

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
January 18, 2026 at 9:15am
[www.facebook.com/
zionlutheranrockford](https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



PRELUDE “Lamb of God” arr. By Mark Hayes

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG “Arise, Your Light Has Come”

Red Hymnal #314

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

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

Red Hymnal #154

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE “You Are Holy” Red Hymnal #525

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to our God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God." ⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." ⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Word of God. Word of Promise. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit,
 out of the miry clay,
 and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God;
 many shall see, and stand in awe,
 and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**
 They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God!
 In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!
 But they are more than I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
 you have opened my ears: burnt-offering
 and sin-offering you have not required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come.
 In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **‘I love to do your will, O my God;
 your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
 I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love
and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the LORD;
do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth
continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Promise. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Celtic Alleluia”

Red Hymnal #174

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit

descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed Your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
 To take away transgression and rule in equity.

You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in Your sight.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.

Before You on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before You, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore You, Your praise all people sing.
To You shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
Your kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

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 PEOPLE

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.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

MUSIC OFFEREING & OFFERING

“My Worth Is Not In What I Own”

Tim Krug & Jodi Beach

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

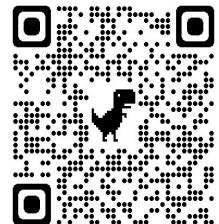


TABLE BLESSING “Come to the Table” Red Hymnal #481

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

THE MEAL - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

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 to the front for communion today.

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 by the piano.

Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION “Lamb of God” Red Hymnal #336

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace. grant us peace.

“We Will Glorify”

We will glorify the King of kings; we will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the Great I AM.

Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty, we will bow before His throne;
We will worship Him in righteousness;
we will worship Him alone.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth,
He is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe;
all praise to Him we give.

Hallelujah to the King of kings, hallelujah to the Lamb
Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise +
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “We All Are One In Mission”

Red Hymnal #576

1. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

2. We all are called to service, to witness in God's name.

Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

3. Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.

Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

SENDING

Go in peace, beloved children of God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

Arr. By Mark Hayes

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◊ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Stacie Fidlar, Pastor Thomas, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◊ Senior Pastor Ndeshifose Akyoo, Assisting Pastor Evan Kiula, and Assisting Pastor Yohanna Samson Ntui of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◊ Bishop Peter Paul Thomas and Pastor Selvakumar of Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier.
- ◊ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools.
- ◊ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: Ebony Grant's Mother;
- ◊ For healing: Colette Buchert, Norm Buchert, Linda Callahan, Marjorie Carlson, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Gary Johnson, Leola LeGault, Greg Johnson, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Terry Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Carl Stoutenberg, Kamara Thomas, Brian Veitch, Nancy Warden, Danielle Wegner, and Gary Wegner, Jr.



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

BAG FLUFFING FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!



Cornucopia
Food Pantry

Red Robin® will give
20% OF FOOD SALES* BACK TO
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

7029 E State St, Rockford, IL 61108
January 29, 2026*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at red robin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "Add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say HI, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pickup, we can bring it to you car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit red robin.com/order and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible on-dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (or select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, rental, tax and gratuity. Offer valid if flyer is displayed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin

PATRIOTS GATEWAY CENTER LITERACY PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

January 28, 2026
5:00-6:00pm





ZION FORUM

February 15, 2026

9:15am Installation
10:30am in Fellowship Hall

A CONVERSATION WITH RON CLEWER

THE NEW CEO OF ZION DEVELOPMENT

Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL 61104



WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Altar Guild	Kris Sommer
Assisting Minister	Janice Forrest, Student Deaconess
Communion Asst:	Connie Heden and Gary Zeien
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Musician:	Jodi Beach
Readers:	Jane Lightcap
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of January we are requesting donations of Macaroni and cheese. (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. Thanks so much!

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

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Annual Report Review (In person only)
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	3:30pm	Building and Grounds
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	4:00pm	WOW
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Annual Congregational Meeting
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

January 26	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
January 27	6:00pm	Church Council
January 28	5:00pm	PGCC Literacy Program Open House
January 29	10-am10pm	Multicultural—Red Robin Fundraiser
January 31	Noon-4pm	Works of Faith—Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
February 10	8am-Noon	RVC ESL Class—Marander Roome (Tuesday-Thursday, 2-10 to 4-30-26)
	1:30pm	Multicultural Committee
February 15	9:15am	Ron Clewer, CEO ZDC Installation & Forum
February 18	Noon	Ash Wednesday Worship
March 7	8:00am	CRE—Sauk Valley Community College
March 8	10:30am	Forum with Rabbi Binah: "What is Purim?"
April 2	Noon	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 3	Noon	Swedish Good Friday Worship Service
April 18	9am-3pm	Multicultural Civil Rights Conference "We The People" - Patriots Gateway Center
June 12-13	8:00am	Synod Assembly—Augustana College