

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

October 22, 2023 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table.

Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion.

You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.

PRELUDE

“Gather Us In”

arr. By Haugen

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "O God of Every Nation" Red Hymnal #713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.



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")

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you

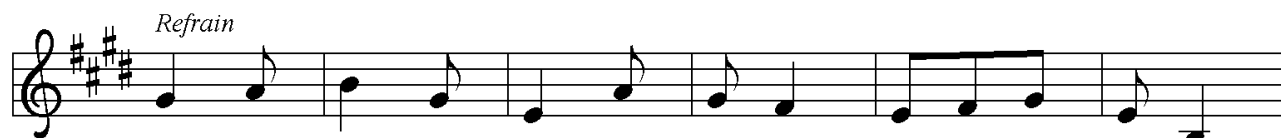


this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

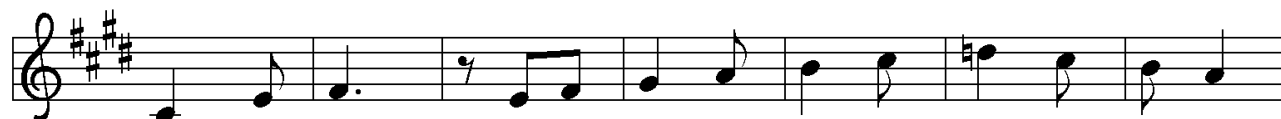
Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



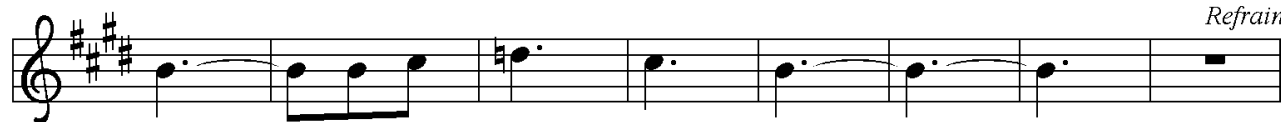
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“Unity”

Lisa Redd

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.



THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-13

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared¹ than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

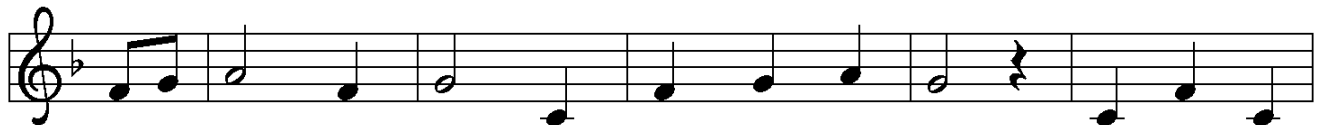
SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



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



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG

"Blest Be The Tie That Binds" Red Hymnal #656

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Blest Be The Tie That Binds". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and single notes.

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.

TABLE BLESSING

"As the Grains of Wheat"

Red Hymnal #465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Please peel open the top part of the communion container for the wafer.

Please peel the other side of the container for the juice.

There are baskets in the middle and the back for disposal of your communion cups.

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 Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

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.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG	“God of Grace and God of Glory” (song on next page)	Red Hymnal #705
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SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE	“We Are Many Parts”	by Haugen
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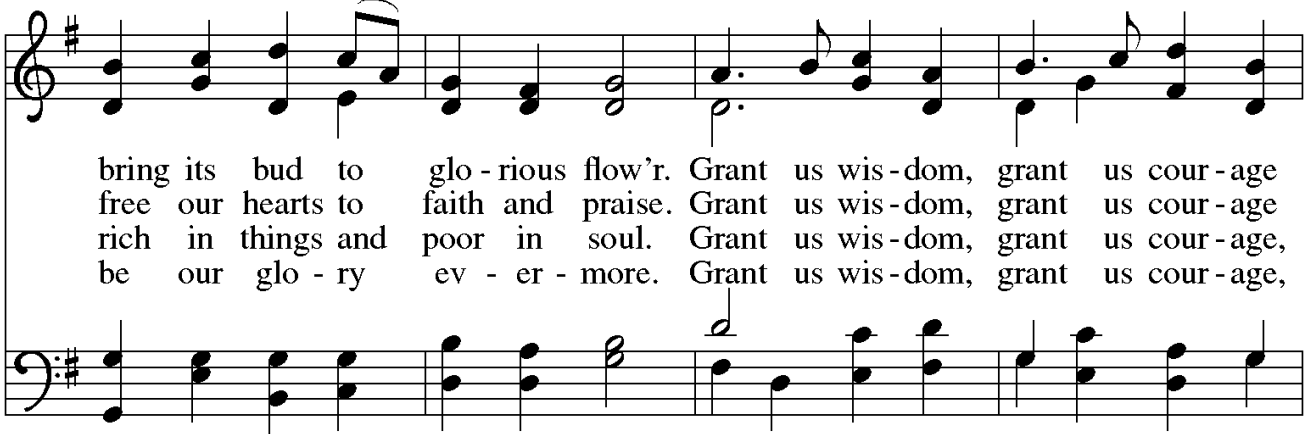
God of Grace and God of Glory



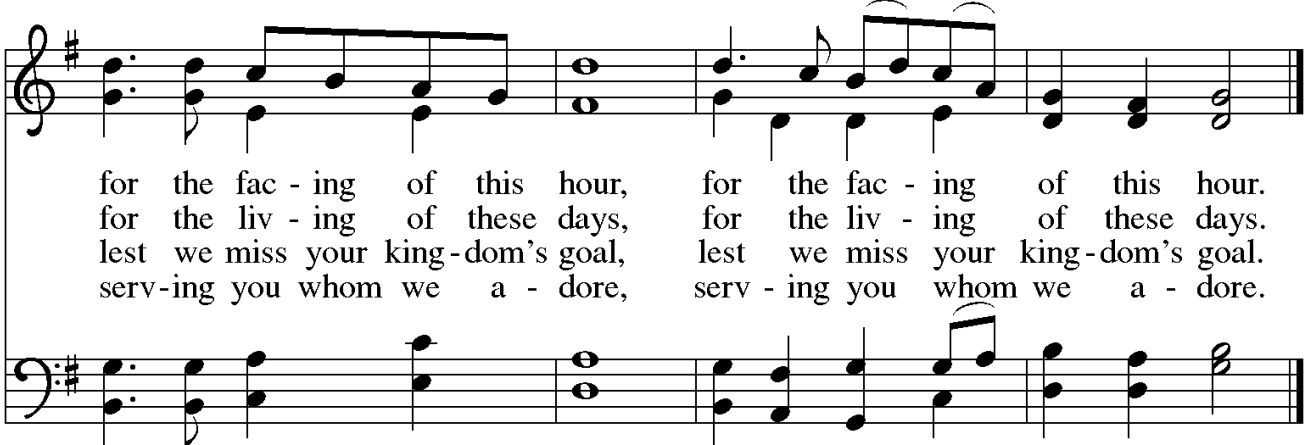
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

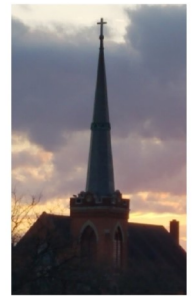


Ruthie's Kitchen

Open Saturdays
1:00-3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
964 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

Because God created everyone....
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
BLACK LIVES MATTER
love is love
PEOPLE & PLANET OVER PROFITS
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
Women's Rights are Human Rights
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL



WELCA & Food Pantry!

Cornucopia Food is in short supply of **CEREAL** and it can't be obtained from the Food Bank. Peggy King, Cornucopia Director informs us there is a great need for **CEREAL**!

A grocery cart will be in the back of the worship space for donations or you can leave them in the church office. October items: **CEREAL**.

Bible Retirement Ceremony
Sunday October 29 at 9:15am
Zion Lutheran Church – 925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL 61104

TRICK OR TREAT PARTY

PATRIOTS GATEWAY COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT

October 31, 2023
5:00-7:00pm



SAVE THE DATE

TRIVIA NIGHT 2023

The big night for Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries is back on **Friday, November 3rd**. Tickets go on sale October 1st. Start assembling your teams of 6-8 people and do us proud with the breadth of your trivial knowledge!

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Reader	Nancy Warden
Usher	
Musician	Jodi Beach

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

HOLIDAY MEAL BOXES

\$20.00 Donations for the Holiday Meal boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please send or drop off your donation or donations to Zion Lutheran Church, 915 5th Street, Rockford, IL 61104.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code to donate electronically, just select Christmas Ham Baskets.



You can call Jolyn at 815-964-0469, Zion Office for any questions or to request a holiday basket.

Your donation will feed families that need a blessing to have a nice meal for the holidays. Romans 12:13 God wants you to take the blessings you have received and share them with others who you encounter, especially those who are in need.

We don't have a date when the Holiday Meal boxes will be delivered, we will keep you updated. Volunteers and Trucks, Vans, SUV and Cars are needed to deliver the Holiday Meal boxes to Patriot's Gateway Center, Blackhawk Buddy House and to Zion Lutheran Church. Contact Janice for details, 815-904-0064.

WOZ—Save the Dates

We have many fun activities planned for the Women of Zion this fall.

October 26th Thursday
1:00 Easy Christmas Crafts

November 19th Sunday help, after service, with the reception, serving and bringing food.



December 12th Tuesday Christmas Luncheon 12:00 Stockholm Inn. Remember your White Elephant gift. All are welcome! RSVP Karen K. 815.494.3864

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>

facebook

YouTube

follow us on
twitter

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins, 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
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Stephanie Aitken, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Fred Pierce, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer, and Neal Tolodxi.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern 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	Zion Partner's Worship & Forum
Monday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:30am	Book Study—Library
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing - Youth Center
Tuesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	5:00pm	Human Resource Committee - Library
	6:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
	11:00am	WOZ Easy Christmas Crafts - Fellowship Hall
	4:30pm	Patriot's Board
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen with Mini Health Fair
Sunday	9:15am	Worship - Bible Retirement

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

November 5	All Saints Day (turn names into office by October 30th, readers needed)
November 16	Surviving the Holidays—Katie's Cup, 12:30-2:30pm
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Worship—Virtual/Prerecorded
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 10:00pm (Sunday)