



He is not here:
for he is risen,
as he said.
Come, see the place
where the Lord lay.
Matthew 28:6, KJV

April 5, 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

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 365: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem: “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

Melchior Vulpius

WORD

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Celtic Alleluia



Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon

Hymn 382: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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Choir Anthem: "Nun danket alle Gott"

J.S. Bach

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: 480, 391, 449

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing

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Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

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Hymn 361: "The Day of Resurrection!"

Dismissal

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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. April 6

EASTER MONDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

1:00-4:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room (to be confirmed)

2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour

7:00-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Choir in Chapel

Tues. April 7

9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

Wed. April 8

9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour

2:00 PM McCarthy Place Worship

5:00 PM Bethel Community Meal

Thurs. April 9

12 Noon Bible Study in Parlour

2:30 PM Hillside Worship

4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour

Fri. April 10

9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen

12 Noon- 2:00 PM Seniors' Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

Sun. April 2

*** EASTER 2 ***

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Audrey Miller / Mervyn Dietz

Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker

Altar: Carmen Beck

Reader: Fritz Steigmeier

Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS

House of Blessing: Gerry & Janet Ahrens



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:

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

The Sunday School Children will be singing on Sunday, April 26th.

**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.sscoord@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



EASTER FLOWERS: “*THANK YOU*” to the following donators who have contributed to the purchase of the flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration: Tom Waschkowski & Marian Sherk, Robert & Bev Keutsch, Fred & Robin Riehl, Pauline Schade, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Jean Weir, Irene Ehgoetz, Wayne & Linda Faulhafer, Tom & Joanne Cosstick and Brian & Barb Gropp.

“THANK YOU” to the Women of Faith for organizing the collection of the funds, and to Dianne Mann for purchasing the beautiful flowers and decorating the Sanctuary for our Easter celebration this morning.

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.

JAZZ VESPERS: **Sunday, April 12th, 2026 at 4:00 PM**
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford

Festuring:

The Jazz Combo From Stratford District Secondary School

All Welcome to this Informal Evening Worship Service

(Free Will Offering)



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 **Toothbrushes & toothpaste and 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 12:00-4:30 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!

