



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

## OCTOBER 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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## Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 4 9am-Noon

October 5: Noon-3pm

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church – Rockford, IL



## ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: “Seasons of Faith”

October 29, 2025 from 4:00-6:00pm

Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



# “FALL FAITH FESTIVAL”

## PRAYER VIGIL!

“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.” We are invited to call out to the Lord in prayer in our communal lives and personal lives. Prayer includes confessing, thanksgivings, and concerns for yourself and others. I invite you to signup for one of the prayer vigil slots on Thursday, October 9th between 8:00am-5:00pm. I encourage you to consider praying in the sanctuary or prayer room. You’ll have a prayer sheet for guided prayers if you would like to use them and a list of participants and leaders for the Fall Faith Festival.

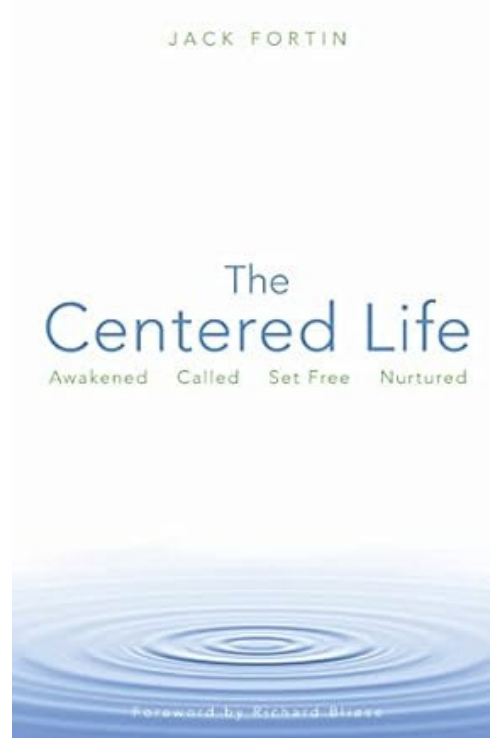
## “FALL FAITH FESTIVAL”

Expand your imagination while deepening your spiritual life at the Fall Faith Festival at Zion on October 10-12. We start Friday at 6:00pm with a meal and then our speaker, Jack Fortin, will share about “The Centered Life”. We will have small groups and return on Saturday at 9am for breakfast, workshops and serving at Ruthie’s Kitchen starting at noon. 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 being disciples of Jesus. Our goal is to encourage one another and invite others to grow in their faith. This is a free event, which includes all materials, snacks, lunch and resources for the day. Ages 13 and older are welcome. For more information or to register, please call 815.964.4609 or email [zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Jack Fortin is currently the Senior Fellow at Augsburg University. He was 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.

*Peace, Pastor Thomas*



# STUDENT PASTOR RACHEL

Grace and peace to you all, Zion!

I want to start my letter to you with a poem by Mary Jackson Ellis:

*Taking a walk is so much fun. We don't hurry; We don't run.*

*We watch for birds; we watch for bees.*

*We look for all the falling leaves.*

This is a poem that is usually meant for children experiencing the changing of seasons. It is an invitation to slow down and to take in everything around you. My life these days is filled with nursery rhymes, the abc's, songs about ants marching one by one, and sweet sweet snuggles (and I love it!). My life these days is also filled with the changing of seasons.

This walk with you here at Zion has been so enriching. We did not hurry, we did not run. We watched for birds and bees together. We have grown together in faith and community and I am forever blessed by you. I remember when I first came to Zion as the intern, I felt overwhelmed by all that I did not know. You walked with me and welcomed me into this community. You showed me how the mission and ministry is lived out and how loudly and boldly you embody the love of God. We all are going through our own seasons of change. Whatever our change is, we remember that God is with us at every hill and every valley. God is with us when our leaves fall and when the flowers of hope and new life bloom. God is with us, now and always.

It is an honor to serve alongside you and be welcomed into your lives. We walk alongside each other and see the birds and the bees without a rush. We continue to show up for one another because "taking a walk is so much fun."

Peace, Student Pastor Rachel



## MISSIONS PARTNER EVENTS

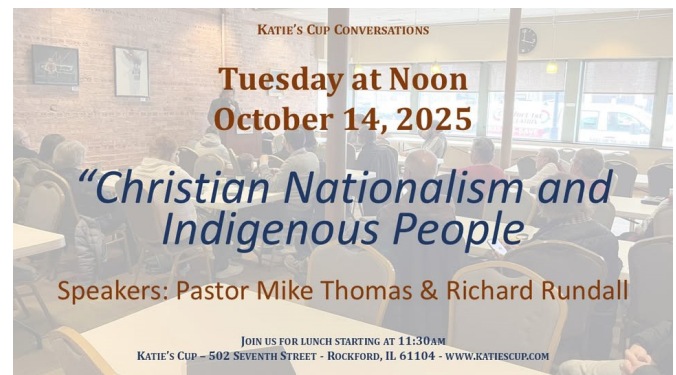
### OPEN HOUSE

October 10, 2025 - 8am

Patriots Gateway Community Center

Get an update on Patriots and a free breakfast!

RSVP at 815-967-0413 - patriotsgateway@gmail.com

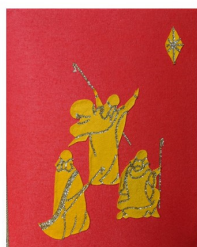


### Joy Fund 2025

DONATIONS FOR

Cornucopia  
Food Pantry

Checks made out to Zion Lutheran Church



### 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

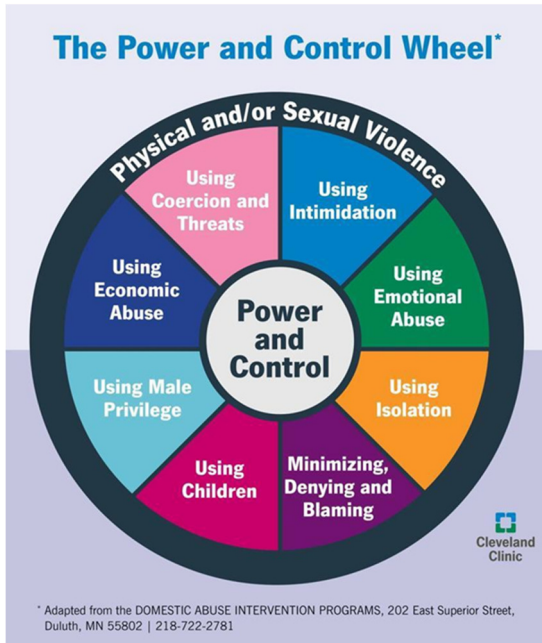


# NURSE JORI

Hello everyone!! I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful fall weather and season changes!! October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used to gain or maintain power and control over someone else. Below is the power and control wheel created by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project:



If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic violence, here are local resources in the Rockford area that can assist:



Rockford Family Peace Center,  
779-348-7600, 315 N Main St, Rockford IL 61101

Remedies Renewing Lives (

If they don't have space when you call, call daily, spots open all the time), 815-962-6102,  
220 Easton Parkway, Rockford IL 61108

National Domestic Violence Hotline:  
800-799-7233 or text BEGIN to 88788

I am here as a supportive resource for you all. Should you need to reach me with any questions or concerns, please text or call 630-465-2135 or email me at [Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org)

Blessings to you all,  
Jori Roysdon,  
Faith Community Nurse

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER

- ◆ Approval of August 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Reallocating RALM funds until we are informed of their future plans.
- ◆ New members received: Mark and Laurie Pellant by transfer; Tom and Jill Loring by affirmation of faith, Delores Putman by affirmation of faith and Gary Zeien by baptism
- ◆ We approved allowing an RPS205 class at the admin building to meet at Zion in case of an emergency
- ◆ The Prayer Vigil is on October 9th at Zion from 8am-5pm.
- ◆ The Long Range Planning Team will meet on Sunday, September 28th at 10:30am.
- ◆ Fall Faith Festival is on October 10-12 at Zion and all are welcome to sign up for any part of weekend.
- ◆ We approved the Endowment disbursement as budgeted for the last third amount for the year.
- ◆ Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama will be given two weeks off during her transitional period from Zion to a possible first call when that date is determined. Zion is opening to hosting an ordination service for Rachel if that is something that is needed.
- ◆ Pastor Steve Erickson will be guest preacher on October 26th while Pastor is in North Carolina.
- ◆ A Deaconess job description will be available for review at the next Council meeting.
- ◆ Zion is hosting a delegation from the Arcot Lutheran Church of India on Monday September 29th at 2pm in the fellowship hall and all are welcome to join Pastor Mike to meet them.

Next meeting: Council meeting October 28, 2025, 6:00pm.

# HAPPENING'S AT AND AROUND ZION

## WOMEN OF ZION

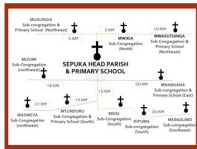
During the month of October we are requesting donations of **Canned meats—tuna, chicken, etc.** (Also cereal is always in demand) for distribution at the Cornucopia Food Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. Thanks so much!

Please join the Women of Zion on October 16th at 1:00 for a wonderful Fall day in the country! We will meet at Zion then carpool to a cute farm wagon near Genoa to pick out our pumpkins. From there we'll head to Prairie State Winery for more fun and conversation. Please let Karen (815-494-3864) or the church office (815) 964-4909 know if you plan to join us.

The WOZ board

## Mission Partner Sepuka Parish Tanzania

October 5, 2025 at 10:15am  
Fellowship Hall



LED BY KATHY HAND  
RETURNING FROM AFRICA

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



**ZION FORUM**  
October 19, 2025  
10:30am in Fellowship Hall

**RON SIMMONS "GOOD TROUBLE"**

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A CONVERSATION WITH RON SIMMONS AND OTHER

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

**ZION FORUM**  
October 12, 2025  
10:30am in Fellowship Hall

**Fall Faith Festival**

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY  
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm  
Zion Lutheran Church - Youth Center!

**Cornucopia**



**Food Pantry**



## TOPIC: CENTERED FAITH

A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR THOMAS

## FALL FAITH FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Looking for volunteers to help serve and clean up for Friday evening meal, Saturday breakfast, Saturday at Ruthie's Kitchen and for Sunday Fellowship.

Please contact Bonnie Dahlberg if you are willing and available to help. Thank you!

Contact Bonnie Dahlberg

815.742.5049

nursebon@hotmail.com



# OCTOBER 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28	9:15am Worship with Prayer Candles 10:15am Fellowship 11:00am Burmese Worship —Chapel 1:00pm New Life Worship —Conrad Room	29	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	30	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	1	8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	2	8:30am RVC ESL Class	3	Office Closed	4	9:00am Cars and Coffee Rockford & Bob Campbell Memorial Bike Ride 9:00am LWR In- Gathering - parking lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
5	9:15am Worship -ZION Fall Fest Festival 10:15am Fellowship 10:15am Forum: Update on Tanzania — Kathy Hand 11:00am Burmese Worship —Chapel Noon LWR In-Gathering back parking lot 1:00pm New Life Worship —Conrad Room	6	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	7	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	8	8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room 9:00am Grapevine Articles Due 11:00am Missions Team	9	8:00 PRAYER VIGIL 8:30am RVC ESL Class 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm Zion Development Board	10	Office Closed 6:00pm ZION Fall Faith Festival	11	9:00am Zion Fall Fest Festival 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
12	9:15am Worship —Fall Faith Festival 10:15am Fellowship 10:15am Forum: Centered Faith 11:00am Burmese Worship —Chapel 1:00pm New Life Worship —Conrad Room	13	Indigenous Peoples Day 8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	14	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	15	8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	16	Grapevine Mailing 8:30am RVC ESL Class 11:00am Finance Team 1:00pm WOZ Pumpkins and Winery 5:30pm Cars & Coffee Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Katie's Cup!	17	Office Closed	18	
19	9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 10:15am Forum: "Good Trouble" 11:00am Burmese Worship —Chapel 1:00pm New Life Worship —Conrad Room	20	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	21	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room 3:30pm Building and Grounds	22	8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room	23	8:30am RVC ESL Class 3:00pm Harvest Celebration at Buddy House 4:30pm Patriots Board	24	Office Closed 3:00pm Harvest Celebration —Buddy House	25	1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
26	Reformation Sunday 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship 11:00am Burmese Worship —Chapel 1:00pm New Life Worship —Conrad Room	27	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Fellowship Hall	28	8:30am RVC ESL Class — Marander Room 5:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Church Council	29	8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RVC ESL Class 4:00pm Rooftop Reflections with Pastor	30	8:30am RVC ESL Class 10:00am RVC "Christian Nationalism" -Katie's Cup 6:00pm Police Trunk or Treating at RPS Admin Parking Lot	31	Office Closed	1	All Saints Day 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen

## 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](http://www.zionrockford.com)

[www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford](https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](https://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 Elihuruma Ndoghwe and Pastor Evan S. Killings 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: Ryan Knoll, Jeanne Thomas, and Harriett Basel.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Danielle, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eisman, Deanna Hartenberg, John Hoyt, Jim McDowell, Les, Morgan, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Jerry Stalcup, Carl Stoutenberg, Carrie Steder, Sandy Swenson, Neal Tolodxi, Ashley Vander Vennett, Rachel Vander Vennet, Brian Veitch, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

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.

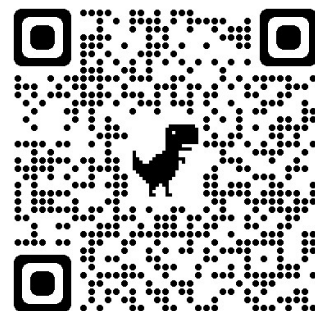
GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025 GRAPEVINE, EMAIL BY OCTOBER 8, 2025 to submit an article: [zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockford@gmail.com), or please send a hardcopy to the church office.

## 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](mailto:zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com) for more information.

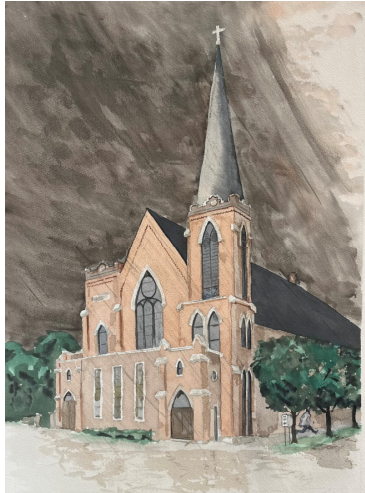
**VANCO**  
FAITH



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925 Fifth Avenue  
Rockford, Illinois 61104  
zionrockford@gmail.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*"A Mosaic Community Sharing  
the Grace of Christ with All"*

Place mailing label here.



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](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford) afterwards)

**Burmese Worship at 10:30am  
In the Chapel**