



“By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me”

**THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF
STRATFORD
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026**

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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

“By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life.” Psalm 42:8. We come to worship the living God. We come in search of the good news. We come in search of joy and His truth and light. Let us praise the One who is our help and our hope. This morning we welcome the Youth and Leaders who make up our SERVE Team this year. May God bless the work of their hands, keep them safe this week. May they constantly be “Surprised by God” as they minister to the people of Stratford. Please join us downstairs for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Everyone is also welcome to stay for our Soup Lunch. Come out and meet our SERVE Team!

ORDER OF SERVICE

10:00 am – Pastor Martin Dam

God Calls Us to Worship

Preservice Song: “Come As You Are”

Welcome & Call to Worship: Psalm 145:13

Silent Prayer

Song of Response: “As the Deer”

*God’s Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

*Opening Praise: “Made for More”

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

Time of Confession

Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God Speaks His Word to Us

Song of Approach: “Lord, I Need You”

Prayer of Illumination

Text: Psalm 42 & 43

Sermon: Truth Balms | When God Seems Far Away

*Hymn of Response: “Psalm 42 (I will Praise You Again)”

We Respond with Prayers and Offerings

Serve Commissioning Litany

Congregational Prayer

Offerings: 1. General Fund / Ministry Shares 2. Ontario Christian Gleaners

Offertory: “I Speak Jesus”

We Go with God’s Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: “All We Sinners”

**means stand if you are able*

Elder: Jacob Peachey

Hall Monitor: Matt DeWeerd

Music: Praise Team – Isaiah Super, Annelise Heida, Brynn de Bruin, Josh Duiker,
Mina Visscher, Jacob VanderWal, Alanna Poortinga

Ushers: Jaelyn Meinen/Garret Spahui

Sound: Joel Koskamp

Projection: Angelina VanderWal

Streaming: Jonathan DeWeerd

TODAY’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.

NEXT WEEK’S OFFERING: **Christian Education Fund** – Christian Education Fund provides funds to assist parents currently sending children to Christian Day Schools, either on the elementary or secondary level.

TODAY'S 3-YEAR-OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AND 2-YEAR-OLD NURSERY CLASS: The 3-year-old Sunday School class and 2-year-old Nursery class will be held in the fellowship hall together instead of in their classrooms during today's service, July 5. If you have a child in the 2-year-old Nursery class, you are welcome to drop them off either in the upstairs nursery, or with the 3-year-old Sunday School in the fellowship hall.

TODAY IS SOUP SUNDAY: Join us for a delicious soup lunch! We can share a meal, meet with the SERVE youth and leaders, spend time getting to know them, supporting and encouraging them. Thanks and we hope to see you there!

PSALM SERIES: This week we are drawing Psalm 42:8 *“By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me.”* We experience God’s love and protection through every moment of the day and night! Children and adults alike are encouraged to reflect creatively on Psalm 42 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.

OFFERING SCHEDULE:

Jul 12: Christian Education Fund

Jul 19: KARIS

Jul 26: Ramoth House

Jul 26: Ramoth House

UPCOMING SERVICES

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

Jul 19: 10:00 am

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

Jul 26: 10:00 am

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

VBS 2026: We will be having a meeting for all volunteers Sunday July 12th after the morning service downstairs in Classroom 1. Hope to see you there!

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 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: *"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:2-3.* 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.

CONGRATULATIONS: We rejoice with Kirsten & Tyler Meinen as they welcome their son Tijs Bradley to the family. Tijs was born on Sunday, June 28. We also congratulate grandparents, Dave & Jenny Meinen and great-grand parents, Harry & Rosa VanderKuylen. How wonderful to see God's blessing from generation to generation.

CONGRATULATIONS: We extend congratulations to Henry & Lori Meinen as they welcome a grandson, Hendrick, son of their daughter Vanessa & Andrew Terpstra. May God bless this family as they celebrate Hendrick's arrival

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: Jeanne Anjema's birthday was indeed on June 30th but she has many years to go until she is 85! My apologies to Jeanne as her birth date was incorrectly noted in the records. Corrections have been made! May God continue to bless Jeanne with all she stands in need of in the coming year.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: Wishing Jack Zylstra a blessed 91st and also wishing Cecil Bruinsma a blessed 85th birthday. Jack and Cecil share Wednesday, July 7th as their birthday. May God continue to be with these two men, giving them all they will need in the coming year.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: *"I give you a new commandment; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another." John 13:34.* 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](#).

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 or Heather DeWitt at rhedewitt@quadro.net

Happy Birthday!

*Seniors

Sun Jul 5 – John Weima*
 Mon Jul 6 – Haley Hummel
 Tues Jul 7 – Jack Zylstra*, Cecil Bruinsma*, Lisa Poortinga, Kirsten Meinen,
 Kyra VanderHeide
 Wed Jul 8 – Makayla Meinen
 Fri Jul 10 – Tim DeWeerd
 Sat Jul 11 – Beth Scott

SAFE CHURCH PAPERWORK TO SECRETARY: Please forward Safe Church paperwork to Betty DeWeerd at 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. Thank 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 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: There is 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. 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!

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

75TH ANNIVERSARY: SHARE YOUR STORY: We would like to know you better! As part of our church's 75th 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, 75th 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.

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

COFFEE SERVERS

Jul 5: Aart & Rachel Mosterd, Bert & Marianne VanRavenhorst, Ernst & Elaine de Freese

Jul 12: Devon & Laura Feltz, Anthony & Ashley DeWeerd, Neil & Theresa Scholten

Jul 19: Dave & Emily Grieve, Justan & Vanessa Van Maar, Brian & Jenn Super

COFFEE PREP

Jul 5: Ed & Rose Heida

Jul 12: Joanne Schreuders and Teresa Peachey

USHERS

Jul 12: Ed Talsma/Dave Mabee

Jul 19: Don Datema/Brayden VanderHeide

PROJECTION

Jul 12: Chris Huizinga/(Rachel Sikma*)

Jul 19: Rebecca Olbach

STREAMING

Jul 12: John DeWeerd/(Nathaniel DeWeerd*)

LIBRARY

Jul 5: Closed

Jul 12: Closed

GREETER

Jul 12: Wilma De Young

SOUND

Jul 12: Isaiah Super/(Justin Otten*)

Jul 19: Luke Puklicz-Coen Hummel

STREAMING

Jul 19: Joel Heida

*Tech scheduled for Sunday evening in the event of inclement weather on July 12

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 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 JULY 5 TO SATURDAY AUGUST 1

SAT-SAT Jul/4 - Jul/11		SERVE	Building
Wed 15-Jul	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Gym
MON-THURS Jul 20-24	9:00 AM	VBS	Building
Wed 29-Jul	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Gym

