



# Welcome

## Drawing In

Welcome/Call to Worship/God's Greeting  
Let All Things Now Living  
Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

## Committing

Commitment & Dedication/Prayer  
Cornerstone  
Children's Music (ages 3—SK exit)  
Prayers of the People

## Listening

Ezra 1:1-11  
*Rejoicing in God's Sovereignty*  
Great Are You Lord

## Applying

Offering: Friends of the Community  
Be Unto Your Name  
God's Parting Blessing  
Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

## How might you show your support?

- ☐ drop off a meal/snack
- ☐ support via church ministries
- ☐ visit/phone call/text
- ☐ Intentional prayer
- ☐ other

## Birthdays this week:

1: Ann Nyman (83); 4: Amanda Mahon  
5: JoAnne Van Maar

**Wedding:** André Caron & Dorothy Cromptom will be united in marriage next Saturday, September 6, 10:30am, here at Clinton CRC with Pastor Ray officiating. Everyone is welcome to share in the joy of the wedding ceremony.

**Prayer Circle:** As the school year launches on September 2, the Pastoral Elders invite you to a prayer circle this Sunday (August 31), to pray for all levels of education. We will gather in the wing and begin about 10

# Clinton Christian Reformed Church

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clintonchristianreformedchurch.ca

**Pastor Ray Vander Kooij**

**August 31, 2025**

How will you apply today's message to your life?

**Keeping in Prayer:** Mary Guetter, Linie Haverkamp

**A Journey Through Ezra: Restoring Worship & Community:** Today we begin a sermon series exploring the book of Ezra, the story of God bringing His people back from exile, restoring both their place of worship and their identity as His covenant community. It shows how God stirs hearts, raises leaders, and calls His people to holiness and obedience as they rebuild amid opposition. In this series, we will see that Ezra is not just about the past—it points us to how our sovereign God still guides our lives, renews faith, and restores hope today.

The image on the projection slides of the stone pathway takes us on a journey while the feeling of a rock foundation connects to the rebuilding theme of the book of Ezra. The olive branch adds a touch of hope and peace representing God's faithfulness through the restoration process.

This morning we are also thankful to have Donna Lubbers back accompanying worship, and serving on the Worship Coordinators Team.

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my church family for all the many ways they loved and cared for Andy and me during his illness. We would not have been able to manage without your prayers and support. Also, thank you to everyone for their prayers and support for me after Andy's passing. I felt embraced by everyone's hearts. Sincerely, Margot

**Coupons:** Coupons are available to be ordered by filling out the request form located by the entrances. This order of coupons is due Monday, September 22, 2025.

*Worship services begin at 10:00 am and are livestreamed*

**Thank You:** for considering sitting downstairs in the sanctuary over the summer months. We hope and pray that being together in a closer space fostered a deeper sense of community as we learned, worshiped and sang together. Thank you for helping make this summer season of fellowship so meaningful.

**Fall Retreat: What are you building?** Calling all youth grades 9-12, you are invited to experience this faith building weekend through worship, games, small groups and of course lots of fun. It's a great way to meet to learn and grow in your relationship with the Lord as well as meeting other Christian friends. Date: September 26-29 in Muskoka Woods. Contact Sonya Dykstra for more info and to register. I'm also looking for another adult to join as a leader for this weekend.

**Huron Christian School:** Join us for our Back-to-School Assembly on Tuesday, September 2, 2024 at 9am in the school gymnasium. Lets gather in faith and fellowship as we welcome in the 2025-26 school year together!

**GEMS REGIONAL COUNSELOR TRAINING** on Saturday, September 20 at Stratford CRC. Please register at <https://GEMSCounselor2025> for a day of learning, sharing, and creating in fun-filled workshops. Our speaker for the day is Rev. Ron DeVries. This training day is open to all current and past GEMS Counselors, C.I.T.s, and women interested in learning more about being a GEMS Counselor. Executive Director Wendy Hammond will be in attendance as well with updates on all things GEMS. The cost is \$45/person (some workshops may have an additional cost). Please email Amanda DeWeerd at [gems@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:gems@stratfordcrc.org) for more information and questions.

**Celebrate Recovery:** What is Celebrate Recovery (CR)? CR is a biblically based recovery program that addresses our hurts, hang-ups, and habits, using a 12 Step approach based on the Beatitudes from the book of Matthew. CR leaders understand your struggles, as they have experienced freedom from addictive and dysfunctional patterns in their own lives. They have been trained to guide people through the steps, and to provide a safe environment for accountability and building authentic relationships. There are multiple churches that offer CR in South Western Ontario and around the world! ***Locally, Elgin Missionary Church (4192 Perth County Line 36, Stratford) is one of those. They have a meeting every Monday night starting at 6:30. This location is having a BBQ and Information night on September 8.*** For more information on CR check them out online <https://www.celebraterecovery.ca/> or talk to Erica Delk -- call or text 226-222-7494.

**Family looking for house rental.** A newcomer family (parents and 4 children) from Vietnam is looking for a house to rent within a 15 km radius of Goderich. If you are aware of a house that is available that might suit their needs, please contact Nick Geleynse (519-525-0334) @ Huron Welcome Hub for Newcomers.

**Who's ready for some Youth hockey?** We're putting together a **new youth hockey league** for players **ages 14 –25 (born 2000–2011)**. It's **co-ed**, will be **Friday or Saturday** nights, open to **all skill levels**, and all about having a **fast, fun, and competitive time on the ice**. Teams will be built to keep things balanced—so whether you're a first-timer or a rink rat, you'll have a place to play. Want in? Or maybe you'd like to **coach, help organize, or even support the league**? Fill out the form <https://bit.ly/YouthHockey2025> or hit up Jonathan DeWeerd at [jddw.bldg@gmail.com](mailto:jddw.bldg@gmail.com) Let's make this happen. Who's game?

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## Giving & Supporting

**TODAY:** Friends of the Community Food Bank

**NEXT WEEK:** Redeemer

e-transfer to [clintoncrtreasurer@tcc.on.ca](mailto:clintoncrtreasurer@tcc.on.ca) (cause in memo);

cheque in offering or by mail; PAR (pre-authorized remittance is for the budget only)

**2025 Guatemala Classis Huron Young Adults Trip** - World Renew, together with Angela Hessels from Drayton CRC and Ray Heeres from Listowel CRC, is organizing a Young Adult Trip to Guatemala from October 11 to 18, 2025. If you are between the ages of 18 and 30 and passionate about making a difference and exploring global ministry, this is a unique opportunity to serve, learn, and grow in a vibrant cross-cultural setting. There is space available for up to five more young adults, and we would love to have you come along! For more information and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/huron2025info> or contact Maria Oliveira at [moliveira@worldrenew.ca](mailto:moliveira@worldrenew.ca).

**Prayer for Our Immigrant Neighbors** - Over the past few months, many Christian Reformed Church leaders and members have been deeply impacted by the increased immigration enforcement activities taking place across the United States. We are asking every CRC congregation to set aside a special time of prayer for our immigrant brothers and sisters during worship on Sunday, Sept. 7. All congregations and members are also invited to join a virtual prayer vigil on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:00 p.m. EST at [youtube.com/crcna](https://www.youtube.com/crcna)

**Support The Banner Magazine** - The Banner's annual fundraising campaign continues! More than just an award-winning magazine, The Banner is a journalistic ministry dedicated to informing, inspiring, and connecting our CRC community. Available to you in both print and online, this vital resource is made possible by the generous support of individuals like you. Help meet the ambitious \$500,000 goal for the 2025 campaign by giving today! [thebanner.org/donate](https://thebanner.org/donate)

**Calvin on the Road Events** - Calvin University is turning 150, and we're bringing the celebration to you! Throughout the anniversary year, Calvin will be visiting 30 cities across the USA and Canada – we'd love to see you! For a full list of locations and dates, visit [calvin.edu/150](https://calvin.edu/150)

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matt. 22:37-39, NIV). How can you show love to God through loving your neighbors this week? Whether it be in helping someone in your building carry groceries, bringing flowers to someone on your street, or buying a special treat for someone in your broader community, find a way to extend an act of love to one of your neighbors. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](https://crcna.org/Thrive)

**Kids Corner Devotions: Praying for Someone Else** - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Praying for Someone Else" at [www.kidscorner.net](https://www.kidscorner.net). Prayer is a special way to show love to others. When you pray for someone, you're helping them and growing closer to God at the same time! Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](https://www.kidscorner.net), like the classic "Liz and Friends" podcast!

**Groundwork: Jesus' Kingdom Parables** - Jesus often used parables to teach his followers about the kingdom of God. Join Groundwork as we dig into Matthew 13, Matthew 20:1-16, Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 17:20-21, and Matthew 25:1-13 to learn from Jesus what God's kingdom looks like, what its values are, and how the people of his kingdom behave. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](https://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.