

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Joyce, 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:

Mon. January 1 OFFICE CLOSED

Tues. January 2 9:30 AM Chair Yoga Returns in Fellowship Hall

Wed. January 3 1:00 PM Avon Menn. Prayer Group in their office
1:00 PM Tennis Club in Parlour

Sun. January 7 10:00 AM "Baptism of Our Lord"

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Gerald & Isabel Cook

Reader: Linda Faulhafer

Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick

Counting Captain: Marilyn Wells

Altar: Ellen Wolfe

House of Blessing: Gerry & Janet
Ahrens

*Happy
New
Year!*

...for my
eyes have
seen your
salvation,...

Luke 2:30, NRSV



December 31, 2023

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

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Christmas 1

December 31, 2023

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 296: "What Child Is This"

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: 148

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: Please see our website www.zionstratford.com for this week's sermon.

Hymn 417: “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Nicene Creed	Page 126
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128

MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offertory Prayer	Page 129
The Great Thanksgiving	Page 129
Communion Prayer	Page 132
The Lord’s Prayer	Page 134
Distribution of Holy Communion	

Distribution Hymns: 272, 278

Post-Communion Blessing	
Post-Communion Prayer	Page 136

SENDING

Blessing	Page 136
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Hymn 270: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for volunteers who can help take down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary which is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 immediately following chair yoga at 10:30 AM.** If you can assist, please let Sister Jean or Jane know by calling 519-271-8527. Thank you!

ETERNITY FOR TODAY: Anyone wishing to receive this book of daily reflections which comes out every three (3) months, please contact Jane in the office during office hours Tuesdays to Fridays 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM 519-271-8527 for more information.



QUILTS FOR SALE

QUILTS FOR SALE: Do you have a hard-to-buy-for person in your family or circle of friends? If so, how about a beautiful quilt made with TLC by our quilting ladies? Feel free to come and check them out during office hours: Mondays 8:30 to 11:30 AM, Tuesdays to Fridays 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information contact Irene Ehgoetz at 519-271-8878.

BETHEL COMMUNITY MEAL: Bethel Church will be hosting their first Community Meal here at Zion in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 5:00 PM.** All are welcome!!

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY is, once again, offering “Education Hour”. You are invited to join their Public Education Coordinators for a one-hour virtual presentation on brain health, cognitive changes and dementia. Please see the enclosed insert for dates and topics being offered and instructions on registering.

On the reverse side of the insert is a reminder of the Alzheimer’s Annual Fundraiser “Soup’s On” which is taking place on **Saturday, January 13th at the Stratford Rotary Complex from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** Bring your own spoon!

STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING: We have received an updated list of much-needed items from the House of Blessing. To help them 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 **boxed Mac & Cheese (KD) or tuna** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.