

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 any fresh produce or cookies/crackers 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.

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, Lynnette, Al, Glenn, Brock, Cathy, Katana, Brian, David and Kolby;
 >for those who have no one to pray for them.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

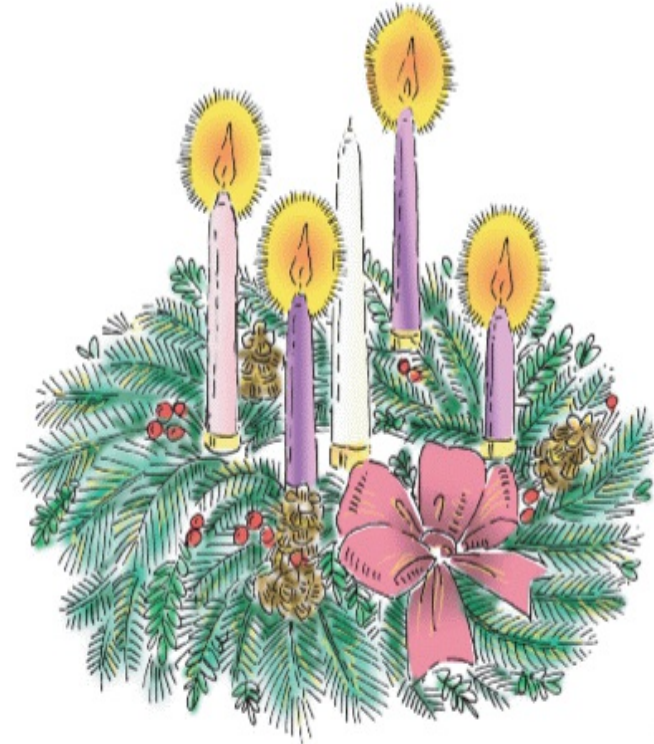
<u>Mon. Dec. 19</u>	6 PM	Pathfinders
<u>Tues. Dec. 20</u>	7 AM	Rotary
	9:30 AM	Chair Yoga
	6:15 PM	Sparks
<u>Wed. Dec. 21</u>	1:30 PM	Avon Mennonite Prayer Group
	2:00 PM	McCarthy Place Worship
<u>Sat. Dec. 24</u>	4 PM	Worship
	7 PM	Worship
<u>Sun. Dec. 25</u>	10 AM	Worship

SERVING CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
AS WE WORSHIP

Greeter: Ellen Wolfe
Usher Captain: Brian Coe Team

Reader: Brian Wilker
Counter: No Counters

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 18, 2022

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

Church Office: 519-271-8527

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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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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Hymn 257: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Choir Introit: "O Magnum Mysterium"

Evan Ramos

Performed by Eric Mahar

O Magnum Mysterium is a setting of a Latin sacred text written for Christmas. The text depicts the extraordinary occurring among the ordinary: God coming to earth as a tiny baby, animals in a lowly stable being the first to witness his arrival.

Original Latin Text: English Translation:

O magnum mysterium,	O great mystery,
Et admirabile sacramentum,	And wonderful sacrament,
Ut animalia viderunt	That animals should see
Dominum natum	the newborn Lord
jacentem in praesepio.	Lying in a manger.
O magnum mysterium. Amen.	O great mystery. Amen.

Greeting

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Prayer of the Day:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms: 80:1-7, 17-19

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday School Christmas Program: Please see insert

Sermon:

<https://youtu.be/UK8svJZtOIU>

Hymn 265: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Nicene Creed

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Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

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Choir Anthem: "Advent Carol" Carol McClure, Alfred V. Fedak

MEAL

Offertory Prayer

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The Great Thanksgiving

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Communion Prayer

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The Lord's Prayer

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Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

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SENDING

Blessing

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Hymn 267: "Joy to the World"

Dismissal

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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.



The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are placed in loving memory of *Mary Neumeister* by Ken and Family.

WELCOME: We would like to extend a warm welcome to Eric Mahar who is here this morning to share his talents as a guitarist. Eric will be participating in the Sunday School Christmas Program. Thank you Eric for joining us!

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.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: "Thank you" to the following donors who have contributed to the purchase of the flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas celebrations: *Judy Hammond; Joe & Irene West; Elfrieda Zimmermann; Ellen Wolfe & Bruce Mitchell; Robert & Bev Keutsch; Bob & Marilyn Wells; Brian & Barb Groppe; Brian & Pauline Schade; Paula McNaughton; Jean Weir; Tom & Joanne Cosstick; The Quilting Ladies.*

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!

"CHRISTMAS" OFFERING: As in the past, the "Christmas" offering envelopes for this year will be apportioned one-half to the House of Blessing and one-half to the Current Fund.

"Christmas" offering envelopes are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary just inside the door to your right, on the table as you come in the ramp door and also on a table inside the entrance off the parking lot.

"Thank you" for your continued support!

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 cooperation 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.

