




WISHING YOU A  
**HAPPY**  
**NEW YEAR**

O Lord, let my  
*New Year's resolution*  
be to   
**follow you**  
**more** **closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
*loving guidance.*



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December 29, 2024

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# ***ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH***

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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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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**Christmas 1**

**December 29, 2024**

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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**Hymn 269 “Once in Royal David’s City”**

Greeting

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Prayer of the Day:

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm: 148

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Sermon

**Hymn 278: “Away in a Manger”**

Holy Baptism

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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## 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: 282, 294**

Post-Communion Blessing	
Post-Communion Prayer	Page 136

## SENDING

Blessing	Page 136
<b>Hymn 288: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”</b>	
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. **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. 30</u>	NO EVENTS
<u>Tues. Dec. 31</u>	NO EVENTS
<u>Wed. Jan. 1/25</u>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED</b>
<u>Thurs. Jan. 2/25</u>	NO EVENTS
<u>Fri. Jan. 3/25</u>	2-3 Marek in Sanctuary
<u>Sun. Jan. 5/25</u>	<b>EPIPHANY</b> 10:00 AM Worship

### **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Brad & Sherri Beatty  
**Usher Captain:** Darrell Renecker  
**Altar:** Ellen Wolfe

**Reader:** Linda Faulhafer  
**Counting Captain:** Carmen Beck  
**House of Blessing:** Gerry Rehberg

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CONGRATULATIONS:** This morning we congratulate “*James Andrew Stephen Luckhardt*” and his parents, *Andrew & Laura Luckhardt*, as *James* is baptized during our worship service. We want to welcome James into our Zion Family.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** A REMINDER THAT SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ON A BREAK UNTIL JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>** 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.

**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!

**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 pasta** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

