



March 15, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

Email: zionlc@golden.net

Cell: 519-274-1300

Website: www.zionstratford.com

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 in Lent

March 15, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 722: “O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm: 23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

Page 125

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/7UfzvnPw8cQ?si=f16tbFDXd_1UTs8W

Hymn 553: “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Apostles' Creed

Page 127

Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace
Choir Anthem: “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Page 128
Martin How

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: 793, 780

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 324: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”	
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 16 9:30 AM WOF Meeting in Parlour
 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour
 6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
 7:00-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall
 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. March 17 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
 7:00 PM ACO in Boardroom

Wed. March 18 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
 4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
 7:00 PM Congregational Council Meeting in Parlour

Thurs. March 19 5:00-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
 6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall
 * Pastor Jeff Away *

Fri. March 20 * Pastor Jeff Away *

Sat. March 21 Weidner Family in Fellowship Hall

Sun. March 22 * **LENT 5** *
 10:00 AM Worship
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Weidner Family in Fellowship Hall
 4:00-8:00 PM Jesus is Lord Church in Parlour

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Gerald & Isabel Cook
Usher Captain: Brian Coe
Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Mary-Lou Drown
Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
House of Blessing: Jan Bennewitz



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!

“SOUPS ON”: Just a reminder that this morning after worship Fred Riehl and your Congregational Life Committee are serving a hot bowl of homemade soup served with a roll and topped off with coffee, tea or water and a sweet treat. All for a donation of \$5.00. Hope to see you there!

WOMEN OF FAITH: A reminder that the next meeting for our Women of Faith will be tomorrow, **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.

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.



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 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)

The Table. Bread. Wine. Betrayal is a new work, dramatizing the days between Palm Sunday and Good Friday morning, presented at Shakespeare Presbyterian Church March 27 and 28. The free tickets are sold out! However, you are invited on Thursday, March 26, 7:30 PM for the dress rehearsal by invitation. Contact Jean Aitcheson, a member of the cast, jkhsn@quadro.net or 519-276-1975.

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!



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.



those in need.

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 **Hot and cold cereal or Toothbrushes and toothpaste** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with

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 at the Connection Centre, unless pre-arranged. You may also drop off donations at Zion 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.

