

Rest *for the* Weary

Come to me, all you who
are weary and burdened, and
I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28, NIV



October 4, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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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

St. Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church

October 4, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 879: “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, we praise you for your servant Francis, through whom you have called your church to tasks and renewed its life. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your church and proclaim the reality of your reign, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children’s Message

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-15

Psalm: 16

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Matthew 11:15-20

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/s3CRW0IHnq4?si=4d-nsZVd4scLwnp->

Hymn 580: “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

Apostles’ Creed Page 127

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace Page 128

Choir Anthem: “Father, We Praise Thee”

Healey Willan

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offering Prayer Page 129

The Great Thanksgiving Page 129

Communion Prayer Page 130

The Lord’s Prayer Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 611, 742

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer Page 136

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 824: “This Is My Father’s World”

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, which may be found in the inner circle in each communion tray. 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: Elfrieda, Jean, Edith, Heather, Beth, Liz, Peter, Isabelle, David, Carol, Bev, Jim, Wayne, Marjorie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Wendy, Hollice, Leanne, Al, Brian, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<u>Mon. Oct. 5</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6:30-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel
<u>Tues. Oct. 6</u>	9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall
<u>Wed. Oct. 7</u>	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour 5-6 Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room
<u>Thurs. Oct. 8</u>	12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 2:30 PM Hillside Worship 4:15 Confirmation in Parlour 5-7:30 Playmakers in Shuffleboard & SS Rooms 6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Girl Guide Room
<u>Fri. Oct. 9</u>	9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen 10:00 AM Decorate Sanctuary for Thanksgiving 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM Seniors' Luncheon
<u>Sun. Oct. 11</u>	* THANKSGIVING * 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Bob & Marilyn Wells
Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE is being held this afternoon at 4:00 PM

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford

For the blessing please ensure your pets are on a leash or safely secured in a carrier!

DECORATING FOR THANKSGIVING: Thanksgiving will be observed at Zion on Sunday, October 11th. It is good to give thanks to our God for the abundant mercies God showers upon us. We are asking the congregation to help supply items to help with our decorating the sanctuary for this occasion. Items sought include fruits and vegetables, end of the year garden produce, or other non-perishable food items. After Thanksgiving these items will be donated to either the House of Blessing or The Local, as appropriate.

Donations may be brought to Zion the week of October 5th, but before Friday, October 9th.

Your donations to this project are appreciated.



E-TRANSFER OFFERINGS:

A reminder that we are officially setup, once again, for “e-Transfer auto deposits”.

However, we have had to create a new email address for our e-Transfers that is linked directly to our CIBC account.

For future e-Transfers please use zion202offerings@execulink.com.

A security question will not be required using this email address and funds will be automatically deposited to our account.

We want to “thank you” for your patience and understanding during the process to remedy the auto deposit procedure.



ZION’S 80 & OVER SENIORS’ BIRTHDAY PARTY is being held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 23rd, 2026 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Personal invitation calls will be coming soon.

INTRODUCING CAREGIVER CONNECTION SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS

The following information comes from the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth Newsletter.

When someone in your circle is living with a serious illness, you may find yourself taking on new responsibilities such as helping with appointments and medications, preparing meals, providing personal care, offering emotional support, or simply being there when they need you most. You might not think of yourself as a *caregiver*. You may simply think, “I’m their spouse,” “I’m their daughter,” “I’m their friend.”

But if you’re caring for someone, in any capacity, you are a caregiver.

We’re excited to introduce [Caregiver Connection](#), a new free program starting in a few weeks, designed to support people who are caring for a loved one.

Through education, conversation, and peer connection, caregivers will have an opportunity to learn practical strategies, share experiences with others who understand and take some time for themselves.

Caregiving can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging, isolating, and exhausting. You don’t have to navigate it alone.

Whether you proudly identify as a caregiver or have never used that word to describe yourself, this program is for you. Please share this information with anyone in your circle who may benefit.

To learn more, click the button below or contact referrals@rotaryhospice.ca

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SERENITY GARDEN!

You are invited to join Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth for the official opening of

The Serenity Garden at Rotary Hospice.

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Drop in: 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Formal Remarks at 6:00 PM

80 Greenwood Drive, Stratford

Light refreshments and music provided.

To learn more visit:

www.rotaryhospice.ca/serenity-garden

MMMM COMPOSERS IN CONCERT 2026:

Saturday, October 24th, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

202 Erie Street, Stratford

(Admission by Donation)

Featuring:

Composers:

Marco Burak

Doug Peterman

Michael R. Dobinson

Guest Composers: Wendy Edwards Beardall-Norton
Christopher Norton
Britton Theurer

JAZZ VESPER: Sunday, October 18th, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford

Featuring:

THE TYSON KIPFER TRIO

Tyson Kipfer (Piano)

Eric Trimmer (Bass)

Kevin Lower (Drums)

**ALL WELCOME
TO THIS INFORMAL
EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE
(FREE WILL OFFERING)**

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 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM. at the Connection Centre.
Please contact them if an alternative drop off time is necessary at 519-271-6819 ext 405 or by email
connectioncentre@cmhahuronperth.com.

For convenience, you may drop off donations here at Zion in the bins located at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.

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! ❤️



HOUSE OF BLESSING "RIDE FOR REFUGE": Join the Ride for Refuge, a family-friendly fundraising ride and walk supporting Stratford House of Blessing Food Bank. Every step and every kilometre helps provide food and hope for neighbours in our community facing food insecurity.

Saturday, October 3

For more information, to sign up, volunteer or donate visit rideforrefuge.org/stratford

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 Toilet paper** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.



**The Bulletin Board located in the Courtyard Foyer
Featuring Pastor Jeff's Confirmation Verse.**

Do you remember your Confirmation Verse?

Would you like to share it?

If so, please call the office 519-271-8527.



