

GRAPEVINE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MOSAIC COMMUNITY SHARING THE GRACE OF CHRIST WITH ALL...

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday Worship at 9:15am

In Person & Facebook live

Burmese Worship: 11:00am

New Life Church Worship: 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois 61104

Phone: 815-964-4609
www.zionrockford.com
zionrockford@gmail.com

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Esther Circle

Women's Group - September 14
3:00-5:00pm at Stockholm Inn

Rachel Circle

Women's Group - September 10
1:00-4:00pm (call Zion for location)

Women of Zion

Nurse Honor Guard Program
September 17 at 1:00pm at Zion



Zion Lutheran Church Yard Work Project



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026
11am-1pm



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 19, 2026
10:00am-3:00pm

COMMUNITY COOKOUT



FOOD - MUSIC - RAFFLE - RESOURCES

Fall Faith Festival

OCTOBER 9-10, 2026

FRIDAY AT 6:00PM
SATURDAY AT 9:00AM

SPEAKER/MUSICIANS

**PASTOR MIKE
& SUE BLAIR**



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

PASTOR THOMAS THOUGHTS



OFFICE MANAGER

We welcome new Office Manager, Nancy Ramos, to the staff. Nancy started August 26th and will be working Wednesday-Friday for a few weeks before settling into a new pattern. Nancy Ramos brings many years of experience in nonprofit leadership, community engagement, fundraising, and church administration. Nancy also works part-time with Northern Illinois University's Center for Child Welfare and Education and leads Camp Rock Forward, a week-long camp for children in foster care. Nancy enjoys bringing people together, building relationships, and creating welcoming and meaningful experiences. She is excited to get to know the Zion congregation and become part of the church community.

THANK YOU ZION!

There are always people to thank for their service in community:

- ⇒ Elizabeth Carlson for joining Church Council.
- ⇒ Those who volunteer at Ruthie's Closet.
- ⇒ Ken and Mary Franzen for 60 years of marriage and being a witness to God's love!
- ⇒ Gerry Swan celebrated her 99th birthday at Zion in July
- ⇒ Mary Shore for substitute playing at worship on August 22nd
- ⇒ Memorial Committee for the gift to get 10 new Lutheran Study Bibles available at church.
- ⇒ Officer Eliu Gomez for your serving around the Zion church.
- ⇒ Janice Forrest for giving away 40 backpacks at Buddy House.
- ⇒ Rachel Circle group that gathered at Zion in August to celebrate 50 years
- ⇒ N'diya Hopkins for her painting (eagle) and Destinie Bronaugh (tree)
- ⇒ Jerry and Darlene Bates for joining Zion again as members (living in Florida)

Peace, Michael Thomas



1954 CORNERSTONE REMEMBERED



Over 70 years ago, the church built a youth and education wing to the building. This photo shows Elizabeth LaGrand as a child with her dad behind her. Elizabeth sang at Christmas eve that same year and on July 5th, she sang at Zion's worship again. She stood outside that day next to the cornerstone. The 1954 addition at Zion was before the 1983 Bitner Youth Center, which is now located behind Pastor Conrad, who has the trowel and cement in hand. The Youth Center was added in 1983. That cornerstone needs to be cleaned...

THURSDAY 9AM-1PM

2026 SEASON

June 4 to September 24

Indoors at Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street
Rockford, IL
We Accept Link!



Trivia Night

and Silent Auction

FRIDAY - October 2nd!

Held at Trinity Lutheran Church
200 N. First Street, Rockford

6:00pm Meal - 7:00pm Play begins

\$20 per person

Tables of 8 available, or sign up individually

Chili, snacks, beverages & dessert provided

REGISTRATION!

-  www.katiescup.com
-  815-986-0628
-  katiescupcoffee@gmail.com
-  In person at Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street
Rockford, IL 61104



EVENT SPONSORS \$500
TABLE SPONSORS \$50

REGISTRATION OR SPONSORSHIP ONLINE AT...



STUDENT DEACONESS JANICE FORREST

I am so pleased to share about attending the Student Deaconess Seminar and the Lutheran Deaconess Conference at Luther Ridge Camp in Ashville, NC. The event was August 1st-10th. The Deaconess Students Seminar was a delight and will be my last year of training with the Deaconess program. I am in my internship with the Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA). As a Deaconess, I'm called to do God's work with helping children, doing outreach with different programs and finding my way where God wants me to do with his ministry.

I was so proud to let the LDA know that Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford IL supports me while I am in this program. I shared with the group that, I am preaching, assistance communion, set up and work the live video for Facebook, assistant minister when the pastor is at church and not at church, open the church up for services, close the church after service, visit shut ins, visit in the hospitals, and attend Bible study. Pastor Mike is teaching and leading me in how to operate a church with all of the ins and outs. So much more to do as a Deaconess at Zion. The congregation gives me feedback with my sermons. I am so grateful for the Zion congregation and the church. The ministry of Zion members shows me how God's love is shown within the congregation and with all of God's children. Zion doesn't have me just sitting in the pew listening. Zion has me hands on and I know that I am in the right place to be a servant.

I was sharing so much about the leadership that Zion has for me I felt myself getting emotional knowing that the congregation loves me that much to show me love and grace. I was able to meet so many Deaconess (sisters) who came from different parts of the world. The wisdom and knowledge that I was around gave me great hope as a Deaconess. I met a lady whose been a Deaconess for 60 years and she is a Doctor. She explained to me the struggles she went through as a Deaconess. I drove a golf cart at times and helped other Deaconesses to get to the chapel. On my way, I saw a baby black bear (cub), looking at me from a tree I did a double take because it was so pretty and the coat was so shiny. But the way he was looking at me, I said, "Jesus what am I going to do if he starts chasing me"? I pushed that golf pedal so hard hoping it will go at least a little faster. At least I didn't see any snakes at this camp, thank you Jesus.

Respectfully, your Student Deaconess Janice Forrest



NURSE JORI ROYSDON

Hello everyone! September is here already! This month's health observance I'd like to focus on is Healthy Aging Month. According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, any form of exercise that gets your heart rate up for 2.5 hours a week and exercising at least twice a week can make all the difference in your physical health and well-being. Even just a 5 minute walk several times a week can make all the difference in your mobility, balance and joint health. All of you are welcome to come to my exercise class at St. Bridget Parish Center Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9-10am in classroom A as well. Please text or call me at 630-465-2135 if you have any medical questions or concerns or are admitted to any of the hospitals or facilities in the area, I will come visit you. Blessings to you all, Jori Roysdon Faith Community Nurse



As always, please call me at 630-465-2135 or email me at jori.l.roysdon@osfhealthcare.org if you have any questions or concerns! If you are in the hospital please call church and let someone know so they can notify me or call me directly. Have a safe and blessed summer!

- Your Faith Community Nurse—Jori



CANDLES IN THE DARK

Unnamed, Spiritually Gifted

Women of the Bible

DIRECTED BY DOROTHY PAIGE-TURNER

OCTOBER 25, 2026

2:00 PM

(FREE EVENT)



SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES



CHURCH FUNDRAISER

575 S. Perryville Road #127

Rockford, IL 61108

OCTOBER 29, 2026
FROM 5:00-9:00PM

VALID FOR PICKUP & IN RESTAURANT ORDERS.

BRING THIS FLYER OR SHOW IT ON YOUR PHONE AND 20% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT:

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

USE CODE **FUND20** AT CHECKOUT



RUTHIE'S KITCHEN MEAL

1:00-3:00pm

RUTHIE'S CLOSET

11:00AM



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A KATIE'S CUP PARTNERSHIP

RockValleyCollege
CENTER FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

"Doctrine of Discovery and Columbus Day"

By Rev. Dr. Michael Thomas

Zion Lutheran Church

Thursday, October 15

1:00-2:30pm

Held at Katie's Cup



Katie's
CUP

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 3 9am-Noon

October 4: Noon-3pm

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church - Rockford, IL



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



Mosaic Youth Group



Sunday, September 27th at 4:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church

MONDAY BOOK STUDY

AT 9:30AM AT ZION

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

AT 8:00AM AT STOCKHOLM INN



BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Held at Zion Lutheran Church!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



Thursday
November 12, 2026
7:00 PM
Held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church

KATIE'S CUP PRESENTS
**An Evening with
Carrie Newcomer**
with Pianist Gary Walters
A Fundraising Concert for Katie's Cup

Acoustic night Open mic

Katie's
CUP

• FEATURED PERFORMERS!
• LIVE SOUND & ACOUSTIC
• GUITAR PROVIDED!

Sept. 2026 - May 2027

2nd Thursdays from 6:30pm-8pm

HOSTED BY : CHRIS LEWIS MUSIC & BOB LINDSTROM



SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	31 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30pm Bag Fluffing-Fellowship Hall	1 7:30am Tuesday Morning Worship-Anderson Gardens 9:00am Katie's Cup Trivia Planning	2 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am RMM Meeting - Katie's Cup	3 9:15 Katie's Cup Walking Group 4:00pm Police Community Event at Ken-Rock	4 Office Closed	5 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford NO Ruthie's Kitchen
6 9:15am Worship 11:00am God's Work Our Hands & Zion's Mosaic Youth Group 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	7 OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day	8 1:30pm Multicultural Committee Meeting	9 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 11:00am Mission & Evangelism Team 2:00pm Katie's Cup Program Team	10 9:15am Katie's Cup Walking Group 1:00pm Rachel Circle 2:00pm Midtown Community Health 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm ZDC Board 6:00pm Simmons	11 Office Closed 11:00am Blair's & Denver & PT 2:00pm Midtown Community Health	12 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
13 9:15am Worship 11:00am Mosaic Youth Group 11am God's Work Our Hands 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Bible Study 3:00pm Esther Circle-Stockholm Inn	15 12:30pm Building and Grounds	16 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 11:00am PGC Facilities Meeting	17 9:15am Katie's Cup Walking Group 11:30am Cornucopia Advisory Board 1pm Women of Zion Gathering	18 Office Closed 1:00pm PGC Finance Committee	19 10:00am Ruthie's Community Cookout
20 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship: 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Bible Study	22 5:00pm Human Resource Committee 6:00pm Church Council	23 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	24 9:15am Katie's Cup Walking Group 4:30pm Patriots Board Meeting	25 Office Closed	26 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
27 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship 4:00pm Mosaic Youth Group	28 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Bible Study 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Fellowship Hall	29	30 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 12:00pm Mayor's Hunger Lunch	1 8:00am Katie's Cup Executive Committee 9:15am Katie's Cup Walking Group	2 Office Closed 6:00pm Katie's Cup Trivia Night-Trinity Lutheran	3 9:00am LWF Truck 9:00am Patriot's Pumpkin Palooza 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor Michael Thomas

Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner

Office Manager: Nancy Ramos

Financial Secretary: Hannah Wearsch

zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com

Outreach Director & Deaconess Student: Janice Forrest

Faith Community Nurse: Jori Roysden

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jodi Beach

Custodian: Shanita Baker

Worship Media: Kurt Brown

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Beert, Pam Bitner, Linda Callahan,

Liz Carlson, Bonnie Dahlberg, Thomas Habing,

Karen Kermgard, Laurie Pellant, Angeles Polcher,

Ron Simmons, Pastor Michael Thomas,

Neal Tolodxi and Gary Zeien

Church Council Officers

President: Bonnie Dahlberg

Vice-President: Tom Habing

Treasurer: Michael Beert

Secretary: Laurie Pellant

Pastor: Michael E. Thomas

www.zionrockford.com

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

PRAYER CORNER

WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Michael Thomas, 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.
- ◇ Senior Pastor Ndeshifose Akyoo, Assisting Pastor Evan Kiula, and Assisting Pastor Yohanna Samson Ntui of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Bishop Peter Paul Thomas of St. Thomas Lutheran Church and Pastor Selvakumarin the Arcot Lutheran Church of India.
- ◇ Mission Partner, Pastor Mytch Dorvilier
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches and the Midtown Lutheran Parish
- ◇ For those who grieve loss of loved ones: Marilyn Carlson, Joanne Johnson and Chloe Verni-Lau
- ◇ For the wedding of Heather Neal and Don Huston
- ◇ For healing: Sonja Beach, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jeff Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, Gary Fulkerson, John Hoyt, Gary & Carol Johnson, Greg Johnson, Leola LeGault, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Jerry & Lois Peterson, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Neal Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, Nancy Warden, Danielle Wegner, Gary Wegner, Jr., and Gary Zeien.

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

SUPPORT THE MISSIONS OF ZION!

We are grateful for your generosity in supporting our ministries at and beyond Zion. There are envelopes in the place you are sitting at in worship and in the lobby of the church. Please consider supporting the missions of Zion Lutheran Church by donating:

- ⇒ Mail to the church office or placed in the Offering Box at worship
- ⇒ You can use the Mobile app called, **Vanco Mobile**. Download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app to our various ministries.
- ⇒ Click the QR Code with your phone camera and donate!

Questions with online or the mobile app, please email
zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com for more information.

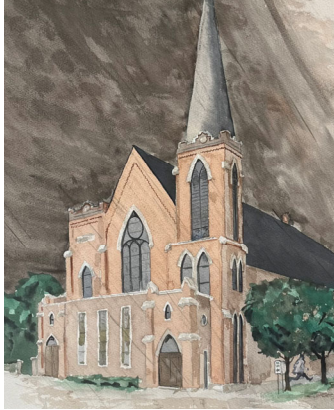
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FAITH



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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MOSAIC COMMUNITY SHARING THE GRACE OF CHRIST WITH ALL...

Zion is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

PARTNERSHIPS



Sunday Worship at 9:15am In the Worship Space

Also Facebook Live/Online Worship

(Also posted at www.youtube.com/zionrockford afterwards)

Burmese Worship at 11:30am New Life Worship at 1:00pm