

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

September 21, 2025 at 9:15am

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PRELUDE "We Have Come Into His House" Dorothy Paige-Turner

*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      “All Are Welcome”

Red Hymnal #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek; to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain

4 Let us build a house where hands  
will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain

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. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

### FIRST READING Amos 8:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” <sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 113

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations;  
God’s glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold**

**the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who

desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

## SERMON SONG      “All to Jesus I Surrender”



1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow;  
3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;



I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.  
fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ings fall on me.



I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all,



all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

### ***Reception of New Members***

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn children of God and made members of the Church, the body of Christ. Are you in agreement with the Mission, Values, Vision, Beliefs of Zion and do you feel led to unite with the Zion Lutheran Church family and support our mission to be a mosaic community sharing the grace of Christ with all?

**New Members: Yes, and I ask God to help guide me.**

I ask all of you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all those empty promises?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

### 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.**

### THE WELCOME INTO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Through Baptism God has made these people members of the ministry we all share in Christ Jesus. I ask you, the people of God, will you support these friends in Christ? Will you together serve as a mosaic community sharing the grace of Christ with all? Will you continue to grow as disciples of Christ through worship, prayer, Bible Study, generosity, fellowship, outreach and service?

**Yes, With The Help of God! We welcome you into the Lord's Family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ and ministers with us in the family of God. Amen!**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(All are encouraged to introduce themselves to those around you.)*



## MUSIC & OFFERING

“Give Me Jesus”

Dorothy Paige-Turner

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      “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

### "Bind Us Together"

Chorus: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together Lord; bind us together in love.

1. There is only one God. There is only one King.

There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. (Chorus)

2. You are the fam'ly of God. You are the promise divine.

You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. (Chorus)

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Dorothy Paige-Turner

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 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

“Lead Me, Guide Me” Red Hymnal #768

Chorus: Lead me, guide me, along the way.

For if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r  
To help me over my weakest hour,  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)

Chorus: Lead me, guide me, along the way.  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see,  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)

#### SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Reception of New Members

September 21, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church

Mark & Laurie Pellant

Tom & Jill Loring

Gary Zeien

Dolores Putman

## 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

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

**Fourth Monday at 1:00pm**

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



## Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

**October 4 9am-Noon**

**October 5: Noon-3pm**

Hosted at Zion Lutheran Church – Rockford, IL



## ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: “Seasons of Faith”

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

Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



**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**



## WORSHIP SERVICES 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

YouTube

follow us on  
twitter

## 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 and Harriet Basel.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Danielle, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jerry Stalcup, 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

## WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Communion Asst.	Connie Heden
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Connie Heden
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

## PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship—New Member Reception
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	5:00pm	Human Resource Committee
	6:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Thursday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Friday	9:00am	Flu Vaccinations at Emmanuel Lutheran Church until Noon
Saturday	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

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