2 O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the waivering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

**3 O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many'a heart.**

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

Prayer of Confession

When we participate in ways that hurt others even while we strive for freedom, restore us. May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we ignore voices that don't agree with us even as we seek to hear calls for justice and hope, give us courage. May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we quietly or not so quietly rejoice in violence or in the ruin of enemies or the hurt of the one who hurts, return us to mercy. May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we cannot find within us the capacity to forgive others while we hope for forgiveness for ourselves, abide with us in our struggle. May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

Words of Assurance

God's mercy as well as God's power are true. God will grant us courage, mercy, and a constant presence in the midst of our shortcomings. Believe in the Good News: We are forgiven and renewed to live fully in God's ways.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



**Time with the Young
People** *by Yun-Hee*

Children Song
“Jesus Loves Me”

Musical Offering VU # 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully**



Offering Prayer

**Use these our gifts, O God, to lead your people
from death to life and from fear to hope. May our
giving strengthen our trust in your power and
loosen our tongues and mobilise our feet to
celebrate your glory in our lives. Amen.**

*(The children may now proceed with their guardians to
have sharing time.)*

The Scriptures

read by Jan

First Reading

Romans 14:1–12

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every

Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister ? Or why do you treat them with contempt ? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’ ” So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Second Reading

Matthew 18:21–35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me ? Up to seven times ?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you ?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Word of God

Thanks be to God !



Message
by Rev. Yun-Hee



Martin Niemöller (1892–1984): a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany

Refrain

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide...**

1.

**God the still-point of the circle
‘round whom all creation turns
Nothing lost but held forever
in God's gracious arms R**

2.

Let our hearts touch far horizons

So encompass great and small

Let our loving know no borders

Faithful to God's call

Refrain

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide...

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger

Than we've ever dreamed before

Let the dream of Christ be in us

Open every door ! R

Prayers of the People

Holy God, we celebrate your name joined with voices through the ages who have shouted thanksgiving for your great works.

Our feet are wet from our journey through uncertainty.

Our necks are stiff from looking over our shoulders at the threats to our lives.

Now we seek to walk your way and look ahead, trusting in you.

God, we remember those we lost on 9/11, in the following years due to injuries sustained and in the resulting wars. Bring comfort to their families, strength to survivors, and peace to our world. May your Spirit give us the wisdom to journey alongside those who are suffering, to listen to their stories, and to trust in your steadfast power for justice.

We know your presence continues with those who are in prison, those who face addictions, those who go hungry and thirsty, those who are sick, those who are lonely, those who are in fear, those in wars and those without adequate shelter.

Turn our faith into trusting and our trusting into acting in your name. **Amen.**



VU # 960

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

**2
Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**

3

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**

4

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**



Blessing

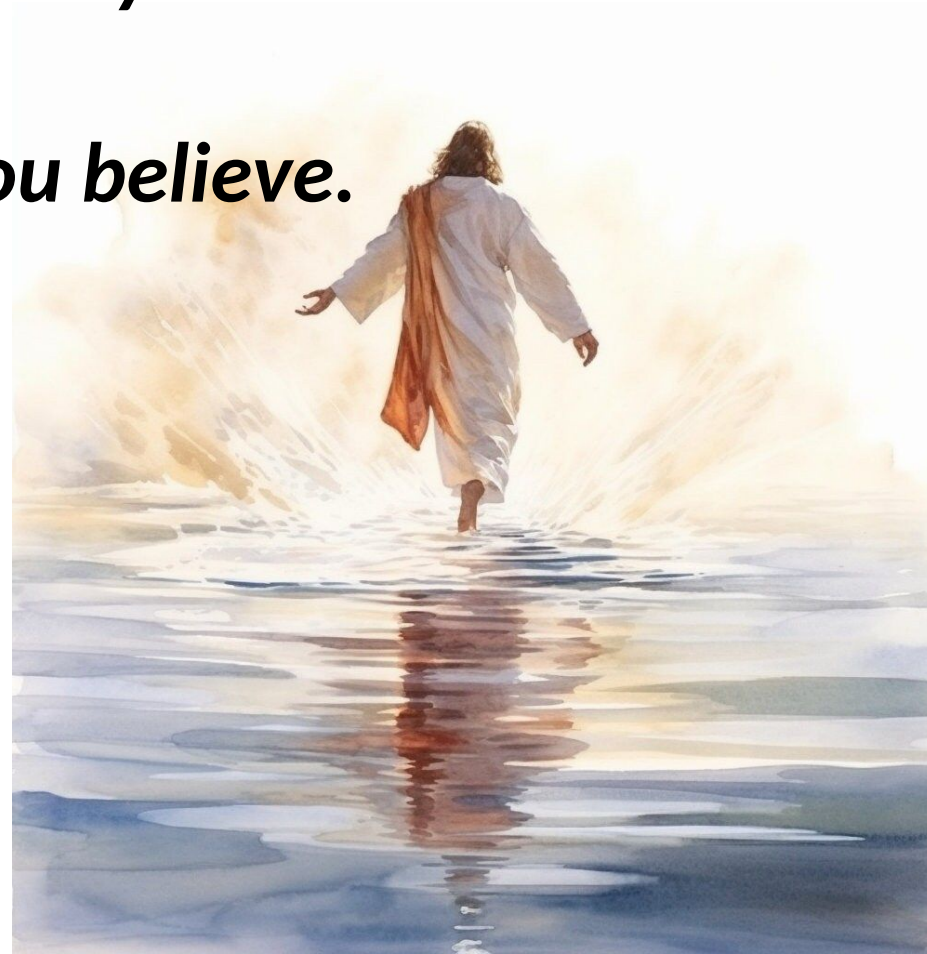
May the powerful presence of God move before us and behind us in all the joys and struggles of our daily lives.

**We step out in celebration to honour the Creator, the Christ, and the Spirit.
Amen.**

Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.***

***Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others
so all the world can see.
God will be there within,
around, above.
Go now in peace,
in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***



ment that has
for·give (fər·giv
for·giv·ing v.t.

Peter came up and said to [Jesus],
“Lord, how often will my brother sin
against me, and I forgive him?”

-Matthew 18:21

**God, we thank you
for
being with us.
And
thank you
Congregation
for worshipping today
in person
and
by Zoom !**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada's Resources, 'Gathering', and "Seasons of the Spirit".
Images from the public domain)*