



Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue

Rockford, Illinois

March 16, 2025 at 9:15am

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Shelter of God

PRELUDE "Just As I Am"

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG "Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"

Red Hymnal#886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

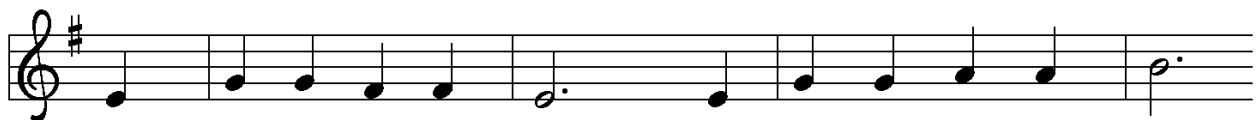
6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

## 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"*) ELW pg. 203



1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.  
2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.  
3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



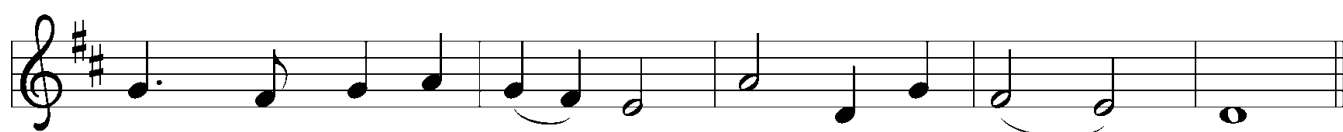
We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.  
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and  
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer  
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
 bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.  
 where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.  
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The Word of God gives us shelter.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,

and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."**

**Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me,  
false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD

in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of God gives us shelter.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Let Your Steadfast Love”

ELW pg. 189

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a line of lyrics. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today,

tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!<sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

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

SERMON Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG “As a Mother Comforts Her Child” ACS #1015



As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.



As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.



As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.



The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

### 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.**

### PRAYER CANDLES

*This is a time of prayer at your seat or light a candle at the two prayer stations.*

*You can request a prayer at the prayer table by the piano.*

*Feel free to pray, sing, sit in silence and pray for others.*

### SONG - "May the God of All Healing" ELW#220



May the God of all heal-ing en - fold us in love,  
fill us with peace, and lead us to whole-ness and strength.

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



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.



TABLE BLESSING    "This Is Christ's Body"    ACS #967



This is Christ's bod - y,    bro - ken and    blest.    Feed us with



mer-cy and    love.    We are Christ's bod - y,



bro-ken and    blest.    Heal us and    make us    one.

### 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

##### “Bread of Life From Heaven” ELW#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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

**“Shout To The Lord” ELW#821**

My Jesus my Savior, Lord there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise, the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.

Let every breath all that I am, never cease to worship you

Chorus: Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing.

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar,

At the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands.

Forever I'll love you; forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you

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**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,  
✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG    “Blessed Assurance!”    Red Hymnal #638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:* This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.  
3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

SENDING

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE    “Blessed Assurance”    Mark Hayes

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 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)





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



# Conversation about Immigration

Presented by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

March 23, 2025 at 10:30am

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



# Bunco

Women of Zion

March 20, 2025  
at 1:00pm  
at Zion



# ALABAMA STORY

ARTIST ENSEMBLE THEATER

BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF A 1959 CENSORSHIP OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH



APRIL 6, 2025  
2:00PM

TICKETS: \$22 FOR ADULTS &  
\$4 FOR STUDENTS



HELD AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY  
THIS TRIP IS SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - 815.964.4609 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



April 6, 2025 at 10:30am at Zion  
Jeanette Towns Speaker

ZION FORUM  
Joshua Patterson  
Wabongo Leadership Council



WABONGO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



April 27, 2025 at 10:30am

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

# 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

# EXERCISE CLASS



# EXERCISE CLASS!

The is a 12-week course that focuses on strength training and balance! Class would be held twice a week for approximately 45 minutes. Beginning March 4th, 9AM at St. Bridget's, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call me at 630- 465-2135 or email if interested!

## WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant:  
Fellowship:  
Media:  
Music: Jodi Beach  
Reader: Nathi Gama  
Sound: Deangelo Brunson  
Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



**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 Everyone seems to enjoy playing BUNCO so our first event will be BUNCO on March 20th 1:00 in the Zion Fellowship Hall.

**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

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

\$10 Adults \$8 Children (under 12)

**Sunday, April 13 at 10:30AM-1:00pm**

Sponsored by the Multicultural Team of Zion Lutheran Church

Held at Zion Lutheran Church

925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL 61104

Proceeds benefit the Bahai Temple Trip Scholarships

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

You Tube

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.

**Cornucopia**



**Food Pantry**



**Growing Disciples**

Northern Illinois Synod 2025

### 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 Second Sunday of Lent
	10:30am	Fellowship In Honor of Pastor Jerry's Birthday
	10:30am	Forum: Baha'i Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	3:30pm	Building and Grounds Meeting
Wednesday	8:00am	Patriots Gateway Open House
	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	12:00pm	Midtown Lenten Service—Salem
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	11:00am	Finance Team—Multipurpose Room
Friday	1:00pm	Patriots Finance
Saturday	8:30am	CRE Sauk Valley College
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Third Sunday of Lent
	10:30am	Forum: Know Your Rights presented by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger

### UPCOMING

March 24	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
March 25	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room
April 2	Noon	Midtown Lenten Service—First Lutheran
April 5	9:00am	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot, Across from Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

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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>