



THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF STRATFORD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026

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

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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

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

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity” Psalm 133:1. Let us worship God who has called us together. We come here to praise and glorify Him. Come let us make a joyful noise to the Lord. May our hearts be open to receive the full blessing of God’s grace and peace. Join us downstairs after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

ORDER OF SERVICE

10:00 am – Pastor Nick Bierma

God Calls Us to Worship

Welcome & Call to Worship

Song of Response: Psalm 42 – “I Will Praise Him Again”

*God’s Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

*Opening Praise: “How Great Thou Art” LH 553

God Renews His Covenant with Us

Confession of Sin

Song of Confession: “My Faith Looks up to Thee” LH 426

Assurance of Pardon

God Speaks His Word to Us

Children’s Message

(During the Song of Approach children age 3 are dismissed for Sunday school)

Song of Approach: “It is Well with My Soul” LH 451

Prayer of Illumination

Text: Psalm 133

Sermon: Truth Balms | Aliyah!

*Hymn of Response: “Power of the Cross”

We Respond with Prayers and Offerings

Congregational Prayer

Offerings: 1. General Fund / Ministry Shares 2. Wycliffe – the VanderMeers

We Go with God’s Blessing

*Benediction

*Song: “By the Sea of Crystal” LH 489

**means stand if you are able*

Elder: Luke Olbach

Music: Tanya Duiker & Janelle DeWitt

Hall Monitor: Anthony DeWeerd

Greeter: Fran Timmermans

Ushers: Tim & Betty Van de Kemp
Projection: Luke Olbach

Sound: Luca Pol
Streaming: Geena DeWeerd

TODAY'S OFFERING: **Wycliffe Bible Translators – the VanderMeers:** Wycliffe serves minority language groups worldwide by fostering an understanding of God's Word through Bible translation, while nurturing literacy, education and stronger communities.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING: **Teen Challenge** – Teen Challenge is a 12-month, faith-based, in-residence drug and alcohol rehabilitation program that is part of a network of over 15 Teen Challenge Centres across Canada and more than 1,000 worldwide. The program has a strong faith-based approach and offers spiritual, academic and vocational training that helps equip individuals to return to society as responsible citizens.

VACATION: Pastor Martin will be on vacation from August 4th until August 17th. Please contact Pastor Nick or your District Elder for any pastoral or prayer concerns.

PSALM SERIES: This week we are drawing the Psalm 133:1. *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”* Harmony between believers is beautiful and joyful, and it pleases our God! Children and adults alike are encouraged to reflect creatively on Psalm 133 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.

OFFERING SCHEDULE:

Aug 9: Teen Challenge

Aug 16: House of Blessing

Aug 23: Youth for Christ

Aug 30: Disability Concerns

UPCOMING SERVICES

Aug 2: 10:00 am

Aug 9: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm – Outdoor Service at vanZandwijks

Aug 16: 10:00 am

Aug 23: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

NOTE FROM COUNCIL: Last week during the Sunday morning worship service it was brought to the attention of Council that some cars parked on the surrounding streets were partially blocking access to driveways of the neighbouring houses. Please ensure when parking that you are in a designated parking spot both in the Church parking lot and on the street. Council appreciates how this congregation continues to utilize the parking available to us. Please keep our neighbours in mind when parking and keep proper distance from all driveways, fire hydrants and no parking zones. Your patience, grace and understanding with this matter will help to ensure that the CRC of Stratford is being a good neighbour to all. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY: *“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24.* 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, Maria Post, David Scheele, Gwen Soepboer, Nellie Tiemens, Henk Vanmeurs, and Theresa Wesseling.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."* **Romans 12:12.** 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: If you would like to follow along with the Scott's as they minister in Kingfisher Lake this summer, you can join their Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/scottministryupdates or email newsletter: [The Scotts' Ministry Updates](#).

SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING! As part of the ongoing celebration of the church's 75th anniversary, we are planning to have another commemorative quilt made to be displayed in the foyer/overflow. If you have been a member here for many years, you most likely will have made a quilt square that is on the 40th, 50th or 60th anniversary quilts! **FOR NEW FAMILIES AND MEMBERS SINCE 2011!** You will receive a quilt square in a bag with instructions in your mailbox (or given directly to you if you do not have a mailbox). We look forward to your creativity and your spot on the 75th Anniversary Quilt. If you have any questions please contact Amanda Olbach.

Happy Birthday!

*Seniors

Sun Aug 2 – Carson Pennings

Tues Aug 4 – Linda Mosterd*

Wed Aug 5 – Maria Post*, Jacob VanderWal, Mallory Bos

Thurs Aug 6 – Ethan Hummel, Ruth Scott

Fri Aug 7 – Sheila Best, Monica Powell

HELLO SENIORS: You're invited to our **Summer Lunch in the Park!** Join us for a fun visit filled with great food, wonderful conversations and a good time on **Tuesday, August 11 at 11 a.m.** We will meet at Upper Queen's Park near the Playground area. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like or relax at one of the many picnic tables available. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy a beautiful summer day together. The more, the merrier, so feel free to bring a friend or invite someone who would enjoy spending time with us! We can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Lydia de Freese or Ida de Bruin.

DIRECTORY CHANGES: It is time to update your information for the directory! Please check the paper directory (if you have a copy) or the Bridge App under the heading Directory. Please send in any changes you might have to the office (office@stratfordcrc.org) by August 23rd. If you wish to have a picture accompany your Bridge App listing send that in as well. I appreciate all the help you can give me to keep us current and in touch with each other! Betty DeWeerd.

75TH ANNIVERSARY: SHARE YOUR STORY: We have had several responses from people who have shared their story! It is not too late to send yours in. We are also welcoming anecdotes of your experiences here at Stratford CRC! Whether it is a warm memory or a funny one, please don't hesitate to bring it to Rita or Hilda. ***From 1999 (paraphrased): "I came to this church through Coffee Break. It was a while before I started attending services but then someone offered to drive me to church. The people are very friendly and I do like them. I find it hard to believe that so many people have so much love for each other."*** If you have any questions, please contact Rita Weima or Hilda Olbach, 75th Anniversary Committee.

LET'S BLESS OTHERS 75 TIMES AND THEN 75 MORE! Check out the 75 ACTS OF KINDNESS Bulletin Board located next to the gym doors. Pick an act of kindness and while you are out and about, allow God to lead you to a person who might need your help or thoughtfulness. Pay for a stranger's coffee, leave an encouraging note, help a neighbour, prepare a meal or tell someone to have an amazing day! Take the time to spread blessings and kindness. We never know who we may reach! Happy anniversary Stratford CRC!

SAVE THE DATE Ramoth House is having their annual fundraising dinner on Friday Oct 2, 2026, at 6:30pm at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex. Tickets are \$300 for a table of 8 or \$37.50/individual. Deadline to purchase is Sept 26, 2026. To reserve a ticket please call 519-323-3751 or email Brenda at office@ramoth.ca

COFFEE SERVERS

Aug 2: Quintin & Sara McDonnell, Evan & Lisa Poortinga, Gerald & Amanda VanderPloeg

Aug 9: Daryl & Angela Drager, Tim & Ashley Pennings, Dave & Brittany de Lange

Aug 16: Mark & Rachel Sikma, Daryl & Kirby Pol, Rennie & Tanya Duiker

COFFEE PREP

Aug 2: Christa Dennis & family

Aug 9: Ralph & Heather DeWitt

USHERS

Aug 9: Pol family

Aug 16: Gene & Corry Veening

LIBRARY

Aug 2: Closed

Aug 9: Irene Koskamp

GREETER

Aug 16: John Timmermans

PROJECTION

Aug 9: Angelina VanderWal (Chris Huzinga*)

Aug 16: Rachel Sikma

STREAMING

Aug 9: Nathaniel DeWeerd (John DeWeerd*)

SOUND

Aug 9: Eric Olbach (Isaiah Super*)

Aug 16: Justin Otten

STREAMING

Aug 16: Joel Heida

*Tech scheduled for Sunday evening in the event of inclement weather on August 9 & 23

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 Speelmen
- 16 I/C – **Rebecca Olbach***, Dayna Otten, Averianna 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 AUGUST 2 TO SATURDAY AUGUST 8

Mon 03-Aug	7:00 PM	Praise Team Practice	Sanctuary
Tues 04-Aug	7:00 PM	Council	Double Classroom
Wed 05-Aug	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Pickleball Meeting	Gym Library