

September 21, 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 15

September 21, 2025

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 655: “Son of God, Eternal Saviour”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn 686: “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

Apostles' Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
Choir Anthem: "How Beautiful"	

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: 754, 793

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 669: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"	
Dismissal	Page 137

Postlude: On the Seashore by F. Mendelssohn (Op. 53, No. 1).

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: Isabel, Bill, Marie, Tim, Lucy, Jamie, Marg, Doris, Marleen, Nancy, Joy, Gwen, Jim, Mike, Jack, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Joan, Devon, Hollice, Joyce, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Isabelle, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<u>Mon. September 22</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour 7:00-8:30 PM SSSO in Fellowship Hall
<u>Tues. September 23</u>	7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM TSSA Boiler Inspection 7:00 PM Endowment Meeting in Parlour
<u>Wed. September 24</u>	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour 7:00 PM Congregational Council Meeting in Parlour
<u>Thurs. September 25</u>	6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel
<u>Fri. September 26</u>	WOF making sandwiches in kitchen Pastor Jeff away.
<u>Sun. September 28</u>	* PENTECOST 16 * 10:00 AM Worship with Pastor Tim 10:00 AM Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Darrell & Judy Renecker
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Shirley Whittaker

Reader: Carmen Beck
Counting Captain: Irene West
House of Blessing: Gerry Rehberg



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN BEEN REGISTERED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2025

Parents/Grandparents: Have you registered your child(ren) or Grandchild(ren) for Sunday School? By Registering them is not a commitment for them having to be here every Sunday. By Registering them, helps us arrange our classes and arrange for the number of teachers we need.

Children/Grandchildren eligible for Sunday School include any child turning four (4) years of age in 2025 right through to children in Grade 6.

If a child(ren) has left the Sunday School program for any reason and would like to return, they are more than welcome!

It is quite easy to register them. All we require is the child(ren)'s names(s), current grade(s) as of September 2025. You may email the information to pauley_mcnaughton@hotmail.com (between pauley and mcnaughton there is an underscore).

All children/grandchildren of members need to be registered to attend Sunday School. Any visiting families with children 4 years of age in 2025 are welcome without registering.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

From: Paula, Janet & Karen



FLOWERS: We have two (2) donations of beautiful flowers this morning:


The first donation is a bouquet of flowers placed by Pauline, Matt, Jean, Craig & Lydia in loving memory of *BRIAN SCHADE* who passed away one (1) year ago on +September 17th.

Today is Brian's 71st birthday!

The second donation of flowers is placed in loving memory of a dear mother, *AURELIA GEISLER*, +September 23, 1996 by Stephen & Sonya Fischer.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REMINDER: The Endowment Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlour.

**INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR BISHOP-ELECT LARRY KOCHENDORFER- SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27**




You are warmly invited
to attend the installation of

ELCIC National Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer

Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (CDT)

Faith Lutheran Church, 1311 Dakota Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Reception to follow with light refreshments.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Our Faith's Promise & Unconditional Love

You are invited to the Service of Installation of Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer at **4:00 p.m. (CDT) on Saturday, September 27** at Faith Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, MB. The service will also be livestreamed (link will be posted via elcic.ca).

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to gather together for the online service.

The offering for the day is designated to the [ELCJHL Appeal](#) and [CLWR's Friends of Creation](#).

Written greetings to Bishop-elect Larry are also welcome and may be sent directly to lkochendorfer@elcic.ca.

We invite you to take part - whether in person or online, and to [share this invitation in your congregation's bulletin, print it out for your information boards, and help spread the word.](#)

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA present “Mystery & Memory”

September 27, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave.

Conductor: William Rowson
Guest Artists: Vanny Hu, Cello

For more information or tickets visit: <https://stratfordsymphonyorchestra>

AUTUMN PLANT SALE: Tri-County Master Gardeners of Huron/Oxford/Perth are having their “Autumn Plant Sale” on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave., Stratford.

There will be a selection of perennials, shrubs and trees available, mostly native.
Preferred payment by cash or e-transfer.

SPIRITUS ENSEMBLE presents: *Bach Vespers for the New Year*, including a performance by the Choir and Orchestra of Spiritus Ensemble of J.S. Bach’s Cantata 190 and his motet ‘Lobet den Herrn’ on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, 23 Water Street North, Kitchener.

Admission is free; a donation is requested.

DECORATING FOR THANKSGIVING:

“Come, ye thankful people, come:
Raise the song of harvest home.” (ELW 693)

On Sunday, October 12 we will celebrate the Festival of Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for showering God’s abundant blessings on us. To assist in our celebration, the Worship and Music Committee is asking for your help in decorating our Sanctuary.

We could use produce from your gardens, produce from the grocery stores, and non-perishable items from the grocery stores. After Thanksgiving these supplies will be donated to the House of Blessing for its work among the residents of Stratford.

Please bring your gifts to the church the week of October 6 (and by October 10).

Thank you in advance for helping with this project.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW HAMBURG (23 Church Street) invites you to come out and enjoy the music of Beethoven * Janáček * Mozart *, Wijeratne (and more) performed by the “Penderecki String Quartet” on Friday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m.

\$40 general admission

\$10 age 16 & under

COME AND JOIN THE 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!



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 **Side dishes (KD, Sidekicks, Hamburger Helper, stuffing, instant potatoes, etc.) or Healthy school snacks (peanut free)** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, September 27th from 10 am – 3 pm, Stratford House of Blessing will be collecting donations at Food Basics, No Frills and Zehrs.

They are looking for volunteers to help greet shoppers, hand out their “Most Needed” list, and collect food and cash. You can sign up for the morning shift, afternoon shift, or even the whole day if you are feeling ambitious! To volunteer, please contact Joanne at volunteer@shob.org
Thank you for any help you are able to give!

“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!

Empty Bowls Is Back!

Tickets are now on sale for **Empty Bowls**, finally returning in person this fall at the Stratford Rotary Complex on **Friday, October 24th!** This much-loved community event brings together local restaurants, artists, businesses and supporters in support of Stratford House of Blessing's food programs.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day, both morning and afternoon, to help move supplies to the Rotary Complex and set up, as well as in the evening to run the event and then to assist with clean up. (This would be another great event for youth groups to get involved with as volunteers.)

For tickets or to volunteer contact Joanne at volunteer@shob.org.

STRATFORD CONNECTIONS *URGENT NEEDS*

**Volunteers for
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

**Razors
Toothbrushes
Basic t-shirts (medium)
Ground coffee
Packaged grab & go snacks!
Deodorant**



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

Please Note: Due to limited space, Stratford Connection Centre is not able to accept donations of clothing. If you have clothing to donate, please take it to Goodwill as this is where Stratford Connection takes their homeless for clothing.

HOWEVER, donations of socks, underwear, hats, scarves and mittens (preferably water proof mittens) are needed and accepted at Stratford Connection. Thank you!

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

The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart or Food Basics. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome.

Thank You!

