



*"My soul
magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior."*

...

LUKE 1:46-47, ESV



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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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

Advent 4

December 22, 2024

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Page 116

Hymn 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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” (Verses 1-4)

WORD

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: 80:1-7

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/1CQg02bCuJ8?si=gNVJ_isxwokl6O3t

Hymn 251: “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession
Sharing the Peace
Choir Anthem: “Advent Hymn”

Page 128
Steve Dallas

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: 265, 269

Post-Communion Blessing	
Post-Communion Prayer	Page 136

SENDING

Blessing	Page 136
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Hymn 283: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Dismissal	Page 137
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Postlude: “The First Noel”	arranged by Hal Hopson
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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: 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.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<u>Mon. Dec. 23</u>	NO EVENTS
<u>Tues. Dec. 24</u>	CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM Worship
<u>Wed. Dec. 25</u>	CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM Worship
<u>Thurs. Dec. 26</u>	OFFICE CLOSED
<u>Fri. Dec. 27</u>	NO EVENTS
<u>Sun. Dec. 29</u>	CHRISTMAS 1 10:00 AM Worship

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH AT 4:00 P.M. AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Carmen Beck	Reader: Carmen Beck
Usher Captain: Darrell Renecker	Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
Altar: Carmen Beck & Sister Jean	House of Blessing: NO DELIVERY

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH AT 7:00 P.M. AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Tom & Joanne Cosstick	Reader: Glenn Rittinger
Usher Captain: Brian Coe	Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
Altar: Irene Ehgoetz & Sister Jean	House of Blessing: NO DELIVERY

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

Greeters: Gerald & Isabel Cook	Reader: Brian Wilker
Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd	Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
Altar: Ellen Wolfe	House of Blessing: NO DELIVERY

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Wayne & Linda Faulhafer	Reader: Aline Kouhi-Klemencic
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick	Counting Captain: NO COUNTERS
Altar: Carmen Beck	House of Blessing: Wayne Faulhafer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve, The Nativity of Our Lord
Tuesday, December 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve The Nativity of Our Lord
Wednesday, December 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day, The Nativity of Our Lord

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A REMINDER THAT SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ON A BREAK UNTIL
JANUARY 12TH, 2025

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!

COFFEE HOUR: 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!

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT: Included in the October 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.



FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: “*Thank You*” to the following donators who have contributed to the purchase of the flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas celebrations: Robert & Bev Keutsch, Fred & Robin Riehl, Irene Ehgoetz, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Brian & Barb Gropp, Ellen Wolfe, Ken Neumeister, Pauline Schade, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Tom Waschkowski & Marian Sherk, Paul & Marilyn Neumeister, Jean Weir, Steve & Marg Lamont, Tom & Joanne Cosstick, Lynnette McLeod & an anonymous donor.

“THANK YOU”: The Women of Faith would like to say “Thank You” to everyone who helped to deliver 61 Christmas Care packages over the past week. Recipients of the Care packages appreciate the gift and the fact that the Women of Faith are thinking of them.

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF APPEAL: 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. 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 **boxed Mac& Cheese 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**



CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER: Avon Church invites you to a Free Community Christmas Eve Dinner hosted at **The Local, 612 Erie Street, Stratford from 4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.** Enjoy a home-cooked meal with carol singing and live music throughout the evening. **Doors open at 4:00 P.M. for tea and coffee.** It is a “drop-in event, seat yourself”.

If you require additional information visit avonchurch.ca.

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!

