

### **THIS WEEK WE PRAY:**

>for our members and friends with special needs: John, Devon, Hollice, Marlene, Joyce, Audrey, Susan, Bernice, Maria, Miles, Tom, Marian, Anne, Leanne, Hans, Isabelle, Ingrid, Al, Melinda, John, Dan, Brian, Paul, Glenn, Jim, Nya, Lynnette, Cathy, Brock, Katana and Kolby;

>for those who have no one to pray for them.

### **THIS WEEK AT ZION:**

Mon. February 26

2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour

6:00 PM Pathfinders in Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Youth Symphony in Parlour &  
Shuffleboard Room

Tues. February 27

7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall

9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Sparks in Fellowship Hall

Wed. February 28

9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour

1:00 PM Avon Menn. Prayer Group in their office

4:30-7:30 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room

6:30 Thorne Property Management in Fellowship  
Hall

Thurs. February 29

10:30 AM Worship at Hillside

12:00 NOON Bible Study in Parlour

4:15 PM Confirmation in Parlour

7:00 PM Choir Practice in Fellowship Hall

**Sun. March 3**

**“Lent 3”**

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

**ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP**

### **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Darrell & Judy Renecker

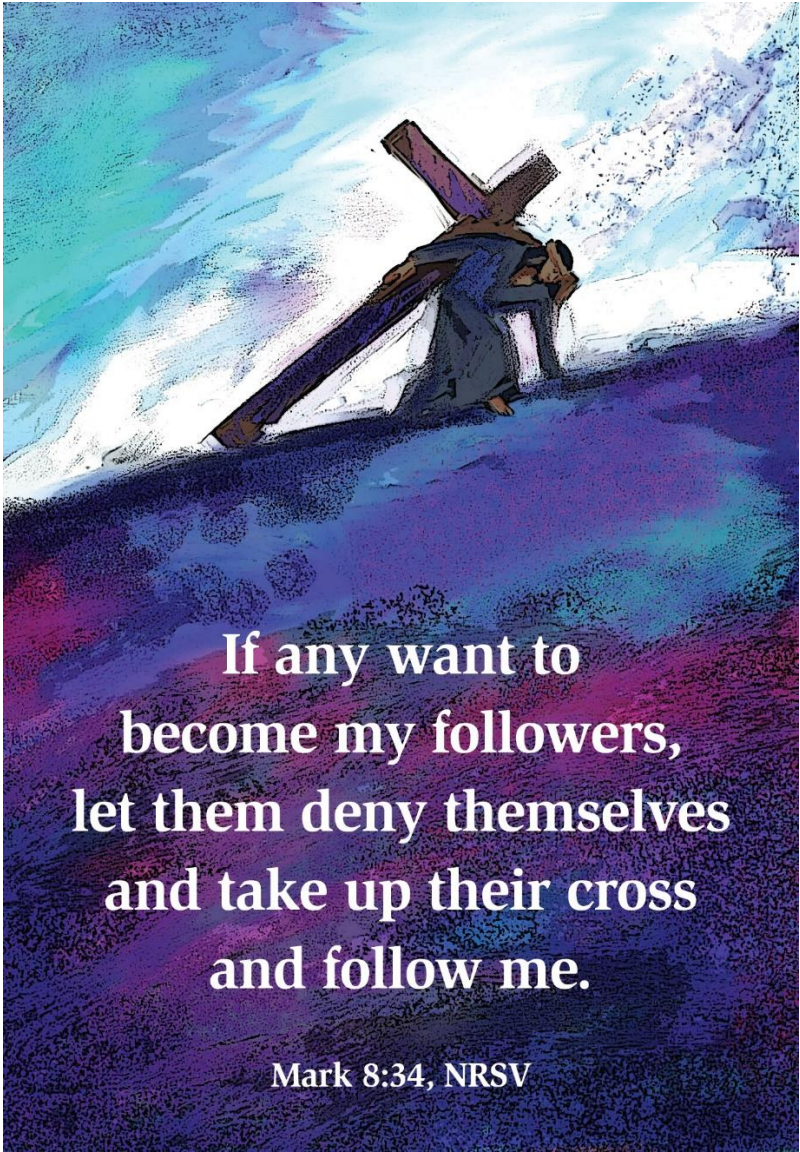
**Reader:** Stephen Fischer

**Usher Captain:** Darrell Renecker

**Counting Captain:** Tom Cosstick

**Altar:** Irene Ehgoetz

**House of Blessing:** Jan Bennewitz



If any want to  
become my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow me.

Mark 8:34, NRSV

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February 25 2024

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# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

email: [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net)

Cell: 519-274-1300

website: [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com)

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## People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

## Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

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Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024

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## GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 514: "O Word of God Incarnate"

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm: 22:23-31

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

Children's Message

Sermon: [https://www.youtube.com/live/GI\\_IMrza2mA?si=hRLdpp-U0xBbf-sk](https://www.youtube.com/live/GI_IMrza2mA?si=hRLdpp-U0xBbf-sk)

## **Hymn 806: “O God, My Faithful God”**

Apostles’ Creed

Page 127

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

## **Choir Anthem: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**- Robert Thygerson**

### **MEAL**

#### **Offering Hymn 186: “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

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: 796, 812**

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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### **SENDING**

Blessing

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#### **Hymn 802: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

Dismissal

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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**

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual congregation meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet next Sunday, March 3rd at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. service.

- The meeting will, once again, be available on Zoom for those who do not wish to attend in person. Details for joining on Zoom are printed at the bottom of the Agenda in the Annual and Financial Reports package.
- For anyone attending Worship this morning, copies of the Annual and Financial Reports are available on the table at the back of the church. If you are attending the Annual Meeting, please bring your copy with you for reference. Thank you!
- Members who are not in attendance for worship may pick up a copy of the reports at the church office weekday mornings.

**WELCOME BACK:** We are pleased to welcome back Franklin Famme as our organist this morning. Thank you Franklin for joining us.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER:** A reminder that Sunday School will end at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.

A reminder to all that we are a **nut-free** Sunday School. We have a student in our Sunday School who is allergic to nuts.

The children will be doing a craft with Susan this morning.

**QUILTS FOR SALE:** The beautiful quilts made by our talented



quilting ladies are still on display on the front pews in the Sanctuary this morning. Please feel free to have a look at them. The sizes and costs are on each quilt. Keep in mind they make lovely accents to any couch or chair in your home. Don't forget "Mother's Day" is

May 12<sup>th</sup> and will be here before we know it. If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful quilts, please see Irene Ehgoetz or give her a call at 519-271-8878.

The **Women of Faith** would like to thank everyone for the donations to **Stratford Connections** during the holiday season. We had a wonderful response to this important need in our Community. As the winter weather continues we ask that the contributions of outdoor clothing keep coming in. In the near future Spring coats will also be welcome.

Individual, wrapped snack items and gift coupons for food to local food stores are particularly needed. All items are collected weekly and delivered to the centre. **THANK YOU!**

**STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING:** We have received an updated list of much-needed items from the House of Blessing. To help them 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 **potatoes or onions** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

**STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING FUND RAISER:** We have been made aware by Shane Thurman of Live Well Fundraisers that he is working with Eva at the House of Blessing in a community collaboration to raise funds and support two (2) new local businesses. With the blessing of Patrick, owner of the two (2) Domino's Pizza locations in Stratford, they are able to make this happen. He has asked that we share the enclosed flyer with our members here at Zion. Chances are you are aware of the unfortunate growing need for food banks in Canada. You may be aware of how most small businesses fail within the first five (5) years and are struggling to pay back Covid loans. This fundraiser helps address both by providing value on things families will purchase anyway.

By purchasing the fundraiser at one of the local businesses listed, families save money on pizza they will buy anyway during the year while helping the food bank. Two new local businesses get more awareness because you shared. As an incentive to come in, coffee lovers receive a free coffee for purchasing at *Bake My Day* and *The Bean* or \$5.00 off a haircut at *Fitzzy's Fades*. Both businesses receive a portion of the funds from the \$25.00 purchase as well to help them with needed cash flow in their early days. For more information please see the enclosed flyer.

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** – Once again this year, the Stratford and District Council of Churches and the Kiwanis Club of Stratford are sponsoring a series of six **Lenten Lunches** that will be held at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 12:00 noon. The theme of this year's Lenten Lunches is ***Easter Opposites***. Each lunch will begin promptly at noon and includes soups, sandwiches, veggies, dessert, coffee, tea, and water. This week's presentation on **Wednesday, February 28<sup>st</sup>** will begin at 12:35 pm and the speaker will be **Pastor Sandy Bender from Bethel Church**. The cost of each lunch is \$11.00. Reservations are not required, but it is recommended that you arrive early as these lunches are very popular, and space is limited.

**TRIVIA & TREATS NIGHT:** Bethel Church is inviting you to join them for a fun night of trivia and sweet treats to raise funds for seniors' and children's feeding programs in the Dominican Republic.

The cost is \$20.00 per person; create teams of 1-4 people. This evening of fun is taking place on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**. DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M. AND THE FUN BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M. AT **BETHEL CHURCH, 2988 HIGHWAY 7 & 8, STRATFORD**. If you have any questions please email them to [danpatterson19@gmail.com](mailto:danpatterson19@gmail.com)  
All are welcome!!!

**TOWN HALL GATHERING** – The “Town Hall Gathering” scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> has been **POSTPONED**. Further details will be provided as they become available.

**INNERchamber CONCERT:** INNERchamber is delighted to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> concert of their 14<sup>th</sup> season – “***Play***” on **Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**.

**Location:** Factory 163 at 163 King Street, Stratford. Light dinner begins at 5:30 P.M. Concert begins at 7:00 P.M.

Narrator Sara-Jeanne Hosie joins the INNERchamber Ensemble (Peter Shackleton (clarinet), Jody Davenport (viola) and Anne Ronai

(piano) to celebrate the magical power of play. Works by Mozart, Francaix, Bruch, Benjamin and Paul JeanJean.

Tickets are on sale at [www.innerchamber.ca](http://www.innerchamber.ca)

**BETHEL COMMUNITY MEAL:** The next Bethel Community Meal will be held on ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>*** in the Fellowship Hall here at Zion with dinner commencing at 5:00 P.M.



# WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT. STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING AND SAVE MONEY ON DOMINO'S PIZZA?



**Domino's Pizza** in partnership with LiveWell Promotions, is excited to present an extraordinary fundraising opportunity. By participating, you not only save money but get to support Stratford House of Blessing.

## WE OFFER A PREPAID CERTIFICATE FOR \$25.

**IT IS VALID  
AT BOTH  
STRATFORD  
DOMINO'S  
LOCATIONS**

### CERTIFICATE INCLUDES:

- 2 FREE MEDIUM 3 TOPPING PIZZAS**
- 5 40% OFF PIZZA COUPONS**
- 5 BOGO PIZZA COUPONS**
- 5 BOGO STUFFED CHEESY BREAD COUPONS**

EXPIRES  
DECEMBER  
31 2024!



**\$7**

**FROM EACH SALE WILL BE DONATED TO  
SUPPORT THE HOUSE OF STRATFORD BLESSING.**

If you think your family will eat 2 or more pizzas between now and Dec 31, 2024, please consider purchasing our fundraising certificate to save money and help Stratford House of Blessing.

These fundraising certificates are available to purchase at the following retail locations.

- **Bake My Day & The Bean**  
Receive a free small coffee with purchase of this fundraiser  
107 Downie St  
548-585-0008
- **Fitzys Fades Barbershop**  
Receive \$5 off a haircut with purchase of this fundraiser  
182 Ontario Street  
226-317-5132

