

**THIS WEEK WE PRAY:**

>for our members and friends with special needs: Bob, Willi, Al, Melinda, Mike, Paul, Brian, Sharon, Bruce, Susan, Nya, Linda, Donna, Brian, Jim, Lynnette, Al, Brock, Cathy, Katana, Brian, Jim, Glenn and Kolby;

>for those who have no one to pray for them.



**THIS WEEK AT ZION:**

Mon. Mar. 27

2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
6:00 PM Pathfinders

Tues. Mar. 28

7:00 AM Rotary  
9:30 AM Chair Yoga  
1:00 PM Avon Menn. Men’s Group  
6:30 PM Sparks

Wed. March 29

9:00 AM Quilters  
10:00 AM Women of Faith General Meeting  
1:00 PM Avon Menn. Prayer Group

Thurs. March 30

12:00 Noon Bible Study  
4:15 PM Confirmation Class  
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Sun. April 2

“PALM SUNDAY”  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Sunday School



**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Jim & Judy Stanley

**Reader:** Glenn Rittinger

**Usher Captain:** Jerry Terhaerd Team

**Counter:** Carmen Beck Team

**Altar:** Sister Jean Widmeyer



FIFTH SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

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**March 26, 2023**

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# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

email: [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net)

Cell: 519-274-1300

website: [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com)

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## People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Lautsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

## Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

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Lent 5

March 26, 2023

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## GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

**Hymn 886: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm: 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Children’s Message

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/QvKnA-KA5go?feature=share>

**Hymn 600: “Out of the Depths I Cry to You”**

Apostles’ Creed	Page 127
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128
<b>Choir Anthem: “Eden’s Song” – O Waly Waly, arr. Mark Schweizer</b>	

**MEAL**

Offertory Prayer	Page 129
The Great Thanksgiving	Page 129
Communion Prayer	Page 133
The Lord’s Prayer	Page 134
Distribution of Holy Communion	
<b>Communion Hymns: 494, 495</b>	

Post-Communion Blessing	
Post-Communion Prayer	Page 136

**SENDING**

Blessing	Page 136
<b>Hymn 629: “Abide with Me”</b>	
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. 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. The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the center aisle.

*Please note that masks are “no longer mandatory”; but, continuing to wear a mask is strongly recommended. Our ropes for “limited” capacity have come down; but, we do encourage “social distancing” wherever possible. “Pre-registration” for worship is no longer required.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** A reminder that Sunday School will end at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.

**WOMEN OF FAITH MEETING:** A reminder that the next general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

**STRATFORD BLOOD DONATION EVENT:** **Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Best Western The Arden Park Hotel, 552 Ontario Street. By appointment. Book now by calling 1-888-236-6283.**

**BIBLE STUDY:** If any one is wanting to explore God’s Word and what it means for us in our daily lives as Christians, bring your lunch and come out and join us on Thursdays at noon in the Parlour. For further information, please speak with Pastor Jeff.

**HOUSE OF BLESSING:** To help the House of Blessing with their significant increase in the number of people using their services since this time last year, as you are able, if you could bring cereal or canned fruit for the House of Blessing Food Bank and place it in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.



**EASTER FLOWERS:** As is our custom here at Zion, donations are now being accepted so the **Women of Faith** can purchase flowers and decorate the church for our Easter celebrations.

Please write **“Easter Flowers” and your name on a separate envelope** and place it on the offering plate, in the locked mailbox, or bring it in to the church office any weekday morning.

Thank you!

*Worship With Us  
This Easter*

**EASTER SERVICES:**



<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE “NO SUNDAY SCHOOL”  
ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

**EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL MUSICAL TREAT:** For Easter Sunday service the choir will provide some special music. Our Choir director, Paul, has composed an original anthem that will have it's premier performance on Easter Sunday. It is written for Organ, Trumpet and choir. Our accompanist that day will be *Kelly Walker*, who has been with us before, and the trumpet player will be *Jennifer Peace*. Please join us!

### **SALT 3 NEWS UPDATE – MARCH 2023**

Stratford Anglican-Lutheran Team has been working to bring the Al Taeh family to Canada since 2018, and they finally arrived safely on the snowy night of January 27, 2023. Privacy and confidentiality are top of mind during their early weeks in their new home, so you haven't heard very much from us about how they are doing – until now.

As you probably know, they already had family here in Stratford, the Alta'eh family we sponsored in 2016. (That's not a spelling error or a different name. It's just how different staff at UN High Commission for Refugees transliterated the family name from Arabic to Roman letters!) It has been wonderful to see the adults reuniting after seven years, and a joy to watch five Alta'eh and six Al Taeh kids getting to know one another! This has made a huge difference in helping the family feel more at home in a strange country and navigate a new community. It's been a great help with translation!

We were blessed to find an excellent rental house for the family very close to a public school and many other amenities. They appreciated all the set-up we did before they arrived, and now are making it their own. Many thanks to all of you who so generously donated furniture, kitchenware, and many other household goods! Thanks also to the St. Paul's Thrift Shop and others who donated clothing!

The family has their OHIP numbers, Healthy Smiles Ontario assessments and dental coverage numbers for the children, a family doctor, a dentist, an optometrist, and their first COVID-19 vaccinations!! Dental treatment appointments are under way. Car seat safety training has also been completed for the parents and drivers. Alia Alta'eh has been indispensable in transporting and interpreting at appointments.

The adults have bank accounts that are working fine for them. They are learning to use debit and credit cards and online bill-paying and rental payments with our Canadian financial systems.

Shopping is going well – Alia is a great shopping guide for them. They are always looking for Lebanese-style pita bread for a good price!

Five of the children have started school, and all is going well. The youngest, who is just a year-and-a-half, is tentatively enrolled in day care for next fall. Mom and Dad are working hard in their English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. There may be opportunities for volunteers to visit regularly to help with reading, schoolwork, ESL, etc. Contact Chris Thrasher ([chrisandrobthrasher@gmail.com](mailto:chrisandrobthrasher@gmail.com))

Dad now has his G1 driver's licence. Volunteers who could take them for driving practice would be welcome – contact Dave Van Schaik ([vanschaikdavid1@gmail.com](mailto:vanschaikdavid1@gmail.com)) or Tom Patterson ([tompatterson220@gmail.com](mailto:tompatterson220@gmail.com)).

The children are looking forward to playing soccer this summer. Robin Rutherford is looking for a tricycle, a bicycle or two (the oldest is 10) and one or two scooters for them. She also is gathering outdoor play items (small pool to use as a sandbox, badminton racquets, skipping ropes, kites, wagon, hockey nets for backyard soccer, trampoline). Contact Robin at [robinrutherford2@icloud.com](mailto:robinrutherford2@icloud.com) if you can help with those items.

The Al Taeh family – adults and children – are a delight to know. It is a gift and privilege to be able to help them find a better, safer, healthier life in Canada. They are no longer refugees – they are Permanent Residents with a home in this country.

None of this could be happening without the wonderful support of the people in our four churches and our friends in the community who have volunteered, donated generously, encouraged and prayed. It's a bit too soon to overwhelm them with new people in their lives, but we hope to have a gathering in the spring or summer where you will have a chance to meet these strangers whom you have welcomed.

**Your SALT 3 Committee**

**Zion's Representatives are:**

**Jan Bennewitz**

**Sister Jean**

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