

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

May 5, 2024 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ELCA

PRELUDE

“Love of God Medley”

arr. By Mark Hayes

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has
done for us.

**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered
over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve
beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the
flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed
through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian
official entered your boundless baptismal life.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened
the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the
risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now
and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

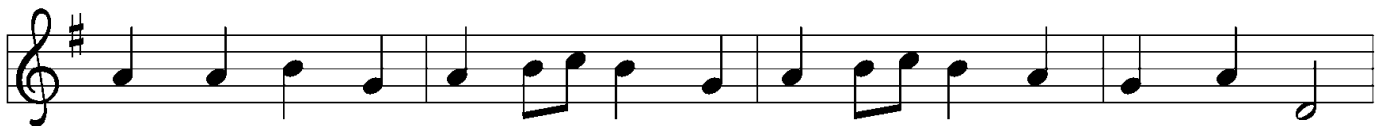
Red Hymnal #836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

We gather today and remember that Jesus calls us friends.

We are all siblings, called to love.

This love calls us to be more than just servants to one another.

We abide in the love of Christ, who calls us to be friends.

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed.**

- 1 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- 2 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
- 3 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

SONG OF PRAISE


"You Are Holy"

Red Hymnal #525


1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Lord Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary"

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, Tried and true
And with thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You
(Repeat)

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “What a Friends We Have In Jesus”

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“The Love of God”

Jodi Beach

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.

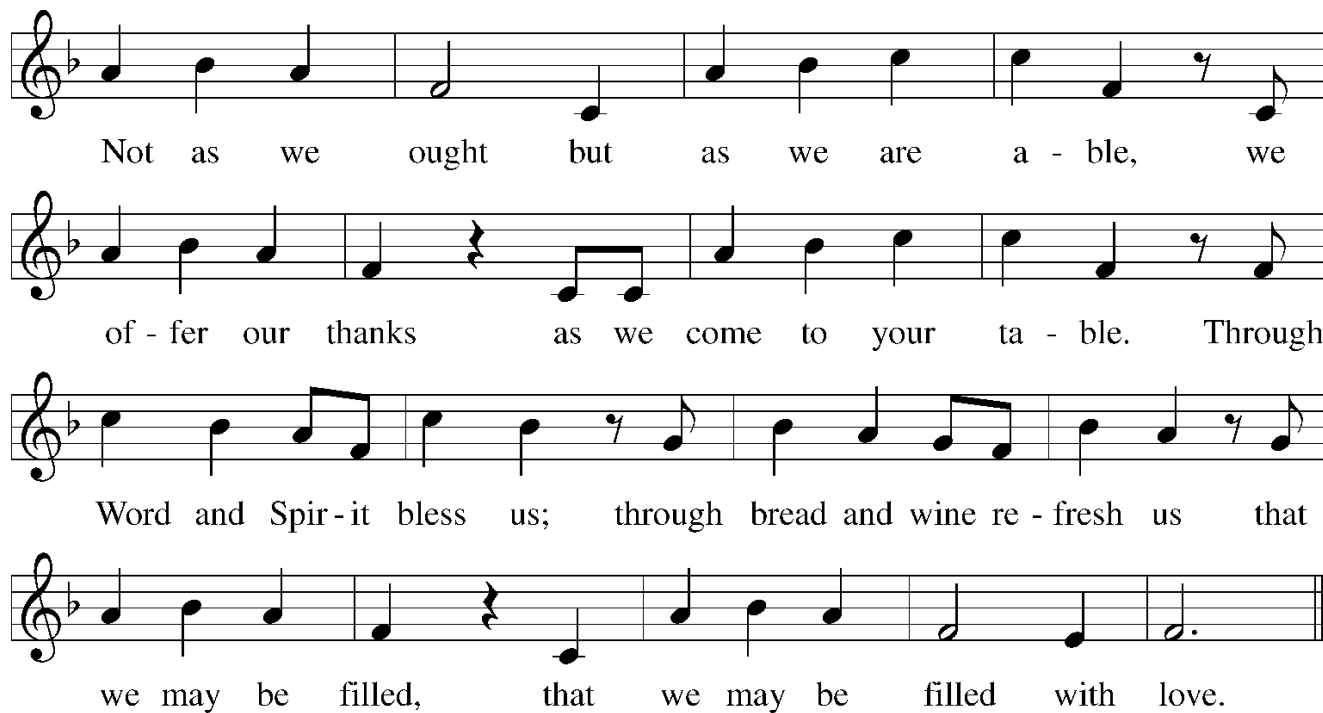
The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table. Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion. You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.



TABLE BLESSING

“That We May Be Filled”

(from W & P)



Not as we ought but as we are a - ble, we
of - fer our thanks as we come to your ta - ble. Through
Word and Spir - it bless us; through bread and wine re - fresh us that
we may be filled, that we may be filled with love.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion will be received up front. Please receive the wafer into your hand and take a cup from the communion assistant.

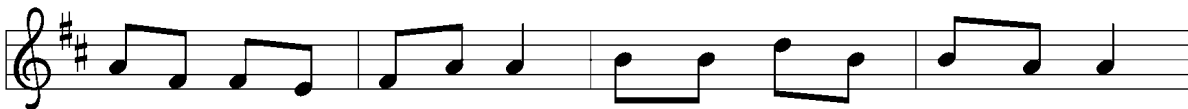
The inner ring is grape juice and the outer rings are wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you would like the individual prepared disposable communion, they are in a basket in the center of the worship space.

COMMUNION SONGS "Jesus Loves Me!"

Red Hymnal #595

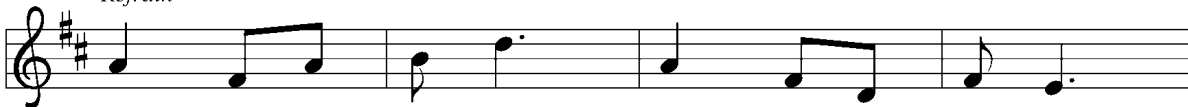


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

“God Is Love”

(from ACS)

God is love. God is love; let us love one an -
 oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.
 God is love. God is love.

The musical score for "God Is Love" is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics "God is love. God is love; let us love one an -". The second line contains "oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.". The third line contains "God is love. God is love.". The melody is simple and homophonic, with chords often moving in parallel motion.

“A New Commandment”

(from WOV)

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as
 I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.
 By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if
 you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know
 you are my dis - ci-ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

The musical score for "A New Commandment" is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F-sharp, C-sharp). It consists of five lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics "A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as". The second line contains "I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.". The third line contains "By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if". The fourth line contains "you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know". The fifth line contains "you are my dis - ci-ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.". The melody is simple and homophonic, with a triplet of eighth notes in the fourth line.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" Red Hymnal #712
(words on next page)

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Joysong"

arr. By Mark Hayes



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,

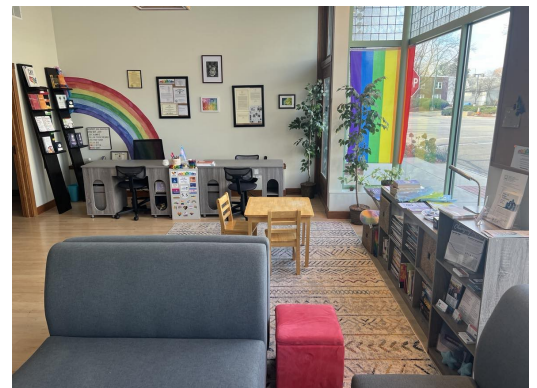


con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Flower ministry sponsorships are available.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by James and Kathy Rasch,
 In Honor of their 45th Anniversary today.

Around the Table program on May 19 will feature Eden Brown from the Liam Foundation. Their mission is to encourage, heal, and empower the LGBTQIA+ community in Northern Illinois through Love, Integrity, Advocacy, and Mentorship. They are neighbors of Zion Lutheran Church as their new LGBTQIA+ Center is located at 1005 5th Avenue. With this new space, they provide a safe and affirming place for folks from their community to gather. Please join us after the 9:15 service on May 19 as Eden Brown will talk about their organization and the first ever PRIDE parade which will take place on June 1st. Fellowship will be provided by Zion's Multicultural Team.



WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant:
Sound: Deangelo Brunson
Media: Cameron Kellermann
Music: Carol Ostrom
Usher: Charles Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson
Reader: Connie Heden
Fellowship: Maggie & Torg Hallin Sponsors, Celebrating May Birthdays

BAGGING FOR CORNUCOPIA

We are in need of plastic shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the office and join us on the fourth Monday, at 1:00 PM, in the Youth Center for lots of fun while we fluff, & bag (Coffee & treats too) for Cornucopia Pantry! Thanks, Karen Kermgard. ***May 2024 Bag Fluffing will be on Thursday, May 23rd at 1:00pm.**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ & Food Pantry!

Cornucopia Food is in need of **Cans of meat – tuna, chicken, beef, etc.** for the month of May to give out at the Food Bank. A grocery cart will be in the back of the worship space for donations or you can leave them in the church office.

WOZ SAVE THE DATES:

May 16th Thursday 12:00pm Our annual salad luncheon (bring your favorite retro salad to share)

July 18th Thursday 1:00 BUNCO

We have many fun Spring/Summer activities planned for the ladies of our church. Continue to look for more information in The Grapevine and weekly bulletins. WOZ Board: Karen Kermgard, Maggi Hallin, Kathy Rasch, Linda Reinhardt and Sue Drilling

CINCO DE MAYO NIGHT

Sunday, May 5, 2024 from 4-7pm

Food, drink, music, dance, cultural learning & advocacy

DONATION: \$5
BENEFITS LULAC,
A NON-PROFIT THAT SERVES
THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY



PARTICIPANTS
Trinadora & Other
Musicians &
Dance Groups

Sponsored by Katie's Cup
Located at
502 Seventh Street
Rockford, IL 61104



"SOLAR ENERGY"

LED BY BRAD ROOS

SUSTAIN ROCKFORD

June 2, 2024
at 10:15am
Fellowship Hall



Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

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You Tube

follow us on
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PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Chiquita Bills, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Linda Reinhardt, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, and Megan Zaphel.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	4:00pm	Cinco De Mayo—Katie's Cup
Monday	8:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	9:30am	Book Study—Library
Tuesday	8:30am	Staff Meeting
	9:00am	Worship Team Meeting
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	11:00am	Missions Team—Library
	4:00pm	Katie's Cup Board
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
	5:30pm	Zion Development Board
Thursday	6:00pm	Sustainability Movement Meeting
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lesson—Youth Center
Saturday	9:00am	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
Sunday	9:15am	Worship



GOLF OUTING
Wednesday, May 22
 7:30 am Registration
 8:00am am Shotgun Start





Timber Pointe Golf Club
 5750 Woodstock Road, Poplar Grove, 20 minutes east of Rockford
\$100 per golfer
 Includes cart, fees, golf balls, tees, lunch & gift bag
 Performance prizes awarded
 Funds Benefit Katie's Cup

Midtown Community Health Team

MIDTOWN FUN & HEALTH FAIR

Saturday
June 8, 2024
 from 11am-2pm
 Patriots Gateway Community Center
 615 S. Fifth Street – Rockford, IL






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