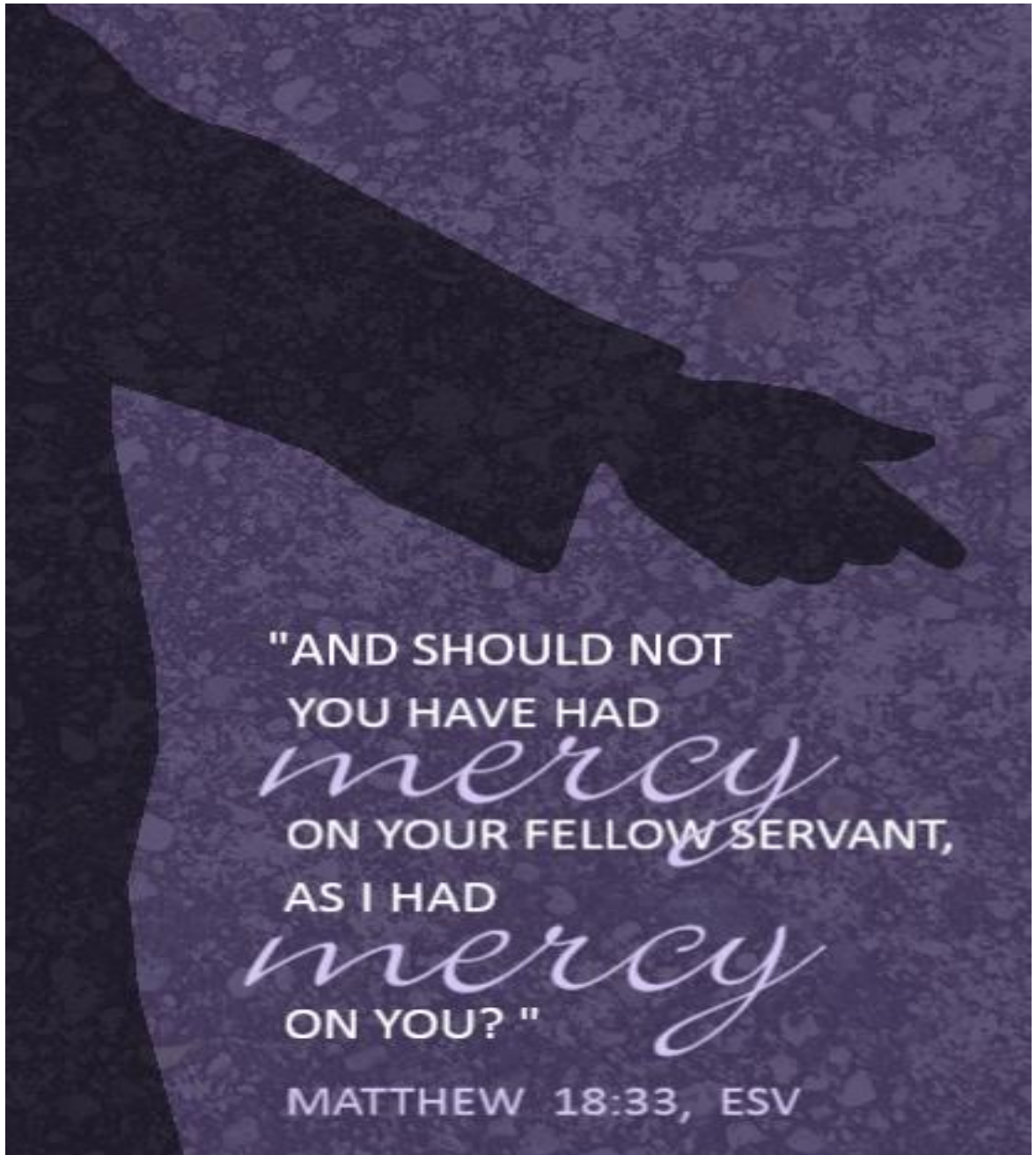




September 13, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

Email: zionlc@golden.net

Cell: 519-274-1300

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

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 522: “As We Gather at Your Table”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm: 103:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Children’s Message, Commissioning and Blessing of Teachers and Students

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/b1yi_TQQCOE?si=L2aNClrtBj3QacjX

Hymn 606: “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

Apostles’ Creed

Page 127

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

Choir Anthem: “We Praise Thee”

Healey Willan

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: 494, 608

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer

Page 136

Blessing

Page 136

Hymn 864: “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

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, 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: Jean, Edith, Heather, Beth, Liz, Peter, Isabelle, David, Carol, Bev, Jim, Wayne, Marjorie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Hollice, Leanne, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<u>Mon. Sept. 14</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6:30-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel PASTOR JEFF AWAY
<u>Tues. Sept. 15</u>	9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall PASTOR JEFF AWAY
<u>Wed. Sept. 16</u>	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour PASTOR JEFF AWAY
<u>Thurs. Sept. 17</u>	6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room PASTOR JEFF AWAY
<u>Fri. Sept. 18</u>	PASTOR JEFF AWAY
<u>Sun. Sept. 20</u>	* PENTECOST 17 * 10:00 AM Worship / Baptism 10:00 AM Sunday School 4:00-8:00 PM Jesus Is Lord Church in Parlour

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Ron & Nancy Hesas
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Shirley Whittaker

Reader: Linda Faulhafer
Counting Captain: Ron Hesas
House of Blessing: Gerry Rehberg



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR JEFF AT SEMINARY CONVOCATION: Pastor Jeff and Susan are heading to the United Lutheran Seminary Convocation in Philadelphia; therefore, Pastor Jeff will be away from Sunday, September 13th to Saturday, September 19th inclusive. Have a safe trip Pastor Jeff & Susan.

If you are needing Pastoral Care during Pastor Jeff's absence, please call Sister Jean on the Church cell phone number 519-274-1300.

STRATFORD SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT FUND RAISER:

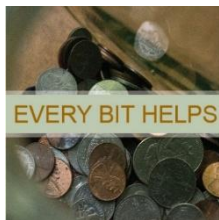
Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 PM
Stratford Perth Museum
Tickets \$35.00 + HST

Featuring: The Bookends * Shane Cook
York Street Thought Process

FALL FOOD DRIVE:

Mark your calendars:

The House of Blessing Fall Food Drive will be happening on Saturday, September 26th. Are you interested in helping out? Contact volunteer@shob.org or fill out the form at www.shob.org/volunteer-form.



E-TRANSFER OFFERINGS: WE ARE EXCITED!

We are officially setup, once again, for “e-Transfer auto deposits”.

However, we have had to create a new email address for our e-Transfers that is linked directly to our CIBC account.

For future e-Transfers please use zion202offerings@execulink.com.

A security question will not be required using this email address and funds will be automatically deposited to our account.

We want to “thank you” for your patience and understanding during the process to remedy the auto deposit procedure.



SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

It's not too late!

Parents/Grandparents: Have you registered your Child(ren) or Grandchild(ren) for Sunday School? Registering them is not a commitment for having them here every Sunday. By registering them, it 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 2026 right through to 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 name(s), current grade(s) as of September 2026. You may email the information to our new Sunday School Co-ordinator, Kyla Cook-Montgomery, at zionluth.sscoord@outlook.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 right through to Grade 6 are welcome without registering.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Presents *Enchanted Landscapes: Weber, Reinecke & Schumann*

Saturday, September 26th at 7:30 PM
Avondale United Church – 194 Avondale Ave.

Conductor: William Rowson

For more information and tickets visit www.stratfordsymphony.ca



ZION'S 80 & OVER SENIORS' BIRTHDAY PARTY is being held in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, October 23rd, 2026 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**. **Personal invitation calls will be coming soon.**

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.

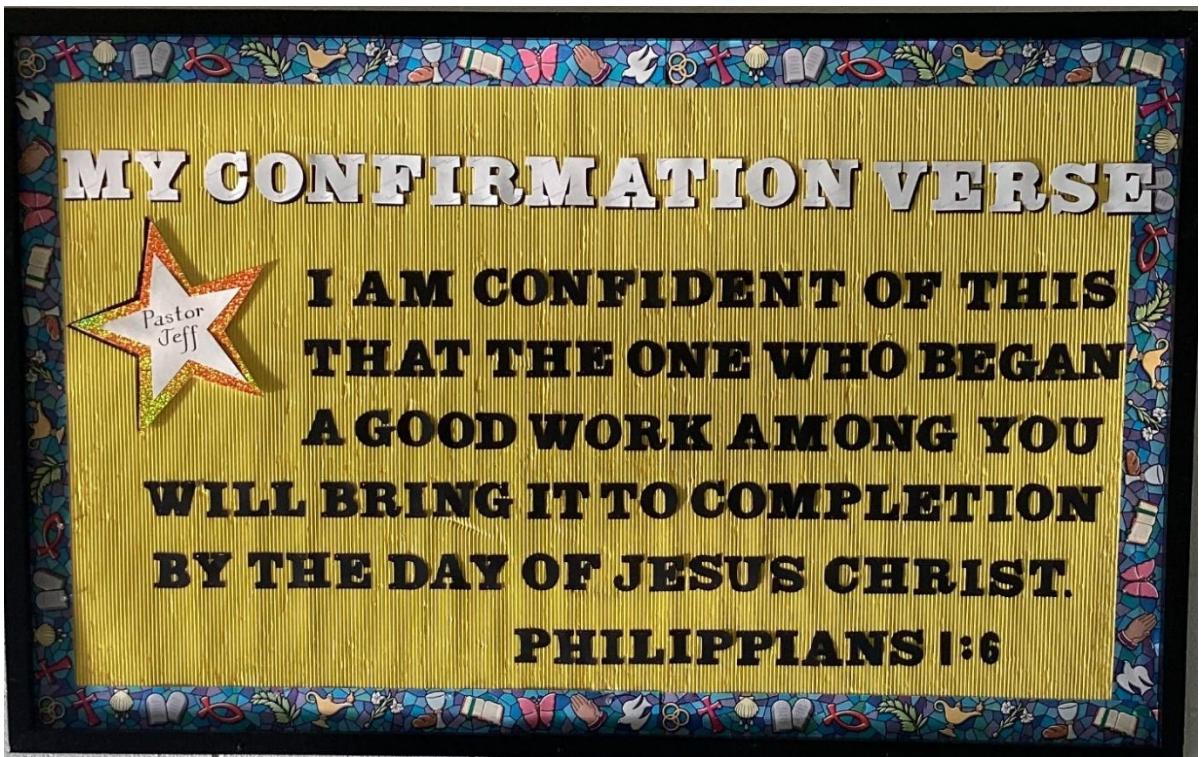
The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart, Food Basics or Costco. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome. Thank You!

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 vegetables or Hot and cold cereal** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.





The Bulletin Board located in the Courtyard
Featuring Pastor Jeff's Confirmation Verse

Do you remember your Confirmation Verse?
Would you like to share it?
If so, please call the office 519-271-8527.