

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Bob, Willi, Al, Melinda, Mike, Paul, Brian, Sharon, Bruce, Susan, Nya, Linda, Donna, Brian, Jim, Lynnette, Al, Brock, Cathy, Katana, Brian, Jim, Glenn and Kolby;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.



THIS WEEK AT ZION:

- Mon. May 15 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry
 6:00 PM Pathfinders

- Tues. May 16 9:30 AM Chair Yoga
 10:00 AM "ZIONEWS" INFO DUE
 6:30 PM Sparks

- Wed. May 17 9:00 AM Quilters
 11:30 Council of Churches
 1:00 PM Avon Menn. Prayer Group
 7:00 PM Congregational Council Meeting

- Thurs. May 18 9:45-11:45 AM Alzheimer's Group
 12:00 Noon Bible Study
 2:00 PM Knollcrest Worship
 4:15 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM Choir Practice

- Sun. May 21 10:00 AM Worship



SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 21ST AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Bob & Marilyn Wells **Reader:** Glenn Rittinger
Usher Captain: Steve Lamont Team **Counter:** Bill Hoffard Team
Altar: Carmen Beck



"If you love me,
you will keep
my commandments."

John 14:15 NRSV

Sunday, May 14, 2023

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

email: zionlc@golden.net

Cell: 519-274-1300

website: www.zionstratford.com

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 640: "Our Father, by Whose Name"

Choir Introit: "For Where Love Is, There is God"

- Douglas E. Wagner

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Psalm: 66:8-20

Second Reading: 1Peter 3:13-22

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Children's Message

Sermon:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/EeKvnNx8bm8?feature=share>

Hymn 613: "The Holy Wings"

Nicene Creed Page 126

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace Page 128

Choir Anthem: "O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem"

- Moonyeen Albrecht

MEAL

Offertory Prayer Page 129

The Great Thanksgiving Page 129

Communion Prayer Page 133

The Lord's Prayer Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 804, 631

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer Page 136

SENDING

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 840: "Now Thank We All Our God"

Dismissal Page 137

Postlude

Zion Lutheran Church welcomes our **visitors and guests**. We are pleased that you have come to join us in the worship of our God of grace and love. May you be strengthened and uplifted in our time together. *Please sign our guest register and make yourself known to Pastor Jeff.* We hope that you will plan to be with us, again, at your earliest opportunity.

All people of faith and those who seek faith are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This morning, we will be distributing the Lord's Supper in a continuous fashion. Trays holding individual cups of wine are on stands at either side of Pastor Jeff for those wishing to receive wine. The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the center aisle.

Please note that masks are now “optional or personal preference”. Disposable masks remain at all entrances for those wishing to continue to wear one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN OF FAITH: We are excited to have Sara Kunitz from “Stratford Connections Center” at our next general meeting on May 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

This Center, located in the basement of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, offers a warm place out of the cold, as well as an opportunity to connect with trained staff and community supports. Support is given to those who are homeless; suffer with addiction issues; and mental health issues.

The Women of Faith are inviting anyone interested in hearing Sara’s talk to join them. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

QUILTS FOR SALE: Our quilting ladies have been very busy! A large selection of quilts for sale is on display in the Parlour. If someone you know is having a baby or has just had a baby, there are some cute quilts available for their crib. Feel free to contact Irene Ehgoetz at 519-271-8878 for more information or to purchase a beautiful quilt.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible study continues on Thursdays at noon in the Parlour. If any one is wanting to explore God’s Word and what it means for us in our daily lives as Christians, bring your lunch and come out and join us. For further information, please speak with Pastor Jeff.

HOUSE OF BLESSING: We have received an updated list of items which are currently needed at the House of Blessing. To help the House of Blessing with their significant increase in the number of people using their services since this time last year, as you are able, if you could bring cookies or crackers for the House of Blessing Food Bank and place it in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

I want to extend a sincere “THANK YOU” to everyone who has volunteered to pick up and deliver the House of Blessing gifts. A schedule will be made up and emailed out next week.

You will find a “Stratford House of Blessing Fact Sheet 2022” which has recently been provided to us. It is amazing seeing in writing

the need, support and hard work that this organization provides to our community.

A Mother's Day Prayer for Courage

By Jessica Van Roekel

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” - Deuteronomy 31:6, ESV

I remember the sleepless nights when my grown-up babies were babes in my arms. Their cries for comfort or hunger filled the midnight space, and I stumbled down the hall to scoop them up. I sat in a rocking chair and hummed a little song as they snuggled close. Then the years went by, and they grew from baby to toddler and child to teen. My nights became my own again as I slept night after night, knowing they were tucked in safe and sound down the hall.

They entered adulthood, and with it came the more significant cares of life. No longer can I hear their cries from down the hall and rush to soothe them. Instead, I lay awake and wrestle with wonder and worry. Yet, I still want to rescue them, give them advice, and see them take it. I want them to have a struggle-free kind of life. And then I remember. I remember Jesus' statement in John 16:33 that we will have trouble in this world, but to take heart because he has overcome the world. This verse brings me peace, and I cling to it for myself. But I'm coming awake to the truth that my kids will have their own set of hardships. Hence, my midnight wrestling. On the one hand, I wish a trouble-free life for them, but on the other hand, I don't because it's in our difficulties where we grow the most if we choose to do so.

These are the crossroads we mothers face. Life is hard, but we will overcome it when we stay close to God. We want our adult sons and daughters to choose God's way of trust and embrace his presence in

their lives. But, we also know life becomes hardest when someone walks away from God, and we cannot make them choose his way. And so, we need extra courage. No one warned me about this when I nestled my babies in my arms. I needed the courage to train them through the terrible twos, hurricane threes, childhood drama, and teenage angst. But I had no idea the level of courage it would take to watch my kids navigate their first steps into adulthood. I need resolute courage to speak when God says to and to be silent when he instructs. I need gutsy courage to lay in bed at night and intercede for my children rather than worry. I need tenacious courage to trust God to guide my kids' steps, knowing he does a much better job than me. Finally, I need formidable courage to believe that even though they will struggle, they will know victory because Jesus says he overcomes the world.

In [Deuteronomy 31](#), Moses passed the mantle of leading the Israelites to Joshua. It was time to enter the Promised Land, but Moses could not go with them. Instead, he told them the Lord would go ahead of them to destroy the nations occupying their land and that they must obey the Lord's commands. I imagine there may have been some fear and trepidation about the future. After all, the last four decades had taken on a familiar routine. They gathered manna in the morning, lived in tents, and moved as the Lord directed. Now they faced an unknown future in a strange land with a brand-new leader. The risk for acute worry and diminished courage was high. Moses gave them three instructions: to be strong, courageous, and not fear. Then he implored them to remember that God goes with them and won't leave or forsake them. He commissioned them for their future. Mamas, we need the same instructions and reminders. It requires remarkable courage to entrust our grown-up kids to God.

Let's pray:

Lord God,

Thank you for the children you entrusted to me. Help me be brave. I'm scared. Will they make the right choices? What kind of troubles will they face? Will you be there for them? Will you catch them or let them fall? I want to swoop in and rescue them. I want to tell them what their next steps should be. But I

entrusted them to you when they were tiny, and I've got to re-entrust them to you now. You are with them, and you will not forsake them. Help me have the courage to lean on you and give them space to follow your leading through their valleys and mountains. In Jesus' name, Amen.