



GRAPEVINE

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



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday Worship at 9:15am

In Person & Facebook live

Burmese Worship at 10:30am

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61104

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

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**God's work.
Our hands.**

Midtown Lutheran Parish

September 9, 2023
Meet at Inscape Collective on Seventh Street
9am-11am



140TH ANNIVERSARY PREACHER

PASTOR KENDALL KOENIG
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
9:15AM WORSHIP
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
140TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
11:00AM
MAU-NAH-TEE-SEE GOLF CLUB



Rockford Midtown Market
2023 SEASON
June 1 to September 28

Held outside of Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street - Rockford, IL 61104
Seventh Street & Fourth Avenue
RPS205 Administration Parking Lot




PASTOR'S CORNER

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET!

We are looking forward to gathering on Sunday, September 14, 2023 to celebrate our 140th Anniversary. We will gather for 9:15am worship with Pastor Kendall Koenig our guest preacher. We will then have our Banquet at Mauh-Nah-Tee -See Club starting at 11:00am. Rachel Handlin and Michael Beert will be our musicians as we gather. During our meal, we will have a short program. We want anyone who would like to attend to be able to. We do have several reservations PAID already so if you would like to attend, please let us know by calling the Church office and rsvp.

HOMEcoming SUNDAY

Our Anniversary Team is planning for our "Homecoming Sunday" on October 15th at 9:15am worship. Pastor Denver Bitner will be our preacher. Please join us as we celebrate those who were baptized, confirmed, or married at Zion. We will have an Anniversary Choir that will practice at 8:00am that Sunday. After worship, we will have a "Taste of Zion" with a variety of food from different cultural backgrounds. Music will feature "Trinadora", starting at 1:30pm.

PASTORAL INTERN RACHEL!

God works in mysterious ways. We are blessed to have a Pastoral Intern again this next year. Back in the spring, we were told by Wartburg Seminary that there were not enough seminarians for all the sites and we were planning on not having an Intern. Then, at the start of August, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago reached out and asked if we would be open to a last minute placement of a seminarian who would soon be endorsed by her Candidacy Committee to go on internship. Intern Rachel is from Janesville, WI and will be in her last year of seminary as an Intern at Zion. We welcome Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins to Zion. She begins September 1st and will move into an apartment on Seventh Street and Fifth Avenue that Zion Development owns.

This past month of discerning and deciding have been influenced by a few factors that have made me hopeful about how God provides:

- ⇒ We didn't think we'd have an intern and last minute candidate shows up
- ⇒ Northern Illinois Synod will provide us a \$10,000 grant for Zion's Intern program
- ⇒ We have a new renter of the kitchen
- ⇒ We are receiving a monthly fee from Patriots as a management fee for my time as Executive Director
- ⇒ Our Intern Support Committee for their service: Jane Burden, Janice Forrest, Nancy Warden, Sue Drilling and Bonnie Dahlberg. They have been a blessing!

God indeed provides for us in mysterious ways. We are a church connected to people, the neighborhood and ministry that affects a person in mind, body and soul. We have much to celebrate in the past, a spiritual legacy we continue to steward into the future.

Peace, Pastor Thomas

Pastoral Intern Rachel

My name is Rachel Perkins. I was born and raised in Janesville, WI. Growing up, my family and I were active members of my home congregation. While on a mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, when I was 13 years old, I felt a calling into ministry. The Pastors of my home congregation welcomed and nourished my feeling of a call. I did two years of internship with my Pastors while in High School before I attended Wartburg College. I double majored in Religion and Peace and Justice Studies with a minor in Leadership. After graduating college, I moved to the Kingdom of Eswatini as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer. While in Eswatini, I met my fiance and soon to be husband, Nkosinathi. After my year of service, I moved to Chicago and began seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I did my unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mount Sinai Hospital the summer of 2020. Throughout seminary I have served as a pulpit supply resource for my synod, South Central Synod of Wisconsin. I am excited to join the community of Zion Lutheran and grow pastorally.



Pastoral Intern Rachel - internrachelperkins@gmail.com

INTERN'S CORNER

Dear friends in Christ,

As my time here comes to an end and I begin a new school year at Wartburg Theological Seminary, I wanted to take a moment and say thank you again for all the love and support you have shown me during this internship year. When I first arrived in Rockford, I had no idea how much this place would teach me or how much each of you would mean to me.

Thank you for welcoming me into the community and showering me with grace from the very beginning. You showed me hospitality as I adjusted to a new routine, gently helped me when I stumbled, encouraged me when I faced challenges, and cared for me at every step. Not only that, but you also celebrated with Micah and me after our engagement (!) and extended a heartfelt welcome to every friend and family member that came to visit. I can't say thank you enough for all of the ways that you've showered me with Christ's love in one short year.



I am also grateful for the opportunity to get to know you and hear your stories. I have learned so much from talking with you, living and serving among you, and praying with you in worship or at home. In fact, whether you realized it or not, walking this journey of faith alongside you has often encouraged me in my own spiritual journey, especially when I needed to be reminded of the grace and mercy that sustains us all. I appreciate every God moment I've had around Rockford and all of the blessings you have given me in my time here. I will always cherish the relationships that have been formed here, and I will remain forever grateful to be a part of the body of Christ at and beyond Zion.

So, dear ones, as I take my leave and step into this next season of ministry, I hope you know that I will carry with me all of the lessons I've learned and all the memories we've made here. I will also be keeping you all in prayer as you celebrate the rest of this anniversary year and follow the Spirit's lead into a new season. This experience has truly transformed me, both as a person and as a pastoral leader, and I am grateful for the chance to be in a place that has had such an impact on me.

As difficult as it is for me to say goodbye and as sad as it makes me to officially close this chapter, I am excited to continue my preparation for ministry and bring what I've learned back to Wartburg. The experiences I've had, stories I've heard, and lessons I've learned here will inform how I lead, study, and worship on campus. And as I approach approval, ordination, and first call (God willing), I can't wait to see how everything I've learned on this formational journey comes together. With God's help and by God's grace, I hope to one day serve another congregation with the same love and care that you've shown me.



Once again, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your pastoral intern this year, and I praise God for the opportunity to have been a part of this wonderful community.

Peace, Intern Alana Harms



Around The Tables
September 17, 2023 at 10:15am
Fellowship Hall

**HOMECOMING: CELEBRATIONS
& TRADITIONS**
BETTY JO RODEY

HOMECOMING

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

**English as Second
Language Classes**

**Rock
Valley
College**

**ZION
Lutheran
Church**



AROUND ZION

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH HOMECOMING CHOIR

October 15, 2023 - 9:15 a.m.

Dear Zion Choir Friend,

This year, 2023, marks the 140th Anniversary for Zion Lutheran Church and throughout the year, we are celebrating this significant occasion with many special events. On October 15th, our church will host a "Homecoming Sunday" with the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner preaching, and we hope that you will consider "coming home" to worship with us on that day.

Through the leadership of various organists, choir directors, soloists, and members of our A Cappella and bell choirs, Zion has, indeed, carried on the tradition of our strong Lutheran musical heritage. So, in recognition of this anniversary year, we invite you to be part of our Zion Homecoming Choir for the service on Sunday, October 15th. There will be just one rehearsal beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the choir room on that day.

The anthem for our worship will be the song "For the Beauty of the Earth" composed by John Rutter. This piece has a tender melody with deep and lush harmonies. The text proclaims the wonder of God's love and goodness through the gift of community with "friends on earth and friends above." If you would like to practice this song before October 15th, please let Jodi or Mary know and they will send the music to you.

We ask that you mark your calendars and plan to join in the joy of singing and worshipping together on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Please email us so that we will know if you are able to participate or not. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at Zion this fall!

Peace, The Zion Worship Team Jodi Beach, Pam Bitner, Intern Alana Harms, Mary Shore & Pastor Thomas

Contact information:

jodibeach3@gmail.com mary.shore2021@gmail.com

BAG FLUFFING: We are in need of plastic shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the office and join us on the fourth Monday for lots of fun while we fluff, (Coffee & treats too) Thanks, Karen Kermgard.

BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Stockholm Inn, 8:00AM, feel free to join the group

PANTRY DONATIONS Thank you all for supporting WOZ (Women of Zion) in our effort to collect food for Cornucopia Food Pantry during the first six months of this year. The pantry is busier than ever and certain items are still difficult to get from the food bank. During September we're asking for donations of **cereals**. You can put the items in the grocery cart in the Narthex or bring to the church office. Thanks again! Karen Kermgard

WOZ—Save the Dates

We have many fun activities planned for the Women of Zion this fall.

September 28th Thursday 9:30 Donuts in the park! Sinnissippi shelter by the golf course.

October 26th Thursday 1:00 Easy Christmas Crafts

November 19th Sunday Help with the reception for Pastor Katrina after the service. We will need help serving and bringing food.

December 12th Tuesday Christmas Luncheon 12:00 Stockholm Inn. Remember your White Elephant gift.

There will be more details in the weekly bulletins and The Grapevine.

All are welcome!

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 7 9am-Noon

October 8: Noon-3pm





Saturday,
9/9/23
Noon- 6pm

Midtown Strong Block Party

Join us in the parking lot behind
Inscape Collective at 201 7th Street
Music by Trinadora and Monark
Free tacos for first 100 attendees
Food truck and family-friendly activities
and more
Event supported by:



PATRIOTS

PUB NIGHT
fundraiser

JOIN US FOR A RELAXING EVENING OF FOOD AND FUN!

- 50/50 Raffle
- Meet our Patriots Gateway kids
- Learn about the great programs provided by Patriots Gateway

Limited number of tickets available



SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

5:00 PM

Ernie's Midtown Pub
1025 5th Ave
Rockford IL 61104

TICKETS: \$50
Tickets include food and
1 drink ticket

ORDER TICKETS:

www.patriotsgateway.org

815-967-0413

Email: office@patriotsgateway.org

In person: Patriots Gateway Center
615 S 5th St
Rockford IL 61104



Cars & Coffee Rockford

c/o Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street
Rockford, IL 61104

info@carsandcoffeerockford.com

www.carsandcoffeerockford.com

A KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATION

"Mosaic...
...In Rockford"



Tuesday,
September 12 at Noon
Jamie Bejot, Mosaic

Cornucopia Corner: Food for Thought

Have you noticed that the older you get the faster time flies? This summer is no exception and has flown by. Many of us have enjoyed being outside and having family and friends over for a cookout with plenty of food for everyone. However, hundreds of families in the Rockford area have not been as fortunate. These families suffer from food insecurity and don't know where their next meal is coming from. The Cornucopia Food Pantry serves about 105 families twice a week. Even though the pandemic is officially over the need keeps growing. Inflation has hit the pantry as it has most of us. Unfortunately, as the cost of food has increased the monetary donations have decreased. For example, in April expenses doubled and some food items were unavailable. Cornucopia is very thankful for the support they receive from Zion and the people of Rockford. But the pantry needs more help. Each month WOZ has been collecting nonperishable foods. In August it was canned fruits and in September WOZ will be collecting cereal for donation. Please bring your cereal to the shopping cart in the narthex or directly to Jolyn's office. If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity, please consider Cornucopia. It's as easy as one phone call to Peggy King, Cornucopia Director.

He gives food to every creature. His love endures forever. (Psalms 136:25)

Cornucopia



Food Pantry

SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:15am Worship 10:30am Pastoral Intern Farewell and Godspeed Reception - Fellowship Hall	28 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Youth Center	29	30 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	31 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market	1 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	2 9:00am Cars & Coffee - RPS Parking Lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
3 9:15am Worship	4 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	5 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	6 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am Anniversary Team Meeting - Zion 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	7 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board	8 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	9 9:00am "God's Work, Our Hands" 12:00pm Midtown Strong Block Party— behind Inscape 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
10 9:15am Worship 11:00am 140th Anniversary Banquet at Mau-nah-Tee-See Country Club	11 9:30 am Book Study— Library 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	12 9:00am Worship Team Meeting	13 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 11:00am Missions Team 1:00pm Multicultural Team 5:00pm Music Lessons 5:00pm WOW Leaders Mtg	14 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 4:00pm Zion Development Board	15 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	16 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
17 9:15am Worship 10:15am Around the Tables 3:30pm Heden & Zoellick Wedding (Wheaton, IL)	18 9:00am Book Study— Library 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	19 3:30pm Building and Grounds	20 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	21 Grapevine Mailing 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 11:00am Finance Committee - Library 5:00pm Patriots Pub Night at Ernie's	22 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	23 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
24 9:15am Worship	25 9:00am Book Study— Library 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Youth Center	26 10:00—3:00pm Intern Cluster (Elgin, IL) 5:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Church Council	27 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	28 9:00am Rockford Midtown Market 4:30pm Patriots Board	29 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	30 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor: Michael Thomas

Pastoral Intern: Rachel Perkins

Office Manager: Jolyn Hess

Faith Community Nurse: Mary Wedel

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jodi Beach

Custodian: Shanita Baker

Outreach Coordinator: Janice Forrest

Worship Media: Kurt Brown

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Beert, Bonnie Dahlberg, Gary Fulkerson,
Debbie Gortowski, Kathy Hand, Ruth Larson,
Angeles Polcher, James Rasch, Kris Sommer,
Pastor Michael Thomas, Neal Tolodxi

2023 Church Council Officers

President: Kris Sommer

Vice-President: Michael Beert

Treasurer: James Rasch

Secretary: Ruth Larson

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 Thomas, Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins, 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 loss of Sharon Habing.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Kurt Brown, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jim Duhigg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer and Ingrid Tryggestad.

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

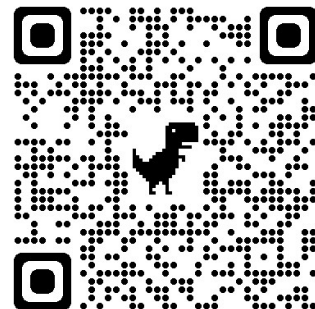
GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE October 2023 GRAPEVINE, EMAIL BY SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 to zionrockford@gmail.com or submit an article, please send a hardcopy to the church office.

DONATIONS WELCOMED!

Mailed...In-Person...Online

We are grateful for your generosity in supporting our ministries at and beyond Zion. There are envelopes at the place you are sitting and in the lobby. 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



Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61104

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the Grace of Christ with All"*

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GRAPEVINE

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.

HOMEcomingsunday



OCTOBER 15, 2023

140TH ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 TASTE OF ZION ETHNIC FOOD

SPECIAL MUSIC: TRINADORA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104

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