

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

October 5, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford



ELCA

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE “Abide with Me” setting, Theodore Beck

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING SONG “Christ, Be our Light”

Red Hymnal #715

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. Refrain

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed. Refrain

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone. Refrain

5 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

GREETING

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.

KYRIE

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Verses

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2 That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

- 3 For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4 For your spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Glorify Thy Name"

Father we love You, We worship and adore You.

(Chorus)

Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. ² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? ³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴ So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted. ^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. ² Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. ⁴ Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37:1-9

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it

has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Wind of the Spirit”

Wind of the Spirit, move fresh as we worship
and fill us with hope ev’ry day. Breath of creation,
blow life in our being, and gift us with purpose, we pray;
so our life is filled with meaning, and love is what we’re breathing
in the wind of the Spirit, wind of the Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 17th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. ⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered

to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

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

SERMON Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG "God of the Fertile Fields"

1 God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.

2 We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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 PEOPLE

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

A. Sherman

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com
or you can click on the QR code.



TABLE BLESSING “We Eat the Bread of Teaching”

Red Hymnal #518

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.
Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

- 1 Wisdom calls throughout the city, knows our hunger, and in pity gives her loving invitation to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*
- 2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*
- 3 Enter with delight and singing, for her richness now is bringing us this joyful celebration; eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Please come forward for communion today up front.
Receive the wafer with an open hand.
The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.
There are individual communion cups at the prayer table.
Dispose of them in the lobby.*

COMMUNION SONGS

“We Come to the Hungry Feast” Red Hymnal #479

1 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

2 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

3 We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us;
still we come, we come to the hungry feast.

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You” Red Hymnal #818

O Master, let me walk with you, in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear;
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move, by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me, a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

In hope that sends a shining ray, far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

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

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG

"For the Fruit of All Creation" Red Hymnal #679

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,

in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Alabare”

Alonso/Johnson

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 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

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 4 9am-Noon

October 5: Noon-3pm

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church – Rockford, IL

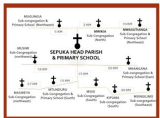


LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



Mission Partner Sepuka Parish Tanzania

October 5, 2025 at 10:15am
Fellowship Hall



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

LED BY KATHY HAND
RETURNING FROM AFRICA

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

Fall Faith
Festival

TOPIC: CENTERED FAITH

A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR THOMAS

ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: "Seasons of Faith"
October 29, 2025 from 4:00-6:00pm
Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



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

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor 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 Elihuruma Ndoghwe, and Pastor Evan S. Killing of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ 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: Ryan Knoll, Jeanne Thomas and Harriet Basel.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Danielle, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jerry Stalcup, Carl Stoutenberg, Neal Tolodxi, Ashley Vander Vennet, Rachel Vander Vennet, Brian Veitch, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving 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

WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Communion Asst.	Janice Forrest
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Deb Gortowski
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship
	10:30am	Forum: Tanzania presented by Kathy Hand
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	Noon	Lutheran World Relief Ingathering—back parking lot
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Thursday	8:00am	Prayer Vigil (until 5:00pm)
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Friday	6:00pm	Fall Faith Festival (
Saturday	9:00 am	Fall Faith Festival
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship—Receive New Members
	10:15am	Fellowship
	10:30am	Speaker: Discipleship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

October 19	10:30am	Forum: Ron Simmons "Good Trouble" Scholarship Fund
October 29	4:00pm	Rooftop Reflections—Embassy Suites Rooftop
November 2	9:15am	All Saints Day of Remembrance

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- * Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93