



*A light*  
has dawned.

**ISAIAH 9:2, NIV**

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**December 24, 2025 (4:00 PM)**

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# **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

Email: [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net)

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Website: [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com)

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## People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen  
Sister Jean Widmeyer  
Stéphane Potvin  
Laura Burton  
Éric Charbonneau

## Ministers

Pastor  
Visitation Minister  
Minister of Music  
Organist  
Pianist

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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

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## GATHERING

Prelude

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.

## WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Page 124

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

**Hymn 270: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Nicene Creed	Page 126
Prayers of Intercession	
Sharing the Peace	Page 128

## **MEAL**

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

Offering Prayer	Page 129
The Great Thanksgiving	Page 129
Communion Prayer	Page 132
The Lord’s Prayer	Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

**Distribution Hymns: 269, 272, 282**

## **SENDING**

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
<b>Hymn 281: “Silent Night, Holy Night”</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.***

***You are invited to join us tomorrow morning  
for our Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 A.M.***



**THIS EVENING WE PRAY:**

>for our members and friends with special needs: Jim, Wayne, Doris, Matthew, Marjorie, Bill, Marie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Jim, Jack, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Paul, Wendy, Joan, Devon, Hollice, Joyce, Maria, Tom, Marian, Leanne, Isabelle, Al, Brian, Paul, Nya, and Cathy;  
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

**SERVING CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00 AM AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Ellen Wolfe

**Usher Captain:** Ellen Wolfe

**Altar:** Ellen Wolfe

**Reader:** Brian Wilker

**Counting Captain:** NO COUNTERS

**House of Blessing:** NO DELIVERY

**SERVING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00 AM AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Paul & Janet Jeffery

**Usher Captain:** Brian Coe

**Altar:** Sister Jean

**Reader:** Aline Kouhi-Klemencic

**Counting Captain:** NO COUNTERS

**House of Blessing:** NO DELIVERY



## 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 2025 offerings need to be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included on your 2025 tax receipt.

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

**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pickup on the table at the back of the church. If you wish to pick up your envelopes from the office, you can pick them up just inside the doors off the side parking lot. The office is open Mondays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 1:00 p.m.

Please DO NOT use your 2026 envelopes until January, 2026. Please call Jane in the office 519-271-8527 if you cannot find your offering envelopes or if you wish to start receiving them for weekly offerings. You may also contact the office if you wish to switch to PAR, the pre-authorized offering program. Thank you!

**ETERNITY FOR TODAY:** It’s that time of year to renew your Eternity For Today subscription. If you are interested in renewing or if you want to register to receive this daily reflection book, please contact Jane in the office at 519-271-8527.

**STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE:** The “urgent needs” list includes razors, toothbrushes, basic t-shirts (medium), ground coffee, packaged grab & go snacks and deodorant. Whatever help you can provide is greatly appreciated!

**Please Note: Due to limited space, Stratford Connection Centre is not able to accept donations of clothing. If you have clothing to donate, please take it to Goodwill as this is where Stratford Connection takes their homeless for clothing.**

**HOWEVER, donations of socks, underwear, hats, scarves and mittens (preferably water proof mittens) are needed and accepted at Stratford Connection. Thank you!**

**Please drop off donations in the bins at the back of the Sanctuary or inside the office entrance door.**

**The sandwich makers for the Connection Centre would greatly appreciate donations of food gift cards from Walmart or Food Basics. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome.**

**Thank You!**