



GRAPEVINE

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

AUGUST 2026 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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THURSDAY 9AM-1PM

2026 SEASON

June 4 to September 24

Indoors at Katie's Cup

502 Seventh Street

Rockford, IL

We Accept Link!



BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Held at Zion Lutheran Church!

Cornucopia



PASTOR THOMAS THOUGHTS

OFFICE MANAGER

We gathered in June to say thank you to Jolyn Hess, who had served as our Office Manager for over 14 years. We had a time at worship on June 21st with her family. We then had a gathering on June 30th for her last day in the office with food and shared stories. We pray God's peace upon her in the season of retirement. Please pray for us as we discern our future.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Please welcome to Zion our new Financial Secretary, Hannah Wearsch, who began in June. She can be reached at Zion at zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com for more information. She is managing the online offerings, donations, bill paying processes and interaction with our accounting firm, Wood CPA.

HOME BOUND MEMBERS

Please keep in your prayers our shut-ins and homebound members. Feel free to write them and send them a note! If you would like a complete list of homebound members, let me know. Here is one person who recently moved after her husband, Norm Buchert, passed away:

⇒ Collette Buchert; 111 Owen Road #69 Monona, WI 53716

WORSHIP LEADERS

We are grateful that people help in various ways on Sunday morning at worship. Kris Sommers sets up and cleans up Communion. Bonnie Dahlberg manages our Fellowship after worship. Mary Shore schedules readers for worship. If you are interested in helping, please let me or Janice Forrest know. We are looking for people to serve on the Fifth Sunday in August and November.

SUNDAY	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	COMMUNION SETUP
First Sunday	Janice Forrest	Donna Leger	Tom Loring	Kris Sommer
Second Sunday	Janice Forrest	Laurie Pellant	Julie McCoy	Kris Sommer
Third Sunday	Janice Forrest	Connie Heden	Albert Watson	Kris Sommer
Fourth Sunday	Janice Forrest	Diane Wegner	James McCoy	Kris Sommer
Fifth Sunday	Janice Forrest			Kris Sommer

THANK YOU ZION!

There are always people to thank for their service in community:

- ⇒ Gary Fulkerson for serving on Church Council many years (he stepped down for health reasons)
- ⇒ Bonnie Dalberg for helping schedule our Office Volunteers.
- ⇒ Brad and Sue Roos group that planting perennials on Fifth Avenue.
- ⇒ Janice Forrest helping to lead the wedding of Heather Neal on July 3rd at Zion.
- ⇒ Ruthie's Kitchen Zion team for their serving food and hosting Ruthie's Closet clothing give-away
- ⇒ Bob Thomas for scheduling mowing and replacing the door to the back garbage area.

Peace, Michael Thomas

RACHEL CIRCLE 50TH YEAR!

In the month of August, the Rachel Circle is celebrating 50 years of gathering as a women's group. These ladies have journeyed together faithfully with each other, strengthened to serve in their homes, communities and church.

Sunday—August 9th at 10:15am Fellowship!



STUDENT DEACONESS JANICE FORREST

I listen and read along to Lectio 360 every morning for my devotion to get my day started. This message got my attention about sin and freedom called "The Promise of Freedom". Jesus was talking to the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves' of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So, if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed."



This passage is both challenging and anchoring. To hold to Jesus' teaching in all circumstances will require trusting that he knows best. I acknowledge the tension that invitation to trust raises because I know I may need to let go of my perspectives, my priorities, and even where I find security besides him. But his promise is freedom, this invitation is not to restrict but release. What I learned in this passage is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus gave us freedom when he died on that cross that day to let us know that we are free. I am not saying that you are free to do sin. But you are free when you sin and you say, "Jesus, forgive me for I have sin". Your sins are forgiven! Jesus died on the cross for us and says to the Father, "Please forgive them for their sins". To know that each and everyday you can wake up with a fresh start in life. We have a forgiving God, because we are loved us so much that we may find real freedom.

Peace, Janice Forrest - Outreach Director and Student Deaconess



NURSE JORI ROYSDON

As always, please call me at 630-465-2135 or email me at jori.l.roysdon@osfhealthcare.org if you have any questions or concerns! If you are in the hospital please call church and let someone know so they can notify me or call me directly. Have a safe and blessed summer!
- Your Faith Community Nurse—Jori

CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

- ⇒ We are collecting toothpaste and bars of soap in August for the pantry
- ⇒ We are in need of plastic bags with "handles" to put over brown paper bags for bag fluffing. These are used by people who come to the pantry. You can leave these in the grocery cart in the narthex lobby.
- ⇒ Bag Fluffing: Meet on August 24th at 1pm to make more bags!
- ⇒ Donations can be made to Zion for the Pantry with this QR Code or you can mail a check to Zion and note in the memo line—Pantry!
- ⇒ Cornucopia Pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-11am



TRIVIA NIGHT

Presented by Katie's Cup

Friday October 2, 2026

6:00pm - Meal

7:00pm - Trivia

Trinity Lutheran Church

200 N. First Street

Rockford, IL 61104

\$20 per/person
Tables of 8

SPONSORSHIPS

EVENT Sponsors - \$500

TABLE sponsors - \$50

(sign-up HERE)

REGISTRATION

Pickup a registration form at Katie's Cup!

Download Registration form at

www.katiescup.com

Make out checks and mail to Katie's Cup,
502 Seventh Street - Rockford, IL 61104

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

You can pay the day of the event
or online with the QR Code



FUNDS BENEFIT KATIE'S CUP

TABLE GROUP

Please provide us with the following
information for your team:

Player 1 Team Captain/Contact person:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 2 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 3 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 4 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 5 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 6 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 6 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Player 8 Name:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	30	31 Office Closed	1 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford (Zion Grilling) 4pm Patriots Boxing Classic NO Ruthie's Kitchen
2 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 1:30pm Multicultural Committee Meeting	5 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	6 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm Zion Development Board	7 Office Closed	8 Noon—Unity Fest NO Ruthie's Kitchen NO Ruthie's Kitchen
9 9:15am Worship 10:15am Rachel Circle 50th Anniversary Fellowship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	10 OFFICE CLOSED 3:00pm Esther Circle meets at Stockholm Inn	11	12 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	13 11:00am Finance Committee	14 Office Closed	15 NO Ruthie's Kitchen
16 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship: Ken & Mary Franzen 60th Anniversary 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 12:30pm Building and Grounds	19 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	20	21 Office Closed	22 NO Ruthie's Kitchen
23 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	24 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Fellowship Hall	25 5:00pm Human Resource Committee 6:00pm Church Council	26 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	27	28 Office Closed	29 NO Ruthie's Kitchen
30 9:15am Worship 11:00am Burmese Worship 1:00pm New Life Worship	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1	2 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn	3	4 Office Closed	5 9:00am Cars & Coffee Rockford

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor Michael Thomas

Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner

Financial Secretary: Hannah Wearsch

zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com

Outreach Director & 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, Linda Callahan,

Liz Carlson, Bonnie Dahlberg, Thomas Habing,

Karen Kermgard, Laurie Pellant, Angeles Polcher,

Ron Simmons, Pastor Michael Thomas,

Neal Tolodxi and Gary Zeien

Church Council Officers

President: Bonnie Dahlberg

Vice-President: Tom Habing

Treasurer: Michael Beert

Secretary: Laurie Pellant

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 Yehiel Curry, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Michael Thomas, 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.
- ◇ Senior Pastor Ndeshifose Akyoo, Assisting Pastor Evan Kiula, and Assisting Pastor Yohanna Samson Ntui of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Bishop Peter Paul Thomas of St. Thomas Lutheran Church and Pastor Selvakumarin the Arcot Lutheran Church of India.
- ◇ Mission Partner, Pastor Mytch Dorvilier
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools.
- ◇ For those who grieve loss of loved ones: Pat Ree
- ◇ For the wedding of Heather Neal and Don Huston
- ◇ For healing: Sonja Beach, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jeff Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, Gary Fulkerson, John Hoyt, Gary Johnson, Greg Johnson, Joanne Johnson, Leola LeGault, Joanne Johnson, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Jerry & Lois Peterson, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Neal Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, Nancy Warden, Danielle Wegner, Gary Wegner, Jr., and Gary Zeien.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of gratitude to share, please notify Pastor Mike. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship.

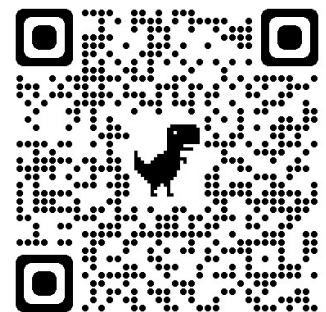
SUPPORT THE MISSIONS OF ZION!

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. Please consider supporting the missions of Zion Lutheran Church by donating:

- ⇒ Mail to the church office or placed in the Offering Box at worship
- ⇒ You can use the Mobile app called, **Vanco Mobile**. 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.
- ⇒ Click the QR Code with your phone camera and donate!

Questions with online or the mobile app, please email
zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com for more information.

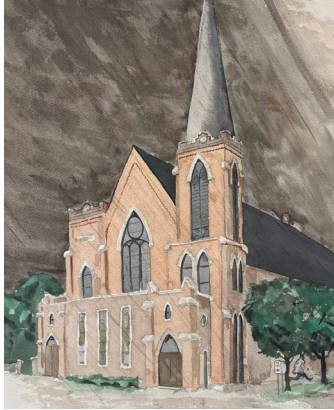
VANCO
FAITH



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Rockford, Illinois 61104
zionrockford@gmail.com

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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 11:30am New Life Worship at 1:00pm