



As he was coming up out  
of the water,  
he saw the heavens  
torn apart and the  
Spirit descending  
like a dove  
on him.

Mark 1:10, NRSV

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January 11, 2026

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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

Stéphane Potvin

Laura Burton

Éric Charbonneau

## **Ministers**

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

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**Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 11, 2026**

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## **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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**Hymn 310: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

**O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through 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: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: 29

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Children's Message

Sermon: [https://www.youtube.com/live/1E\\_bzzcZJLA?si=usMiHJOSU18Xld4E](https://www.youtube.com/live/1E_bzzcZJLA?si=usMiHJOSU18Xld4E)

### **Hymn 305: “When Jesus Came to Jordan”**

Affirmation of Baptism

Insert

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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### **MEAL**

### **Offering Hymn 182: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**

Offering Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

Page 129

Communion Prayer

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The Lord’s Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

**Distribution Hymns: 454, 456**

### **SENDING**

Post-Communion Blessing

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Post-Communion Prayer

Blessing

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### **Hymn 304: “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”**

Dismissal

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### **Postlude: Bach Two-part Invention C+**

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

## **THIS WEEK AT ZION:**

<u>Mon. January 12</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour 7:00-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Choir in Chapel
<u>Tues. January 13</u>	7:00 AM Rotary in Fellowship Hall 9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall 3:00 PM Greenwood Court Worship
<u>Wed. January 14</u>	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour 5:00 PM Bethel Community Meal
<u>Thurs. January 15</u>	12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 2:15 PM Knollcrest Worship 4:30 PM Confirmation in Parlour 6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall
<u>Friday January 16</u>	<b>ZION NEWS DUE</b> 9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen
<u>Sun. January 18</u>	<b>* EPIPHANY 2*</b> 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 4:00-8:00 PM Jesus is Lord Church in Parlour

## **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> AS WE WORSHIP**

**Greeters:** Gerald & Isabel Cook  
**Usher Captain:** Darrell Renecker  
**Altar:** Carmen Beck

**Reader:** Margaret DeLaat  
**Counting Captain:** Laurie Snow  
**House of Blessing:** Janet & Gerry Ahrens



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME BACK:** We are pleased to welcome back Charmaine Fopoussi who is sharing her musical talent with us this morning.

We also want to welcome back our Sunday School Children. We trust that you all had a good Christmas and Santa was good to you, and that you had a healthy and safe Christmas break.



**COFFEE HOUR:** After worship this morning members of your Congregational Council are hosting a Coffee Hour. Please join them for a hot cup of coffee or tea and some treats while visiting and catching up with your fellow parishoners! All are welcome

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** As a part of our observance of the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” on January 18-25, we will be participating in a Pulpit Exchange with Avondale United Church. Pastor Keith Reynolds of Avondale will be preaching and leading worship at Zion on Sunday, January 18 along with Pastor Tim Elliott of St. James Anglican Church, while Pastor Jeff will be preaching and leading worship at Avondale. We look forward to sharing in this week in which we strive to fulfill the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ that his people *“may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”* (John 17:23).

**ETERNITY FOR TODAY:** It is time 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!



# Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

## **AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

