



Heaven  
and earth  
will pass away,  
but my  
**words**  
will not  
pass away.

*Luke 21:33*





FIRST SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

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December 1, 2024

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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 Laustsen**

**Sister Jean Widmeyer**

**Andrew Elian**

**Laura Burton**

**Éric Charbonneau**

## **Ministers**

**Pastor**

**Visitation Minister**

**Minister of Music**

**Organist**

**Pianist**

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**Advent 1**

**December 1, 2024**

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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**Hymn 244 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Hymn 240 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (Verse 1)**

## **WORD**

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Children’s Message

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/yZaYtFSN9Ns?si=95OpBViG197T-o1U>

**Hymn 246: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”**

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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**Choir Anthem: “Waiting for a King”**

**MEAL**

**Offering Hymn 186: “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

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The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

**Distribution Hymns: 438, 733**

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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**SENDING**

Blessing

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**Hymn 260: “The King Shall Come”**

Dismissal

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**Postlude: Nocturno, op. 7**

**by Franz Strauss**

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. **We are making available a small number of individual glasses filled with non-alcoholic white wine. These are for those not wishing to partake in the red wine containing alcohol.** 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.***



## **THIS WEEK WE PRAY:**

>for our members and friends with special needs: Jim, Bernice, Dan, Mike, Jack, Cindy, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Katie, Paul, Wendy, Joan, Devon, Hollice, Joyce, Maria, Tom, Marian, Anne, Leanne, Isabelle, Al, Melinda, Brian, Paul, Glenn, Nya, and Cathy;

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

## **THIS WEEK AT ZION:**

<u>Mon. Dec. 2</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 4-8:00 PM Playmakers in Shuffleboard Room 6:00 PM Pathfinders in Parlour 7-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall
<u>Tues. Dec. 3</u>	7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Sparks in Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Rotary Board Meeting in Board Room
<u>Wed. Dec. 4</u>	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour 10:00 AM Worship & Music Meeting in Board Room
<u>Thurs. Dec. 5</u>	12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour 7:00 PM Choir Practice in Chapel
<u>Fri. Dec. 6</u>	11:30 AM Lunch & Tour at the Local 2:00 – 3:00 PM Marek & Barb in Sanctuary
<u>Sun. Dec. 8</u>	* ADVENT 2 * 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School **COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

## **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Jim & Judy Stanley  
**Usher Captain:** Brian Coe  
**Altar:** Sister Jean

**Reader:** Mary-Lou Drown  
**Counting Captain:** NO COUNTERS  
**House of Blessing:** Heather Broadfoot



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME BACK:** This morning we are pleased to have Patrick King delight us with his French horn.

Patrick is a horn player who began his musical journey with the New Brunswick Orchestra. Since then, he has performed with orchestras across Canada and in New York, as well as toured internationally in Austria, Denmark, Norway and Iceland. Now a member of the Stratford Symphony Orchestra, Patrick also co-directs the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra with Éric Charbonneau, mentoring and inspiring the next generation of musicians with his knowledge and expertise.

Thank you Patrick for joining us!

**TODAY'S BULLETIN** is sponsored by Lloyd & Donna Wickenheiser to commemorate their **60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Congratulations Lloyd & Donna! We wish you many more years together!

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR:** The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of:

*Alvin & Oleva Faulhafer*

by Wayne, Linda, Brad, Tim, Diana and grandchildren, Emma and Owen.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The children of the Sunday School will be rehearsing their Christmas Program as soon as church is over. We are encouraging all members of the congregation to gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for a fresh cup of coffee or tea and homemade treats. Parents/Grandparents of Sunday School children – this is a great opportunity to mingle while you are waiting for your children to finish their rehearsal. When the children are finished rehearsing, we will send them down to the Fellowship Hall.

Please note that the Sunday School Wing is a **“NUT FREE”** area!

**2024 ADVENT STAR DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR:** We are delighted to pass on to you the 2024 Advent Star Devotional Calendar from United Lutheran Seminary which was the Seminary Pastor Jeff attended. This calendar contains readings and prayers for each day of Advent beginning on Sunday, December 1st that have been written by Pastor Jeff's friends and colleagues at the Seminary. FYI, Pastor Jeff wrote the devotional for Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Copies are available at each of the entrances. If you are wanting a copy and there are none left, please contact Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 and she will provide a copy for you.

**CURRENT FUND DEFICIT:** Included in the Newsletter envelope was a Deficit Letter from our Treasurer, Gerald Cook. It is mentioned in this letter that a **“Current Fund Deficit”** envelope was enclosed. Please accept my apology as I forgot to include the Current Fund Deficit envelopes in the mailout.

**Current Fund Deficit envelopes have been placed at all entrances for you to use.** I do apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Our Congregational Life Committee is hosting a “Coffee Hour” in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Worship. All are welcome to drop in for a fresh cup of coffee or tea and homemade treats.

Your Congregational Life Committee would like to hold more coffee hours for you to have an opportunity to mingle with each other after worship. In order to do so, they are looking for volunteers to assist in hosting a coffee hour.

A “Sign Up” sheet has been placed on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. If you are able to host or participate in a coffee hour, please sign the sheet or call Jan Bennewitz at 519-271-6073. Thank you!

We have had **one couple** sign up to host Coffee Hour in 2025! *A big “Thank You” goes out to Tom & Joanne Cosstick for volunteering to host a Coffee Hour!!!!*

**REMINDER - THE WOMEN OF FAITH** will be having their “Annual Christmas Luncheon” on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Arden Park Dining Room. ***\*\*Please be there by 11:30 A.M.\*\**** All ladies are welcome!

If you can attend, please contact Darlene Illman (519-271-0996) or Wendy Hansen (519-271-4664) by November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Also, any WOF members able to help at Coffee Hour on December 8<sup>th</sup>, please contact Irene Ehgoetz.**

**ALZHEIMER SOCIETY HURON PERTH EDUCATION HOUR:** You are invited to join the Alzheimer Society’s Public Education Coordinators for a one-hour **virtual** presentation on brain health, cognitive changes and dementia. Bring your questions!

This week’s presentation will take place on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M.

The topic will be “Your Journey of Support Starts Here!”.

You can self-Register at: [bit.ly/ASHPEducationHour](https://bit.ly/ASHPEducationHour)

[www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth](https://www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth)

If you have any questions please call 519-482-1482 or 519-271-1910.

**BLOOD DONOR CLINICS FOR DECEMBER:** We have been advised that two Blood Donor Clinics are taking place at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford on

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**STRATFORD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**WINTER RECITAL & HOLIDAY SING-ALONG:** December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

**Admission by donation**

Now in their fourth season, join the **Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra** for their winter recital at **Avondale United Church**.

Following the SSYO's performance, gather together for the traditional SSO Holiday Sing-Along.

**Conductor:** Éric Charbonneau

**Special Guest:** Stratford Concert Choir

### **FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS**



Donations are now being accepted until the middle of December so the Women of Faith can purchase flowers to decorate the church for our Christmas celebrations.

If you wish to donate, please put **“Christmas Flowers” and your name on a separate envelope** and place it on an offering plate located at the back of the Sanctuary or at the ramp entrance; or drop it off in the locked mailbox, or bring it to the church office. Thank you for your gift!

### **LUNCH AT THE LOCAL**

The LOCAL is a community/organization that serves the needs of the residents of Stratford. It is known for providing meals on Monday evenings and lunch on Fridays at noon for the hungry/lonely in our community. We at Zion are invited to come and eat, learn about the programs at the LOCAL and tour the facility on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** The LOCAL is located at 612 Erie Street (the old Co-op).

At this meal the Deaconess Community is presenting an award of \$12,500 USD (about \$17,000 Canadian) to the LOCAL to continue its work among the residents of Stratford. Sister Jean is a member of the Deaconess Community and nominated the LOCAL for this gift. The Deaconess Community received a bequest and proceeds from the sale of property. The Community policy is to tithe all bequests. Therefore, \$140,000 was available for ministry projects and the LOCAL was chosen to receive this gift in the amount of \$12,500 USD.

If you are interested in learning about the ministry of the LOCAL, please come to lunch, meet Executive Director, Margaret Smart, learn and tour its facilities. If you plan to come, please let Sister Jean know, so that we can let our hosts know how many are coming for the lunch.

**CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF UPDATE:** Due to the Canada Post strike Canadian Lutheran World Relief have had to make the difficult decision to cancel their usual Advent Appeal this year, as mail delays mean they wouldn't be able to get their letter out in time.

They are very concerned about how this might affect the people they serve around the world. A large portion of their donation revenue comes in through the mail at this time of year, and these donations ensure that they are able to provide essential support to vulnerable families and children.

CLWR have made a special request that we take a special collection for CLWR during the four weeks of Advent.

We are pleased to do so, and have placed baskets at each of the entrances for you to place your donation. Every little bit helps. Please consider donating as you are able. Thank you!

**GIFTS FROM THE HEART:** CLWR's Gifts from the Heart 2024 Christmas Catalogues have arrived. You will find copies at each of the entrances. "Share God's love with the world and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with Gifts from the Heart!"

New for this year is a colouring contest! All ages are invited to participate and win \$500 to spend donating items from this year's catalogue. Simply print off the illustration of the scene from Lake Chad, where farmers are fighting to restore an unraveling ecosystem and you could win one of 6 prizes thanks to Martin Luther University College, plus a CLWR swag prize pack. Submission details and the colouring page can be found at [www.clwr.org/colourcontest](http://www.clwr.org/colourcontest). Good luck!!

**STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING:** We have received a "most-needed items list" from the House of Blessing. To help them with their significant increase in the number of people using their services, as you are able, if you could bring **canned meat or canned vegetables** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.





## **CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**HOUSE OF BLESSING** is seeking volunteers for their Christmas Toy Program. Their festive shopping started on November 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to help in distributing toys to members of our community who could use some extra support during the holiday shopping season.

Volunteer hours are from 9:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. or 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday with two (2) volunteers needed for each shift.

Your participation will greatly contribute to the success of this event.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Joanne at 519-273-3433 x 204, email [volunteer@shob.org](mailto:volunteer@shob.org), or stop by her office at 423 Erie Street, Stratford.

**REMINDER - THE LONDON PRO MUSICA CHOIR** presents “*A Village Christmas*” featuring Christmas music rather than Messiah. Think familiar carols like “Ding Dong Merrily on High”, but in different arrangements. There is music by John Rutter, Morten Lauridsen and Mendelssohn among many others. This is not a hymn/carol sing, but lovely Christmas music.

**When:** Today, Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Doors open at 2:30 P.M.

**Where:** St. Marys United Church, 85 Church Street South, St. Marys.

**General Admission:** \$25.00.

### **STRATFORD CONCERT CHOIR *Sing-along MESSIAH***

**December 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Avondale United Church, Stratford**

**For tickets and information, please visit [stratfordconcertchoir.org](http://stratfordconcertchoir.org)**

### **ROTARY HOSPICE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol**

Come out on **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** for a delightful evening of festive cheer hosted by Peter Mansbridge. Get ready to be swept away by the magic of the holiday season as our area’s talented performers bring this timeless tale to the stage.

Rotary Hospice is honoured, once again, to have former CBC Radio News anchor, Judy Maddren, as not only producer of the evening’s performance but also as a reader!

Tickets are available at [rotaryhospice.ca](http://rotaryhospice.ca) or call 519-508-4900.

#### **Grief During the Holidays**

There will be a winter webinar on **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom.**

The holidays can be a difficult time for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Rotary Hospice invites you to join their Registered Social Worker Melissa McManus on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. to discuss strategies and supports for coping with loss during the holidays.

Whether you lost someone at Rotary Hospice or in the community, all are welcome to attend this online presentation. Please register for this event by emailing [sw@rotaryhospice.ca](mailto:sw@rotaryhospice.ca). You will receive a Zoom link via email closer to the event.

**TO STRATFORD WITH LOVE BANQUET:** You are invited to experience the true meaning of Christmas with a warm, friendly celebration.

**Where:** Rotary Complex  
353 McCarthy Road

**When:** Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Complimentary tickets are available starting November 13<sup>th</sup> and can be picked up at one of the following locations: House of Blessing, Salvation Army, City Hall and The Local Community Food Centre.

**Watch for more Christmas events as we are made aware of them.**

