

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

February 23, 2025 at 9:15am

[www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



PRELUDE

WELCOME

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG "All Creatures Worship God Most High!"

Red Hymnal#835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

## 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"*) Red Hymnal #154



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE "O Beauty Ever Ancient"

(from ACS #1100)



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

God’s word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

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

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the LORD,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,  
and see what God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light  
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a

spiritual body.<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.<sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.<sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.<sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.<sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

God’s word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Celtic Alleluia”

Red Hymnal #174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:]<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.<sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.<sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.<sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.<sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.<sup>34</sup>

If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.<sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;<sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

SERMON Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” Red Hymnal #710



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

## 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.**

## MUSIC & OFFERING

Special Music

Timm Adams

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](http://www.zionrockford.com) or you can click on the QR code.







Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

### 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 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.**

*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 "Bread of Life From Heaven" Red Hymnal #474

### Refrain

Bread of life from heaven,  
your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup  
until you come again.

1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;  
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*

2 Seek not the food that will pass away;  
set your hearts on the food that endures.  
Come, learn the true and the living way,  
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*

3 Love as the one who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*

4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;  
make your home in the lifegiving Word.  
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,  
and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*

5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;  
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;  
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,  
praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

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 Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen.**

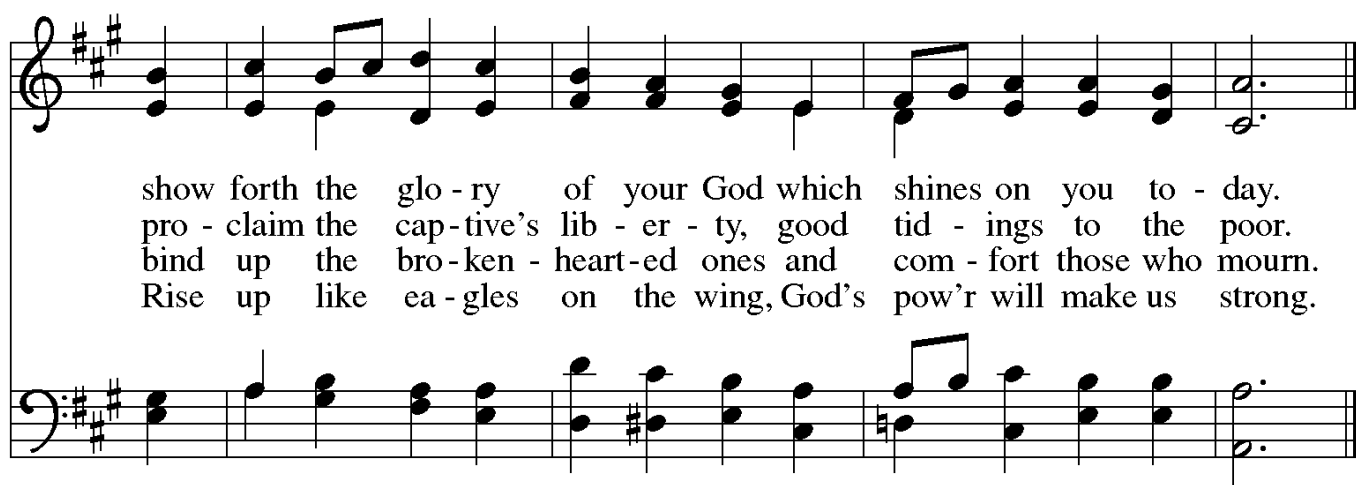
**THE SENDING**

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

SENDING SONG "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" Red Hymnal #415



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

# 2025 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

## Turning Toward God's Abundance

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE AT 11:00AM LED BY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES  
SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

March 12 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 19 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Vicar Leslie Aska

March 26 at Calvary/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

April 2 at First Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Student Pastor Rachel Perkins

April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg  
(No exercise class today)





**ZION FORUM**  
 March 2, 2025  
 10:15am  
 Fellowship Hall

**"FUNERAL PREPARATION"**

A CONVERSATION WITH OLSON FUNERAL HOME  
 LED BY JANE BURDEN



*AROUND THE TABLES*  
**Burmese Ministry Update**  
 Pastor Uk

March 9, 2025 at 10:15am

HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
 Sponsored by Zion's Multicultural Committee  
 Held at Zion Lutheran Church  
 925 Fifth Avenue  
 Rockford, IL 61104



Anyone interested in going to the CRE on March 22nd and would like to sign up through the office you must let the office know before February 27th. After that you will need to register on your own, with a credit card online before the March 6th deadline.



**Ash Wednesday Worship**

March 5, 2025 at Noon

Soup lunch  
 after worship

If you have palm branches from last year, please bring them into worship or the office before March 2nd. Thank you!



BAHAI FAITH



**"Bahai Faith:  
 History and Beliefs"**

Presented by  
**Dick & Ann Rundall**  
 Members of the Bahai Center of Rockford, IL

**March 16, 2025 at 10:15am**

**BAHAI TEMPLE TRIP**

INTERFAITH EXPERIENCE TO WILMETTE, IL



**MAY 31, 2025**

**8:00AM-4:00PM**

TICKETS: \$50 FOR ADULTS &  
 \$20 FOR STUDENTS  
 (PAYS FOR BUS & LUNCH)

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



Hello everyone! I just became certified to teach exercise classes! The is a 12-week course that focuses on strength training and balance! Class would be held twice a week for approximately 45 minutes. Dates and times are TBD. Please call me at 630- 465-2135 or email Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org if interested!

## WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Deb Gortowski  
Fellowship:  
Media:  
Music: Jodi Beach  
Readers: Brad Roos  
Sound: Deangelo Brunson  
Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY  
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm  
Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!



**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.

**WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date:** During February we are requesting donations of **Canned Fruit and or Soup** for distribution at the 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. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

**MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY** at Zion, 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room. The Books “A is for Alabaster”, a devotional that anyone can order.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

**COUNCIL OFFICERS** —The Church Council elected Kris Sommer to a third term. The Constitution states that an officer can only serve two consecutive terms in the same position. If there is no objection, she will serve a third term. If you have any questions, please let a member of Council know. The other officers: Mike Beert as Treasurer, Tom Habing as Vice President and Bonnie Dahlberg as Secretary.



**Zion's Future Midtown Mission:** On January 28, 2025, the Zion Church Council created a Long Range Planning process called: “Zion's Future Midtown Mission to discern the future of the facilities, the fire alarm system, continuing resolution on property purchase, the assets and liabilities of the properties, and partnering with the Midtown Lutheran Parish churches.” After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. This was in response to the Annual Meeting action items. At the February Council Meeting: discuss the timeline, process and team members. If you would like to serve on this task force, please let Pastor or Kris Sommer know of your interest.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

facebook

YouTube

follow us on  
twitter

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer  
as little as 2 hours a month  
Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.  
Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

## Cornucopia



Food Pantry

### 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 Cosmas Mujungu 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: Family of Darlene Handlin, and Bob Campbell.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeannie Thomas, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, 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 after worship services.

### PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Forum: Reconciled in Christ—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	4:30pm	Patriots Board
Saturday	9:00am	Spring Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Eighth Sunday After Epiphany
	10:15am	Fellowship Celebrating Ina Miller's 98th Birthday
	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation with Olson Funeral Home

### UPCOMING

March 6		Registration ends for CRE
March 9	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk
March 16	10:15am	Fellowship Celebrating Pastor Jerry Peterson's Birthday
	10:30am	Forum: Baha'i Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall
March 22	8:30am	CRE—Sauk Valley Community College
March 23	10:30am	Forum: Know Your Rights" presented by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger
March 25	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room

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

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>