



*“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.”*

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF  
STRATFORD  
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 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

*Celebrating 75 years – God is Faithful – Deuteronomy 7:9*

***“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.” Psalm 137:1.*** We come to worship secure in the knowledge that God is with us in every season and we remember His great love and faithfulness. He is our highest joy; God hears our prayers and gives us hope. This morning we welcome the family and friends of John & Janece Koolhaas as they present their daughter, Marielle Hilje, for baptism. Please join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE**

10:00 am – Pastor Nick Bierma

Prelude: “All Creatures of Our God and King” LH 551

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

Welcome & Call to Worship

Silent Prayer

Song of Response: Psalm 22 “Amid the Thronging Worshippers” LH 511 v 1, 2

\*God’s Greeting

\*Mutual Greeting

\*Opening Praise: Psalm 148 “Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah”

#### **Time of Confession**

Confession

Song: Psalm 32 “How Blest are They Whose Trespass” LH 669 v 1, 2, 5

Assurance of Pardon

#### **We Celebrate God’s Promises**

Baptism of Marielle Hilje Koolhaas

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

Song of Approach: “And Can it Be”

Prayer of Illumination

**Text: Psalm 137**

**Sermon: Truth Balms | Funneling Fury**

\*Hymn of Response: Psalm 137 “By the Babylonian Rivers” LH 651

#### **We Respond with Prayers and Offerings**

Congregational Prayer

Offerings: 1. General Fund / Ministry Shares 2. Stephanie Ten Hove

#### **We Go with God’s Blessing**

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: “Jerusalem the Golden” LH 488

*\*means stand if you are able*

**Elder:** Adam Roth

**Piano:** Sandra Visscher

**Greeter:** John Timmermans

**Sound:** Shawn Hummel

**Projection:** Luke Olbach

**Hall Monitor:** Kyle Egberts

**Organ:** Brianna Peachey

**Ushers:** de Bruin Family

**Streaming:** Geena DeWeerd

**TODAY'S OFFERING:** **Stephanie Ten Hove** - Stephanie is a Partner Missionary with Resonate Global Missions serving in Managua, Nicaragua as part of the Communications Department at the Nehemiah Center. Stephanie uses her gifts in media to serve God by sharing videos, photos on social media and writing stories, reaching North American and Nicaraguan audiences.

**NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING:** **Ontario Christian Gleaners** – Ontario Christian Gleaners is an interdenominational Christian organization that seeks to visibly demonstrate God's love and grace by working with volunteers to collect, process, and distribute surplus agricultural produce for the relief of the hungry in overseas nations.

**PSALM SERIES:** This week we are drawing Psalm 137:1. *“By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.”* This Psalm gives us new hope and new joy as God lead us from the darkness of our sin into His glorious light! Children and adults alike are encouraged to reflect creatively on Psalm 137 and to share their artwork with the church family. Clipboards, crayons and drawing sheets are available in a basket at the back of the church for anyone who would like to participate. Please return all supplies after each use. The children's artwork is displayed on FB, the preservice slideshow and on the credenza in the foyer.

**VACATION:** Pastor Martin is on vacation until Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, returning to the office on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have need of Pastoral care, please contact Pastor Nick or your District Elder. May God go with Pastor Martin and Becca as they travel and may they return refreshed and renewed.

### **OFFERING SCHEDULE:**

Jul 5: Ontario Christian Gleaners

Jul 19: KARIS

Jul 12: Christian Education Fund

Jul 26: Ramoth House

### **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Jul 5: 10:00 am

Jul 19: 10:00 am

Jul 12: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

Jul 26: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

**OPEN HOUSE AT BIERMAS:** Please join us for an Open House on Sunday, July 12th at 5:00 pm, before the outdoor evening service, weather permitting. Burgers, Sausages, Salads

& Beverages will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair and RSVP to [graceemma@gmail.com](mailto:graceemma@gmail.com) by July 8th if you're planning to join us for dinner. Address is: 3408 Road 130 St Paul's (Avonton)

**PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** *“And we know that for those who love God all thing work together for good.” Romans 8:28a.* 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, Nellie Tiemens, Henk Vanmeurs, and Theresa Wesseling.

**CONDOLENCES:** We offer our heartfelt condolences to Dan & Stacy, Emma, Luke, Hannah, Brooke, Kate, Ava, and Maeve Groenestege as they mourn the loss of their precious father and grandfather, Bert Groenestege. Bert passed away unexpectedly from a stroke on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. May God continue to give comfort and peace in the coming days and weeks.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS:** Wishing Jeanne Anjema a blessed 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. May God continue to bless Jeanne with all she stands in need of in the coming year.

**GIVING THANKS:** We are thankful to hear of the safe arrival of Christine DeWeerd and family in Alberta. They join Tim in his summer ministry position at Sonrise CRC in Ponoka. May God bless their time there.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:** *“I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13.* 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, Makayla Meinen. Remember Tom & Beth Scott and their family as they are preparing to return to Kingfisher Lake. May God bless the work of their hands.

**FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE SCOTTS:** The Scotts are leaving for Kingfisher Lake later this week! If you would like to follow along with them this summer, you can join their Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/scottministryupdates](https://facebook.com/groups/scottministryupdates) or email newsletter: [The Scotts' Ministry Updates](#).

**SOUP SUNDAY:** Next Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> we will be having a **SERVE Soup Sunday**, where we can share a meal, meet with the youth and leaders as well as show them our love and support. In order to do this we will need lots of soup as I hope that everyone will come out. We are looking for around 20 pots of soup so if you are able to bring a pot of soup please let Vanessa Van Maar know. Thanks and we hope to see you out!

**Happy Birthday!**

\*Seniors

Sun Jun 28 – Jacob Van Dorp  
 Tues Jun 30 – Jeanne Anjema\*  
 Wed Jul 1 – Paul VanZandwijk, Athena Powell  
 Fri Jul 3 – Bill Benning\*  
 Sat Jul 4 – Hans Scheele

**PILATES & WOMEN’S MINISTRY:** We will be meeting informally and possibly at off site locations over the months of July and August. If you need information for times and locations please contact Jane Sinden at [jsinden@redeemer.ca](mailto:jsinden@redeemer.ca) or Heather DeWitt at [rhedewitt@quadro.net](mailto:rhedewitt@quadro.net)

**SAFE CHURCH PAPERWORK TO SECRETARY:** Please forward Safe Church paperwork to Betty DeWeerd at [office@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:office@stratfordcrc.org) or by placing it in the mailbox outside the church office. For all other Safe Church questions, please contact a member of the Safe Church Committee: Leo Laarman – Council Rep, Adrianna Borgdorff, Bonnie DeWeerd, or Kristen Parker, or email [safechurch@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:safechurch@stratfordcrc.org). Thank you!

**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.

**YOUNG ADULTS KICK-OFF BBQ JUNE 28:** Join us as we kick off the summer with a BBQ around 12:30pm TODAY! All young adults, including Grade 12 graduates, are welcome and encouraged to come out for an afternoon of great food, lawn games, and fellowship. Bring a lawn chair, invite a friend, and head to 4701 Line 29, Stratford after the morning service. We look forward to spending the afternoon with you!

**REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST:** If any of the committee’s leaders have receipts for costs associated with January - June 2026, we request you send them by email to [treasurer@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:treasurer@stratfordcrc.org) or put in the treasurer’s mail slot by the 2nd Sunday of July. This will help us review our year-to-date spending and donations received and compare it with our 2026 approved budget. Thanks in advance, Finance Committee

**SAVE THE DATE:** This week you will find a “Save the Date” postcard in your mailbox with a short list of the activities that will take place during the weekend of November 21 and 22. Please make sure to post that on your fridge! We will be running an Open House for our members and the neighbourhood on Saturday from 10:00 to 1:00 pm. There will Children’s activities in the gym – Bouncy house, games and more. We have planned a dinner and a

program for 16+ on Saturday evening. If you would like tickets for the dinner on November 21, please contact the office and some will be set aside for you. Tickets will be \$20.00 per person. Payment can be made to [treasurer@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:treasurer@stratfordcrc.org). Sunday we will have special church service followed by coffee, a Soup lunch with cake for dessert! There are extra invitations below the mailslots. Please feel free to share this event with others!

**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON:** Six days until our SERVE Students and Leaders arrive! Please pray for safe travels and a week of being blessed and of blessing and serving others!

**SERVE BBQ: THURSDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>, RAIN DATE WEDNESDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>.** We are looking for people to help clean up after the BBQ. Please contact Yvonne Meinema with your availability.

**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 post a list of specific items that we will need 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.

**THANK YOU!!** All leaders and youth have now been matched up with prayer partners from our church. Thank you so much to everyone who was able to help with this piece of SERVE! A blue bin is downstairs on top of the coat racks that prayer packages can be dropped off over the next few weeks.

**YARD GAMES AND HAMMOCKS FOR SERVE:** I am looking to borrow some yard games for the Serve day away again on July 10. This year we are also looking for any parachute hammocks that people are willing to lend. Please text or call Rebecca Olbach at 226-792-1240 or email at [rebecca-woudstra@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca-woudstra@hotmail.com). Thanks in advance!

**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: SHARE YOUR STORY:** We would like to know you better! As part of our church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are sending out an invitation to share your or your family's story of how you came to attend the Stratford CRC. Please check your email and/or your mailslot for questions to help you **Share Your Story**. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Weima or Hilda Olbach, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

**75 ACTS OF KINDNESS:** Let's bless others 75 times and then 75 more! Join our 75th Anniversary kindness initiative. Bulletin Board Details: Pick one idea and while you are out and about, allow God to lead you to a person who might need your help or thoughtfulness.

Prepare a meal or tell someone to have an amazing day! Take the time to spread blessings and kindness. Happy anniversary Stratford CRC!

**OFF TO SCHOOL SMILING:** Looking for an idea of how to spread blessings in the community? Check out the **OFF-TO-SCHOOL SMILING** program through the House of Blessing. You can support students for Kindergarten to Grade 12 with new backpacks and essential school supplies! A list of items is available on the Church Bulletin Board or the 75 Acts of Kindness Bulletin Board downstairs. Financial donations are also welcome!



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026:** Registration is open! VBS is open to children aged 4-10 (birth years 2016-2022). Scan the QR code to register or find a link on the church Facebook page.

**KEY RETURN:** If you have changed program leaders – Cadets, Youth, GEMS, Friendship, etc., please return your keys to the office. If you have given your key to the next program leaders, please let the office know. ([office@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:office@stratfordcrc.org))

**MUD, SWEAT, AND GEARS MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB:** We are opening up some spots in our highly exclusive mountain bike club. If you think you might have what it takes, here are some details.

- **What:** Bike riding on the local trails. These are mountain bike trails, so a mountain bike would be a good idea. Typical ride is 15-20 km.
- **Where:** Fanshawe, Wildwood, The Pines, occasionally Hydrocut or Turkey Point
- **When:** Typically, we ride once a week (usually Wednesday) starting around 6pm, followed by a time of refreshment.
- **Qualifications:** To be a successful candidate, you: **1)** Own a bike that is functional, **2)** Can bike at least 15 km, **3)** Don't cry (much) if you fall down, and **4)** Think hotdogs are one of the basic food groups.

**Contact:** Chat with Peter Visscher, Steve Hiemstra, or Aiden Talsma

**BETHEL CRC YOUNG ADULTS:** We welcome you to a worship night on Sunday, July 5, at 7:00 pm with Nick Bierma bringing us a message from Psalm 1. When: July 5 @ 7:00 pm. Where: 345 Elizabeth St E Listowel ON. Who: Anyone aged 18-30ish

**JOB POSTING:** Employment Opportunity. Bethel Listowel CRC is seeking a Youth Director/Youth Pastor to join our ministry team. The successful candidate will be passionate about connecting with youth to encourage and nurture their spiritual growth and support them as they live out their faith in their everyday life. There is some flexibility in this role as we are willing to tailor the job description to the successful candidate. You could be an ordained pastor or a youth director, seeking a full-time position (ideally for us) or part time. A detailed job description is available upon request. If you are interested in this position, or

know someone who might be, please contact Ed Boelens, HR Committee Chair, at [HR@bethelcrc.com](mailto:HR@bethelcrc.com). Application deadline is July 20, 2026, with a start date soon afterward. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **COFFEE SERVERS:**

Jun 28: Luke & Corinna Puklicz, Christopher & Kristen Parker, Sam & Nicole Straatsma  
 Jul 5: Aart & Rachel Mosterd, Bert & Marianne VanRavenhorst, Ernst & Elaine de Freese  
 Jul 12: Devon & Laura Feltz, Anthony & Ashley DeWeerd, Neil & Theresa Scholten

### **COFFEE PREP**

Jun 28: Rita Weima/Heidi Baard  
 Jul 5: Ed & Rose Heida

### **USHERS**

Jul 5: Jaelyn Meinen/Garret Spahui  
 Jul 12: Ed Talsma/Dave Mabee

### **PROJECTION**

Jul 5: Angelina VanderWal  
 Jul 12: Chris Huizinga

### **STREAMING**

Jul 5: Jonathan DeWeerd

### **LIBRARY**

Jun 28: Rose Heida  
 Jul 5: Closed

### **GREETER**

Jul 12: Wilma De Young

### **SOUND**

Jul 5: Joel Koskamp  
 Jul 12: Isaiah Super

### **STREAMING**

Jul 12: John DeWeerd

**3-YEAR-OLD SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Council is once again looking for someone to organize and coordinate teachers and helpers for summer Sunday school for children who are 3 years old. Typically, in the past this has been done by a parent or family who have a child that attends the class. The curriculum is ready and available as a continuation from the now completed Church education year. Without volunteers, this class **will NOT** be offered. If this is something you are willing take on for the summer months, please contact the Clerk as soon as possible. Thank you. Email: [clerk@stratfordcerc.ca](mailto:clerk@stratfordcerc.ca) or call 519-501-1775

### **JUNE NURSERY SCHEDULE**

Mothers of the Month: Lydia Zein & Corinna Puklicz

*I – Infants C – Crawlers NC – Nursery Class downstairs*

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

28 I/C – **Jenna DeWitt\***, Michelle VanderWal, Brittany De Lange, Lydia Sikma,  
 Melayna Grieve

NC – **Elaine De Freese\***, Lydia Dam, Peyton Pennings

### **JULY NURSERY SCHEDULE**

Mothers of the Month: Breanne Olbach & Josie Koskamp

*I – Infants C – Crawlers NC – Nursery Class downstairs*

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

- 5 I/C – **Brianna Peachey\***, Vanessa Van Maar, Haley Hummel, Renae Olbach  
 NC – **Brayden Fischer\***, Nadine Sikma, Gideon DeLange
- 12 I/C – **Tracy Sumner\***, Heather DeWitt, Kirstyn DeWeerd, Theodore Olbach  
 NC – **Laura Sjaarda\***, Luke Van Ravenhorst, Brooklyn Otten
- 19 I/C – **Corinna Puklicz\***, Jenn Hummel, Jocelyn Sikma, Shauna DeWeerd
- 26 I/C – **Quinton McDonnell\***, Brynn De Bruin, Kierra Mosterd, Olivia Pennings  
 NC – **Frank DeWeerd\***, Eleanor Van de Kemp, Rayelle Grieve

### **AUGUST NURSERY SCHEDULE**

Mothers of the Month: Gabriëlle Mosterd & Vanessa Koskamp

*I – Infants C – Crawlers NC – Nursery Class downstairs*

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

- 2 I/C – **Josie Koskamp\***, Wilma DeYoung, Micah Dam, Ava DeWeerd  
 NC – **Esther Roth\***, Avery DeWitt, Zach DeWeerd
- 9 I/C – **Adrianna Borgdorff\***, Kirby Pol, Alesha Van Ravenhorst, Bronwyn Bradshaw  
 NC – **Heather Olbach\***, Jolene Van Ravenhorst, Emma Speelman
- 16 I/C – **Rebecca Olbach\***, Dayna Otten, Averiana Pol, Nyah Puklicz  
 NC – **Kari Puklicz\***, Josh Mosterd, Margaret Sikma
- 23 I/C – **Gabriëlle Mosterd\***, Amanda Olbach, Ana Gutierrez, Max Oosterom  
 NC – **Sara McDonnell\***, Naomi Puklicz, Ethan Hummel
- 30 I/C – **Vanessa Koskamp\***, Michelle VanderWal, Alyson Otten, Alyssia Mosterd  
 NC – **Bryanna Fischer\***, Dibora Roth, Alyda Tiemens

### **SUNDAY JUNE 28 TO SATURDAY JULY 11**

|                           |         |            |          |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Wed<br>1-Jul              | 9:00 AM | Pickleball | Gym      |
| SAT-SAT<br>Jul/4 - Jul/11 |         | SERVE      | Building |

**SUNDAY JULY 12 TO SATURDAY AUGUST 1**

|                             |         |            |          |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Wed<br>15-Jul               | 9:00 AM | Pickleball | Gym      |
| Mon -<br>Thurs<br>Jul 20-24 | 9:00 AM | VBS        | Building |
| Wed<br>29-Jul               | 9:00 AM | Pickleball | Gym      |

