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March 22, 2026

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# **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

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 22, 2026**

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

**Hymn 886: “O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Installation of Congregational Council Officers and Members

## **WORD**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm: 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 11:1-45

Children’s Message

Sermon: [https://www.youtube.com/live/gd\\_vQwVbDl4?si=ozo2\\_sj4ai1Hx5TJ](https://www.youtube.com/live/gd_vQwVbDl4?si=ozo2_sj4ai1Hx5TJ)

## Hymn 456: “Baptized in Water”

### Holy Baptism

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

**Choir Anthem: “O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord”**

**Christopher Tye**

### MEAL

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

Offering Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

Page 133

The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

**Distribution Hymns: 802, 767**

### SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

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Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

Page 136

**Hymn 763: “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”**

Dismissal

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**Postlude: “Jubilate”**

**Noel Rawsthorne**

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

## THIS WEEK AT ZION:

Mon. March 23            2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour  
6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room  
7:00-8:30 PM SSSYO in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. March 24            7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall  
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

Wed. March 25            9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour  
4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room

Thurs. March 26            12 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  
7:00 PM Shelterlink in Parlour

Fri. March 27            9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in kitchen

Sun. March 29            \* **PALM SUNDAY** \*  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Sunday School

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> AS WE WORSHIP

**Greeters:** Brad & Sherri Beatty  
**Usher Captain:** Jerry Terhaerd  
**Altar:** Shirley Whittaker

**Reader:** Carmen Beck  
**Counting Captain:** NO COUNTERS  
**House of Blessing:** Heather Broadfoot



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**BAPTISM:** This morning we are pleased to welcome a new member to our Zion family through the sacrament of Baptism:

***CARTER WILLIBALD MORTON***

**Son of:** Tucker James Morton and Tessa Anne Weidner

**Congratulations to the Morton and Weidner families!**



**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR:** The flowers are lovingly placed on the altar today in joyful celebration of our grandson, Carter Willibald's baptism. With Love, your Oma and Opa.



**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:**

**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, [jkhns@quadro.net](mailto:jkhns@quadro.net) or 519-276-1975.

**HOUSE OF BLESSING “SPRING FOOD DRIVE”** will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at

No Frills  
Food Basics  
Zehrs

Thank you for your support!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** A free interactive experience that walks you through Holy Week as seen by the disciples of Jesus.

Walk through times during:

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm  
Pyramid Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys

Hosted by Bethel Church St. Marys

**SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING:** The “Special Easter Offering” this year will be divided equally between Canadian Lutheran World Relief and our Current Fund. These offerings may be made up to and including Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Easter Offering envelopes are on the tables at each of the entrances. Thank you for your support!



**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.

### **GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMMING THROUGH ROTARY HOSPICE:**

#### **LIVING WITH LOSS** (A Virtual Bereavement Group)

Dates: Tuesday Nights in April and May  
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Location: Online via Zoom

#### **EXPERIENCING THE LOSS OF AN ADULT CHILD** (In-person Bereavement Group)

Dates: Wednesday Nights in April and May  
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Location: In person at Rotary Hospice

**These groups are open to all. Register today or learn more by emailing [sw@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:sw@rotaryhospice.ca).**



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 **Healthy school snacks (peanut free) or Peanut Butter** 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 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