#### 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"

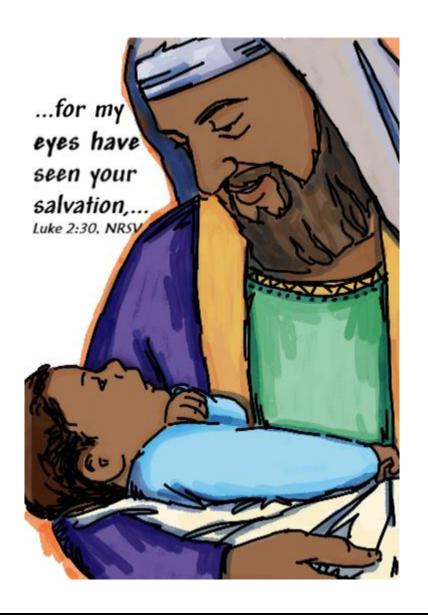
# SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th AS WE WORSHIP

**Greeters**: Gerald & Isabel Cook **Reader**: Linda Faulhafer

Usher Captain: Tom CosstickCounting Captain: Marilyn WellsAltar: Ellen WolfeHouse of Blessing: Gerry & Janet

Ahrens





December 31, 2023

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527 Cell: 519-274-1300

email: zionlc@golden.net website: www.zionstratford.com

People of ZionMinistersRev. Jeffrey LaustsenPastor

Sister Jean Widmeyer Visitation Minister Paul Shilton Minister of Music

Laura Burton Organist Éric Charbonneau 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
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**

<u>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</u>: We are looking for volunteers who can help take down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary which is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

<u>BETHEL COMMUNITY MEAL</u>: 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.