

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

October 15, 2023 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140TH ANNIVERSARY

The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table.

Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion.

You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.

PRELUDE

“Praise To The Lord”

arr. By Theresa Wilhelmi

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

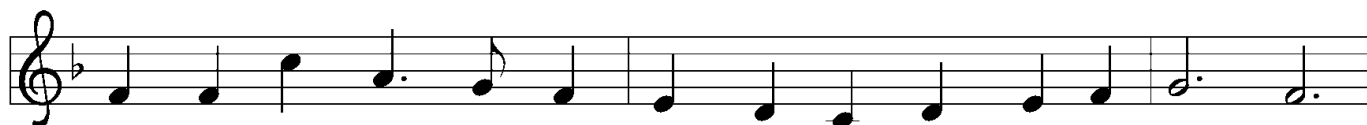
GATHERING SONG

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Red Hymnal #208



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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 (Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy")

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

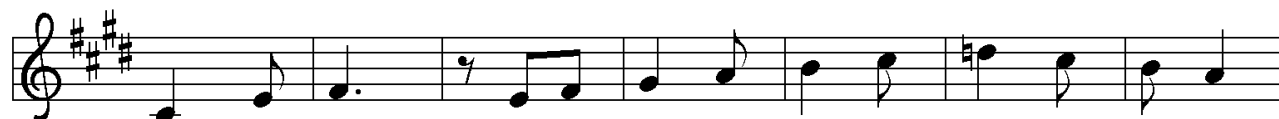
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



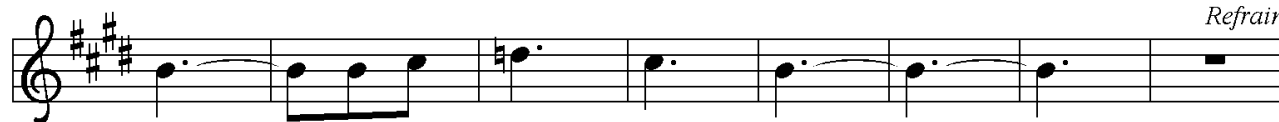
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“Arise, My Soul, Arise!”

Sara Louise Bitner & Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.



THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

“Shepherd Me O God”

(soloists on the verses, congregation sings refrain)

Red Hymnal # 780

Refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Denver Bitner

“What does it mean to be people of Zion?”



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
 3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
 that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
 make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

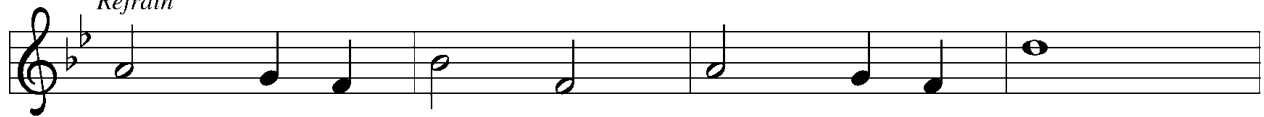


that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
 tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
 let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
 and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
 through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

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 CHURCH

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.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

ZION ANNIVERSARY REUNION CHOIR

“For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter

TABLE BLESSING

“O Jesus I Have Promised”

Red Hymnal #810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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.

Please peel open the top part of the communion container for the wafer.

Please peel the other side of the container for the juice.

There are baskets in the middle and the back for disposal of your communion cups.

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 Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG "One Bread, One Body" Red Hymnal #496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG

“Go My Children with My Blessing”

Red Hymnal #543



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

setting, David Lasky

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

facebook

YouTube

follow us on
twitter

Holiday Meal Boxes

\$20.00 Donations for the Holiday Meal boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please send or drop off your donation or donations to Zion Lutheran Church, 915 5th Street, Rockford, IL 61104.



You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code to donate electronically, just select Christmas Ham Baskets.

You can call Jolyn at 815-964-0469, Zion Office for any questions or to request a holiday basket.

Your donation will feed families that need a blessing to have a nice meal for the holidays. Romans 12:13 God wants you to take the blessings you have received and share them with others who you encounter, especially those who are in need.

We don't have a date when the Holiday Meal boxes will be delivered, we will keep you updated. Volunteers and Trucks, Vans, SUV and Cars are needed to deliver the Holiday Meal boxes to Patriot's Gateway Center, Blackhawk Buddy House and to Zion Lutheran Church. Contact Janice for details, 815-904-0064.

HOME COMING SUNDAY



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

PREACHER: PASTOR DENVER BITNER

8:00AM HOMECOMING CHOIR PRACTICE

PLEASE INVITE PEOPLE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS WE

HONOR PASTOR BITNER

WITH THE PASTOR EMERITUS ROLE AT ZION.

10:30AM TASTE OF ZION

CELEBRATION WITH TRINADORA AT 10:30AM

PASTOR EMERITUS

Today we celebrate that Pastor Bitner has been granted the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus at Zion. Pastor Bitner served at Zion from 1974 to 2009 as Director of Youth Ministries,, Associate Pastor for Youth, Associate Pastor, Co-Pastor and Senior Pastor. The Church Council has confirmed the title of Pastor Emeritus as a way to demonstrate respect and gratitude for his pastoral service.



Ruthie's Kitchen

Open Saturdays

1:00-3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
964 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

WELCA & Food Pantry!

Cornucopia Food is in short supply of **CEREAL** and it can't be obtained from the Food Bank. Peggy King, Cornucopia Director informs us there is a great need for **CEREAL!** A grocery cart will be in the back of the worship space for donations or you can leave them in the church office. October items: **CEREAL.**

ZION PARTNER SUNDAY



OCTOBER 22, 2023

140TH ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 ZION PARTNER HISTORY

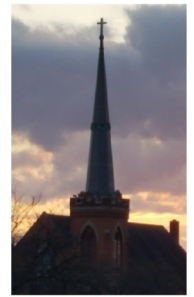
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104

SAVE THE DATE



The big night for Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries is back on **Friday, November 3rd.** Tickets go on sale October 1st. Start assembling your teams of 6-8 people and do us proud with the breadth of your trivial knowledge!

Because God created everyone....
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
BLACK LIVES MATTER
love is love
PEOPLE & PLANET OVER PROFITS
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
Women's Rights are Human Rights
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL



WOZ—Save the Dates

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



October 26th Thursday

1:00 Easy Christmas Crafts

November 19th Sunday help, after service, with the reception, serving and bringing food.

December 12th Tuesday Christmas

Luncheon 12:00 Stockholm Inn. Remember your White Elephant gift. All are welcome!

RSVP Karen K. 815.494.3864

Bible Retirement Ceremony

Sunday October 29 at 9:15am

Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104



SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Reader Pam Bitner
Usher Charlie Dahlberg and Jeff Dahlberg
Musicians Jodi Beach, Sara Louise Bitner, Elizabeth Fitzgerald,
Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins-Gama, and Mary Shore

And Special Thanks to all our Anniversary Choir Participants.

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

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	8:00am	Homecoming Choir Practice
	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Taste of Zion
	1:00pm	CROP Walk
	3:00pm	Synod Staff, Julie Lewis Retirement Gathering (St. Mark's)
Monday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:30am	Book Study—Library
Tuesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	10:00am	Rock Valley College Learning Event—Katie's Cup
	3:30pm	Building and Grounds
Wednesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
	10:30am	AOLC Meeting—Fellowship Hall
	11:00am	Finance Committee—Library
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
	2:00pm	Harvest Celebration—Buddy House
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Zion Partner's Worship & Forum

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

October 24	Church Council—Youth Center, 6:00pm
October 29	Bible Retirement at Worship
November 5	All Saints Day (turn names into office by October 30th, readers needed)
November 16	Surviving the Holidays—Katie's Cup, 12:30-2:30pm
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Worship—Virtual/Prerecorded
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 10:00pm (Sunday)

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 the loss of loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Stephanie Aitken, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Fred Pierce, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer, and Neal Tolodxi.



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