



February 1, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Stéphane Potvin

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 873: “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm: 15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Children’s Message

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/AhiRRYUpeEE?si=CE7YtJL6Izr5VEBM>

Hymn 697: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Apostles’ Creed Page 127

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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Choir Anthem: “O Christians, Sing with Exaltation”

Johann Wolfgang Franck

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offering Prayer Page 129

The Great Thanksgiving Page 129

Communion Prayer Page 130

The Lord’s Prayer Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 462, 638

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 669: “Rise Up, O Saints of 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. **We are making available a small number of individual glasses filled with non-alcoholic white wine. These are for those not wishing to partake in the red wine containing alcohol.** 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.



THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Bev, Jim, Wayne, Doris, Matthew, Marjorie, Bill, Marie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Jim, Jack, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Devon, Hollice, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Isabelle, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

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|--------------------------|--|
| <u>Mon. February 2</u> | 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour 7:00-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Choir in Chapel |
| <u>Tues. February 3</u> | 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Parlour |
| <u>Wed. February 4</u> | 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour 2:00 PM Council of Churches Executive Meeting in Parlour 2:30 PM Council of Churches Sub-Committee Meeting in Parlour 4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room 7:30-9:00 PM Kinnaris practising in Sanctuary |
| <u>Thurs. February 5</u> | 11:00 AM Worship at Spruce Lodge 12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour 5:00-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room 6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall |
| <u>Fri. February 6</u> | 7:00 AM-4:00 PM Festival Hydro in Fellowship Hall 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in kitchen |
| <u>Sun. February 8</u> | * EPIPHANY 5* 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 1:30-5:00 PM Kinnaris Concert in Sanctuary |

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Darrell & Judy Renecker
Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Murray Scholl
Counting Captain: Irene Ehgoetz
House of Blessing: Jan Bennewitz



ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are placed in loving memory of Willi Hausleitner on this the 1st Anniversary of his passing, +February 1, 2025.

Forever loved and deeply missed by the Hausleitner Family.



WELCOME: This morning let us extend a warm Zion welcome to Dr. Wayne Carroll who will be accompanying us on the organ. Please continue reading below to get to know him.

Dr. Wayne Carroll has enjoyed more than half a century as an educator, conductor, organist and Director of Music; 41 of these years at Knox Presbyterian Church, in St. Thomas. While at Knox he built the 12 voice choir to over 50 singers, consulted with the Dodington and Dodington pipe Organ Company to see the Knox organ rebuilt and enlarged. This project included purchasing a 1974 Casavant console and having it totally refurbished, taking the original organ from 34 ranks to a 73 rank 91 stop organ, with the addition of an antiphonal division. Additional projects included, arranging and accepting gifts of two C 7 Yamaha grand pianos and planning and overseeing a complete rebuilding of the choir loft. Dr. Carroll raised the funds for these projects through private gifts and concerts. All of this was completed over a 35 year period during Dr. Carroll's 41year tenure. A highlight of his career as an educator was the ten years he spent as Director of Music and Arts at Alma College in St. Thomas. There he developed the largest private school music department in Canada; private weekly lessons increased from 80 to over 350. While at Alma College Wayne raised the funds to purchase 9 rebuilt grand pianos, five of which were Steinways. Community service participation include Board of Directors of Orchestra London, Canadian Music Competition Board, Steering Committee at George Brown College Toronto for the creating of a certified piano technician's course, which is now a degree course at Western University, Board member for the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music in London and board member of Amtelecom Inc. He was the founding director of the Aylmer Concert Singers, The West Elgin Choral Society and is currently the conductor of the Belmont Community Singers. Since Dr. Carroll's retirement from active church organ duties he enjoys performing frequently in the St. Francis Piano Trio, conducting a chamber music string ensemble and performing church organist requirements on an occasional basis.

“Thank you so much” Dr. Carroll for joining us and sharing your musical talent with us!

MARK FEWER & FRIENDS LIVE IN CONCERT: Mark Fewer, violin; Julia Mirzoev, violin; Russell Iceberg, viola and Bryan Holt, cello performing J.S. Bach's Act of Sorcery: The Art of Fugue.

Tuesday, February 10th at 1:30 PM at the Stratford Country Club

Tickets: \$30.00 each or included in series subscription for \$60.00

JAZZ VESPERS:

**Sunday, February 15th, 2026 4:00 PM
St. James Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford**

Featuring:

THE HOME COOKIN' DIXIELAND BAND

**ALL WELCOME
TO THIS INFORMAL
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE
(FREE WILL OFFERING)**

SENIORS' LUNCHEON: The next Seniors' Luncheon will be on Friday, February 13th from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 PM. Callers will be making their calls the week of February 2nd.

BETHEL COMMUNITY MEAL: Bethel will be hosting their next community meal on Wednesday, February 11th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall here at Zion. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, February 15th.



LENTEN LUNCHESES: Presented by Stratford Council of Churches & Kiwanis Club

**Every Wednesday of Lent
Immaculate Conception Church
50 Well Street, Stratford
12:00 – 1:00 PM
\$15 / person at the door**

Speaker Schedule:

**February 18 – Will Kramer (1st and 2nd St. John's Lutheran Church)
February 25 – Pamela Wideman (New Hope Community Church)
March 4 – Bruno Hacquebard (Jubilee Stratford Church)
March 11 – Sarah McIntyre-Roy (CMHA Connection Centre)
March 18 – Jeff Laustsen (Zion Lutheran Church)
March 25 – Charlie Swartwood (Bethel Penecostal Church)**

Got questions about Lenten Lunches?

**John Patterson (519-273-3523)
Charlie Swartwood (519-272-7111)**



We have received a “most-needed items list” from the House of Blessing. To help them with their significant increase in the number of people using their services, as you are able, if you could bring **side dishes (KD, Sidekicks, Hamburger Helper, stuffing, instant potatoes, etc.) or canned soup, stew and chili** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: The “urgent needs” list includes razors, toothbrushes, basic t-shirts (medium), ground coffee, packaged grab & go snacks and deodorant. Whatever help you can provide is greatly appreciated!

Please Note: Due to limited space, Stratford Connection Centre is not able to accept donations of clothing. If you have clothing to donate, please take it to Goodwill as this is where Stratford Connection takes their homeless for clothing.

HOWEVER, donations of socks, underwear, hats, scarves and mittens (preferably water proof mittens) are needed and accepted at Stratford Connection. Thank you!

Please drop off donations in the bins at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.

The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart or Food Basics. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome.

Thank You!

