

THANKFUL  
Grateful  
BLESSED

THANKSGIVING  
SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 10, 2021

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Stratford, Ontario

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**People of Zion**

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen  
Sister Jean Widmeyer  
Paul Shilton  
Laura Burton  
Sandra Mogensen

**Ministers**

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

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**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

October 10, 2021

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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name;  
Make his deeds known to all the people!

**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

Sing His praise, tell of His wonderful works,  
And glory in His holy name!

Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

Search for God, and for His strength.  
Never stop looking for Him.

**For He is the Lord, our God,  
Faithful to a thousand generations!**

**GATHERING SONG: “FAIREST LORD JESUS”**

**ARR. MARTIN HOW**

**VOCALS: SUSAN & JEFF LAUSTSEN  
ACCOMPANIED BY: LAURA BURTON**

## 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.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: *JOEL 2:21-27*

A reading from Joel.

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

<sup>21</sup>Do not fear, O soil;  
be glad and rejoice,  
for the LORD has done great things!

<sup>22</sup>Do not fear, you animals of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit,  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup>O children of Zion, be glad  
and rejoice in the LORD your God;  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain,  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

<sup>25</sup>I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army, which I sent against you.

<sup>26</sup>You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
<sup>27</sup>You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: PSALM 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for-<sup>1</sup> tunes of Zion,  
then were we like<sup>1</sup> those who dream.  
**<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with<sup>1</sup> shouts of joy.**  
**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great<sup>1</sup> things for them.”**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great<sup>1</sup> things for us,  
and we are<sup>1</sup> glad indeed.  
**<sup>4</sup>Restore our for-<sup>1</sup> tunes, O LORD,**  
**like the watercourses<sup>1</sup> of the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup>Those who<sup>1</sup> sowed with tears  
will reap with<sup>1</sup> songs of joy.  
**<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry-<sup>1</sup> ing the seed,**  
**will come again with joy, shoulder-<sup>1</sup> ing their sheaves.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable

life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,  
<sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For  
there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling  
the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANTHEM: “SIMPLE GIFTS”**

**ARR. AARON COPLAND**

**VOCALS: SUSAN LAUSTSEN**

**ACCOMPANIED BY: PAUL SHILTON**

## **GOSPEL: *MATTHEW 6:25-33***

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON:**

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5Yza1iy-b6WUS\\_bDPfp3I](https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5Yza1iy-b6WUS_bDPfp3I)

(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: "COME, YE FAITHFUL PEOPLE, COME"**

**PERFORMED BY: LAURA BURTON**

## **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**

God whose giving knows no ending, you invite the whole world to your table of mercy. Hear us as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

God, you give all people a place at the table. Nurture and encourage campus ministries, new congregations, and workplace chaplaincies. Support all parts of the church that meet people where they are and offer accompaniment through daily challenges and joys. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give nourishment to the birds of the air and the lilies of the fields. Sustain all creatures who rely on the earth for sustenance. Water parched ground, dry flooded fields, temper heat waves and frosts, and give sunlight and shade. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give wisdom to your people. Enlighten all leaders. Inspire and guide our prime minister Justin, our premier Doug, our mayor Dan, and all who represent us in our government. Give them patience and perspective to choose wisely for our common good. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give nourishment to those who hunger. Bring poverty and food insecurity to an end. Give dignity and adequate employment to those who are unemployed and underemployed. Sustain us all at your welcoming banquet of love and justice. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give community to those who are lonely. Be with our biological families, our chosen families, and our church family as we gather for the Thanksgiving holiday. Send your compassionate presence to those who are lonely, those who are separated or estranged from their families, and those whose loved ones have died. Bless all who are ill and in need of your healing presence (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). God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give a feast of endless thanksgiving. We are grateful for the saints gathered at your table who have gone before us. Unite us with them whenever we give thanks to you. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, your welcome is wider than we can imagine. Receive our prayers for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us.

**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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honour and glory in your holy church, 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: “WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER”**

**PERFORMED BY: PAUL SHILTON**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **“LIMITED” WORSHIP CONTINUES**

**ALL ARE 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.

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**A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021**

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

***READER: Isabel Cook***

***USHERS: Tom Cosstick Team***

***COUNTING TEAM: Marilyn Wells Team***

## ETERNITY FOR TODAY

Any one wanting to renew their subscription; or, new subscription requests to “Eternity For Today” please contact Darlene Illman at 519-271-0996 or Jane in the Church Office at 519-271-8527 by **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Payment may be made by placing cash or a cheque in the amount of \$13.50 in a separate envelope with your name and “Eternity For Today” written on the outside.

The envelope can then be either mailed, placed in the offering plate upon entering the Church or put in our mailbox.

Thank you!

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## THANKSGIVING OFFERING

A motion was made and passed at the September Congregational Council Meeting that the Thanksgiving offering envelopes for this year be apportioned one-half to the House of Blessing and one-half to the Current Fund.

“Thanksgiving” offering envelopes are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary and also on a table inside the entrance off the parking lot.

Thank you for your continued support!

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## VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

We are currently in the planning stage of organizing Schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers for next year.

**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

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## 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](http://clwr.org/Haiti)

## **HOUSE OF BLESSING**

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!!

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## **TODAY'S PRAYER**

### **Father, We Thank Thee**

For flowers that bloom about our feet,  
Father, we thank Thee.

For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,  
Father, we thank Thee.

For the song of bird and hum of bee,  
for all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
Father, we thank Thee.

For pleasant shade of branches high,  
Father, we thank Thee.

For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
for beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light,  
Father, we thank Thee.

For rest and shelter of the night,  
Father, we thank Thee

For health and food, for love and friends,  
for everything Thy goodness sends,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

As you start preparing your pumpkins for Halloween, I thought you would find the prayer below interesting and fun to try. Sue and I are planning on trying it for the pumpkin for the office area. Enjoy and have fun!!

## Pumpkin Prayer

Dear God,

As I carve my pumpkin, help me say this prayer:

Open my mind so I can learn about You;  
(*Cut the top of the pumpkin*)

Take away all my sin and forgive me for the  
wrong things I do; (*Clean out the inside*)

Open my eyes so Your Love I will see;  
(*Cut eyes shaped like hearts*)

I'm sorry for turning up my nose to all You've given me;  
(*Cut a nose in the shape of the cross*)

Open my ears so Your Word I will hear;  
(*Cut ears shaped like the Bible*)

Open my mouth so I can tell others You're near;  
(*Cut mouth in the shape of a fish*)

Let Your Light shine in all I say and do! Amen.  
(*Place a candle and light*)



WE WISH EVERYONE A  
SAFE & HAPPY THANKSGIVING