



**16th
Sunday
After
Pentecost**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

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Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

PENTECOST 16

September 12, 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

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, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: *ISAIAH 50:4-9A*

A reading from Isaiah.

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ¹ear to me
whenever ¹er I called.**
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹came upon me;
I came to ¹grief and sorrow.
⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, ¹save my life.”**
⁵Gracious is the ¹LORD and righteous;
our God is full ¹of compassion.
⁶**The LORD watches o- ¹ver the innocent;
I was brought low, ¹and God saved me.**
⁷Turn again to your rest, ¹O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ¹well with you.
⁸**For you have rescued my ¹life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹feet from stumbling;**
⁹I will walk in the presence ¹of the LORD
in the land ¹of the living.

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:1-12

A reading from James.

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save

their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iwkjSA0zSTK1S15M>

(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

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.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. We pray for all who are in need of healing, especially Dianne, Bea, Brian, Murray, Hildegard, Judy, Mary, Elizabeth, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honour you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. 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.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.
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, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

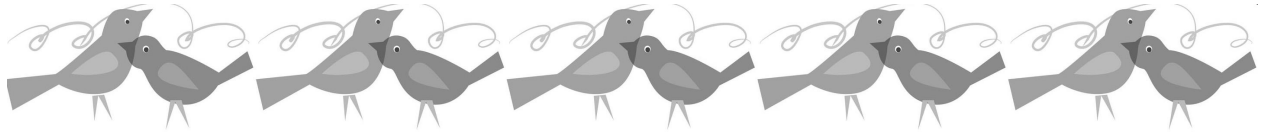
BLESSING

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

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 19, 2021

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

***READER:* Marilyn Wells**

***USHERS:* David Doherty Team**

***COUNTING TEAM:* Audrey Miller Team**

This weekend we are blessed to welcome two new members to our Congregation through the Sacrament of Baptism.



Isabelle Leigh Campbell

Daughter of

Joel & Amanda Campbell

on

Saturday, September 11, 2021

AND

Carter David Morse

Son of

David & Amy Morse

on

Sunday, September 12, 2021



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH FAMILIES !

Emergency Appeal for Haiti



Photo courtesy of CARE Canada through CLWR

Haiti was hit with a destructive earthquake on August 14. With numbers expected to rise, it is so far reported that more than 1,900 people were killed and over 10,000 injured by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of the country. Hundreds are still missing, thousands of families have lost their homes and schools, bridges and other vital infrastructure were destroyed. Rescue efforts are being further hampered by tropical storm Grace, all at a time when the country is already grappling with acute poverty and food insecurity, political unrest, and COVID-19.

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) together with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) is inviting you to pray for the people of Haiti, and to consider making a gift. Donations received will provide emergency shelter, sanitation, hygiene, and trauma care for those affected.

Individuals wishing to support relief efforts can donate as follows:

- Make an offering donation in an envelope marked for "Haiti Crisis" with your name and envelope number on the front. This can be dropped off with your Sunday Offering at Worship,
- Send a cheque made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5. Please indicate that you wish to contribute to "Haiti Crisis."
- Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 (locally at 204-694-6502), Monday to Thursday, 9:00-16:00 CDT to donate by credit card or go online at: clwr.org/Haiti

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

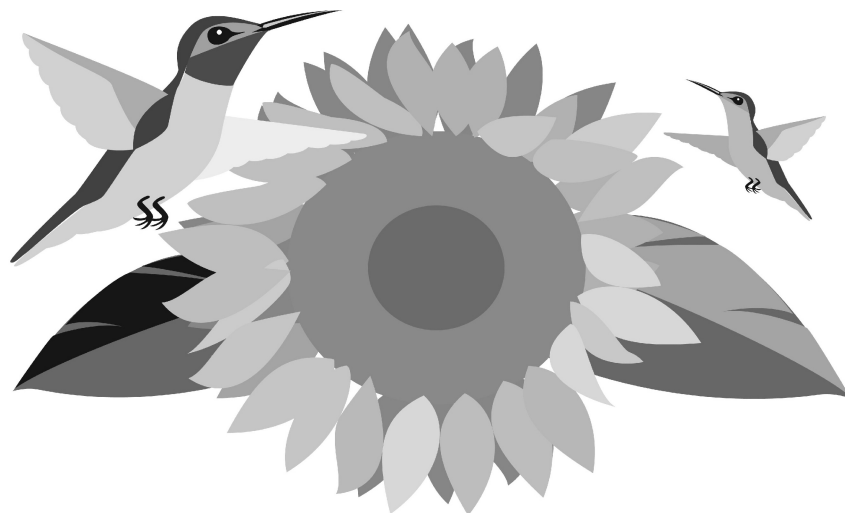
Any other hygiene items would be appreciated as well.

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

Uncertain Times Prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, when I am uncertain about what I should do,
show me your ways.

When I don't know which way to turn,
teach me your paths.

In everything I do, I ask you to guide me.

My hope is found in you
from the moment I wake up
until the moment I fall asleep.

You are my Saviour.

You have rescued me from sin
and I ask that you protect me from making sinful choices.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.



IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE YOU !

WE HOPE YOU COME AGAIN NEXT WEEK !