

14th  SUNDAY
After

PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

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Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

PENTECOST 14

August 29, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “COME, MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: *DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbour.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honour those who ¹ fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17-27

A reading from James.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behaviour. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1imjpNtF3Vi5ErbO1>

(Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

HYMN OF THE DAY: "GATHER US IN"

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, provincial, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need of healing especially Bea, Brian, Murray, Hildegard, Judy, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Lynnette, Glenn, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honour God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: “THIS IS MY FATHERS WORLD”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“LIMITED” WORSHIP CONTINUES

WELCOME !!!!

COVID-19 PROTOCOL IS IN PLACE. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CALL IN TO THE OFFICE AT 519-271-8527 MONDAY TO THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. AND FRIDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. TO REGISTER AND BE PLACED ON THE ATTENDANCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE OFFICE.

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

***GREETER:* To Be Asked From
Attendance Sheet**

***READER:* Liz Bomasuit**

***USHERS:* Darrell Renecker Team**

***COUNTING TEAM:* Liz Bomasuit Team**



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We are currently in the planning stage of organizing Schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers for when we are able to re-open our doors for Worship; and, when we are able to do so at full capacity.

If you are able to help by volunteering to be a Reader, Greeter and/or Usher, please call and speak with Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

We deeply appreciate ALL of our current volunteers and are excited to add you to this list of “special” people

HOUSE OF BLESSING UPDATE

We have received an email from Sandy Andress, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Stratford House of Blessing outlining some of their needs.

Their most needed items are:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Feminine Pads

Any other hygiene items would be appreciated as well.

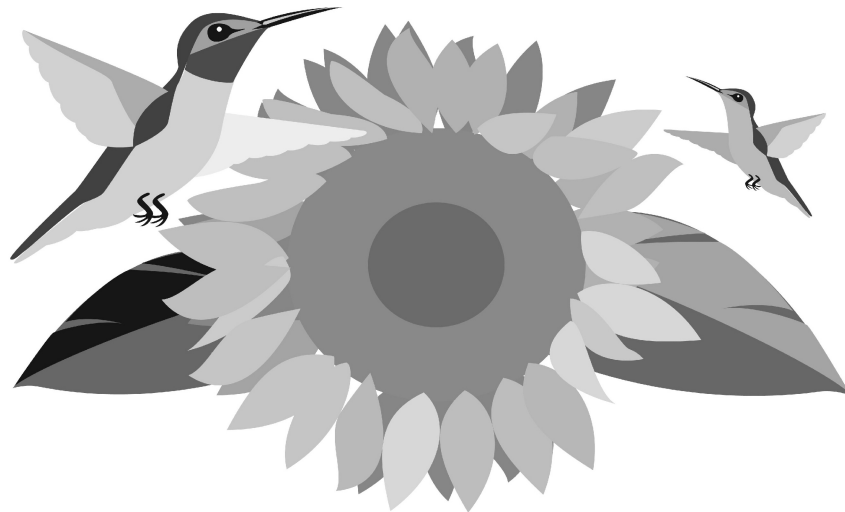
Food Items:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Large Cans of Soup
- Canned Meats (tuna, salmon, ham, chicken)
- Side Dishes
- Cereal

- Cookies & Crackers
- Juice
- Fresh Produce & Meats

We have set out the House of Blessing tote, once again, at the main entrance for your donations. Our plan is to hang on to the donated items for 72 hours; then, while we are still recovering from COVID-19, Sue Bellamy has volunteered to drop off the donations to the House of Blessing. When the pandemic restrictions have been lifted and things have returned back to “normal”, I will then set up a schedule for volunteers to deliver the donations to the House of Blessing.

Thank you for your continued support!!



ALL EVENTS REMAIN CANCELLED



TODAY'S PRAYER

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who instructed the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same Spirit
to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE YOU !

WE HOPE YOU COME AGAIN NEXT WEEK !