



HE TOOK BREAD,
BLESSED AND
BROKE IT, AND
GAVE IT TO THEM.

THEN THEIR EYES
WERE OPENED, AND
THEY **RECOGNIZED HIM.**

LUKE 24:30-31, NRSV

April 19, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

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Hymn 377: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm: 116: 1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Celtic Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Children's Message

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/ei-eAa2MI5E?si=YXVfjqBykXV5TxI4>

Hymn 325: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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Choir Anthem: "In Thee Is Gladness"

Giovanni Gastoldi

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Offering Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

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The Lord's Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 491, 522

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

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Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

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Hymn 629: "Abide with Me"

Dismissal

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Postlude: "Alleluia"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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: Gertha, Peter, Marilyn, Isabelle, 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:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>Mon. April 20</u> | 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel |
| <u>Tues. April 21</u> | 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall |
| <u>Wed. April 22</u> | 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour |
| <u>Thurs. April 23</u> | 12 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour 6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall |
| <u>Fri. April 24</u> | 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen |
| <u>Sun. April 26</u> | * EASTER 4 * 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 Sunday School |

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Wayne & Linda Faulhafer
Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd
Altar: Sister Jean

Reader: Stephen Fischer
Counting Captain: Irene West
House of Blessing: Mary Mueller



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Children will be singing in church on Sunday, April 26th and May 10th.

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 10th.

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.sschool@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

KAMMERCHOR LONDON’S CONCERT: Stéphane Potvin, our Minister of Music, invites you to attend Kammerchor London’s concert on *April 25th* with a powerful and uplifting programme featuring Vivaldi’s *Gloria* and Bach’s *Cantata no 12*.

Kammerchor partners with the London Food Bank in a shared commitment to supporting members of the local community facing food insecurity. Audience members are warmly invited to bring one or more non-perishable items to the concert to help support the Food Bank’s ongoing work serving those in need in the London community.

Join Kammerchor on April 25th at 7:00 P.M. at First-St. Andrew’s United Church for an evening of beautiful music while helping support an important cause in our community.

Tickets \$35 (regular), \$15 (people aged 18-35), FREE (youth 17 and under).

For more information, visit kammerchor.ca or email kammerchorlondon@gmail.com. Follow Kammerchor on social media: facebook.com/Kammerchorlondon

CONCERT SUNDAY, MAY 31ST HERE AT ZION:

MIKE & SUE WEBER
& FRIENDS
Perform Classic Country Music



SUNDAY MAY 31ST
(2:00 – 4:30 pm)

AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 Erie Street, Stratford

A FUND RAISER FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE FEES OF CHAIR LIFTS

Tickets: \$35.00 **CALL: 519-271-8527**

Refreshments Available

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 519-271-8527

WEEKDAY MORNINGS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

O R PURCHASE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY BEFORE OR AFTER WORSHIP.

YOUR TICKET IS WAITING FOR YOU!

NEED A MOTHERS' DAY GIFT, BIRTHDAY GIFT OR PERHAPS A TREAT FOR A FRIEND? BUY A TICKET!

COME OUT AND SUPPORT THIS WORTHWHILE CAUSE AND HEAR SOME GREAT CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD! THANK YOU!

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents “New and Distant Worlds”

May 2nd, 2026 at 7:30 P.M.

Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave.

Conductor: William Rowson

Guest Artists: Sharon Wei, Viola

For more information and tickets visit <https://www.stratfordsymphony.ca>

12TH ANNUAL HIKE FOR HOSPICE: There’s something special about coming together for this day, walking in memory, in honour, and in support of compassionate hospice care in our community. Whether you join on Hike Day or make it your own and Hike on Your Site, every step counts.

Register today and take advantage of their **Early Bird Draw:** sign up by **May 15th** at midnight and you’ll be entered to win the Ultimate Local Day Out prize package, which includes:

Family River Aventure Pass from The Boathouse
4 Muffins or Scones from The Little Kitchen on York
Four Dirty Sodas from Corner Store Candy Co.
4 Ice Creams from JENN & Larry’s Ice Cream Shoppe
2 \$85 Gift Cards from Pursuit Climbing

Whether you hike in honour of a loved one, in gratitude for the care you or someone close to you received, or simply to give back, **every step helps** ensure that individuals and families have access to conform, dignity and support when it matters most.

Gather your friends, family, colleagues, or group members and be part of something meaningful on **June 14th**.

L’ARCHE STRATFORD’S 6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & AFTER PARTY:

Registration is open for the 6th Annual Golf Tournament & After Party at the Stratford Municipal Golf Course on **Thursday, August 13th**

Lunch is served at 12:00 P.M.

Shotgun starts at 1:00 P.M.

with the After Party happening at 4:00 P.M.

Contact Wendy admin@larchestratford.ca for more information



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 any teacups and saucers 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 Drive and follow it all the way around to the 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 **bar of soap and body wash or rice** 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 Noon to 4:30 PM 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