



July 26, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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Website: www.zionstratford.com

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Stéphane Potvin

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

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

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm: 119:129-136

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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: 480, 781

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer Page 136
Blessing Page 136

Hymn 537: "On Our Way Rejoicing"

Dismissal Page 137

Postlude: "Sortie"

by Noel Rawsthorne

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, which may be found in the inner circle in each communion tray. 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: Edith, Heather, Audrey, Beth, Liz, Gertha, Peter, Marilyn, Isabelle, David, Carol, Bev, Jim, Wayne, Matthew, Marjorie, Bill, Marie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Jim, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Devon, Hollice, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;

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

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

Mon. July 27 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Tues. July 28 7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall

9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Wed. July 29 PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Thurs. July 30 PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Fri. July 31 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen

PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Sun. August 2 * PENTECOST 10 *

10:00 AM Worship

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Bob & Marilyn Wells

Usher Captain: Brian Coe

Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Glenn Rittinger

Counting Captain: Audrey Miller

House of Blessing: Laurie Snow



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK: This morning we welcome back Pastor Tim Elliott who will lead us in worship. Thank you for joining us Pastor Tim; we are delighted to have you back!

PASTOR ON VACATION: Pastor Jeff and Susan left yesterday on vacation to Chautauqua Institution in New York. Have a terrific time and please be safe! Sister Jean has custody of the church cell phone. Please do not hesitate to call 519-274-1300 if you need pastoral care.

Pastor Jeff will return for Worship next Sunday, August 2nd.



E-TRANSFER OFFERINGS: If you have previously sent your offering via e-Transfer, please be advised that we are having an issue with our auto deposits. The bank is working with us to resolve the situation. If you wish to send an e-Transfer in the meantime, you will be required to complete a security question. Please keep the question simple; the answer could be put in the “Message” section. We will advise of further details when they become available. Thank you for your patience!

MEMBER DOWNSIZING: A member has notified us that he is moving and having to downsize from a two bedroom to a one bedroom apartment. He has supplied us with items he is giving away which he will not have room for in his new apartment. Please contact Jane in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings for more information.

PROVIDE RELIEF IN VENEZUELA: Venezuela earthquake response – CLWR and the ELCIC are calling on Lutherans in Canada to pray for the people of Venezuela and to donate today to provide life-saving relief in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation.

Donations may be made by placing your gift in a plain envelope; be sure to put your envelope number, your name and “Venezuela Appeal” on the front of your envelope. You can put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning; drop it off at the office on weekday mornings or place it in the lock box. Thank you for your support!

BEREAVEMENT GROUP: EXPERIENCING SPOUSAL LOSS

The loss of a spouse or partner can bring profound changes and challenges. This supportive group offers an opportunity to connect with others, share experiences, and find comfort and encouragement as you navigate life after loss.

Participants are invited to share, listen, and reflect in a setting that honours both their loss and the enduring bond with their spouse.

Dates: Tuesday Afternoons in July and August

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Location: In-person at Rotary Hospice

Free Registration: Those interested can email sw@rotaryhospice.ca to register or learn more.

STRATFORD SUMMER MUSIC: July 9th – August 2nd

A Multi-Venue Summer Event!

Tickets available at www.stratfordsummermusic.ca

Programs are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary

TUNES WITH MRS. HOOT! A Concert Series

This afternoon, July 26th Story Songs and Fairytales

1:00 PM in the Community Room at the Falstaff Family Center
Family friendly songs for the young and young at heart!

Email rachelhuitsing@gmail.com to reserve tickets

\$25 per family or \$15 per person

Children under 8 free

CRUISE NIGHT: MONDAY, JULY 27TH, 2026

Bethel Church Classic Car Show

Hwy 7 & 8, Stratford, ON

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Free: Spectator & Vehicle Admission

Door Prizes, BBQ, Ice Cream and Music

Contact: Robert 519-271-7648

MUSIC CONCERT with CAPE BRETON DUO Rachel Davis & Darren McMullen:

Monday, August 10, 2026

Avondale United Church

194 Avondale Ave., Stratford 519-271-7946

Tickets \$20.00 through Ticket Scene or the church office

All proceeds support the Avondale United Food Shelf

L'ARCHE STRATFORD'S 6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & AFTER PARTY:

Registration is open for the 6th Annual Golf Tournament & After Party at the Stratford Municipal Golf Course on **Thursday, August 13th**

Lunch is served at 12:00 P.M.

Shotgun starts at 1:00 P.M.

with the After Party happening at 4:00 P.M.

Contact Wendy admin@larchestratford.ca for more information

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Below is an updated “Needs List”:

- Single serve snacks
- Basic socks
- Laundry soap/pods
- Coffee & sugar (always)
- Bus tickets
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Razors

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday between 12:00 PM-4:30 PM.

Please contact them if an alternative drop off time is necessary at 519-271-6819 ext 405 or by email connectioncentre@cmhahuronperth.com.

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

Thank you for continuing to support the Connection Centre so they can support our vulnerable neighbours! ❤️



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 **Canned meat (ham, chicken, turkey) or Toilet paper** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.



The **Kingdom** *of* **Heaven**

is like a merchant in search of fine

Pearls...



Matthew 13:45, NRSV