

"You hypocrites!
You know how to interpret
the appearance of
EARTH and SKY,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Luke 12:56 , ESV



August 17, 2025

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Andrew Elian

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Pentecost 10

August 17, 2025

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 876: “Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm: 82

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Sermon

Hymn 793: “Be Thou My Vision”

Apostles' Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Offering Prayer	Page 129
The Great Thanksgiving	Page 129
Communion Prayer	Page 130
The Lord's Prayer	Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 499, 796

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 815: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"	
Dismissal	Page 137

Postlude: Fantasy on " Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" by Allan Mahnke

Zion Lutheran Church welcomes our **visitors and guests**. We are pleased that you have come to join us in the worship of our God of grace and love. May you be strengthened and uplifted in our time together. *Please sign our guest register and make yourself known to Pastor Jeff.* We hope that you will plan to be with us, again, at your earliest opportunity.

All people of faith and those who seek faith are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This morning, we will be distributing the Lord's Supper in a continuous fashion. Trays holding individual cups of wine are on stands at either side of Pastor Jeff for those wishing to receive wine. **We are making available a small number of individual glasses filled with non-alcoholic white wine. These are for those not wishing to partake in the red wine containing alcohol.** The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the center aisle.

Please note that masks are now "optional or personal preference". Disposable masks remain at all entrances for those wishing to continue to wear one.



THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Tim, Lucy, Jamie, Gertha, Marg, Doris, Marleen, Nancy, Bonnie, Elaine, Garry, Glenn, Joy, Todd, Gwen, Jim, Dan, Mike, Jack, Cindy, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Katie, Paul, Wendy, Joan, Devon, Hollice, Joyce, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Isabelle, Al, Melinda, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;

>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

Mon. August 18 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry
Pastor Jeff on Vacation

Tues. August 19 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Parlour
Pastor Jeff on Vacation

Wed. August 20 Pastor Jeff on Vacation

Thurs. August 21 Pastor Jeff on Vacation

Fri. August 22 Pastor Jeff on Vacation

Sun. August 24 * **Pentecost 11** *
10:00 AM Worship with Pastor Patricia Jackson
Pastor Jeff on Vacation

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, August 24th AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Brad & Sherri Beatty
Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd
Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Marilyn Wells
Counting Captain: Janet Chandler
House of Blessing: Janet & Gerry Ahrens



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary today are placed in loving memory of *ANNEMARIE HAUSLEITNER*” on this the 8th Anniversary of her passing, +August 22, 2017. Forever loved and deeply missed by the Hausleitner family.



WELCOME & THANK YOU: We would like to extend a “big Zion welcome” to Pastor Stephen Gross who will, once again, lead us in worship. Thank you Pastor Stephen for officiating for us these last three weeks!

PASTOR ON VACATION: Just a reminder that Pastor Jeff is on vacation and will return on Tuesday, August 26th. Pastor Stephen Gross is filling in today. Pastor Patricia Jackson will lead us in Worship on Sunday, August 24th. We hope you and Susan are having a good vacation Pastor Jeff!

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN JORDAN AND THE HOLY LAND

(ELCJHL): The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land is a Lutheran denomination that has congregations in Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Together, the National Office and Eastern Synod are launching an appeal to support the ministries of the ELCJHL. The goal is to raise \$50,000 to assist in supporting the vital work of the ELCJHL that embodies faith, resilience and hope of a just peace.

For more information, please refer to the insert which is a letter dated July 22, 2025 co-signed by Rev. Susan C. Johnson, Bishop ELCIC; Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop-elect ELCIC and Rev. Carla Blakely, Bishop Eastern Synod.

KINSMEN OUTDOOR MUSIC FEST: Saturday, August 23, 2025 at Stratford Perth Museum; Admission \$25. On line tickets @ Eventbrite

1:00 PM	Yeager
2:00 PM	Mutual Mind
3:30 PM	Diamond Mine (Blue Rodeo Tribute)
5:00 PM	Full Petty Fever (Tribute Band)

Stratford Transit is offering “On Demand” Shuttle Service!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING: The members of the Christian Education Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, August 26 at 4:30 PM in the Parlour.

CRUISE NIGHT AT ELGIN MISSIONARY CHURCH: Wednesday, August 27th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Come out and enjoy Music, Food & Drinks and Bounce Castles. Elgin Missionary Church 4192 Perth Line 36, Stratford, ON

Cars and motorcycles should arrive for placement after 5:00 PM. Free Entry!

COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Congregation Life is setting up a team to help work and run coffee hours. The more people who join the team, the less often you have to do it. No experience necessary! One member of Congregational Life will assist you.

Please sign the “TEAM” sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or call Irene Ehgoetz 519-271-8878 or Jan Bennewitz 519-271-6073 (both of whom will also be happy to answer any questions you may have). Thank you!

STRATFORD FAMILY YMCA presents “DIABETES FIT”! Are you struggling to get started with healthy habits like exercise? Are you at risk of, or living with type 2 diabetes? Join the YMCA’s FREE diabetes Fit program to build life changing habits at home or at the YMCA. Get active / Build healthy eating habits / Improve your health and wellbeing / Connect with others who share similar wellness goals.

Wednesdays 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

September 17 – December 10, 2025

Spots are limited. Sign up today! wellness@ytr.ymca.ca; 519-743-5201 x 2113 or visit bit.ly/YTRDFDM23 or contact them for more information.



STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING: We have received a “most-needed items list” from the House of Blessing. To help them with their significant increase in the number of people using their services, as you are able, if you could bring **Gluten Free and Vegetarian foods or Baby**

Formula and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING: “RIDE FOR REFUGE” This family-friendly fundraising event is happening **Saturday, October 4th**, and it’s a chance for our church community to come together, get active, and help make a real difference for our neighbours in need. Below is the information they have provided to us:

It All Starts With Team Captains!

Every great team starts with a bold leader—and that could be YOU (or someone in your congregation)!

Team Captains are the heart of the RIDE. They rally their crew, raise funds, and keep the energy high. As a captain, you’ll:

- Choose a team name (it can be as simple as your church’s name, or something fun, punny, or creative)
- Recruit a group of teammates to ride or walk with you (aim for 8–10 or more!)
- Lead by example with your own donations and words of encouragement
- Keep your team motivated with fun updates and progress shoutouts

We’ll be there every step of the way with tools, resources, and support to make it easy and rewarding.

👉 **Ready to rally your team? Register as a Team Captain today at rideforrefuge.com/location/stratford**

Volunteers Welcome Too!

Not quite ready to form a team? No problem—there will also be opportunities to serve as a volunteer on event day! Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Let’s Make an Impact Together

This event is more than just a fundraiser—it’s an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community! By participating in Ride For Refuge, your church can actively live out His call to love our neighbours, care for the vulnerable, and pursue justice for those in need. We’d be honoured to have your church represented at this year’s Ride and to partner with you in bringing hope, dignity, and practical support to those who need it most, right here at home.

If you have any questions or would like help getting started, we’re here for you—just reach out!



STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Please see the list for the latest “**much needed**” items. Whatever help you can provide is greatly appreciated!

Please drop off donations in the bins located at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

July 22, 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

We are writing to you today with heavy hearts. For nearly two years, the people in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem have been suffering under devastating violence, a deepening humanitarian crisis, and uncertainty.

Recently we received an update from Bishop Dr. Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, our Global Mission and Companion Synod partner. Bishop Azar shared that while the church continues to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as we all do, he fears, "that peace is increasingly hidden from our eyes."

"There is an atmosphere of deep fear and uncertainty across our land," he continued. "No one knows what the next day will bring. The prospect of a regional war weighs heavily on a population already exhausted by suffering."

Yet, despite everything, the ELCJHL remains steadfast in its mission.

- Congregations continue to gather in prayer and fellowship.
- The schools of the ELCJHL have successfully completed their 2024-25 academic year.
- Diaconal ministry is providing food, rent assistance, medical care and school tuition support to hundreds of families across the West Bank.
- Gender justice and environmental ministries are still working towards a more just and sustainable future.

"For years," Bishop Azar writes, "we have worked to sustain the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Today, we are struggling to preserve our very existence."

As partners in mission, we are called to respond.

Together, the National Office and Eastern Synod are launching an appeal to support the ministries of the ELCJHL. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to assist in supporting this vital work that embodies faith, resilience and hope of a just peace.

At our recent ELCIC National Convention, we welcomed Bishop-Elect, Rev. Dr. Imad Haddad, of the ELCJHL. Speaking on the theme Rejoicing in Hope, he shared these powerful words, "I will really cling to hope, but it is a hope that is not alienated from reality, a hope that understands the challenges. A hope that is great enough to choose life, a hope faithful enough to pose a question, 'my Lord, why have you forsaken me?', yet without losing faith in the justice of God. God is just. That is our hope."

Dear members of the ELCIC, our church's long-standing relationship with the ELCJHL is a vital expression of our shared faith and commitment to justice and peace.

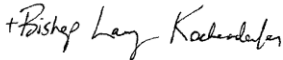
Together, we invite you to:

- Pray for peace.
- Learn more about the work of the ELCJHL.
- Give generously to the ELCJHL Appeal.

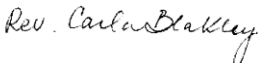
Yours in Christ,



Rev. Susan C. Johnson, Bishop, ELCIC



Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop-elect, ELCIC



Rev. Carla Blakley, Bishop, Eastern Synod

400-185 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1
PHONE: 204-984-9150 / 888-786-6707 WEB: info@elcic.ca

The ELCIC acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.