

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527 **Cell: 519-274-1300**
Email: zionlc@golden.net **Website: www.zionstratford.com**

People of Zion	**Ministers**
Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen	**Pastor**
Sister Jean Widmeyer	**Visitation Minister**
Stéphane Potvin	**Minister of Music**
Laura Burton	**Organist**
Éric Charbonneau	**Pianist**

Advent 1 **November 29, 2026**

GATHERING

Prelude
Welcome, Announcements
Confession and Forgiveness Page 116

Hymn 239: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Greeting

Prayer of the Day:

> **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message, Lighting of the Advent Wreath

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation Page 124

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: https://www.youtube.com/live/eGWN-JY4KLI?si=jB0yKV26jey5nGbB

441: "O Happy Day When We Shall Stand"

Nicene Creed Page 126

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace Page 128

Choir Anthem: "Advent Candlelight Carol" arr. Anna Laura Page

MEAL

Offering Hymn 188: "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: 480, 260

SENDING

Post-Communion Blessing Page 136

Post-Communion Prayer Page 136

Blessing Page 136

Hymn 246: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Dismissal Page 137

Postlude: "Sleeper's Wake ! A Voice Astounds Us" arranged by Johann Gottfried Walther

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, which may be found in the inner circle in each communion tray. 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: Ralph, Barbara, Jochen, Elfrieda, Jean, Heather, Beth, Liz, Peter, Isabelle, David, Bev, Jim, Wayne, Marjorie, Jamie, Marleen, Nancy, Gwen, Diane, Gloria, Kathleen, Tony, Wendy, Hollice, Leanne, Al, Brian, Nya, and Cathy;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

Mon. Nov. 30	2:00 PM Prayer Shawl in Parlour 6:30-8:30 PM SSYO in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Choir in Chapel
Tues. Dec. 1	9:30 AM Chair Yoga in Fellowship Hall 4:00-6:30 PM Huron Perth Centre in Parlour
Wed. Dec. 2	9:00 AM Quilters in Parlour
Thurs. Dec. 3	11:00 AM Spruce Lodge Worship 12:00 Noon Bible Study in Parlour 4:15 PM Confirmation in Parlour
Fri. Dec. 4	9:00 AM WOF making sandwiches in Kitchen
Sun. Dec. 6	*** ADVENT 2 *** 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 12:00 Long & McQuade Recital in Sanctuary

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AS WE WORSHIP

Greeters: Ron & Nancy Hesas
Usher Captain: Tom Cosstick
Altar: Ellen Wolfe
Reader: Isabel Cook
Counting Captain: Audrey Miller
House of Blessing: Laurie Snow

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR: The flowers on the altar this morning are placed in loving memory of

Alvin & Oleva Faulhafer

By Wayne, Linda, Brad, Tim, Diana and grandchildren, Emma and Owen.

WOMEN OF FAITH: The next Women of Faith meeting will be on **Saturday, December 5th at 9:30 AM in the Church Parlour**. We will be packing the Christmas ***"Care Bags"*** and delivering them when finished. At noon we will gather at **Swiss Chalet Restaurant** for our Christmas luncheon. All Zion ladies are welcome to attend.

Please call Darlene Illman (519-271-0996) or Wendy Hansen (519-271-4664) by **Tuesday, December 1st** if you can join us.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas season!

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS:



Donations are now being accepted until the middle of December so the Women of Faith can purchase flowers to decorate the church for our Christmas celebrations. If you wish to donate, please put **"Christmas Flowers" and your name on a separate envelope** and place it on an offering plate located at the back of the Sanctuary or at the ramp entrance; drop it off in the locked mailbox, or bring it to the church office. Thank you for your gift!

THANK YOU: A special "Thank You" to all volunteers who came out to decorate our Sanctuary for Advent which included getting the decorations down out of storage. The Sanctuary looks amazing! Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

E-TRANSFER OFFERINGS:

A reminder that we are officially setup, once again, for "e-Transfer auto deposits".

However, we have had to create a new email address for our e-Transfers that is linked directly to our CIBC account.

For future e-Transfers please use zion202offerings@execulink.com.
A security question will not be required using this email address and funds will be automatically deposited to our account.

We want to "thank you" for your patience and understanding during the process to remedy the auto deposit procedure.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: When you are looking for a gift for the "hard to buy for" people on your Christmas list, consider purchasing from "Gifts from the Heart". This way you will be helping those less fortunate while giving a meaningful gift. Catalogues are available at each of the entrances. Please see the insert for more information.

UPCOMING BLOOD DONATION EVENTS:

Stratford Rotary Complex
353 McCarthy Road, Stratford

Tuesday, December 1st 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, December 29th 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM

STRATFORD CONNECTION CENTRE: Below is an updated "Needs List":

- Single serve snacks
- Basic socks
- Laundry soap/pods
- Coffee & sugar (always)
- Bus tickets
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Razors

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday between 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM. at the Connection Centre. Please contact them if an alternative drop off time is necessary at 519-271-6819 ext 405 or by email connectioncentre@cmhahuronperth.com.

For convenience, you may drop off donations here at Zion in the bins located 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, Food Basics or Costco. Any support you are able to provide is most welcome. Thank You!

Thank you for continuing to support the Connection Centre so they can support our vulnerable neighbours! ♥

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 **Peanut Butter or Bar soap & Body wash** and place them in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.


Gifts from the Heart
2026 CATALOGUE AVAILABLE NOW!
This Christmas, choose Gifts from the Heart to share God's love and make a meaningful difference for people around the world!
clwr.org/gfth
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Hymn

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

MISSING YOU THIS CHRISTMAS: If you are grieving or would like to keep the memory of a loved one alive, you are invited to a Christmas Memorial Service and light a candle for the ones you miss this Christmas.

Tuesday, December 1st at 6:30 PM

This is an open one hour service. No sign up required

Bethel Pentecostal Church
2988 Perth Line 34
Stratford

VELVET & IVORY presents ***"A Vintage Holiday Special"*** featuring ***Beverley Maranger*** on vocals and ***Tim Elliott*** on piano ***and musical friends!***

Friday, December 4th at 7:00 PM
Stratford Perth Museum

Tickets are $35 + tax and can be obtained by calling the Stratford Perth Museum at 519-393-5311 or visiting www.stratfordmuseum.ca.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Saturday, December 5th at 7:00 PM
Avondale United Church

Hosted by Eddie Matthews

Musicians: Laura Burton, David Keeley & friends

Readers: Marion Adler
Jonathan Church
Kelly McIntosh
Judy Maddren
Keith Reynolds
Scott Wentworth

Tickets: $50.00 each. Purchase online at rotaryhospice.ca or call 519-508-4900.

TO STRATFORD WITH LOVE BANQUET: The 38th annual "To Stratford With Love Banquet" will be held

on Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM

at the Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road

Complimentary tickets are available starting November 12th. Pick up a ticket at one of the following locations: House of Blessing, Salvation Army, City Hall and The Local Community Food Centre.

Visit tostratfordwithlove.ca to register online or for more information.

WINTER SONGS: Join Ms.. Hoot for songs of the season: Sing-along carols; Winter stories from Myth and Folklore; Original songs of the Season

Tickets by donation at the door. Suggested donation $15.00

Friday, December 11TH 4:20 – 5:00 PM

Community Room, Falstaff Centre
35 Waterloo Street North, Stratford

STRATFORD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA: Celebrate the joy and excitement of young musicians at the **Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra's 6th Annual Winter Recital on**

Monday, December 14th at 7:30 PM
Avondale United Church.

Enjoy a lively program featuring music by Bizet, Lehar, Tchaikovsky, and more; with special guest soprano Jennie Such, the Breathless Saxophone Ensemble, and a special collaboration with the London Youth Symphony.

Bring your family and friends for an inspiring evening of music and a celebration of the next generation of musicians!

The Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra is generously sponsored by Christine Teeple.

Tickets are **"Pay What You Wish"** – Reserve tickets for your family and choose your own contribution per ticket. All proceeds go directly toward supporting the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS: You are invited to A Service of Lessons & Carols on

Sunday, December 20th at 7:00 PM
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington Street, Stratford

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens adapted and performed by Rod Beattie: One streamed performance! Enjoy from the comfort of home on **December 24th at 6:00 PM.**

"Pay-What-You-Wish" to receive the streaming link www.kiwanisfestivalstratford.com/events
One Virtual Benefit performance in support of KFPA2027.

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER:

December 25th, 2026 at 12 NOON
Corner of Hamilton & Mornington Streets in the lower parish hall

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Please enter at the Hamilton Street Doors



WHILE THE ADVENT DISPLAY IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE COURT-YARD, IT IS A PERFECT TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR CONFIRMATION VERSE BY EMAIL, GIVING IT TO SISTER JEAN OR DROPPING IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

WE WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOUR VERSE
INCLUDED IN A DISPLAY!