



"So he called to him,  
'FATHER ABRAHAM,  
HAVE PITY ON ME  
and send Lazarus to  
dip the tip of his finger  
IN WATER AND  
COOL MY TONGUE,  
because I am  
in agony in this fire.'"

LUKE 16:24, NIV

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September 28, 2025

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# ***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

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Pentecost 16

September 28, 2025

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

**Hymn 705: “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm: 146

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Children’s Message

Sermon

**Hymn 719: “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**

Apostles' Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
<b>Choir Anthem: "Now Thank We All Our God"</b>	

## **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, 712**

## **SENDING**

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Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
<b>Hymn 729: "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"</b>	
Dismissal	Page 137

### **Postlude: Präludium no. 1 in C major BWC 553 by J. S. Bach**

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, Gwen, Jim, 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:**

Mon. September 29      2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour  
7:00-8:30 PM SSSO in Fellowship Hall

Tues. September 30      9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

Wed. October 1      9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour  
WOF making sandwiches in kitchen

Thurs. October 2      12:00 Noon Bible Study Returns and will be in the Parlour  
4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour  
6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Sun. October 5      \* **PENTECOST 17** \*  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Sunday School

### **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Ron & Nancy Hesas  
**Usher Captain:** Brian Coe  
**Altar:** Ellen Wolfe

**Reader:** Tom Waschkowski  
**Counting Captain:** Irene West  
**House of Blessing:** Heather Broadfoot



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**WELCOME BACK PASTOR TIM:** We would like to extend a big Zion welcome to Pastor Tim Elliott who will lead us in worship this morning. It is so nice to have you back with us Pastor Tim!

## **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 [zionluth.sscoord@gmail.com](mailto:zionluth.sscoord@gmail.com).

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

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sunday School has a NEW email address: [zionluth.sscoord@gmail.com](mailto:zionluth.sscoord@gmail.com). Please use this email address in place of [pauley\\_mcnaughton@hotmail.com](mailto:pauley_mcnaughton@hotmail.com). Thank you!

A reminder that Sunday School ends at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.

Please note that the Sunday School Wing is a “NUT FREE” area!

There will be NO Sunday School on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Sunday School children will be singing in church on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 A.M. service.

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES:** Please note that Bible Study will resume on Thursday, October 2 at 12:00 Noon. Studies will continue on the Small Catechism (please don't forget your books).

**COFFEE HOUR:** The first Coffee Hour of Fall hosted by Tom & Joanne Cosstick will take place immediately following Worship next SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.

All are welcome to come together in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee, tea or water.

See you there!!

**GREETER & USHER SCHEDULES:** New schedules for "Greeters" and "Ushers" for October 2025 to April 2026 were emailed out on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive one in your "inbox", please check your "spam" or "trash" folders. If you did not receive one in either of these folders, please call the office and I will email another one to you.

**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:** Congregational Life is setting up a team to help host the 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 **Hot and cold cereal 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.

### **“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](https://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](mailto:volunteer@shob.org).



**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!**