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August 10, 2025

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# ***ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH***

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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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 9

August 10, 2025

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

**Hymn 557: “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: 33:12-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Sermon

**Hymn 802: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

Apostles’ Creed

Page 127

Prayers of Intercession  
Sharing the Peace

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## 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: 502, 764**

## SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
<b>Hymn 818: “O Master, Let Me Walk with You”</b>	
Dismissal	Page 137
Postlude	

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:**

<u>Mon. August 11</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Pastor Jeff on Vacation
<u>Tues. August 12</u>	7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Parlour Pastor Jeff on Vacation
<u>Wed. August 13</u>	Pastor Jeff on Vacation
<u>Thurs. August 14</u>	Pastor Jeff on Vacation
<u>Fri. August 15</u>	9:00 – 10:15 AM WOF making Sandwiches Pastor Jeff on Vacation
<u>Sun. August 17</u>	<b>* Pentecost 10 *</b> 10:00 AM Worship with Pastor Stephen Gross Pastor Jeff on Vacation

### **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, August 17<sup>th</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Gerald & Isabel Cook  
**Usher Captain:** Brian Coe  
**Altar:** Carmen Beck

**Reader:** Aline Kouhi-Klemencic  
**Counting Captain:** Janet Chandler  
**House of Blessing:** Irvin Riehl



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**WELCOME BACK:** We would like to extend a “big Zion welcome” to Pastor Stephen Gross who will lead us in worship. Thank you Pastor Stephen for officiating for us this morning!

We would also like to welcome back Charmaine Fopoussi as our guest pianist this morning. Thank you Charmaine for joining us and sharing your amazing talent.

**PASTOR ON VACATION:** Just a reminder that Pastor Jeff is on vacation and will return on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Stephen Gross will fill in on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Patricia Jackson will lead us in Worship on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope you and Susan have a safe and happy 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.

Please read the full letter on the appeal from ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson, ELCIC National Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Eastern Synod Bishop Carla Blakley which is inserted. And please:

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

**COFFEE HOUR:** With Fall just around the corner, your Congregational Life Committee would like to hold more coffee hours for you to have an opportunity to mingle with each other after worship. In order to do so, they are looking for volunteers to assist in hosting a coffee hour.

A “Sign Up” sheet has been placed on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. If you are able to host or participate in a coffee hour, please sign the sheet or call Jan Bennewitz at 519-271-6073. Thank you!

**WATER BOTTLES:** We have had an amazing response to our plea for 4 litre water bottles. At this time, we have as many as we have storage for. “Thank You” to everyone for bringing their empties in to us!

**RALLY SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025:** Rally Sunday 2025 is taking on a new twist! This year Rally Sunday will be held here at our Church with Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM. Preparations are under way for a BBQ afterwards. The plan, at the moment, is for Congregational Life to supply hamburgers and hotdogs and ask members of the Congregation to participate in a potluck providing either a salad or dessert. Water, coffee, tea and juice will be provided by Congregational Life.

In order to get an idea of how much meat to purchase and cook, we ask that you please sign the sheet at the back of the Sanctuary if you are planning on attending. Thank you!

We are asking that if any member would be willing to lend your BBQ for this special day, please contact Jane in the office (519-271-8527) or call Irene Ehgoetz 519-271-8878. If you are not able to get your BBQ here, we can arrange for it to be picked up utilizing a pickup truck. “Thank you” for your help!

**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!

**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](mailto:wellness@ytr.ymca.ca); 519-743-5201 x 2113 or visit [bit.ly/YTRDFDM23](http://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 Side dishes (KD, Sidekicks, Hamburger Helper,

**stuffing, instant potatoes, etc.) or rice** 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](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!





**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.**

**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!**





**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.

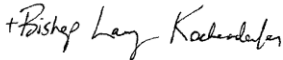
Together, we invite you to:

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

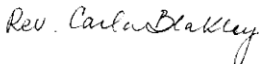
Yours in Christ,



Rev. Susan C. Johnson, Bishop, ELCIC



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



Rev. Carla Blakley, Bishop, Eastern Synod

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