



March 8, 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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 533: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm: 95

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 4:5-42

Children’s Message

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/7ymeOKLoX_k?si=iaFzhrTzIF8qFNm

Hymn 325: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Apostles' Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
Choir Anthem: "Down to the River to Pray"	arr. Audrey Snyder

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: 447, 491

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 618: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"	
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 9 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 10 7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM Greenwood Worship
3:00 PM CFUW in Boardroom

Wed. March 11 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
2:00 PM McCarthy Worship
4:30-7:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
5:00 PM Bethel Community Meal

Thurs. March 12 12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour
2:30 PM Hillside 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

Fri. March 13 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen
12 NOON – 2:00 PM Seniors' Luncheon

Sun. March 15 * LENT 4 *
10:00 AM Worship
*** There is NO Sunday School Today ***

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15th AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Tom & Joanne Cosstick
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Carmen Beck

Reader: Glenn Rittinger
Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
House of Blessing: Mary Mueller



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Just a reminder that the annual congregational meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will take place immediately following worship this morning

TODAY'S HYMN OF THE DAY, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me", is set to a tune that is attributed to Sojourner Truth, an enslaved woman and heroine of the Underground Railroad who spoke and worked for freedom and equality for all.



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 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)

BETHEL COMMUNITY MEAL: Bethel's Community Meal will be held in the Fellowship Hall here at Zion on **Wednesday, March 11th at 5:00 PM.**

SENIORS' LUNCHEON: The next Seniors' Luncheon is planned for **Friday, March 13th from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM.** Entertainment will be provided by Scott Beaudin, a vocalist from the Stratford Festival. Volunteers will be making their calls shortly.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There is **NO** Sunday School on Sunday, March 15th.

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!

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 **Canned soup, stew and chili or Pasta and Sauce** 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.

