



March 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

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 666: “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Greeting

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Prayer of the Day:

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

Psalm: 121

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 3:1-17

Children’s Message

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/6SIFxEDOW0Q?si=yYIFrWwfXXWvS0-z>

Hymn 611: “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Apostles' Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
Choir Anthem: "Panis Angelicus"	Cesar Franck

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: 460, 451

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 638: "Blessed Assurance"	
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: David, Carol, 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. March 2 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
7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. March 3 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM CFUW in Boardroom

Wed. March 4 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room

Thurs. March 5 11:00 AM Spruce Lodge Worship
12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour
2:15 PM Knollcrest Worship
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

Sun. March 8 * LENT 3 *
10:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
*** ANNUAL MEETING ***
Daylight Savings Begins

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8th AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Bob & Marilyn Wells
Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Linda Faulhafer
Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
House of Blessing: Wayne Faulhafer



ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPRING AHEAD: Daylight Saving Time returns next Sunday, March 8th. A reminder to turn your clocks ahead one (1) hour next Saturday night.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual congregational meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet next 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, 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:

- 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)

BACH VESPERs IN LENT: The Choir and Orchestra of Spiritus Ensemble performance perform Bach Cantata 161 on Sunday, March 8th at 4:00 PM at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 23 Water Street North, Kitchener. Additional music by Purcell and Harris with soloists Jennifer Enns Modolo and Bud Roach. Admission by donation. For more information go to their website www.spiritusensemble.com.

SOUPS ON COMES TO ZION: **Sunday, March 15th** following worship you are invited to join your hosts, Fred Riehl and Zion's Congregational Life Committee for a bowl of homemade soup. Of course a roll and crackers will accompany your soup followed by coffee, tea, water and a sweet treat.

A donation of \$5.00 for adults would be appreciated.

If you are planning on attending, please sign the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

WOMEN OF FAITH: The next meeting for our Women of Faith will be **Monday, March 16th at 9:30 AM in the Parlour.** Please bring your concerns and tallies for your reports from January to the present date.

Hope to see everyone there and wear something green if you can.

EASTER FLOWERS: As is our custom here at Zion, donations are now being accepted so the **Women of Faith** can purchase flowers and decorate the church for our Easter celebrations.

Please write **"Easter Flowers" and your name on a separate envelope** and place it on the offering plate, in the locked mailbox, or bring it into the church office any weekday morning. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: **THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH.**

Paula McNaughton has decided to retire from the position of Sunday School Coordinator effective May 31, 2026. This is Paula's 2nd term being Sunday School Coordinator.

Karen McLeod, who is currently teaching our Grades 5 & 6, has decided to retire from the position from being a teacher and this is also her 2nd term as a teacher.

This is the perfect opportunity for the younger generation to take the helm.

If interested in either the coordinator's job or becoming a Sunday School teacher, please let Pastor Jeff know.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: There will be a grief support group offered at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (formerly known as St. James) on Monday afternoons beginning March 16th for 6 weeks.

For more information please contact Nancy Adams at 519-495-9492 or via email spiritworker@gmail.com.



CUPPA CANDLES: **Rotary Hospice** has a volunteer who makes lightly scented candles using teacups and saucers which hold the wax.

They are looking for donations of teacups and saucers to use in the making of these candles.

If you are house cleaning, downsizing or cleaning out your china cabinet and have some that you would like to donate they would be greatly appreciated.

For drop offs: Rotary Hospice is staffed 24/7 so teacups and saucers can be dropped off any time. Their address is 80 Greenwood Drive. They are located behind Greenwood Court. You have to pull in their driveway at 90 Greenwood and follow it all the way around back to find them. Ring the intercom at the front door and leave the teacups and saucers with reception.

The **CUPPA CANDLES** are for sale at reception but they are also incorporated into their “*Care Bundles*”. A “*Care Bundle*” is given to the family after their loved one has passed, as they are leaving the hospice. The bundle also includes information from their social workers on grief and bereavement and resources to support this next step of their journey.

Rotary Hospice is very grateful for any donations you may be able to offer.



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 Healthy school snacks (peanut free)** 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: 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.

