



PALM

Sunday

WELCOME

March 29, 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

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Palm Sunday Liturgy

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Blessing of Palms

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Hymn 344: “All Glory, Laud, and Honour”

Prayer of the Day:

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Message

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/0GIqX3Z7z7M?si=OEXkEdfgehjHQM41>

Hymn 343: “My Song Is Love Unknown”

Apostles’ Creed Page 127

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace Page 128

Choir Anthem: “Crown Him” **Gregg Sewell**

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: 337, 338

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 346: “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

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: Lynette, Marilyn, 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 30 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 31 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
- Wed. April 1 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
5:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
- Thurs. April 2** * **MAUNDY THURSDAY** *
11:00 AM Spruce Lodge Worship
12 Noon Bible Study in Parlour
4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour
5:00-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
7:00 PM Worship
- Fri. April 3** * **GOOD FRIDAY** *
10:00 AM Worship
11-3 Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room (to be confirmed)
- Sat. April 4 12 Noon-2 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room (to be confirmed)
4-9 PM Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall
- Sun. April 5** * **EASTER SUNDAY** *
10:00 AM Worship
**** NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ****

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Gerry & Janet Ahrens
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Tom Waschkowski
Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
House of Blessing: Gerry Rehberg



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BULLETIN SPONSOR: This morning's bulletin is sponsored by **Wendy Hansen and family** in loving memory of **Doug Hansen** who passed away **10 years ago on March 26, 2016**. Forever in our hearts. ❤️

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 26th, 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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH.

**A reminder to all that we are a nut-free Sunday School.
Please remember that Sunday School ends at 11:15 AM.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents/Grandparents: Have you registered your child(ren) or Grandchild(ren) for Sunday School? Registering them is not a commitment for them having to be here every Sunday. Registering them helps us arrange our classes and arrange for the number of teachers we need.

Children/grandchildren eligible for Sunday School include any child turning four (4) years of age in 2026 right through to children in Grade 6.

If a child(ren) has left the Sunday School program for any reason and would like to return, they are more than welcome!

It is quite easy to register them. All we require is the child(ren)'s name(s) and current grade(s) as of September 2026. You may email the information to zionluth.sscord@outlook.com.

All children/grandchildren of members need to be registered to attend Sunday School. Any visiting families with children four (4) years of age in 2026 are welcome without registering.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

Paula McNaughton
Sunday School Coordinator

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 30th 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Pyramid Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys

Hosted by Bethel Church St. Marys

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents “Symphony At The Cinema”

Avondale United Church 194 Avondale Ave.
Saturday, April 11, 2026 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Conductor: William Rowson
Special guests from the SSYO

For more information visit www.stratfordsymphony.ca.



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.



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 Baked beans** 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!

