



February 22, 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

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 321: “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm: 32

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Children’s Message

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/GII3iwkHwW4?si=Q8yCPEb_ToC1pcTP

Hymn 322: “Oh, Love, How Deep”

Apostles’ Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
Choir Anthem: “Agnus Dei”	Samuel Webbe

MEAL

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

Offering Prayer	Page 129
The Great Thanksgiving	Page 129
Communion Prayer	Page 133
The Lord’s Prayer	Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 599, 810

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 597: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”	
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:

Mon. February 23

2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour
6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour
7:00-8:30 PM SSSYO in Fellowship Hall
7:15 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. February 24

7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

Wed. February 25

9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
7:00 Congregational Council Meeting in Parlour

Thurs. February 26

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

Fri. February 27

9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen

Sun. March 1

* LENT 2*
10:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Ellen Wolfe & Carmen Beck

Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd

Altar: Shirley Whittaker

Reader: Fritz Steigmeier

Counting Captain: Mary-Lou Drown

House of Blessing: Gerry & Janet Ahrens



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual congregational meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet on Sunday, March 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. service.

- For anyone attending Worship this morning or next Sunday, March 1st, 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.



LENTEN LUNCHES: 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 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)

HEARTBURN DAY RETURNS: Saturday, February 28, 2026

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Stratford Rotary Complex

This Chili Cook-Off is a FREE event for the whole family with:

- Live Music
- Prizes
- Silent Auction
- Family Fun

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT “SIMPLE DREAMS”.



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 **canned fish-tuna and salmon or baked beans** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.



COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR:

Is 2026 the year you want to give back to your community? If so, please consider participating in the ❄️ Coldest Night of the Year ❄️ walk, its simple and significant

In Stratford 🇨🇦 the money you raise supports **United Way Perth-Huron / Stratford Connection Centre & Shelterlink Youth Services** programs that serve vulnerable people; helping those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in the community you care about. Join them on **February 28th** for a winterrific walk that's family-friendly, fun, and meaningful.

You'll be snow glad you did! 💙

For more information and a link to register ➡️
www.cnoy.org/stratford

Pastor Jeff is, once again, participating in this very important walk. If you would like to sponsor him, please see him at the back of the Sanctuary after worship.

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Due to overwhelming generosity, the Connection Centre is currently accepting ONLY the following items:

- * New underwear, size medium
- * Water resistant winter boots
- * Handwarmers
- * Razors and deodorant
- * Laundry soap
- * Grab & go snacks or baked goods

If you are interested in donating to the Connection Centre or Warming Centre, please note the following;

- donations are **ONLY** accepted Monday to Friday, between 12:00-4:30, unless pre-arranged or you may **drop off donations in the bins at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.**
- at this time they cannot accept anything that is not listed, they will update as their needs change!

- supporting Goodwill and Value Village DOES support their participants, they collaborate with each other regularly to meet people's needs!
 - any donations must be functional and clean, if you wouldn't wear it then our folks shouldn't either
 - we CANNOT accept expired food, or food items past their 'best before date'
- Thank you for continuing to support the Connection Centre so they can support our vulnerable neighbours! ❤️

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!



Bulletin Board in Courtyard

Join us
during this
season
of Lent.

