

“Everyone
who belongs
to
the
truth
listens to
my
voice.”

John 18:37, NRSV



November 24, 2024

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

Andrew Elian

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

CHRIST THE KING

November 24, 2024

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 855 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm: 93

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 18:33-37

Sunday School Children Singing: “I’m Gonna Sing”

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/nazFuKPSCz4?si=zzhHFxm_K9hgerrQxPN6

Hymn 431: “O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us”

Apostles’ Creed

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Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace

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MEAL

Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: 480, 666

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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SENDING

Blessing

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Hymn 434: “Jesus Shall Reign”

Dismissal

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Postlude: Passacaille from his Suite No. 7 in G minor HWV 432

by G. F. Händel Passacaille

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: 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:

Mon. Nov. 25

OFFICE CLOSED

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

****Sister Jean Away****

Tues. Nov. 26

7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall

9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Sparks in Fellowship Hall

****Sister Jean Away****

Wed. Nov. 27

9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour

11:00 AM Advent Decorating

Thurs. Nov. 28

12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour

4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour

7:00 PM Choir Practice in Chapel

Fri. Nov. 29

2:00 – 3:00 PM Marek & Barb in Sanctuary

Sun. Dec. 1

*** ADVENT 1 ***

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

****COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP****

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Darrell & Judy Renecker

Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker

Altar: Irene Ehgoetz

Reader: Glenn Rittinger

Counting Captain: Jan Bennewitz

House of Blessing: Heather Broadfoot



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A reminder that Sunday School ends at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.

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

For the next two (2) Sundays, December 1st and 8th the children will be rehearsing for their Christmas Program.

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: For the next two (2) Sundays, December 1st and 8th our Congregational Life Committee will be 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.

Parents of Sunday School children: this is a great opportunity to mingle while you are waiting for your children to finish their rehearsal.

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!

REMINDER: INNERchamber is delighted to present the 2nd concert of their 15th season – ***In Conversation*** – this afternoon.

Location: Factory 163 at 163 King Street, Stratford, ON. Light dinner begins at 5:30 P.M. Concert begins at 7:00 P.M.

The Sonata is chamber music in its purest form: two colleagues sharing their musical thoughts. Filled with the scope and richness of symphonies, presented with intimacy of an evening of the richest conversation imaginable, an evening of sonatas satisfies like nothing else.

Andrew Chung on violin and **Anna Ronai** on piano will perform.

Tickets are on sale at www.innerchamber.ca.

REMINDER: JAZZ VESPERS: Paul Shilton's Quartet will be the featured musicians for the next Jazz Vespers at St. James Anglican Church this afternoon at 4:00 P.M. The musicians are:

Paul Shilton	Piano
Larry Larson	Trumpet
Mike McClelland	Bass
Dave Campioin	Drums

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS INFORMAL EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

YOUTH UNLIMITED (YFC) STRATFORD invite you to join them as they pray together for our students, our ministry and our community. All are welcome!
Tuesday, November 26th from 7:00-8:00 PM in the portable at Jubilee Church, 707 Downie Street, Stratford. If you have any questions email them to info@yfcstratford.com.

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 Thursday, November 28th at 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM. The topic will be "Communication Tips".

You can self-Register at: bit.ly/ASHPEducationHour

www.alzheimer.ca/huronperth

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

THE WOMEN OF FAITH will be having their "Annual Christmas Luncheon" on **Tuesday, December 3rd 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 28th**.

Also, any WOF members able to help at Coffee Hour on December 1st or December 8th, please contact Irene Ehgoetz.

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 6th 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.

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. 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 **assorted crackers or cereal** 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 starts on November 27th. 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, or stop by her office at 423 Erie Street, Stratford.

HOUSE OF BLESSING UPCOMING FOOD DRIVE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

STRATFORD

House of Blessing
FOOD BANK

**Christmas
Food Drive**

Nov 30 | 10am-3pm

Zehrs Walmart
food Basics NOFRILLS

CEREAL CRACKERS RICE Pasta SOUP
FRUIT BEANS VEGGIES
CHOCCHIPES Cookies PROTEIN

Thank you for your support!

Learn more about our food bank!

JOY ON THE JOURNEY: Welcome the Christmas Season with Music! Bob Heywood is returning with his accordion and guitar for an enjoyable presentation of Christmas favourites hosted by Elgin Keen-Agers.

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

Elgin Missionary Church Fellowship Hall

Catered Lunch: \$21/person

To register: call Elgin Missionary Church at 519-271-5407.

CAROLFEST: (Fundraiser for House of Blessing)

November 30th at 7:00 P.M.

- **Author/Storyteller *Jennifer Paquette***
- ***Downie Street Collective PLUS***
- ***Stratford Concert Band & Community Choir***

Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave., 519-271-7946

A free will offering will be taken – all proceeds to House of Blessing

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: 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

ROTARY HOSPICE UPCOMING EVENTS:

6TH Annual Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 29th at 7:00 P.M.

Dedicate a light in honour or in memory of a loved one. Their name and your message will be included in the slideshow at the lighting ceremony and updated on their website until December 31st. Learn more and dedicate your light at rotaryhospice.ca or call 519-508-4900.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Come out on **Sunday, December 8th** 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 state.

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 or call 519-508-4900.

Grief During the Holidays

There will be a winter webinar on **Monday, December 2nd 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 2nd 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. 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 13th 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.

