

DO YOU SING IN THE SHOWER?



If you do, Paul Shilton, our Director of Music, is extending an invitation to you to come out and be a part of the choir. Practices are held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Please contact Paul at parkvilla36@gmail.com or Jane in the office by phone (519-271-8527) or email (zionlc@golden.net).

THIS WEEK WE PRAY:

>for our members and friends with special needs: Avrey, Paul, Tom, Darlene, Jack, Alan, Phyllis, Verlie, Brian, Anne, Sharon, Bruce, Susan, Nya, Jane, Linda, Donna, Brian, Jim, Mary Margaret, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Brock, Cathy, Katana, Brian, David and Kolby;
>for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

<u>Mon. Dec. 12</u>	2 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	6 PM	Pathfinders
<u>Tues. Dec. 13</u>	9:30 AM	Chair Yoga
	1:00 PM	Quilters
	6:15 PM	Sparks
	7:00 PM	Finance Meeting
<u>Wed. Dec. 14</u>	1:30 PM	Avon Mennonite Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Congregational Council Meeting
<u>Thurs. Dec. 15</u>	12 Noon	Bible Study
	2 PM	Knollcrest Worship
	4:15 PM	Confirmation Class
	7 PM	Choir Practice
<u>Sat. Dec. 17</u>	12-7 PM	Smith Christmas
<u>Sun. Dec. 18</u>	10 AM	Worship
		Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AS WE WORSHIP:

Greeter: Audrey Miller **Reader:** Marilyn Wells
Usher Captain: Jerry Terhaerd Team **Counter:** Dianne Yundt Team

Third Sunday of Advent



December 11, 2022

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

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Page 119

Hymn 244: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Greeting

Page 120

Prayer of the Day:

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

Psalms: 146:5-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Children’s Message

Sermon:

<https://youtu.be/VYbcvURdE2c>

Hymn 733: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Page 227

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

Page 128

Choir Anthem: “Lord, We Beseech Thee”

Adrian Batten

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

Page 129

The Great Thanksgiving

Page 129

Communion Prayer

Page 130

The Lord’s Prayer

Page 134

Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Page 136

SENDING

Blessing

Page 136

Hymn 260: “The King Shall Come”

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. 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. The ushers will invite the congregation to come forward down the centre aisle.

Please note that masks are “no longer mandatory”; but, continuing to wear a mask is strongly recommended. Our ropes for “limited” capacity have come down; but, we do encourage “social distancing” wherever possible. “Pre-registration” for worship is no longer required.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:A reminder that Sunday School will end at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.



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

PRE-PAID EXPENSE CARDS: Anyone wishing to purchase “pre-paid expense cards” for either yourself or as Christmas Gifts, please see Gerald Cook after worship. There are some new retailers that might be of interest to you. Gerald will have new lists available. Thank you for your support!

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 the offering plate; or drop it off in the locked mailbox, or bring it to the church office. Thank you for your gift.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pickup at the back of the church. **Please DO NOT use your 2023 envelopes until January, 2023.** Please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 any weekday morning if you can’t find your offering envelopes or wish to start receiving them. You may also contact the office if you wish to switch to **POP, the pre-authorized offering program.** Thank you!

STRATFORD BLOOD DONATION EVENTS FOR DECEMBER:
Saturday, December 24th *Christmas Eve* 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the Stratford Rotary Complex by appointment. Book now by calling 1-888-236-6283 or online at www.blood.ca/GiveBlood

WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR HELP: Members have lived through many changes in life over the last 2 ½ years during the pandemic. *Have you moved? Have you given up your land line to use a cell phone? Have you established new households? Have you gotten new email addresses?*

If you have made any of these changes, please notify Jane in the church office so we can update our records and keep in touch. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

BIBLE STUDY: Our Adult Bible Study class is taking place each

Thursday at 12:00 noon in the Church Parlour. If any one is wanting to explore God’s Word and what it means for us in our daily lives as Christians, bring your lunch and come out and join us on Thursdays at noon. For further information, please speak with Pastor Jeff.

ZION QUILTERS: Our quilting ladies have been busy as well. They have some smaller quilts completed and are offering them for sale for \$50.00 each. They are on display in the Parlour if you would like to come and have a look.

Our ladies are always looking for new projects. If you, or anyone you know, would like our talented ladies to make a beautiful quilt for you or as a gift, please contact Irene Ehgoetz at 519-271-8878.

Anyone who is interested in quilting, our quilting ladies invite you to come and join them on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

HOUSE OF BLESSING: To help the House of Blessing with their significant increase in the number of people using their services since this time last year, as you are able, if you could bring meals in a can for the homeless (ie: chilli or stew, etc.) or snack items for the House of Blessing Food Bank and place it in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need.

PORTABLE MATTRESSES: Our Prayer Shawl Ladies would like to say “thank you” to everyone for donating your outer milk bags. They have had an amazing response to their request.

As a result, they have asked me to put a notice in the bulletin that they will not be needing any more bags at the present time.

UPDATE ON THE NEW FAMILY COMING TO TOWN

A new family from Syria will be arriving in Stratford soon. The family consists of a husband and wife and six children ranging in age from 15 months to 9 years. Zion is participating in planning for the family’s arrival. We have been assigned with “equipping the kitchen”. Due to your generous support most of the items have been donated. We do still need blankets suitable for four single beds.

If you can help out with blankets, please drop them off at the church office on weekday mornings. Small kitchen items may be left in the boxes at the church entrance.

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Syrian family.



CHRISTMAS NEWS



As we are made aware of events pertaining to Christmas, we will publish them here.

LET HEAVEN & NATURE SING!

**Community Christmas Carol Sing “Knox @ Copperlight”,
142 Ontario Street, Stratford
Sunday, December 11th at 2:00 P.M.**

Enjoy the Music of the Season with:
The Blyth Festival Orchestra
Hollynotes Singers
Cathy Whelan & Karen Rempel
Suzanne Strahan

**A Love offering will be gratefully accepted to support the
Cancer Care Wig Room & Knox Community Outreach**

“TO STRATFORD WITH LOVE BANQUET”

Congratulations “To Stratford With Love” on your 34th Anniversary.

As in the past, you are invited to experience the true meaning of Christmas with a warm, friendly celebration IN PERSON!

This year’s Banquet is taking place at the **Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.**

Complimentary tickets are available starting November 12th at the following locations: Stratford House of Blessing, Salvation Army, City Hall, Madelyn’s Diner and The Local Community Food Centre.

ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the **10 A.M. service on Sunday, December 18th**, the children from our Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas program. This will be replacing the annual Christmas Concert which was held in the evening in the past.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART CATALOGUE

If you are stumbling on what to get that “hard-to-buy” for person in your life, consider something from the “Gifts From The Heart Catalogue”.

We have been asked by Heidi Van Schaik, Church Relations Manager with CLWR to spread the word that this year’s edition of their annual “Gifts From The Heart” Catalogue is ready.

As always, this year’s catalogue is full of meaningful, life-changing gifts that you can use to share God’s love with the world, while you add some joy to your own family’s Christmas season. CLWR is inspired by how many people across Canada choose items from their catalogue each year to bless their loved ones with gifts in their honour, as they provide crucial support for some of the world’s most vulnerable people. You can find the whole catalogue online at clwr.org/GFTH. Happy shopping!

There are also copies of the catalogue on the table at the back of the Church and in the stand at the entrance to the offices.

SDSS Music Presents “WINTER CONCERT”

**Stratford District SS Gymnasium
Monday, December 19th @ 7:00 P.M.**

Admission: Free will donation

All proceeds donated to the House of Blessing

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ZION

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24 **4:00 P.M.**
7:00 P.M.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25 **10:00 A.M.**
