

# Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

July 16, 2023 at 9:15am

Sanctuary & Facebook Live

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE "When Morning Guilds the Skies" arr. by Theresa Wilhelmi

WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

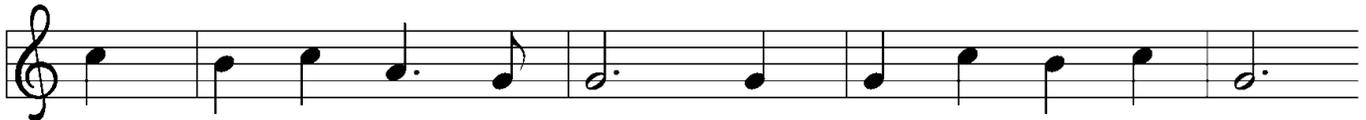
God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "When Morning Gilds the Skies" Red Hymnal #853



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

MUSIC & OFFERING

Special Music

Jodi Beach

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](http://www.zionrockford.com), or you can click on the QR code

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.



FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65:1-13

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth  
will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" Red Hymnal #512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!" <sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the

heart; this is what was sown on the path.<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;<sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.<sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

SERMON Pastoral Intern Alana Harms

SERMON SONG “God of the Fertile Fields”



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

## 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 "Broken in Love"

This is my bod - y, bro - ken in love; take it and  
eat and re - mem - ber me. This is my blood,  
poured out in love; take it and drink and re - mem - ber  
me. For love is will - ing ev - 'ry day to  
die in or - der to live, and love is pa - tient  
for a way to share the gifts that I give.

## 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.**

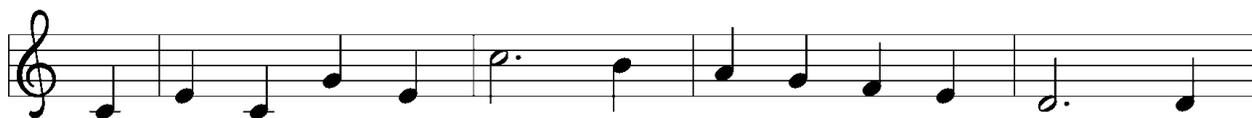
## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG "On What Has Now Been Sown"

Red Hymnal #550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

## SENDING

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"



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



**ZION MULTICULTURAL TEAM** is asking the Zion congregation to join them in participating in this towel drive in memory of Charmaine Logwood, a Zion member, former social worker at Jubilee Center who passed in October, 2022. What we still need for reopening the showers are white towels (so they can be bleached). Specifically large towels, like a beach towel (at least 30x60).

**WELCA** will be collecting food for Cornucopia Food Pantry. Food is in short supply and hard to obtain from the Food Bank. Peggy King, Cornucopia Director, will give me a quarterly list of what they need, but any food item is appreciated. A grocery cart will be in the Narthex for your donations or you can leave them in the volunteer office. July items: **Canned vegetables** - Thank you for your support.



**ZION'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023**—How wonderful it is to celebrate the legacy of Zion.

We are looking for ideas and volunteers to lead in areas of celebration.

Please continue to help us plan events and activities.

The Chairs are Ron Simmons and Jane Lightcap

Contact them, or Pastor Mike with ideas, questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

Please join us for Zion's  
140th Anniversary Celebration!

Date: September 10, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm

Place: Mau-Nah-Tee-See Club

5151 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Please return reservation with payment by August 25th to:  
Zion Lutheran Church—925 Fifth Avenue—Rockford, IL 61104  
(Forms are available in the Narthex, and office)

**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

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140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Please join us for Zion's 140th Anniversary Celebration!

Date: September 10, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm  
Place: Mau-Nah-Tee-See Club  
5151 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL 61107

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all attendees and food preference:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### FOOD SELECTIONS

- Monterey Chicken**      \$25.00 each      # \_\_\_\_\_      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chicken breast stuffed with Monterey  
cheese & prosciutto wrapped in a puffed pastry
- Garlic Crusted Salmon**      \$25.00 each      # \_\_\_\_\_      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
5 ounce salmon served with a sauce
- Vegetable Lasagna**      \$25.00 each      # \_\_\_\_\_      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
served with marinara sauce

### ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS

- I would like to Sponsor a table of eight      \$200.00  
Contact office with names and food choices.
- Here is my donation to help defray the cost so all may attend      \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return reservation with payment by August 25th to:  
Zion Lutheran Church—925 Fifth Avenue—Rockford, IL 61104

## PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
Monday	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
Tuesday	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
Thursday	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—Katie's Cup (until 1pm)
	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

July 21	Movie Night—Blackhawk Buddy House
July 25	Church Council Picnic—Sinnissippi Band Shell
August 5	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot
August 18	Game Night at the Blackhawk Farm, 2-4pm
September 9	Midtown Strong Block Party— 201 7th Street, Noon-6pm
October 20	Harvest Celebration/Watermelon Festival, 2-4pm - Buddy House



## 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

*SEPTEMBER 10, 2023*

**“BE THE BODY: TODAY & TOMORROW”**

### PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Alana Harms, 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 Shadrack Langu 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: Carolyn Peterson, Pray Reh, Barbara Baldwin, and Bruce Olson.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Mike Nelson, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer and Ingrid Tryggstad.



If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Alana. 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.