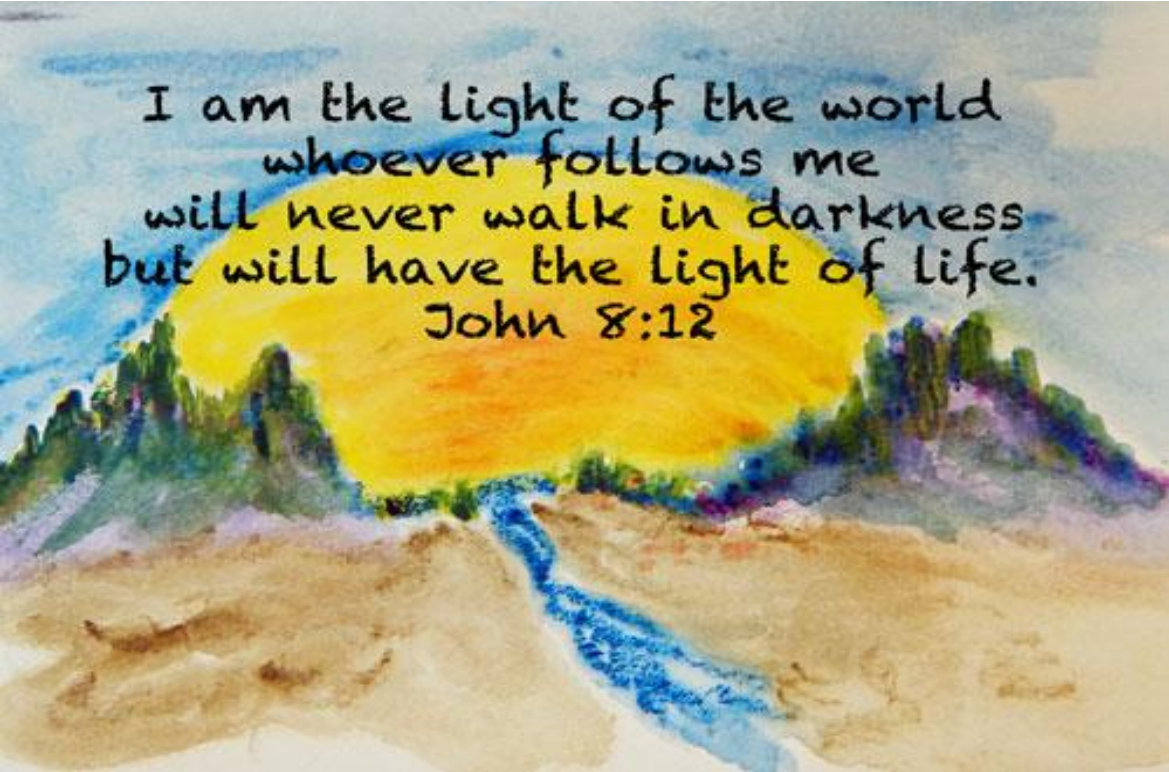




I am the light of the world
whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.
John 8:12

Jesus is the Light of the World. He is the Light of Life.

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF
STRATFORD
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026**

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

Email: pastormartin@stratfordcrc.org

Minister: Pastor Nick Bierma PH: 250-300-5927

Email: pastornick@stratfordcrc.org

Clerk: Adam Roth PH: 519-501-1775

Email: clerk@stratfordcrc.org

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

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12. Jesus is our light and our salvation. May we be filled with the light of His word, the light of His truth. May our time of worship together be a blessing to all. 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

Song of Response: “Here I Am to Worship”

*God’s Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

*Opening Praise: “Shout to the Lord”

“Everlasting God”

God Renews His Covenant with Us

Confession

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: “Behold Our God”

Prayer of Illumination

Text: John 8:12

Sermon: “Light in the Darkness”

*Hymn of Response: “Shine Jesus Shine”

We Respond with Prayers and Offerings

Congregational Prayer

VBS Slide Show

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

We Go with God’s Blessing

*Benediction

*Song: “King of Kings”

**means stand if you are able*

Elder: Leo Laarman

Hall Monitor: Jacob Peachey

Music: Praise Team

Ushers: Tanner Meinen/Joel Meinen
Projection: Jason DeWitt

Sound: Joel Koskamp
Streaming: Jonathan DeWeerd

TODAY'S OFFERING: **Ramoth House** – Ramoth House is a non-profit, 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

NEXT WEEK'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.

OFFICE HOURS: I will be away from the office from Thursday July 30th returning August 4th. All bulletin announcements for Sunday August 2 must be in by Wednesday at noon. Thank you. Betty DeWeerd.

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 moving from drawing the Psalms to drawing John 8:12 *“Jesus said to them again: **“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”** All week at VBS, the children have explored ways that light BRIGHTENS, light ILLUMINATES, light REFLECTS and light REVEALS, not only at VBS but also in the world around them! Children and adults alike are encouraged to reflect creatively on John 8:12 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.*

VBS 2026 - ILLUMINATION STATION: What a wonderful week we had! With 86 registrants we had our largest turnout ever. Praise the Lord! We are thankful to God for the many kids' lives that were blessed throughout the week. We are also so thankful to our small army of volunteers - from nursery staff to leaders and helpers, to kitchen staff and our registration team: we couldn't have done it without you! We pray Jesus' light shines brightly for all who were touched by this ministry. Having completed their third year of VBS Jenna and Laura will be stepping down as co-organizers and are looking for those who feel called to run this ministry in 2027. Please talk to Laura Egberts and Jenna DeWitt if you are interested!

COMMUNION: We will be celebrating Communion this evening during the outdoor service, at the home of the Visscher's.

OUTDOOR SERVICE: We will be meeting at the home of Peter & Sandra Visscher for a time of worship. (297026 29th Line Zorra, Lakeside ON N0M 2G0). Michael Grootenboer of Cornerstone CRC in Kitchener will be leading the service. Everyone is welcome!

OFFERING SCHEDULE:

Aug 2: Wycliffe – the VanderMeers

Aug 9: Teen Challenge

Aug 16: House of Blessing

Aug 23: Youth for Christ

UPCOMING SERVICES

Jul 26: 10:00 am & 6:30 pm – Outdoor Service at Visschers

Aug 2: 10:00 am

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

Aug 16: 10:00 am

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY: *“I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.” Psalm 34:4*

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: *“O taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”* 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](#).

Happy Birthday!

*Seniors

Mon Jul 27 – Joel Boersma, Josie Koskamp

Wed Jul 29 – Lori Tiemens, Sam Meinema,

Thurs Jul 30 – Amy Van de Kemp, Solomon Roth, Theresa Scholten

Sat Aug 1 – Maitlan Van Maar

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!

THRIVE FAITH FORMATION TIP - Summer is often a time when extended families gather for a reunion, giving us the opportunity to connect with relatives we don't see regularly. Think about a member of your church family whom you haven't seen in a while, spend time praying for them this week, and reach out with a card, phone call, or text to let them know you're thinking of them and praying for them. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

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

Jul 26: Joel & Vanessa Koskamp, Esther Visser, Heidi Flikkema, Will & Tracy Sumner
 Aug 2: Quintin & Sara McDonnell, Evan & Lisa Poortinga, Gerald & Amanda VanderPloeg
 Aug 9: Daryl & Angela Drager, Tim & Ashley Pennings, Dave & Brittany de Lange

COFFEE PREP

Jul 26: Tim & Betty Van de Kemp
 Aug 2: Christa Dennis & family

USHERS

Aug 2: Tim & Betty Van de Kemp
 Aug 9: Pol family

PROJECTION

Aug 2: Luke Olbach
 Aug 9: Angelina VanderWal (Chris Huzinga*)

STREAMING

Aug 2: John DeWeerd

LIBRARY

Jul 26: Marjorie Vanmeurs
 Aug 2: Closed

GREETER

Aug 2: Fran Timmermans

SOUND

Aug 2: Luca Pol
 Aug 9: Eric Olbach (Isaiah Super*)

STREAMING

Aug 9: Nathaniel DeWeerd
 (John DeWeerd*)

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

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**

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 JULY 26 TO SATURDAY AUGUST 8

Mon 27-Jul	7:00 PM	Praise Team Practice	Sanctuary
Tues 28-Jul	7:00 PM	Music & Worship	Library
Wed 29-Jul	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Gym
Mon 3-Aug	7:00 PM	Praise Team Practice	Sanctuary
Tues 4-Aug	7:00 PM	Council	Double Classroom
Wed 5-Aug	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Pickleball Meeting	Gym Library