



Lent

A SEASON OF PREPARATION

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF
STRATFORD
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026**

Minister: Pastor Martin Dam PH: 519-274-9709

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Minister: Pastor Nick Bierma PH 250-300-5927

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Access to the live stream is available through www.stratfordcrc.org.

The service is available by telephone: 888-704-3708

Shalem Mental Health Network [CAP]: 866-347-0041

Bulletin Announcements: Thursday 12:00 pm

Email: office@stratfordcrc.org Website: stratfordcrc.org PH: 519-273-1292

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His word I put my hope.” Psalm 130:5.
 We come with gladness and thankfulness to worship our Lord. We place our trust in the promises He has made and we wait and we hope. May our time of worship together be a time of blessing to all who gather here. Please join us between services for a time of fellowship and refreshments

ORDER OF SERVICE

8:30 am/10:30 am – Pastor Nick Bierma

God Calls Us to Worship

Silent Prayer

*God’s Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

*Opening Praise: “Great Are You Lord”
 “Lord, I Need You”

We Come to God in Confession

Reading from Psalm 51

Song: “Lord Have Mercy”

Assurance of Pardon

God Speaks His Word to Us

Hymn of Approach: “Because He Lives”

(During the Hymn of Approach children aged 3 to Grade 3 leave for Sunday school.)

Prayer of Illumination

Text: Exodus 24:3-8

Sermon: An Everlasting Yes | The Mosaic Covenant | What it’s All About

*Hymn of Response: “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”

We Bring our Prayers and Offerings to God

Congregational Prayer

Alpha Video – Jane Sinden

Cornerstone Update – John Lammers

Offerings: 1. General Fund / Ministry Shares 2. Calvin Theological Seminary

Offertory: “Thank You Jesus for the Blood”

We Go with God’s Blessing

Benediction

*Closing Song: ‘My Friends May You Grow in Grace’ LH 938

**means stand if you are able*

Elder: 8:30 am – John DeWeerd

10:30 am – Peter Visscher

Hall Monitor: 8:30 am – Ernst de Freese
Ushers: Tanner Meinen, Joel Meinen
Music: Tanya Duiker, Alanna Poortinga
 Brynn Hagedorn, Josh Duiker
Sound: 8:30 am – Joel Koskamp
Projection: 8:30 am – Dibora Roth
Streaming: 8:30 am – Geena DeWeerd

10:30 am – Ernst de Freese
Greeter: Wilma de Young
Readers: Jenny Meinen, Fred Koskamp,
 Michelle VanderHeide
 10:30 am – Luca Pol
 10:30 am – Rebecca Olbach

TODAY'S OFFERING: Calvin Theological Seminary – Calvin Theological Seminary provides training for ordained and un-ordained ministry positions in the Christian Reformed Church in North America; evaluates candidates for ministry; offers continuing education for pastors and seminars for office bearers; advises synod and is a theological resource for all denominational agencies and churches.

ORDER OF SERVICE

6:30 pm – Pastor Martin Dam

This evening we celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you are a communicant member in good standing of a church that professes Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, if you love and trust Him alone for your salvation, if you are truly sorry for your sins, and if you sincerely desire to live in obedience to Him, we warmly welcome you to participate with us in the sacrament.

Welcome & Call to Worship: Psalm 23

Silent Prayer & Hymn of Response: "Be Thou My Vision" LH 859 v 1

*God's Greeting

*Hymn of Praise: "Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord" LH 844

We Come to God's Table

Celebration of Communion

(Please note: We use gluten free bread. The centre cup and the innermost ring of cups in each communion tray contains juice. The remaining cups contain wine).

Serving Elders: John DeWeerd, Peter Visscher, Harry VanderKuylen, Tom Scott

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Approach: "There is a Redeemer" LH 833 v 3

God Speaks His Word to Us

Scripture: Exodus 20:7; Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 99

Sermon: "Honouring God's Name"

*Hymn of Response: "Take My Life and Let it Be" LH 863 v 1, 3, 5

*Apostles Creed

*Doxology: “Old Rugged Cross”

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

**means stand if you are able*

Elder: John DeWeerd

Music: Rachel Mosterd

Projection: Jason DeWitt

Sound: Eric Olbach

Streaming: Adam VanderHeide

NEXT WEEK’S OFFERING: Deacon’s Fund - Provides funds to aid those with basic needs including food, clothing and shelter; both in our church family and in our community.

NEXT WEEK: Pastor Martin will be away next week until Friday. If you have any pastoral concerns, please contact Pastor Nick or your District Elder.

OFFERING SCHEDULE

Mar 22: Deacon’s Fund

Mar 29: Wycliffe – VanderMeers

Apr 5: Resonate Global Mission

April 12: GEMS

UPCOMING SERVICES

Mar 22: 8:30 am/10:30 am

Mar 29: 8:30 am/10:30 am – **Palm Sunday**

Apr 3: 10:00 am – **Good Friday Service**

Apr 5: 8:30 am/10:30 am – **Easter Sunday**

Apr 12: 10:00 am

Apr 19: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

EASTER FOOD DRIVE - The Deacons are holding a food drive over the next two weeks. All donations will be given to the House of Blessing, a local organization that runs a food bank to provide people in need with fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable food. Please consider supporting this initiative. Donations can be left in the bin near the front entrance by March 29, so that they can be delivered in time for the Easter weekend.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY: *“It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.” Psalm 18:32.* Please hold in prayer those in our congregation who continue to need our encouragement and God’s healing: Ann Berg, Darryl Berg, MaryAnn Frankruyter, Jeff Geleynse, Trix Heida, Maria Post, David Scheele, Gwen Soepboer, Henk Vanmeurs, and Theresa Wesseling.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: *“The Lord will watch over your coming and your going both now and forevermore.” Psalm 121:8.* Please remember in prayer those missionaries that we as a congregation are encouraging and supporting – John and Marion Vandermeer, Benj & Brie Gillen, Stephanie Ten Hove, Tom & Beth Scott and Makayla Meinen.

DIRECTORY UPDATE: Please update your information for Pat & Lori Tiemens. They are removing their landline.

Pat: 519-274-5840

Lori: 519-272-4520

PROFESSION OF FAITH CLASSES: We will be meeting this Wednesday, March 18th, at 8:00 pm in the Library

END MARCH BREAK WITH A FREE FAMILY SKATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 21 at the Dufferin Arena! Come out, lace up and enjoy fellowship time on the ice with friends and church family from 2:30-3:30 pm. Or sit in the stands and cheer everyone on! Everyone welcome! Hot chocolate and treats to be served at the church afterwards.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB is looking for someone to take over the role of **coordinator/organizer** for this coming September. We are also looking for more helpers so we can keep this awesome program running! If you are interested or have any questions on how friendship runs, please reach out to Stacy Armstrong. Thanks!

519-274-4764 or stacytimms.rmt@hotmail.com

STRATFORD AND DISTRICT RIGHT TO LIFE invites you to participate in the **Toronto March for Life** on Saturday May 23, 2026. There is a bus sponsored for this event and we hope to leave Stratford around 7:30 am. Last year 2000 participated in this March.

A poster about this and upcoming events are posted on the Community board in fellowship hall. If you have any questions or would like to book a seat call Bonnie DeWeerd

SDCS ANNUAL AUCTION: It's the time of the year that you have been waiting for: The SDCS Annual Auction! We are well on our way to providing you with an online auction full of exciting goods and services that you may bid on. Our auction this year will run online from April 23 - 25th, ending at 8:30 p.m. Don't forget to save the date on your calendar!! Interested in donating goods or services to our auction? We'd love to hear from you! Send us an email at auction@sdcs.on.ca.

Happy Birthday!

*Seniors

Sun Mar 15 – Carla Benning*

Mon Mar 16 – Sebastian Olbach, Theo Puklicz

Tues Mar 17 – Isabelle DeWeerd

Wed Mar 18 – Holly Zein

Thurs Mar 19 – John Hordyk*

Fri Mar 20 – John Timmermans, Charlene Huizinga, Gwen Huizinga

SWITCH TO ONE MORNING SERVICE: Brothers and Sisters of the CRC of Stratford. When the decision was made to hold two-morning services, it was made with the understanding that Council would monitor its effectiveness and attendance throughout the year and make adjustments as it deems necessary. At this current time, it is clear that continuing with two morning services is not in the best interest of this congregation. There are multiple reasons for this, we have heard direct feedback from numerous members of this Church, and through the work of the Discernment Team, of the strain being placed on individuals and families on Sunday mornings. Council has also been tracking the attendance of all worship services; it has become increasingly evident that conducting two-morning services is not required with the current level of regular attendees.

Council has made the decision to switch to a **single morning worship service, starting Sunday April 12, 2026, at 10:00 am.** Sunday school will remain to be offered during the service for age 4 through grade 3. Catechism will continue to be held during the evening service for the remainder of the education year. Council would like to thank all of those who volunteered over the past number of months to make these services happen, we praise God for your service and commitment to His church. We trust that the Lord Himself will continue to lead and direct this body of believers through the power of His Holy Spirit, may this be your prayer also.

ALPHA AT OUR CHURCH: JOIN US AND INVITE A FRIEND

ALPHA program starts Monday March 23rd, and will run for 11 weeks. ALPHA seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of videos and discussions, such as *“Is there more to life than this?”*, *“Who is Jesus”*, and *“Why do we read the Bible?”*.

For more information about ALPHA please explore videos and information on their website at <https://alphacanada.org/preview/alpha-film-series/>

In order that we have an idea of numbers, please register by contacting Jane Sinden at jlsinden@redeemer.ca; Gene Veening at gveening@royceayr.com; Brenda Hordyk at jbhordyk@gmail.com or Jordan Van de Kemp at jordamyvdk@hotmail.com. Thank you for your support and keeping this program in prayer.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: We are once again seeking God’s provision of faithful leaders for our church community to serve as Elders and Deacons. We believe that a significant part of the process of seeking God’s will for leadership in our congregation is to have members of our church prayerfully nominate men to serve as office bearers. The names of those nominated will be considered by Council at its April meeting. If there is an individual you would like to nominate, please bring that forward to a member of Council. As

you prayerfully consider those you nominate for such service in our congregation, you may find the following helpful.

Elders are responsible for the spiritual well-being of God's people. They must provide true preaching and teaching, regular celebration of the sacraments, and faithful counsel and discipline while keeping in confidence those matters entrusted to them. They must also promote fellowship and hospitality among believers, ensure good order in the church and stimulate witness to all people.

Deacons serve by showing mercy to the church and to all people. Deacons are called to assess needs, promote stewardship and hospitality, collect, and disburse resources for benevolence and develop programs of assistance. They are also called to speak words of Christian encouragement. Thus, in word as well as deed, they demonstrate the care of the Lord himself.

Qualifications: Think of individuals who have demonstrated that they have been given gifts by God in leadership and have the willingness and the time to use these gifts. The tasks of elders and deacons call for believers who are Christ-like, who are mature in faith and who will exercise their offices with prayer, patience, and humility.

Character: The above gift set and tasks may seem overwhelming, yet what is vital to a faithful leader is their dedication to Jesus Christ. What a person does needs to flow out of who that person is on the inside. Think of people who right now are demonstrating that they have a sincere love for Christ, someone who has a servant attitude towards others, someone who is able to be a team player and who has a willingness to keep on growing and learning.

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE – LISTOWEL: Please join us on Sunday, March 29th at 4:00pm for a Youth Worship Service. Andrew Nunn will be leading an interactive message about the Gospel and worship will be led by the Wingham – Listowel Youth Band. Soup and Buns to follow.

COFFEE SERVERS:

Mar 15: John & Brenda Hordyk, Joel & Alix Boersma, Jeremy & Tanya Huygen

Mar 22: Jonathan & Amanda DeWeerd, Tyler & Kirsten Meinen, Shawn & Jenn Hummel

Mar 29: Warner & Cathy DeWeerd, Steve & Sandy Hiemstra, Adam & Esther Roth

COFFEE PREP

Mar 15: Dirk & Joan deLange

Mar 22: Pat & Lori Tiemens

USHERS

Mar 22: Tim Van de Kemp, Brayden VanderHeide

Mar 29: Pol Family

LIBRARY

Mar 15: Marjorie Vanmeurs

Mar 22: Rita Weima

GREETER

Mar 29: Fran Timmermans

PROJECTION

Mar 22: 8:30 am – Angelina VanderWal

Mar 22: 10:30 am – Rachel Sikma

SOUND

Mar 22: 8:30 am – Luke Puklicz

Mar 22: 10:30 am – Shawn Hummel

STREAMING

Mar 22: John DeWeerd

PROJECTION

Mar 29: 8:30 am – Dibora Roth

Mar 29: 10:30 am – Luke Olbach

SOUND

Mar 29: Justin Otten

Mar 29: Luca Pol

STREAMING

Mar 29: Geena DeWeerd

SUNDAY SCHOOL: To follow our Safe Church Policy, a **parent** needs to sign in/sign out their child. **Parents** will need to bring their child to their **classroom** to sign them in and pick them up from their **classroom** at the end of the service to sign them out.

8:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL – AGE 3 to GRADE 3

3&4 year old – Mar 15: Amanda Olbach, Renae Olbach

Mar 22: Corinna Puklicz, Nyah Puklicz

Mar 29: Haley Hummel, Jenn Hummel

Apr 5: Charlene Huizinga, Zizipho Roth

5&6 year old – Mar 15: George Tiemens, Alyda Tiemens

Mar 22: Bryanna Fischer, Josh Mosterd

Mar 29: Laura Egberts, Sydney Hummel

Apr 5: Laura DeWeerd, Naomi Puklicz

7&8 year old – Mar 15: Jayme Koskamp, Noah Puklicz

Mar 22: Rita Weima, Kierra Mosterd

Mar 29: Lisa Poortinga, Gideon de Lange

Apr 5: Brayden Fischer, Alyssia Mosterd

10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL – AGE 3 to GRADE 3

3&4 year old – Mar 15: Teresa Peachey, Ellie Van de Kemp

Mar 22: Tracy Sumner, Avery DeWitt

Mar 29: Bradshaw Family

Apr 5: Lydia Dam, Becca Dam

5&6 year old – Mar 15: Grace van Zandwijk, Tamara van Zandwijk

Mar 22: Yvonne de Bruin, Brooklyn Otten

Mar 29: Micah Dam, Paul van Zandwijk

Apr 5: Alyson Otten, Dayna Otten

7&8 year old – Mar 15: Dianne Fischer

Mar 22: Chris Huizinga, Jeriah Van de Kemp

Mar 29: Carly Timmermans, Cheyanne Dennis

Apr 5: Ashley DeWeerd, Ava DeWeerd

Sunday March 22 to Saturday March 28

Mon 23-Mar	9:15 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Safe Church Meeting Alpha Program Friendship	Gym Double Classroom Library Fellowship Hall
Tues 24-Mar	9:15 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Cadets Music & Worship	Gym Lower Floor Library
Wed 25-Mar	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:15 AM 7:00 AM	Pickleball Coffee Break Prayer Team Youth	Gym Fellowship Hall Library Lower Level/Sanctuary
Thurs 26-Mar	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program GEMS	Gym Lower Level/Sanctuary
Fri 27-Mar	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:30 PM	Pilates Women's Ministry Rental	Gym Double Classroom Lower Level