

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Wayne & Linda Faulhafer, Lynette McLeod, Bev & Robert Keutsch, Ellen Wolfe, Quilting Group, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Barb & Brian Gropp, Jean Weir, Tom & Joanne Cosstick, Robin & Fred Riehl, Ruth Lindner, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Brian & Pauline Schade.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: As in the past, the “Christmas” offering envelopes for this year will be apportioned one-half to the Kiwanis Christmas Basket Fund and one-half to the Current Fund.

“Christmas” offering envelopes are available on the tables at all entrances to the Sanctuary.

“Thank you” for your continued support!

YEAR-END OFFERING DEADLINE: Please note that all 2023 offerings need to be received by Sunday, December 31st by the end of worship to be included on your 2023 tax receipt.

“Thank you” for everyone’s continued financial support.

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Audrey, Susan, Bernice, Maria, Margaret, Miles, Tom, Marian, Anne, Leanne, Hans, Margaret, Dianne, Isabelle, Ingrid, Al, Melinda, John, Dan, Brian, Paul, Glenn, Jim, Nya, Lynnette, Cathy, Brock, Katana and Kolby;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

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|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Mon. December 25</u> | “Christmas Day Nativity of Our Lord” 10:00 AM Worship |
| <u>Tues. December 26</u> | OFFICE CLOSED |
| <u>Wed. December 27</u> | OFFICE CLOSED |
| <u>Sun. December 31</u> | “Christmas 1” 10:00 AM Worship |

SERVING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31th AT 10:00 AM

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Greeters: Wayne & Linda Faulhafer | Reader: Aline Kouhi-Klemencic |
| Usher Captain: Brian Coe | Counting Captain: N/A |
| Altar: Shirley Whittaker | House of Blessing: N/A |



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

ADVENT 4

December 24, 2023

LESSONS AND CAROLS

GATHERING SONG: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

Dialogue

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth.

Let the earth hear, and all that fills it.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

The majesty of our God.

Nations shall come to your light,

And kings to the brightness of your dawn.

This is the Lord for whom we wait;

Let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of comfort, peace, and joy. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your peace throughout the earth.

Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of us all.

Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: Lost in the night

ELW 243

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: Come now, O Prince of peace

ELW 247

Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-5

I will wait for the Lord.

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: Comfort, comfort now my people

ELW 256

Lesson: Isaiah 40:9-11

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

ELW 254

Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: He came down

ELW 253

Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: The angel Gabriel from heaven came

ELW 265

Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

I will wait for the Lord,

And I will hope in God who saves us.

Carol: Light one candle to watch for Messiah

ELW 240

REFLECTION

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

O Lord our God, be gracious to us;
we wait for you.

Dispel the darkness,
that all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth,
join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and weary,
renew their strength and power.

O Lord our God, come to us,
that the earth may behold your glory.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
Saviour of the nations, come!

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Joy to the World

ELW 267

Dispel the darkness,
that all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth,
join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and weary,
renew their strength and power.

O Lord our God, come to us,
that the earth may behold your glory.

Amen.

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