

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
September 14, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PRELUDE “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me” arr. By Mark Hayes

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Red Hymnal #807

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory, fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Verses

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2 That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

3 For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

4 For your spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glorify Thy Name”

Father we love You, We worship and adore You.

(Chorus)

Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.
¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

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: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Wind of the Spirit”

Wind of the Spirit, move fresh as we worship
and fill us with hope ev’ry day. Breath of creation,
blow life in our being, and gift us with purpose, we pray;
so our life is filled with meaning, and love is what we’re breathing
in the wind of the Spirit, wind of the Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

SERMON Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns, Unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. (Chorus)

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING “All Good Gifts”

Soloist: Larry Lazzaro

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.



TABLE BLESSING “We Eat the Bread of Teaching” Red Hymnal #518

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.

Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city, knows our hunger, and in pity
gives her loving invitation to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning; bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

3 Enter with delight and singing, for her richness now is bringing
us this joyful celebration; eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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

"Here Is Bread"

Red Hymnal #483

Here is bread, here is wine; Christ is with us, he is with us

Break the bread, drink the wine; Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace; Christ is with us, he is with us

Know his grace, find his peace; Feast on Jesus here

Refrain: In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here
Here we are, joined in one Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes , Jesus crucified

“Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling” Red Hymnal #608

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Chorus: Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? (Chorus)

3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. (Chorus)

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 res-
urrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ,
our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “We Are Marching in the Light” Red Hymnal #866
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of, the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing...

We are praying...

We are singing...

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Women of the ELCA

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESCUE, REDEEM, RESTORE

“Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

- Psalm 82:4

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Registration and Coffee at 8:00 am

First Lutheran Church
225 South 3rd St, Rockford



CHURCH FUNDRAISER

575 S. Perryville Road #127

Rockford, IL 61108

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
FROM 5:00-9:00PM

VALID FOR PICKUP & IN RESTAURANT ORDERS.

BRING THIS FLYER OR SHOW IT ON YOUR PHONE AND 20% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT:

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

USE CODE FUND20 AT CHECKOUT

Cars & Coffee - Rockford

2025
EVENTS

APRIL 5

MAY 3

JUNE 14

JULY 5

AUGUST 2

SEPTEMBER 6

OCTOBER 4

TINT
WORLD
AUTOMOTIVE STYLING CENTERS
2024
SPONSOR

Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 4 9am-Noon

October 5: Noon-3pm

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church – Rockford, IL



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



TANZANIA TRIP

Keep Kathy Hand and travelers to Tanzania in your prayers, they leave on September 15th and will return on October 2nd. Kathy will lead a Forum on Sunday, October 5th following worship.

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

WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of September we are requesting donations of Skillet Meals, Canned Chili, Canned Meals, (Also cereal is always in demand) for distribution at the Cornucopia Food 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. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. September 18th, 1:00pm WOZ will have Fika in the Park, Sinnissippi Park Shelter by the golf course-BYO drink, we will have yummy treats, Fun and Fellowship! There will be a freewill offering for Cornucopia. Hope you can join us. More activities coming in the Fall—October 16th, Nov TBD, December 9th, stay tuned! Thanks so much! The WOZ board

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: "Seasons of Faith"

October 29, 2025 from 4:00-6:00pm

Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



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 Elihuruma Ndoghwe, and Pastor Evan S. Killing 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: Ryan Knoll, Jeanne Thomas
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Danielle, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Carl Stoutenberg, Neal Tolodxi, Ashley Vander Vennet, Rachel Vander Vennet, Brian Veitch, 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.

WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Communion Asst.	Diane Wagner
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Deb Gortowski
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship—God's Work Our Hands Sunday
	10:15am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	8:00am	Professional Leadership Conference
	3:30pm	Building and Grounds Team
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Thursday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	1:00pm	WOZ Coffee in the Park—Sinnissippi Park
	5:00pm	Patriot's Pub Night—Ernie's Midtown Pub
Saturday		NIS WELCA Fall Leaders Conference
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship—Receive New Members
	10:15am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

September 26	9am-Noon	Flu Shots at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
October 4	9:00am	Bob Campbell Memorial Bike Ride—Meet in the RPS Parking lot of Cars & Coffee
October 9	8am-5pm	Prayer Vigil (Sign up at the Church Office)
October 10-12		Fall Faith Festival—Zion
October 23	10:00am	Synod Event for Retired Pastors Brunch—Fellowship Hall

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