

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

February 16, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



PRELUDE

“Near to the Heart of God”

Cleland B. McAfee arr. By Lari Goss

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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Red Hymnal #858



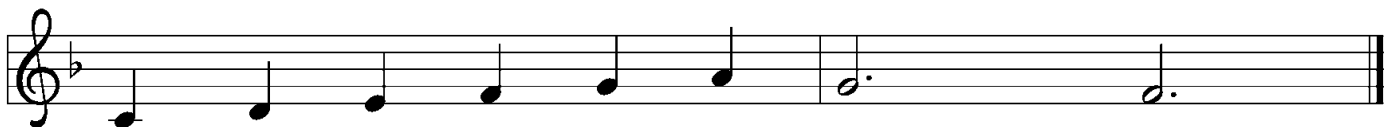
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



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.



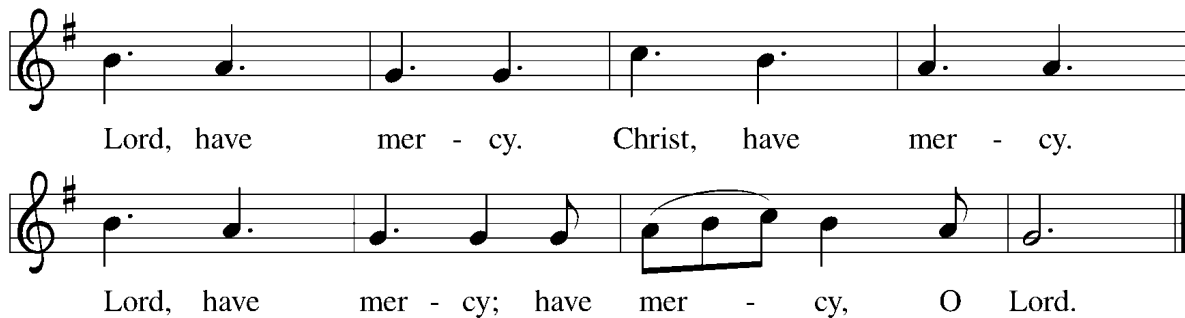
join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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.

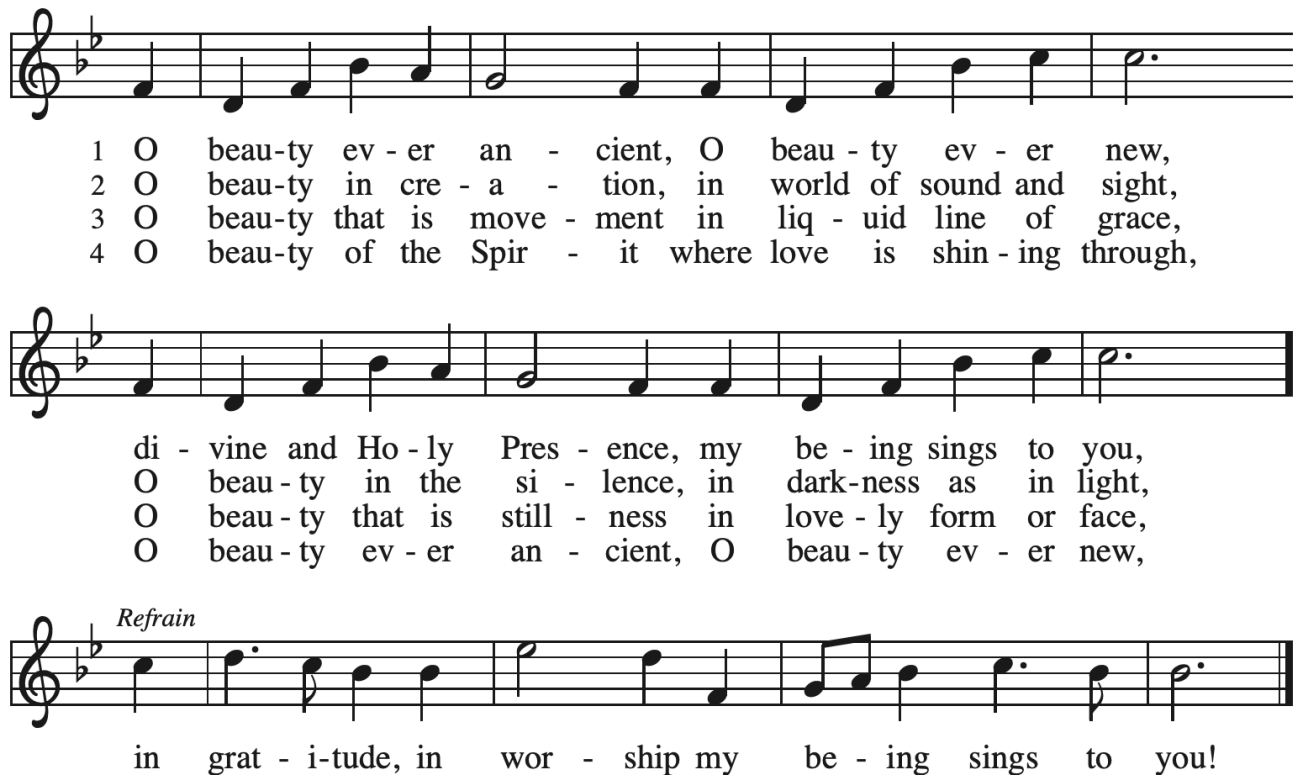
KYRIE (Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy") Red Hymnal #154



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,

Refrain
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. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

PSALM 1

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

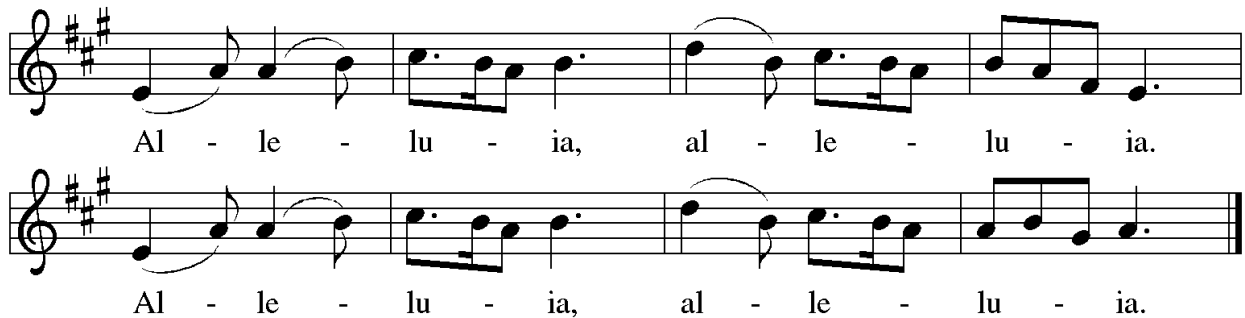
¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

Red Hymnal #174



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

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who

are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.”²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.”²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “Let Streams of Living Justice” Red Hymnal #710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

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 "He Giveth More Grace"

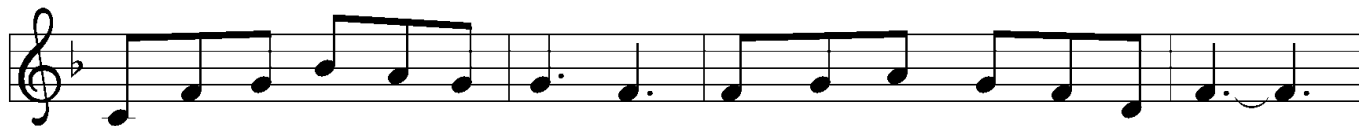
Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com 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 "Jesus, The Very Thought of You"

Red Hymnal #754



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

“Father Most Holy”

Red Hymnal #415



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
 2 Trin - i - ty bless-ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
 3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea-tures praise thee; all for thy
 4 Lord God Al - might-y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
 bound-ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
 wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
 joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
 wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
 praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

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 “Light Dawns On a Weary World” Red Hymnal #726



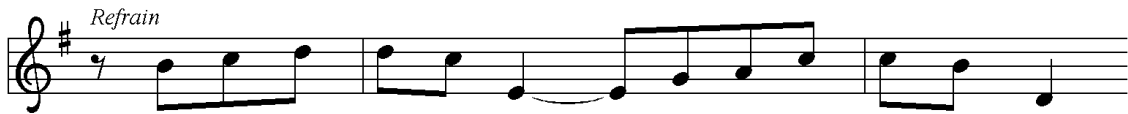
1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “May Jesus Christ Be Praised”

Joseph Barnby arr. By Lari Goss



FORUM

February 23, 2025

10:15am in Fellowship Hall



"RECONCILED IN CHRIST?"

A CONVERSATION ABOUT BEING A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION TO THE LGBTQ+

LED BY PASTOR THOMAS



ZION FORUM

March 2, 2025

10:15am
Fellowship Hall

"FUNERAL PREPARATION"

A CONVERSATION WITH OLSON FUNERAL HOME

LED BY JANE BURDEN



Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, 2025 at Noon

Soup lunch
after worship



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



"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: Connie Heden
Fellowship:
Media:
Music: Jodi Beach
Readers: Jim Duhigg
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. Thank you so much for your help! There is a group of women that send Christmas cards to our area assisted living facilities. This year they sent out 3000 cards to residents! They are asking to collect more cards for next year. If you have any unused cards with envelopes, would you please bring them to church. Just leave them in the Narthex or the church office. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Grapevine for WOZ activities. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room. The Book "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

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



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 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 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Forum: Alzheimer's Association—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
	9:00am	Worship Team—Multipurpose Room
	3:00pm	Zion Outreach—Multipurpose Room
	3:30pm	Building and Grounds – Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
	12:00pm	Patriots Gateway Center Open House
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
	11:00am	Finance Committee—Multipurpose Room
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Forum: Reconciled in Christ Synod and Congregation led by Pastor Thomas

UPCOMING

February 25	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room
March 1	9:00am	Spring Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
March 2	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation with Olson Funeral Home
March 6		Registration ends for CRE
March 9	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk
March 16	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

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004285. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

* Used by permission. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License #A-726175

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

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-44-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>