

CHRISTMAS MASKS: We have some Christmas Masks, which were made with care and donated to us for the purpose of raising money to put towards the “Current Deficit”. We have set them out on a card table at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please feel free to help yourself! Thank you for your support!!

OFFICE CLOSED: Please note that the office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 27 and Tuesday, December 28 for Christmas.

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Sharon, Susan, Nya, Dan, Jane, Maria, Bob, Brian, Murray, Mary, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Muriel, Beryl, Cathy, Jack, John, Katana, Ron, Brian and Kolby.
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

SERVING DURING CHRISTMAS AS WE WORSHIP:

Date	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Dec. 24 *4:00 p.m.*	Volunteers Needed	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Jerry Terhaerdt	N/A
Dec. 24 *7:00 p.m.*	Volunteers Needed	Lynne Huras	Tom Cosstick	N/A
Dec. 25 10:00 am.	Volunteers Needed	Brian Wilker	Darrell Renecker	N/A
Sunday Dec. 26 10:00 a.m.	Volunteers Needed	Stephen Fischer	Brian Coe	N/A

**A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!!**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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website: www.zionstratford.com

People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen
Sister Jean Widmeyer
Paul Shilton
Laura Burton
Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor
Visitation Minister
Minister of Music
Organist
Pianist

ADVENT 4

December 19, 2021

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

HYMN 257: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1-4)

Laura on Organ

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ANTHEM: "O Tell Me, My Heart's King of Grace"

V. Lubeck

Sung by Susan Laustsen & Jill Wright

WORD

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlrwdIq5Yza1jGII7q1bh-eKNnSH>

HYMN 251: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

Paul on Piano

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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ANTHEM: "Ave Maria"

Bach/Gounod

Organ & Piano Duet

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord's Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-Communion Prayer

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SENDING

Blessing

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HYMN 267: "Joy to the World"

Franklin Famme on Organ

Dismissal

Franklin Famme on Organ

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. The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the centre aisle.

THANK YOU: We want to say "THANK YOU" to our musical guests this morning, *Franklin Famme and Jill Wright* for sharing their talents with us.

NEW ADVENT BANNER - Our Advent worship is blessed this year by our new Advent banner that was crafted by members of our Thursday Confirmation Class. The words on the four candles correspond with the themes of this season of waiting and preparation for the coming of our Lord:

Listen: "Listen, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19

Wait: "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I will wait all day long." - Psalm 25:5

Be Glad: "Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart." - Psalm 21:11

Proclaim: "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you may also have fellowship with us." - 1 John 1:3

The class members who created this banner under the direction of Susan Laustsen are Ellen Bondi, Macy Kollman, Summer Kollman, Mayla Laukka, Collin Sousa and Kayla Winter-Pacheco.

BC FLOOD RELIEF - Canadian Lutheran World Relief invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia who are suffering from the massive floods and landslides that have devastated parts of the province and displaced thousands of residents. CLWR is accepting donations on its' website at clwr.org/BCfloods or by emailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

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 **hygiene items such as shampoo and conditioner; or food items such as cookies and crackers**) 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.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup. If you pre-register for Sunday morning worship, I will have your envelopes on the table at the entrance of the church. We are still working on delivering as many as possible within Stratford; so, if you have not received your envelopes, please check your mailbox regularly. If you wish to pick up your envelopes or if you live outside of Stratford, you can pick them up just inside the doors off the side parking lot.

Please DO NOT use your 2022 envelopes until January, 2022. Please call Jane in the office 519-271-8527 any weekday morning if you cannot find your offering envelopes or if you wish to start receiving them. You may also contact the office if you wish to switch to **POP, the pre-authorized offering program**. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes are available for anyone wishing to use them for their contributions; a taxable receipt is given at year end. To receive your envelopes, please contact Jane in the office 519-271-8527 or drop into the office during office hours (currently Tuesday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

** YEAR END OFFERINGS **

PLEASE NOTE: As stated in the December Newsletter, we will be accepting 2021 offerings at the office during the last week of December, namely December 27 to December 31, 2021 or they can be left in the locked mailbox. We will also be accepting offerings for 2021 on Sunday, January 2, 2022 as long as the member uses a 2021 offering envelope. If the offering is made via a cheque, it is must be dated with a December date.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: "Thank you" to the following donators who have contributed to the purchase of the flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas celebrations: *Jean Weir, the Quilting Ladies, Lynne Huras & Mom, Brian & Barb Gropp, Ellen Wolfe & Bruce Mitchell, Tom & Joanne Cosstick, Elfrieda Zimmerman, and Bob & Marilyn Wells.*