



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

SEPTEMBER 2025

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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Zion Lutheran Church

Service Projects
10:30am-12:30pm



God's work. Our hands.



Women of the **ELCA**

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

**RESCUE, REDEEM,
RESTORE**

"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

- Psalm 82:4

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Registration and Coffee at 8:00 am

First Lutheran Church
225 South 3rd St, Rockford



CHURCH FUNDRAISER

575 S. Perryville Road #127

Rockford, IL 61108

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
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

PASTOR THOMAS THOUGHTS

“God’s Work Our Hands”

On Sunday, September 7th, we will have the chance to do a few service projects inside and outside of Zion. We will have a time of fellowship after worship and then do God’s work with our hands!

God’s work. Our hands.



“New Member Sunday”

On Sunday, September 21st, we will receive some new members at Zion. If you are interested in joining Zion, please let me know. We are grateful to journey with our new members and look forward to getting to know them better.

- ⇒ Mark and Laurie Pellant
- ⇒ Gary Zeien
- ⇒ Tom & Jill Loring



“Fall Faith Festival”

Mark your calendar for our Fall Faith Festival from Friday-Sunday, October 10-12th. Expand your imagination while deepening your spiritual life at the Fall Faith Festival at Zion Lutheran Church. Please join us for a conference to renew our faith, grow in our fellowship and invite others to join us in the journey. I thank Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner for helping plan, participate and lead this event.

Our guest speaker will inspire. Jack Fortin is the Executive Director of The Center for Lifelong Learning at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He has previously served as Senior Vice President for World Vision USA and Divisional Vice President for Young Life. Is there an alternative to a fragmented, frantic, meaningless life? Jack Fortin finds it in a life centered in God. Spiritual exercises, questions for reflection, and discussion in every chapter make this a timely and valuable resource for individuals and congregational study groups.

We gather Friday, October 10th at 6:00pm for dinner, a speaker, music and small groups. The festival continues on Saturday, October 11th at 9am for breakfast and then three different workshops (discipleship, service and youth leadership). After the workshops, we will have a time of music and prayer before food preparation for Ruthie’s Kitchen at noon and then serving the meal from 1:00-3:00pm. We conclude on Sunday at 9:15am with a time of renewal at worship with prayer and communion. Then at 10:15am we gather in the fellowship hall for a conversation on discipleship. Our goal is to renew faith and inspire faith among those at and beyond the church community. This is a free event, which includes all materials, snacks, lunch and resources for the day. Ages 13 and older are welcome. Please register at the church office at 815.964.4609 or zionrockford@gmail.com. We will meet in the Bitner Youth Center. Please enter at Fifth Street and Fifth Avenue, the west end of the building. A free will offering will be received.

Peace, Pastor Thomas



STUDENT PASTOR RACHEL'S PAGE

September is here! Peace and blessings to you all at Zion and beyond. It is a pleasure to be able to spend one more month with you and walk alongside in your faith journeys. I am not sure exactly when my time with you will come to an end but I have been reflecting on this blessed time.

Here are a few things that I have learned while serving with you. God is at work in this community. You have a commitment to understanding the needs of God's children and a willingness go where you are being called. When help is needed, you always show up. Your trust in God is unwavering. You face unexpected challenges with grace and patience. You show up for one another, in the joys and sorrows. My confidence in preaching in various styles has grown. My pastoral care skills have deepened. I have learned how to be a better administrator and leader. I have learned how to see the gifts that God has given everyone and how to make space for each gift. My overall confidence in my call has increased. I have learned the importance of community and knowing when to ask for help.

It is a joy and blessing to learn with you!

Student Pastor Rachel



MISSIONS PARTNER EVENTS

**Katie's
CUP**

GOLF OUTING

Tuesday, September 9

7:30 am Registration
8:00am am Shotgun Start



Timber Pointe Golf Club
5750 Woodstock Road, Poplar Grove,
20 minutes east of Rockford

\$125 per golfer
\$500/foursome

Includes cart, fees, golf balls, tees, lunch,
prizes & gift bag
Performance prizes awarded
Funds Benefit Katie's Cup



KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday at Noon
September 16, 2025

"Seeing The Transgendered"

Speaker: Jane Moore

JOIN US FOR LUNCH STARTING AT 11:30AM
KATIE'S CUP - 502 SEVENTH STREET - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.KATIESCUP.COM

FREE TURKEY BASKET

Call Zion Lutheran Church
For A **FREE** Basket!
PICK-UP TBD

Looking for donations!
\$25.00 each basket!
Checks made out to
Zion Lutheran Church



BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church - Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 4 9am-Noon

October 5: Noon-3pm

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church - Rockford, IL



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**



NURSE JORI

Hello everyone!! I hope you are all had a wonderful summer and are enjoying this nice weather while it lasts!! September is National Immunization Awareness Month and I wanted to share some information regarding vaccines.

Here is the CDC Adult vaccine schedule for 2025: Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for ages 19 years or older; 2025 U.S.

As always, talk to your doctor if you're unsure about which vaccines you need or are considering getting a booster vaccine.

If any of you are wanting to get a flu or covid vaccine locally, Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be having a vaccine clinic. Flu (Influenza) & Covid Vaccine Clinic, 9 am-12 pm, Fri. Sept. 26, 2025 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Ave. Rockford, Vaccines provided by Walgreens. Medicare, some Medicaid insurers, private insurances, cash or check accepted. Insurance card must be presented. Limited scholarships available, inquire upon arrival. Mark the date on your calendars if you want to come!!

If any of you are in the hospital for any reason, please call me and let me know. There is no way for me to know unless I am called directly. I visit all of the local hospitals: OSF, Swedish American Hospital, Mercy Health, Javon Bea, etc..

If any of you have any medical questions, concerns, need medical resources, or assistance getting to medical appointments, please call me at 630-465-2135, I am happy to help. For non-urgent matters, feel free to email me at Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org.

Blessings to you all, Jori Roysdon, Parish Nurse



MISSION PARTNER: PASTOR MYTCH IN SENEGAL

A Note of Gratitude and Transition - With deep gratitude, I write to mark the close of my journey as the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Coordinator here in Senegal. This season has been one of growth, learning, and sacred connections, and your prayers, encouragement, and companionship have been a cherished part of it all.

As I prepare to step into a new call in Sierra Leone as the Christian Education and Leadership Development leader, beginning in October 2025, I do so with a heart full of thanksgiving. God continues to open doors and shape the path, and I remain humbled by the grace unfolding before me.

Your presence throughout this journey, whether through conversation, collaboration, hospitality, or quiet support, has left an indelible mark on me. For that, I give thanks. We are truly blessed to count you among the faithful companions who have helped nurture and sustain this work.

May our paths continue to cross in ways that build up the body of Christ and uplift the beloved communities we serve. Until then, please know you are held in gratitude and prayer.

With peace and love, Rev. Mytch Pierre-Noel Dorvilier



HAPPENING'S AT AND AROUND ZION

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 talk with Pastor or let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of September we are requesting donations of Skillet Meals, Canned Chili, Canned Meals, (Also cereal is always in demand) for distribution at the Cornucopia Food Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. September 18th, 1:00pm WOZ will have Fika in the Park, Sinnissippi Park Shelter by the golf course-BYO drink, we will have yummy treats, Fun and Fellowship! There will be a freewill offering for Cornucopia. Hope you can join us. More activities coming in the Fall—October 16th, Nov TBD, December 9th stay tuned! Thanks so much! The WOZ board

NEW ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center. Pastor Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.



Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting under the theme “For the Life of the World.” The assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and engage in various ways of theological reflection.

SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:15am Worship	1 Labor Day	2	3 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	4 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 9:30am Worship Team	5 Office Closed	6 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
7 9:15am Worship 10:30am God's Work Our Hands (projects inside and outside)	8 8:30am RVC ESL Class—Marander Room	9 8:00am Katie's Cup Golf Outing 8:30am RVC ESL Class	10 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class 9:00am Grapevine Arti- cles Due 11:00am Missions Team - Nursery	11 8:30am RVC ESL Class 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm Zion Development Board	12 Office Closed	13 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
14 9:15am Worship Forum: New Life Church	15 8:30am RVC ESL Class—Marander Room	16 8:30am RVC ESL Class Noon Katie's Cup Conversation 3:30pm Building and Grounds	17 Professional Leader- ship Conference 8:30am RVC ESL Class 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 4:00pm WOW @ZLC	18 8:30am RVC ESL Class 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 11:00am Finance Team 1:00pm WOZ Coffee in the Park 5:00pm PGCC Pub Night @Ernie's	19 Office Closed	20 9:00am WELCA Event 1:00pm Midtown Block Party
21 9:15am Worship	22 First Day of Autumn 8:30am RVC ESL Class—Marander Room 1:00pm Bag Fluffing -	23 8:30am RVC ESL Class 5:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Church Council	24 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class	25 8:30am RVC ESL Class 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 4:30pm Patriots Board	26 Office Closed	27 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
28 9:15am Worship	29 8:30am RVC ESL Class—Marander Room	30 8:30am RVC ESL Class	1 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class	2 8:30am RVC ESL Class 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market	3 Office Closed	4 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor Michael Thomas
Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama
Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner
Office Manager & Finance Secretary: Jolyn Hess
Outreach Coordinator & 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, Bonnie Dahlberg,
Gary Fulkerson, Debbie Gortowski, Thomas Habing,
Karen Kermgard, Angeles Polcher,
Ron Simmons, Kris Sommer,
Pastor Michael Thomas, and Neal Tolodxi

Church Council Officers

President: Kris Sommer
Vice-President: Thomas Habing
Treasurer: Michael Beert
Secretary: Bonnie Dahlberg
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 Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Michael Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama, 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/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India.
- ◇ Mission Partner in Senegal with Pastor Mytch Dorvilier
- ◇ 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 loss of loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Ruth Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Deanna Hartenberg, Jim McDowell, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Jerry Stalcup, Carrie Steder, Sandy Swenson, Jeanne Thomas, Neal Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, and Megan Zaphel.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of gratitude to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor 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.

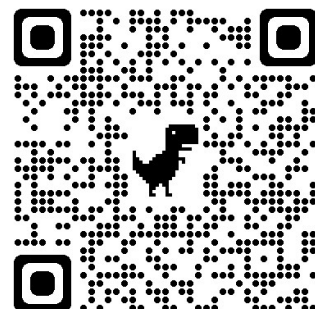
GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2025 GRAPEVINE, EMAIL BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 to submit an article: zionrockford@gmail.com, or please send a hardcopy to the church office.

OFFERINGS & DONATIONS WELCOMED!

Mailed...In-Person...Online

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. Donations can be mailed to the church office or placed in the Offering Box in the back at the pole on the pulpit side before, during and after worship. You can also donate through the mobile app called, **Vanco Mobile**. You can 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. If you have questions with online or the mobile app, please email zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com for more information.

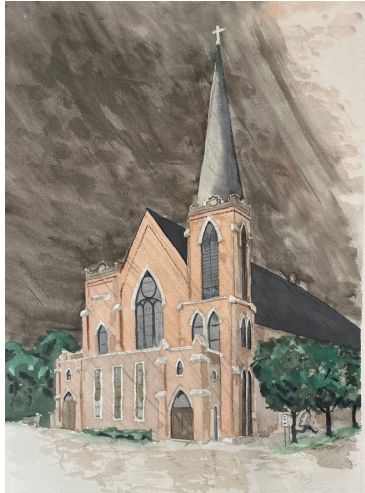
VANCO
FAITH



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the Grace of Christ with All"*

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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 10:30am
In the Chapel**