

~Congregational Announcements~

«Sunday school starts at 9am

«Bible Study resumes at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning! Topic: History of Israel

«Lutheran church Woman will meet April 21st at 2:00 pm! All are welcome to join!

« April Outreach: Stratford Early Learning Center

« Please pick up a March/ April Newsletter! Located on the table in the back

« Pastor Zenk Contact Info: Cell 217-440-3970; Email address: alexzenk86@gmail.com | Podcast: Undying Light

***ATTENTION: Stay up to date on our new app. and online giving, Subsplash. [https://subsplash.com/u/-](https://subsplash.com/u/)



Remember in Prayer

For healing: The family of Pat Cahill, Christa Carlson, Lakelyn Carlson, Tim Bergman, Larry Runyan, Joan Petterson, Nancy Neese, Lon Neese, Kyle Leeds, Lila Berglund, Geri Harris, Kim Leeds, Rodney Patterson, Louise Bergman, Dan Turner, Beth Ashman, Brian Bergman, Jeremy Dodson, Deb Flowers, Angie Goings, Don Raffel

Attendance: 4/12-61

*Weekly budget need: \$2,086

Offering dated 4/12/2026

General Undesignated	\$1099
General Missions.	0.00
Building	00.00
Memorial	00.00
Online.	170.00
Youth Fund.	00.00
Total.	\$1,269

Stratford Evangelical Lutheran Church
FB: Stratford Ev Lutheran LCMC & YouTube: Stratford Evangelical

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Pastor: Alex Zenk Musician: Robin Ideus
Reader: Phil Larson Ushers: Brook Ahrens Video: Dave E

please stand when indicated by * (page #'s refer to LBW)

Ringling of the Bell % Welcome & Announcements

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C:Amen.

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, though Jesus Christ our Lord.

C:Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence is kept for reflection and meditation.)

P: Most merciful God,

C:we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Song # 500 "Faith of Our Fathers"

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of Day: Living God, Jesus reveals himself and is pre with us in the breaking of the bread. May our hearts burn v us and our eyes be opened to his presence among us and fo through his redeeming work; through your Son, Jesus Chr our

Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Ho Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
(you may be seated)

& [Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-25](#)

& [Responsive Reading: Psalm 116](#)

(Please rise)

P: The Holy Gospel according to [the Apostle Luke the 24th Chapter](#)

Congregation Speaks response. P.83

C: Glory to You, O' Lord

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O' Christ

~Children's Sermon

Sermon: "The Hidden Christ" Pastor Alex Zenk

* Apostles' Creed (please **RISE**) p. 85
(congregation)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

(usher presents the offering to the altar)

* [Offering](#) (please **RISE**) p.96

(congregation sings)

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* Prayers of the Church (respond: "**hear our prayer**")

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

* The Lord's Prayer

p. 97

(congregation)

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses...

* Benediction & Amen

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Closing Song:#509 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

& Responsive Reading &

Psalm 116

L: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

C: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

L: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

C: Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

L: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

C: The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

L: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

C: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

L: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

C: I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"

L: I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."

C: What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

L: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

C: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

& Responsive Reading &

Psalm 116

L: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

C: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

L: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

C: Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

L: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

C: The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

L: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

C: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

L: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

C: I believed, even when I spoke: “I am greatly afflicted”

L: I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”

C: What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

L: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

C: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Quarterly Annual Church Budget Update

We have been truly blessed to see God at work in beautiful and powerful ways throughout this year and in seasons past. Through the joy of our children’s ministry and family events, our support of local missions, and the meaningful improvements to our church property, we’ve witnessed His faithfulness again and again. We are deeply grateful for every gift, every act of generosity, and every contribution that has made these things possible. Thank you.

As we look toward the future, we sense God opening new doors of opportunity, and we are trusting Him to continue providing through the hearts of His people. To help us faithfully sustain and gently grow these ministries, especially as costs continue to rise, we want to be open and transparent with you about our Annual Church Budget.

Our total anticipated needs for the year are **\$108,500**. This breaks down to approximately **\$9,041 per month** or **\$2,086 per week** (52 weeks). As of April, we have received \$29,327.69 in giving. Our expenses year-to-date are \$34,300.47. This has resulted in a current shortfall of \$4,972.78

These funds support the ongoing ministries and operations of our church family. On a monthly basis, our key expenses include:

- Repairs and maintenance of our facilities.
- Utilities for the church and parsonage
- Gas for the church and parsonage
- Custodian salary and cleaning supplies
- Organist
- Missions giving
- Tax withholdings and Property insurance
- Office supplies
- Pastor’s salary, Secretary’s salary
- Pastor’s health insurance and pension

We are grateful for God’s faithfulness and for every faithful gift that helps us care for these essential areas. Our heart is to continue investing in the lives of our families, children, and community while being wise stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

If you have any questions about the budget or would like more details, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Alex or Drew Kragel. We would be happy to talk with you. Together, let’s trust the Lord to provide as we continue serving Him with joy in 2026.

Quarterly Annual Church Budget Update

We have been truly blessed to see God at work in beautiful and powerful ways throughout this year and in seasons past. Through the joy of our children’s ministry and family events, our support of local missions, and the meaningful improvements to our church property, we’ve witnessed His faithfulness again and again. We are deeply grateful for every gift, every act of generosity, and every contribution that has made these things possible. Thank you.

As we look toward the future, we sense God opening new doors of opportunity, and we are trusting Him to continue providing through the hearts of His people. To help us faithfully sustain and gently grow these ministries, especially as costs continue to rise, we want to be open and transparent with you about our Annual Church Budget.

Our total anticipated needs for the year are **\$108,500**. This breaks down to approximately **\$9,041 per month** or **\$2,086 per week** (52 weeks). As of April, we have received \$29,327.69 in giving. Our expenses year- to-date are \$34,300.47. This has resulted in a current shortfall of \$4,972.78

These funds support the ongoing ministries and operations of our church family. On a monthly basis, our key expenses include:

- Repairs and maintenance of our facilities.
- Utilities for the church and parsonage
- Gas for the church and parsonage
- Custodian salary and cleaning supplies
- Organist
- Missions giving
- Tax withholdings and Property insurance
- Office supplies
- Pastor's salary, Secretary's salary
- Pastor's health insurance and pension

We are grateful for God's faithfulness and for every faithful gift that helps us care for these essential areas. Our heart is to continue investing in the lives of our families, children, and community while being wise stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

If you have any questions about the budget or would like more details, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Alex or Drew Kragel. We would be happy to talk with you. Together, let's trust the Lord to provide as we continue serving Him with joy in 2026.