



GRAPEVINE

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

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

CROSS-CULTURAL
INTERGENERATIONAL INTERFAITH

ZION'S 2024
CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP
TO ATLANTA

June 20-25, 2024

APRIL 2024
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

Portillo's
for GOOD

CHURCH FUNDRAISER

6090 East State Street
Rockford, IL

APRIL 9, 2024
FROM 5:00-8:00PM

VALID FOR DRIVE THRU; PICKUP; CURBSIDE & IN RESTAURANT ORDERS.
BRING THIS FLYER OR SHOW IT ON YOUR PHONE AND 20% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT:
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
ONLINE/APP ORDER: USE CODE PORTILLOS36 BEFORE CHECKOUT IN THE APPLY OFFER SECTION.

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RETIREMENT PARTY

Mary Wedel
Faith Community Nurse

April 14th at 10:30am

Fellowship Hall
Retirement Celebration



PASTOR'S CORNER

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE MARY

We will gather on April 14th to thank God for Mary Wedel, our Faith Community Nurse. Mary has served at Zion for the past four years. This partnership is an OSF St. Anthony Hospital program that allows Mary to serve and visit members of Zion, led a grief support group, she's led various health initiatives at Zion and has provided wellness programs for those at and beyond Zion. Please join us at worship at 9:15am to thank her and then at 10:30am for a time of fellowship to express our gratitude.



CARS & COFFEE ROCKFORD!

Zion is a sponsor for this community building activity on the first Saturday of the month from April to October. Join us April 6th as Zion members sell coffee and donuts. Zion can have a table and banner to publicize our church. If you are interested in helping, let me know. The Zion Lutheran Church Multicultural Committee will be grilling at the May 4th Cars & Coffee Rockford, so come on out to support their efforts.



PASTOR MYTCH PARTNERSHIP

Zion hosted Pastor Mytch Dorvilier on Sunday March 3rd at worship. At lunch that day with Pastor Mytch, my wife Tammy and Intern Rachel and Nahti, I asked if there is anything else Zion can do to support her mission work in Senegal. She said we could be a Sponsoring Congregation. The Zion Church Council discussed this possibility at our March 26th meeting. We voted to be a sponsoring congregation to the ELCA mission program that Pastor Mytch serves in Senegal, Africa. She is the Country Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Ministry program, supporting six young adults serving in Senegal. Pastor Mytch works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Senegal and will be there through 2026. We voted to support her at \$1,000 a year. If you would like to donate toward that fund, please do so. Pastor Mytch is a former Intern at Zion and we are glad to support her mission work on the behalf of the ELCA.



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ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

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2024 CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP

If you are interested in attending and want to register for the Intergeneration Cross-Cultural Inter-Faith Civil Rights Trip to Atlanta, please submit your registration information to the office. This is a ministry of Zion coordinated by the Multicultural Committee

Peace to you today!

><> Pastor Thomas

INTERN RACHEL'S GREETING

Happy April!

It is done. During Holy Week we mourned the death of Jesus and held onto hope. Then came Easter. We celebrated the resurrection of Christ and were renewed with the promise of new life! Alleluia and Amen!

To me, Holy Week went by fast. This was my first Holy Week as a full time ministerial leader, in an intern capacity. I got a look into what Holy Week will look like and feel like going forward in my ministry. There was always something to plan for. Time for intentional prayer on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday service, two Good Friday services, Easter egg hunt on Saturday and Easter morning service. Not only was there a lot happening in the church setting, there was a lot happening in our community and the world around us. I appreciated starting off with a moment of intentional prayer. I felt grounded for what was to come and encouraged in the hope of the season. I realized that it is easy to get lost in the busyness of the week and lose focus of the meaning and importance of this time of year. I am thankful to learn alongside each and every one of you.

I want to take a moment and say 'thank you' for supporting me during my internship project. I am so grateful that there was an interest in learning about our global church partners, especially in Eswatini.

I am halfway through my internship! Can you even believe it?! I can't! I am ready and excited for everything that is to come in the next 6 months. Thank you for continuing to be a supportive and engaging community for me to learn from and grow my ministerial skills.

Peace,
Intern Rachel Perkins-Gama



ZION MINISTRIES

PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you all for supporting WOZ (Women of Zion) in our effort to collect food for Cornucopia Food Pantry during 2023 and again this year. I was thrilled to see the grocery cart full on the last several Sundays during March! April request: **bars of soap, tooth paste, and tooth brushes.** You can put the items in the grocery cart in the Narthex or bring to the church office. Thanks again! Karen Kermgard



BAGGING FOR CORNUCOPIA

We are in need of plastic shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the office and join us on the fourth Monday, at 1:00 PM, in the Youth Center for lots of fun while we fluff, & bag (Coffee & treats too) for Cornucopia Pantry! Thanks, Karen Kermgard.

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

THE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM TEAM would like you to donate scarfs, gently used, knit, or crocheted. We will hang them on fences or railings around the church. We will have a little note on them saying "I'm not lost! If you are cold please take me to keep you warm." The back side says "From your friends at Zion Lutheran Church" If you have scarves to donate please drop them off in the office. Thank you!

WOZ

SAVE THE DATES:

- April 20th BUNCO at Zion
- May 16th Thursday Our annual salad luncheon
- July 18th Thursday 1:00 BUNCO

We have many fun Spring/Summer activities planned for the ladies of our church. Continue to look for more information in The Grapevine and weekly bulletins. WOZ Board: Karen Kermgard, Maggi Hallin, Kathy Rasch, Linda Reinhardt and Sue Drilling

BIBLE STUDIES

- ⇒ Monday Morning Bible Study in the Zion Library at 9:30am
- ⇒ Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

English as Second Language Classes

Rock Valley College

ZION Lutheran Church



NURSE MARY'S CORNER

3 John 1-3 ¹To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your - faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.



Since this will be my last newsletter, I thought we could Talk about Wellness

Defining Wellness—The Global Wellness Institute defines wellness as the active pursuit of activities, choices, and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health. What is Wellness? Wellness is being in good physical and mental health. Because mental health and physical health are so closely linked, problems in one area can impact the other. At the same time, improving your physical health can also benefit your mental health and other life domains, and vice versa. <https://globalwellnessinstitute.org/what-is-wellness/>

As your faith community Nurse, I was trained that for you to be well, I would need to include physical, mental, emotional, *spiritual*, and relational aspects in caring for you. Florence Nightingale felt that nursing was her calling from God and her faith influenced her care. I too had felt called to minister to you in this way. We cannot be afraid to address our spiritual needs, especially since research demonstrates the importance of wellness to include our spiritual health. Continue to use scripture and listen to Gods presence in your lives to stay well. <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honors/370>

My retirement date is April 15th. If you are traveling through the Freeport area, I hope you will feel comfortable stopping in for a visit. Please do stay in touch. I will miss my Zion Lutheran Church family so much and will continue to pray for you.

With Love, *Mary*

Mary Wedel
833 S. Bolton Road
Freeport
815-291-8407
rdmywedel@yahoo.com



Faith
Community
Nurse



Zion Lutheran Church - Rockford, IL



APRIL 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 9:15am Worship	1 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room	2 8:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room	3 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 10:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	4 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 6:00pm Sustainability Movement Meeting - Fellowship Hall	5 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center 2:00pm Midtown Health Team Meeting - Zion	6 9:00am Cars & Coffee - RPS Parking Lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
7 9:15am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	8 8:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 9:30am Book Study - Library	9 Portillo's Fundraising All Day Event for Civil Right's Trip 8:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room	10 Staff Luncheon for Mary W. 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am Grapevine Articles Due 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 10:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 11:00am Missions Team - Zion 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	11 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 12:00pm Rachel's Circle - Fellowship Hall 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm Zion Development Board	12 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	13 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
14 9:15am Worship 10:30am Mary Wedel Retirement Fellowship	15 8:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 9:30am Book Study - Library	16 8:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 3:30pm Building and Grounds	17 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 10:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 12:00pm Miss Carly's Board Meeting - Youth Center 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	18 Grapevine Mailing 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 1:00pm Finance Committee - Library	19 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	20 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
21 9:15am Worship 10:15am Around the Tables - Youth Center	22 8:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 9:30am Book Study - Library 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Youth Center	23 8:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 5:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Church Council	24 Administrative Professionals Day 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 10:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	25 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 4:30pm Patriots Board	26 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	27 9:00am Church Clean-up Day - Zion 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
28 9:15am Worship - Good Shepherd Sunday	29 8:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 9:30am Book Study - Library	30 8:30am Staff Meeting 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 6:00pm Church Council Retreat - Zion	1 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 10:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 5:00pm WOW -Fellowship Hall	2 National Day of Prayer 9:00am RVC ESL Class - Marander Room 6:00pm Sustainability Movement Meeting - Fellowship Hall	3 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	4 9:00am Cars & Coffee - RPS Parking Lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor Michael Thomas
Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins-Gama
Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner
Office Manager: Jolyn Hess
Outreach Coordinator: Janice Forrest
Faith Community Nurse: Mary Wedel
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, Debbie Raymond,
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

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2024 GRAPEVINE, EMAIL BY APRIL 15, 2024 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.

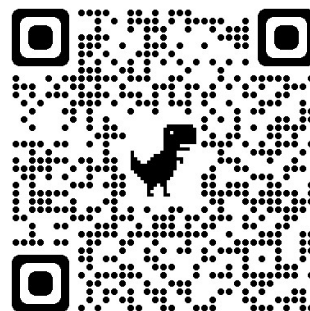
PRAYER CORNER

WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Michael Thomas, Pastoral Intern 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 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, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve loss of loved ones: Shirley Simmons, Kevin, and Sonja Brace.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Chiquita Bills Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Linda Reinhardt, Wayne Spitzer, and Megan Zaphel.

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.

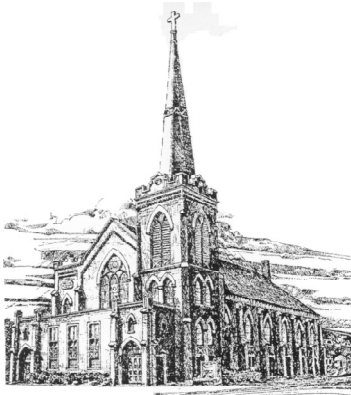
VANCO
FAITH



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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.

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