



January 4, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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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

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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Hymn 275: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Greeting

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Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: 147:12-20

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel: John 1:1-18

Sermon: <https://www.youtube.com/live/MqdX5MHCljM?si=UIF1ScT0YNETFOC2>

Hymn 294: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

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: 272, 300

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing	Page 136
Post-Communion Prayer	
Blessing	Page 136
Hymn 302: “As with Gladness Men of Old”	
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: 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 5</u>	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Returns 6:00-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Parlour
<u>Tues. January 6</u>	9:30 AM Chair Yoga Returns in Fellowship Hall 10:30 AM Undecorating of Sanctuary
<u>Wed. January 7</u>	9:00 AM Quilters Return in Parlour
<u>Thurs. January 8</u>	11:00 AM Worship at Spruce Lodge 12:00 Noon Bible Study Returns in Parlour 2:30 PM Worship at Hillside 4:30 PM Confirmation Returns in Parlour 6:30-8:00 PM Girl Guides in Fellowship Hall
<u>Friday January 9</u>	12:00-2:00 PM Seniors' Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
<u>Sat. January 10</u>	Festival Hydro in Kitchen for Soups On
<u>Sun. January 11</u>	* BAPTISM OF OUR LORD* 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School Returns COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Audrey Miller & Mervyn Dietz
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Ellen Wolfe

Reader: Glenn Rittinger
Counting Captain: Janet Chandler
House of Blessing: Gerry Rehberg



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING STARTUPS THIS WEEK:

**PRAYER SHAWL
CHAIR YOGA
QUILTERS
BIBLE STUDY
SENIORS' LUNCHEON
COFFEE HOUR**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH**

UNDECORATING OF SANCTUARY: Volunteers are needed to assist with putting away the Christmas decorations. "Undecorating" will be held on **Tuesday, January 6th at 10:30 AM.**

Your help in this project is greatly appreciated.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON: The first Seniors' Luncheon of 2026 is taking place on **Friday, January 9th**. If you have not received a call from our volunteers and you would like to attend, please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527. We do need to give our number of attendees to the caterer the morning of Tuesday, January 6th. **The office is open on Mondays from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**



COFFEE HOUR: Join your hosts, Congregational Council, for Coffee Hour next Sunday, January 11th after the 10:00 AM worship service in the fellowship hall. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea and some treats while visiting and catching up with your fellow parishoners! All are welcome

ETERNITY FOR TODAY: It's not too late 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!

