

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

September 10, 2023 at 9:15am

Sanctuary & Facebook Live

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140TH ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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

“Thank you, God, For Past and Present” By Brian Wren, 2006

Tune: Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

Thank you, God, for past and present, for a future yet unknown
And for countless gifts and talents, ours to use, but your to own.

Thank you for our best traditions, richly able to endow,
Ventures new to find and follow where your love is leading now.

Send us out to work and witness with a message glad and clear:

“Jesus Christ, God’s Word and Wisdom lives, and moves among us here.”

Though we fail, fall short and falter, Christ redeems the way we live
as we learn to care and listen, be forgiven and forgive.

Reconfigured and translated, joy in Christ, our common hope,
shines through varied forms and faces, rich in detail, vast in scope.

Give us, as we serve your mission, faith that welcomes and explores,
guided by a common vision, open hearts and open doors.

Lead us by your Holy Spirit as the way of Christ we trace,
not dividing clean from dirty but aglow with healing grace,
grace abounding, pure compassion, holy love embracing all,
calling us to holy living, faithful, worthy of your call.

If the world observes and listens, testing if our words ring true,
will our work and worship offer glimpses of a world made new?

Will the souls we gently beckon, never hustled or enticed,
see in us a moving image of your love in Jesus Christ?

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

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,

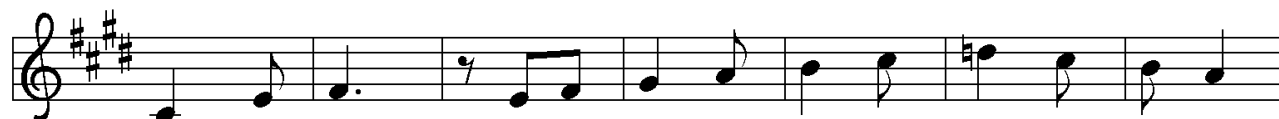


Refrain

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.



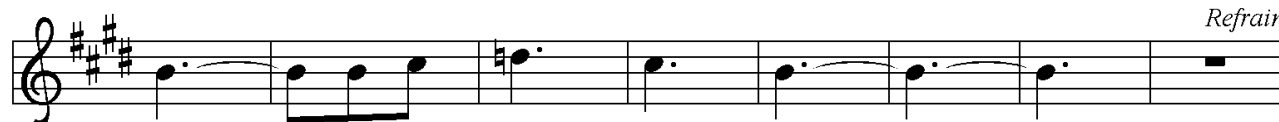
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



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. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“Goodness of God”

Jodi Beach

Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ed Cash, and Ben Fielding

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 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 Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

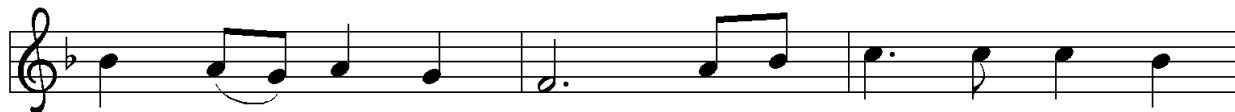
The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain
 Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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

“One Bread, One Body”

Red Hymnal #496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one
Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

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.

SENDING SONG

“Let Us Go Now To The Banquet”

Red Hymnal #523

Refrain

Let us go now to the banquet, to the feast of the universe.

The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

1 I will rise in the early morning; the community's waiting for me.

With a spring in my step I'm walking with my friends and my family. *Refrain*

2 God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.

Refrain

3 May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love.

God has called us to work together and to share ev'rything we have. *Refrain*

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

HOMECOMING SUNDAY



OCTOBER 15, 2023

140TH ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 TASTE OF ZION ETHNIC FOOD

SPECIAL MUSIC: TRINADORA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH – 925 FIFTH AVENUE – ROCKFORD, IL 61104

DEAR FRIENDS OF ZION, Missions Team would like to collect money rather than collect items for school kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The approximate cost to deliver Quilts & Kits Overseas: one quilt - \$2.25; one school kit - \$1.40; one personal care kit - \$2.65. For over 75 years, the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry has worked with caring people like us to share God's love with families around the world. Make your check out to Zion and then mark it for Lutheran World Relief. We will send in one check. The gift you give is an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. Thank you for your generosity. There is a box in the back of the Sanctuary for your generous donations, thank you! Also, we will have a host site for drop off the Weekend of October 7th and 8th, 2023. The Zion Mission Team.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeters	Indoors—Bonnie Dahlberg and Sue Drilling Outdoor—Kris Sommer
Reader	Jane Burden
Media	
Music	Jodi Beach
Sound	
Ushers	Jeff Dahlberg

Flower ministry sponsorships are available.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Deanna Hartenberg.
In Memory of Fred & Elizabeth Olson's 95th heavenly anniversary
of September 9, 1928 in Chicago, IL.

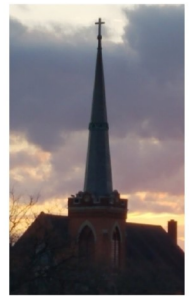


Ruthie's Kitchen

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



GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Welcome back to our guest preacher today, Pastor Kendall Koenig. Kendall was a pastoral intern of Zion 1988-1989. Kendall is now the Pastor at Light of Christ Church and Preschool in Algonquin, IL. Welcome back Pastor Kendall!

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. September items: **Cereal**. Thank you for your support.

PATRIOTS
PUB NIGHT
fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
5:00 PM

Ernie's Midtown Pub
1025 5th Ave
Rockford IL 61104

TICKETS: \$50
Tickets include food and 1 drink ticket

ORDER TICKETS:

www.patriotsgateway.org

815-967-0413

Email: office@patriotsgateway.org

In person: Patriots Gateway Center
615 S 5th St
Rockford IL 61104

JOIN US FOR A RELAXING EVENING OF FOOD AND FUN!
• 50/50 Raffle
• Meet our Patriots Gateway kids
• Learn about the great programs provided by Patriots Gateway

Limited number of tickets available

PATRIOTS
GATEWAY COMMUNITY CENTER
615 S 5th St | Rockford IL 61104
www.patriotsgateway.org
815-967-0413



WOZ Donuts in Park

Where: Sinnissippi Park shelter by golf course.
Date: September 28th
Time: 9:30



BYO drink We'll have yummy donuts.
Gentlemen are invited.
Jane Burden will speak on funeral pre-planning.
And - you'll get a chance to chat with our super new Intern Rachel.
See you there! Happy Fall Y'all!

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>



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PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship—Guest Pastor Kendal Koenig
	11:00am	140th Anniversary Banquet—Mau-nah-Tee-See Club
Monday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Miss Carly’s Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
Tuesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	9:00am	Grapevine Articles Due
	11:00am	Missions Team
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
	5:00pm	WOW Leadership Meeting—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—Katie’s Cup (until 1pm)
	4:00pm	Zion Development Board
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons –Youth Center
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Around the Table

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

September 13	WOW Leaders Meeting—Fellowship Hall, 5:00pm
September 20	WOW begins
October 7 & 8	Lutheran World Relief Collection, back parking lot Zion
October 20	Harvest Celebration/Watermelon Festival, 2-4pm - Buddy House



140TH 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 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, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, 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.