

"I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be

Glorified
in the *Son.*"

John 14:13

May 3, 2026

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 367: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Psalm: 31: 1-5, 15-16

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 14:1-14

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn 645: “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

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: 816, 445

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer
Blessing Page 136
Hymn 810: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”
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: Ellen, Liz, 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. May 4 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour
6-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Tues. May 5 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Wed. May 6 8 AM-5 PM Festival Hydro in FH
9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Thurs. May 7 6:30-8 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Friday, May 8 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in kitchen
12-2 PM Seniors' Luncheon in FH
PASTOR JEFF AWAY

Sun. May 10 * **EASTER 6** *
10:00 AM Worship
10:00 Sunday School

"HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY"

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Darrell & Judy Renecker
Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Isabel Cook
Counting Captain: Carmen Beck
House of Blessing: Heather Broadfoot



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK: This morning we welcome back two familiar faces:

PASTOR TIM ELLIOTT who will be our officiant for this worship service; and
PAUL SHILTON who will be accompanying our voices in song on the piano.

Welcome back Pastor Tim and Paul! We are delighted to have you back with us this morning!

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 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.ssoord@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

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**.

JOY ON THE JOURNEY hosted by **Elgin Keen-Agers**

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

11:00 AM

Catered Lunch - \$21 / Person

Elgin Missionary Church Fellowship Hall

Special Guests: Bill & Mary Lemmon

Call Elgin Missionary Church to Register by MAY 20TH 519-271-5407

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

BETHEL KIDS 2026 SUMMER CAMPS

July 6th-10th
July 13th – 17th
July 27th – 31st
August 10th – 14th

- Ocean Explorers Camp
- Around the World Camp
- Colour Wars Camp
- Camp Carnival

\$200 per week
\$175 per additional child registered
Register at mybethel.ca

CREATION CARE QUEST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

Trinity Luthern Church, New Hamburg

**August 17 – 21 Full Day! 9 am-4 pm
Ages 5 – 11 as of December 31, 2026**

Outdoor activities * crafts * science * music * and more!

**Register online at telc.ca
(Registration closes June 30th)**

Financial assistance available.

Please contact Pastor Tanya Varner (varner@telc.ca) prior to registration.

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Below is an updated “Needs List”:

- Single serve snacks
- Basic socks
- Laundry soap/pods
- Coffee & sugar (always)
- Bus tickets
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Razors

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday between 12-4:30 pm.

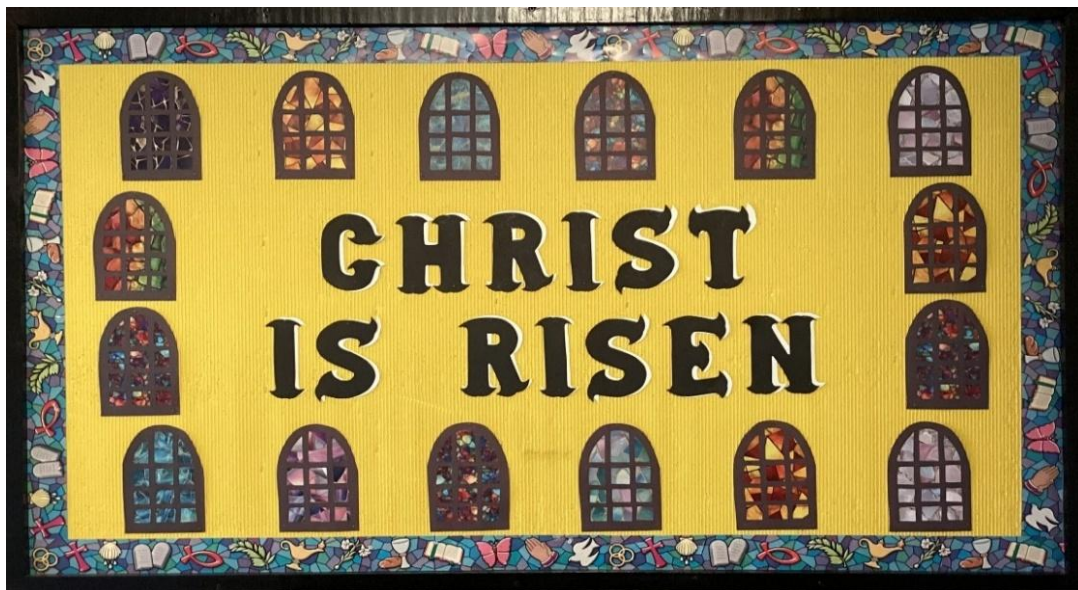
Please contact them if an alternative drop off time is necessary at 519-271-6819 ext 405 or by email connectioncentre@cmhahuronperth.com.

The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart, Food Basics or Costco. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome. Thank You!

Thank you for continuing to support the Connection Centre so they can support our vulnerable neighbours! ❤️



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 vegetables and fruit or canned fish – tuna and salmon** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.



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!