

Fruits of the SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

LOVE

Gives without expecting

JOY

Smiles in the storm

PEACE

Calm in the chaos

PATIENCE

Waits with grace

KINDNESS

Gentle on purpose

GOODNESS

Chooses what's right

FAITHFULNESS

Always shows up

GENTLENESS

Power wrapped in softness

SELF-CONTROL

Pause before react

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 of Easter

April 26, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 385: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm: 23

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Celtic Alleluia



Gospel: John 10:1-10

Children's Anthem: "Fruit of the Spirit"

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/7_aZleY4hUw?si=mdWNWdLhvwYGdwM

Hymn 778: "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Nicene Creed

Page 126

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

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: 362, 780

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

Page 136

Hymn 789: "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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: 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:

Mon. April 27 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour
6-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. April 28 7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Worship & Music Meeting in Parlour

Wed. April 29 9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour

Thurs. April 30 12 Noon Bible Study in Parlour
4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour
6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room

Sun. May 3 * **EASTER 5** *
10:00 AM Worship
10:00 Sunday School

COFFEE HOUR

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 3RD AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Ron & Nancy Hesas
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstickt
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Murray Scholl
Counting Captain: Carmen Beck
House of Blessing: Jan Bennewitz



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING: Today is the last Sunday to make your “Special Easter Offering”. As mentioned previously, this year the “Special Easter Offering” will be divided equally between Canadian Lutheran World Relief and our Current Fund. Easter Offering envelopes are on the tables at each of the entrances. Thank you for your support!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE – Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

As you may or may not be aware, we have had an Automated External Defibrillator for some time in our possession. It is to be used as an immediate step when someone does not respond when shaken or is not breathing normally. The first action, of course, is to call 911, but in the meantime, the AED is to be started immediately before the arrival of the paramedics.

In order that we have members aware as to how to use the AED, the Congregational Council is planning to have an AED Training Meeting in due course. The objective of this one-hour Training Meeting is to give attendees the ability to be knowledgeable on how to operate the system, if required.

If you are interested in learning the operation of the AED System, please inform Jane Kelly, our Parish Administrator, of your interest by Friday, May 15, 2026, in order that we can schedule the Training Meeting accordingly. It is our hope that our ushers, staff, a member of any committee in the church or any interested members will take this opportunity for this learning experience.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Children are singing this morning.

The children will be singing in church on Sunday, 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.sscored@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

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 Adventure 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 comfort, 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 the reception desk 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 **side dishes (KD, Sidekicks, Hamburger Helper, stuffing, instant potatoes, etc.) or healthy school snacks (peanut free)** 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

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.**

OR

**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!