



**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF  
STRATFORD  
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026**

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Access to the live stream is available through [www.stratfordcrc.org](http://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](mailto:office@stratfordcrc.org) Website: [stratfordcrc.org](http://stratfordcrc.org) PH: 519-273-1292

***“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law.” Psalm 119:18.*** It is God who has called us here. We come to sing praises and give thanks to His holy name. May our eyes be opened to the wonders of His word. Let us worship our God together. Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

10:00 am – Pastor Nick Bierma

#### **God Calls Us to Worship**

Welcome & Call to Worship

Silent Prayer & Song of Response: “God Himself is With Us” LH 565 v 1, 2

\*God’s Greeting

\*Mutual Greeting

\*Opening Praise: “Like a River Glorious” LH 699

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” LH 571 v 1, 2, 3, 5

#### **We Confess our Sins to God**

Time of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

#### **God Speaks His Word to Us**

Children’s Message

Hymn of Approach: “Speak, O Lord” LH 755

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

Prayer of Illumination

**Text: Luke 24:13-35**

**Sermon: “About Face”**

\*Hymn of Response: “I Serve a Risen Saviour” LH 365

#### **We Bring our Prayers and Offerings to God**

Congregational Prayer

Offerings: 1. General Fund / Ministry Shares 2. Ramoth House

#### **We Go with God’s Blessing**

\*Closing Song: “Beams of Heaven” LH 454

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

*\*means stand if you are able*

**Elder:** Dennis Goforth

**Ushers:** Dave & Karen Brouwer

**Music:** Corinna Puklicz

**Hall Monitor:** Barry Horensma

**Greeters:** Wilma de Young

**Sound:** Eric Olbach

**Projection:** Luke Olbach

**Streaming:** Geena DeWeerd

**TODAY'S OFFERING: Ramoth House** is a nonprofit, inter-denominational agency based in Mount Forest, Ontario dedicated to providing practical support and encouragement to young women between the ages of 16-25 who are either pregnant or parenting an infant. Young women are given the opportunity to realize their parenting potential while acquiring valuable life skills in hopes that the cycle of hurt and poverty may be ended for the next generation. For more information visit their website at [www.ramoth.ca](http://www.ramoth.ca)

**PASTOR MARTIN** will be preaching in Dundas this morning.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**6:30 pm – Pastor Martin Dam**

Welcome & Call to Worship: Psalm 16:1-2

Silent Prayer & Hymn of Response: “Be Still and Know” LH 907

\*God’s Greeting

\*Hymn of Praise: “To God be the Glory” LH 604

“Beautiful Saviour” LH 17

**Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11 (p 105); Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 38 (PH p.909)**

**Sermon: “The Fourth Commandment”**

\*Hymn of Response: “His Eye is on the Sparrow” LH 441

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Apostles Creed

\*Doxology: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” LH 348

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

*\*means stand if you are able*

**Elder:** Dennis Goforth

**Music:** Rachel Mosterd

**Projection:** Dibora Roth

**Sound:** Shawn Hummel

**Streaming:** Jonathan DeWeerd

**NEXT WEEK’S OFFERING: SERVE - SERVE** is an opportunity for our Youth to make an impact and revitalize communities by showing them the love of Christ. During the day participants go out in groups to work on projects that range from painting, gardening, home repairs, and many others.

### **OFFERING SCHEDULE**

Apr 26: SERVE

May 10: World Renew

May 3: Christian Education Fund

May 17: Diaconal Ministries Canada

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

Apr 26: 10:00 am

May 3: 10:00 am &amp; 6:30 pm

May 10: 10:00 am

May 17: 10:00 am &amp; 6:30 pm

**PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** 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:** 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 UPDATES:** Please update your directory for Neil Scholten. [neil@smartagsolutionsinc.ca](mailto:neil@smartagsolutionsinc.ca). Please update Don Datema's phone number to 519-670-0957.

**GREIFSHARE:** We are hosting a new session of GriefShare beginning in September, and meeting on Monday afternoons. We are looking for two people to join the team and to be alongside the facilitators as support. Please call Joanne 519-949-4812, Ruby 226-303-4933, or Linda 519-275-2570. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**LOST & FOUND:** Are you missing boots or hats or coats? A miscellaneous amount of items is available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Here today, gone in two weeks!

**PROFESSION OF FAITH:** Please contact Pastor Martin if you wish to be a part of a Spring class starting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**ALPHA UPDATE WEEK 5:** Hi everyone, thank you for your prayers and support. Alpha is on its 5th week and we continue to experience God's presence and blessings. This Monday the topic is, "Why and How Do I Pray" We ask for your prayer, particularly for those who will be experiencing prayer for the first time. We are also beginning to solidify our retreat scheduled for May 9th. This full day retreat will be focused on the Holy Spirit. If you are interested in helping with food that would be appreciated. We are hoping for a variety of sandwiches, salad and baked goods. For more information please contact Jane Sinden, Gene Veening or Brenda Hordyk.

**MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL:** As we transition back to a single Sunday morning service routine, Council would like to bring a couple things to the attention of the congregation. **First**, as we are all aware of the current restrictions to the parking lot, we are asking for everyone to be mindful of how they park on Church property and the surrounding streets. We appreciate and encourage anyone who is willing and able to come a little early on Sunday mornings and park offsite. This would assist in keeping some spaces closer to the

Church open for seniors, families with young children and guests who may find it more difficult to park at a distance. Second, with one service this means there will be more people downstairs after to enjoy coffee and fellowship with their Church family. Everyone is encouraged to join in this activity and in order to do that, we will need to better utilize the current space we have including the gym and double classroom. Parents, you are reminded to please supervise your children during this time. To our young children and youth who play in the gym after church, would you please be mindful of how you use this space and the balls provided, remembering that there are others using this space as well. It is a tremendous blessing and testament to God's faithfulness to have this building full of life on Sunday mornings and we trust that with these gentle reminders it will help to foster community and fellowship among the saints.

**SAVE THE DATE!** For our church picnic to be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> after the morning service! We will meet in St Pauls for a time of fun, fellowship and of course, food!! Please bring a salad or a dessert to share, bring your own chair and your drinks. Water will be available. We hope to see everybody there!

**ATTENTION SENIORS:** The youth group would love to invite the seniors of our church to join us on **Wednesday, April 29 from 7:00–9:00 pm** for a special youth night. Come enjoy a time of worship, fellowship, games, and snacks with us, and see what our youth group is all about. We would love to have you join us!

**the KINGDOM has come**... join other youth from our congregation and across Ontario as we attend The Gospel Coalition Youth Conference again this year June 5-6 at Redeemer University. Only \$99 until April 30th. Explore what it really means to follow Jesus in a world that doesn't understand Him. You're not in this alone! Come for teaching that points straight to Jesus, worship with other teens, and engage in honest conversations about living for His Kingdom. With humility, we'll explore how to rely on God as you step out in faith at school, online, and with your friends. Come ready to be inspired, challenged, and encouraged to follow Jesus boldly every day. For more information check out the event website at [tgcey26.ca](http://tgcey26.ca) and register today!

**MANDATORY VOLUNTEER TRAINING:** The Safe Church Committee is hosting a mandatory 10-minute volunteer training session for everyone serving in any position involving work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. The purpose of this training is to help ensure a safe environment for all, to educate volunteers on Safe Church policy, and to comply with our insurance. Please join us in the sanctuary right after the morning service for 10 minutes on either April 26 or May 3. Thank you for serving the church, and for your willingness to participate in this training. Please get in contact with someone from the

safe church committee (Tom Scott, Bonnie DeWeerd, Adrianna Borgdorff, Kristen Parker) if you cannot make one of the dates or have any questions.

**PARENTS WITH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN:** Parents sending children to a Christian elementary or secondary school for the upcoming 2026/2027 school year are encouraged to apply for grant assistance through our church. This grant is available to all members. The form is available online at <https://crc.mosterd.ca>. We are asking that this form is completed before May 30, 2026. For more information, please contact a committee representative: Kirby Pol, Anthony Deweerdt, Henry Olbach, Joe Timmermans or Heidi Flikkema.

**NOMINATIONS FOR DEACONESS:** Consistory is seeking faithful women to serve our church community as Deaconess. The Deaconess fulfill a significant role, serving women and children inside and outside the church and therefore building up the Body of Christ. We believe that a significant part of the process of seeking God's will for our congregation is to have members of our church prayerfully nominate women to serve as Deaconesses. The names of those nominated will be considered by Consistory at the next meeting. Please contact your district Elder or the Clerk with your nominations. As you prayerfully consider those you nominate for such service in our congregation, you may find the following helpful.

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

**Character:** The above gift set and tasks may seem overwhelming, yet what is vital 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, and who has a willingness to keep on growing and learning.

**Happy Birthday!**

\*Seniors

Mon Apr 20 – Jake Oosterom

Tues Apr 21 – Jonathan DeWeerd, Wilma VanderHeide\*, Peter Visscher,  
Kaitlyn VanderHeide

Wed Apr 22 – Phyleine VanRavenhorst, Sayla Koskamp, Sophia Koskamp

Thurs Apr 23 – Dave Meinen

Sat Apr 25 – Cohen Balfour

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP NIGHT:** Maranatha CRC Woodstock welcome you to join us on Sunday, April 26 for a great night of fellowship and praise! At 5:30 pm we

will begin with a Meal & Games in the gym. At 7:00 pm we will gather in the Sanctuary for Worship with Pastor Gareth Harker. Please plan to attend this great night connecting youth and young adults in our area with food, fun and worship!

**SERVE 2026:** Our summer **SERVE** week is fast approaching and we are hoping that we can get YOUR help. We are looking at around 55 people (Youth and Leaders) attending this year, which means we will have lots of mouths to feed. In the next couple of weeks I am going to try and post a list of specific items that we will be needing for the week; we appreciate anything you can do to help. The items can be brought to the church or given to Vanessa Van Maar. If you would like to donate anything specifically, please let Vanessa know by calling (519-955-1309) or talking to her at church. Thank you church family for everything you do.

**SERVE PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED:** Please message Amy Van de Kemp **519-508-9887** or [jordamyvdk@hotmail.com](mailto:jordamyvdk@hotmail.com) if you're able to help in this way.

**WORKSITE COORDINATOR NEEDED:** If you are interested or would like more information, please connect with Tanya Duiker by email [rtduiker@gmail.com](mailto:rtduiker@gmail.com) or text 226-921-4776

**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON** for the SDCS Annual Online Auction - less than 3 weeks to go! Are you ready? Browsing begins a week early with actual bidding beginning on Wednesday, April 29th at noon until the final time of Friday, May 1st at 8:00 p.m. Be sure to join our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1735209840788930/>

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AT 7:00 pm?** Stratford CRC Young Adults would you to invite you to join them for a fun and lively Square Dance Night hosted by the Y.A. Dancing, laughter, and community—no experience needed! We will have a caller to guide you, live music to keep things moving, and a photo booth to capture the memories. Open to all ages 18+, food and drinks provided, and it's all by donation! Bring friends. We can't wait to see you there!"

**FAMILY OUTREACH ONTARIO: SPECIAL EVENT:** Family Outreach Ontario invites you to an information evening on Friday, April 24 at Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, 735 Frontenac Crescent, Woodstock, ON N4V 0B1. Our Executive Director, John Kowtecky, will present An Overview of Addiction. Please plan to attend and tell others about it as well. It will be an evening you will be sure to remember. A collection will be taken to cover our costs. 7:00 pm - Doors open, Refreshments/Meet & Greet; 7:30 - 9:00 - Presentation and Q&A period followed by refreshments and opportunity for talk with Mr. Kowtecky or other Family Outreach members.

**COFFEE SERVERS:**

Apr 19: Gary & Tamara vanZandwijk, Dave Mabee, Hans & Jantje Scheele, Eleanor VanderStelt  
 Apr 26: Andrew & Josie Koskamp, Cirema Gutierrez, Kyle & Laura Egberts, Carolyn Regan  
 May 3: John & Fran Timmermans, Greg & Amanda Pennings, Josiah & Tamara Bakker

**COFFEE PREP**

Apr 19: Ralph & Heather DeWitt  
 Apr 26: Rita Weima, Heidi Baarda

**LIBRARY**

Apr 19: Rose Heida  
 Apr 26: Marjorie Vanmeurs

**USHERS**

Apr 26: de Bruin Family  
 May 3: Ed Talsma, Dave Mabee

**GREETER**

May 3: Fran Timmermans

**PROJECTION**

Apr 26: Angelina VanderWal  
 May 3: Rachel Sikma/Chris Huizinga

**SOUND**

Apr 26: Luca Pol  
 May 3: Luke Puklicz-Isaiah Super/Eric Olbach

**STREAMING**

Apr 26: John DeWeerd

**STREAMING**

May 3: Nathaniel DeWeerd/Adam VanderHeide

**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL – AGE 3 TO GRADE 3**

3-year-old: Apr 19: Tracy Sumner, Avery DeWitt  
 Apr 26: Haley Hummel, Jenn Hummel  
 May 3: Lydia Dam, Becca Dam  
 May 10: Teresa Peachey, Ellie Van de Kemp

4-year-old Apr 19: Claire Tiemens, Renae Olbach  
 Apr 26: Bradshaw Family  
 May 3: Charlene Huizinga, Zizipho Roth  
 May 10: Anna Tiemens, Nyah Puklicz

5-year-old Apr 19: Bryanna Fischer, Josh Mosterd  
 Apr 26: Laura Egberts, Sydney Hummel  
 May 3: Alyson Otten, Dayna Otten  
 May 10: Grace vanZandwijk, Tamara vanZandwijk

6-year-old Apr 19: Yvonne de Bruin, Brooklyn Otten  
 Apr 26: Micah Dam, Paul vanZandwijk  
 May 3: Laura DeWeerd, Naomi Puklicz  
 May 10: Lori Tiemens, Alyda Tiemens

- 7-year-old     Apr 19: Brayden Fischer, Kierra Mosterd  
 Apr 26: Carly Timmermans, Cheyanne Dennis  
 May 3: Brayden Fischer, Alyssia Mosterd  
 May 10: Jayme Koskamp, Noah Puklicz
- 8-year-old     Apr 19: Chris Huizinga, Jeriah Van de Kemp  
 Apr 26: Ashley DeWeerd, Ava DeWeerd  
 May 3: Lisa Poortinga, Gideon de Lange  
 May 10: Dianne Fischer

### **APRIL NURSERY SCHEDULE**

Mothers of the Month: Laura Sjaarda & Bryanna Fischer

*I – Infants C – Crawlers*

**\*Arrives 15 minutes early to welcome parents and children**

- 19     I/C – **Jenna DeWitt\***, Brittany DeLange, Cheyanne Dennis, Peyton Pennings  
 NC – **Jayme Koskamp\***, Theodore Olbach  
 PM – Lydia Dam
- 26     I/C – **Tracy Sumner\***, Rachel Sikma, Michelle VanderWal, Jocelyn Sikma, Renae Olbach  
 NC – **Sara McDonnell\***, Nadine Sikma

### **Sunday April 19 to Saturday April 25**

Mon 20-Apr	9:15 AM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Alpha Program	Gym Library
Tues 21-Apr	9:15 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Cadets Consistory	Gym Lower Floor Library
Wed 22-Apr	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pickleball Youth Meeting	Gym Lower Level/Sanctuary Pastor's Study
Thurs 23-Apr	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program GEMS	Gym Lower Level/Sanctuary
Fri 24-Apr	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:30 PM	Pilates Women's Ministry Rental	Gym Double Classroom Lower Level

**Sunday April 26 to Saturday May 2**

Mon 27-Apr	9:15 AM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Alpha Program	Gym Library
Tues 28-Apr	9:15 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program Safe Church Meeting Music & Worship Cadets	Gym Classroom 12 Library Lower Level
Wed 29-Apr	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Pickleball Senior/Youth Evening SDCS Meeting Profession of Faith Class	Gym Fellowship Hall Double Classroom Library
Thurs 30-Apr	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	One Care Exercise Program GEMS	Gym Lower Level
Fri 1-May	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Pilates Women's Ministry Rented	Gym Double Classroom Gym
Sat 2-May	7:00 PM	Young Adult Square Dance	Lower Level/Gym