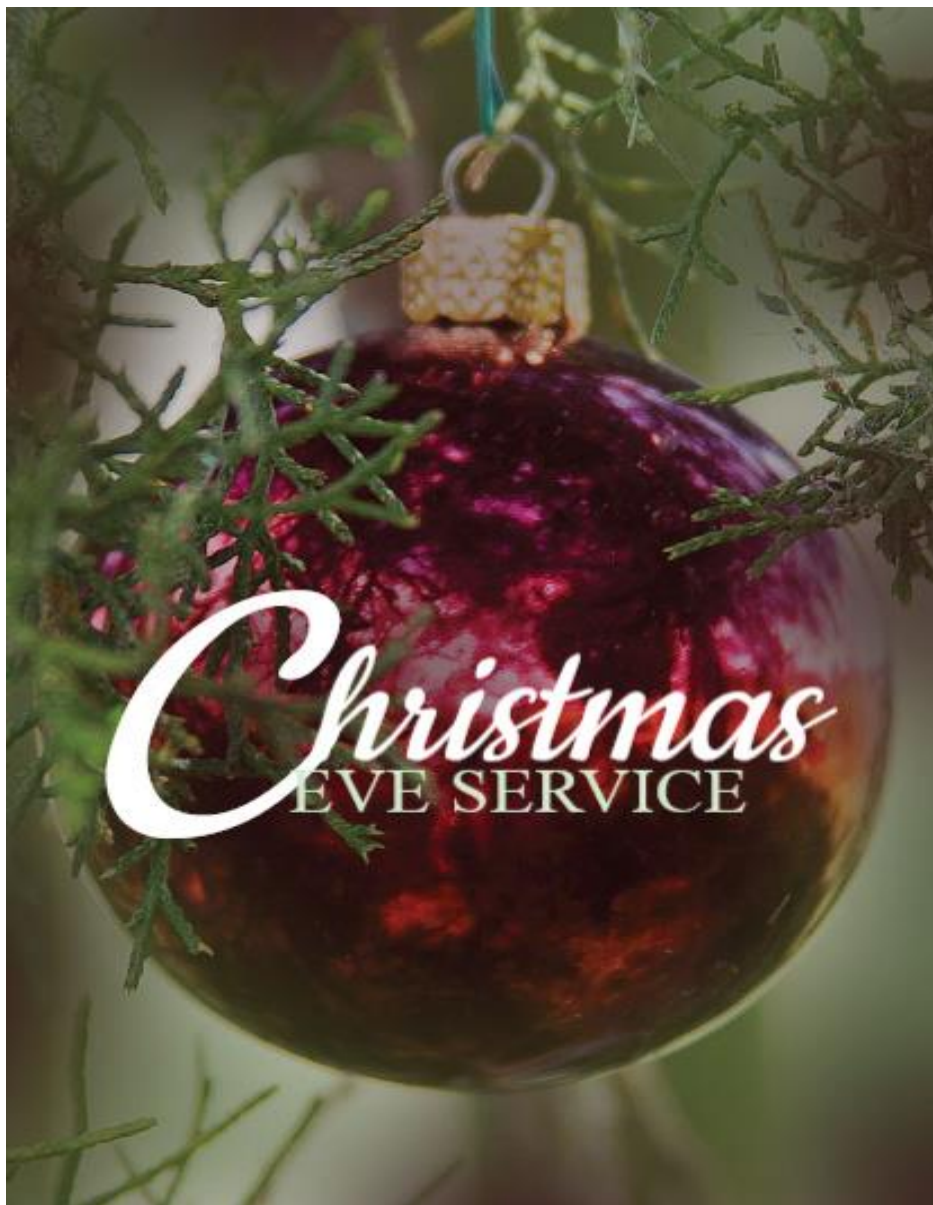




Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV



**December 24, 2024
(7:00 PM)**

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

Andrew Elian

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

GATHERING

Prelude: #1 Procession from “*A ceremony of Carols*”

Britten

Soloists: Derrick Brodhagen, Susan Laustsen

Hodie Christus natus est!

Hodie salvator apparuit

Hodie in terra canunt angeli,

 Iaetantur archangeli.

Hodie exsultant iusti dicentes:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Today Christ is born!

Today the saviour has appeared.

Today the angels sing,

 And the archangels rejoice.

Today the righteous rejoice, saying:

Glory to God in the highest.

Alleluia!

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn 283 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Choir Anthem: “The Gift”

William Cutter

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: Hymn 267 “Joy to the World”

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Hymn 279: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

Choir Anthem: “A Star is Dancing”

Mark Sirett

MEAL

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

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: 277, 282, 272

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Page 136

SENDING

Blessing

Page 136

Hymn 281: “Silent Night”

Dismissal

Page 137

Postlude: “In Dulci Jubilo”

Arranged by James Vivian

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 EVENING WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Todd, Mervyn, Gwen, 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, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

SERVING CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH AT 10:00 A.M. AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Gerald & Isabel Cook

Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd

Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Brian Wilker

Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS

House of Blessing: NO DELIVERY

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Wayne & Linda Faulhafer

Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick

Altar: Carmen Beck

Reader: Aline Kouhi-Klemencic

Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS

House of Blessing: Wayne Faulhafer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 2024 offerings need to be received by **December 31st** to be included on your 2024 tax receipt.

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

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES & DECEMBER NEWSLETTER are available for pickup on the table at the back of the church. **Due to the mail situation, if you are able to pickup for your family and/or friends it would be greatly appreciated.** Envelopes and/or Newsletters will also be available for pickup just inside the doors off the side parking lot on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesdays through to Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please DO NOT use your 2025 envelopes until January, 2025. Please call Jane in the office 519-271-8527 if you cannot find your offering envelopes or if you wish to start receiving them. You may also contact the office if you wish to switch to PAR, the pre-authorized offering program. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER: St. James Anglican Church invites you to their **Community Christmas Dinner on December 25th, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.** in the lower Parish Hall. Please enter at the Hamilton Street Doors. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**