

Rest for the Weary

Come to me, all you who
are weary and burdened, and
I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28, NIV



July 5, 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

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

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

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm: 145:8-14

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/dKcInBj2238?si=k0_dKnV9iSQBeRg9

Hymn 742: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

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: 765, 620

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer Page 136

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 697: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Dismissal Page 137

Postlude: “Toccatà in G”

by William H. Pachelbel

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: 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 6 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Playmakers Camp in Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30 PM Rotary Board Meeting in Boardroom

Tues. July 7 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Playmakers Camp in Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Chapel

Wed. July 8 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Playmakers Camp in Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM McCarthy Place Worship

Thurs. July 9 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Playmakers Camp in Fellowship Hall
2:30 PM Hillside Worship

Fri. July 10 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Playmakers Camp in Fellowship Hall

Sun. July 12 * PENTECOST 7 *

10:00 AM Worship

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 12TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Brad & Sherri Beatty

Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd

Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Fritz Steigmeier

Counting Captain: Ron Hesas

House of Blessing: Janet & Gerry Ahrens



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, July 12th following the 10:00 AM service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Congregational Council's recommendation for the installation of a new asphalt parking lot around our church building.



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!



IMPORTANT MESSAGE – PLATFORM LIFTS

We would appreciate, if our church had more members familiar with the operation of the platform lifts. Currently, only the Head Ushers are trained on their operation.

At our request, Darrell Renecker has agreed to offer training on site on the operation of the platform lifts.

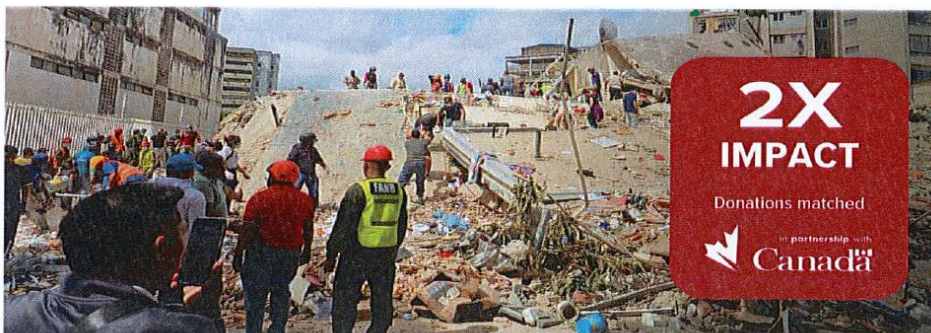
If you would be interested in learning the operation of the Platform Lifts, please inform Jane Kelly, our Parish Administrator, of your interest by Friday, July 17th, in order that we can schedule the Training Meeting accordingly.

It is our hope that we will have members come forward to take advantage of this opportunity for this learning experience.

By having more trained operators, it would allow us the ability to schedule members in a fair manner on events other than the weekly church service which this role is completed by the Head Ushers.

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. From June 25- July 14, your donation will be matched by the Canadian government, doubling your impact.

Please see the insert below. 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!



Provide relief in Venezuela

On June 24, two devastating earthquakes struck western Venezuela. Families have lost their homes and everything in them. They need shelter, clean water and basic supplies right now.

CLWR is responding as a member of the Humanitarian Coalition. We start by helping people survive the crisis. Then we stay to help them recover and rebuild.

Make a donation today at clwr.org/venezuela

Double your gift: Donations made from June 25 – July 14 will be matched dollar for dollar by the Government of Canada.



**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION** 

 **Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**

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

July 12th Songs from Natural Wonders

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

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 **Peanut Butter or bar soap and body wash** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

