



GRAPEVINE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MOSAIC COMMUNITY SHARING THE GRACE OF CHRIST WITH ALL...



JULY 2023
Sunday Worship
at 9:15am

In Person & Facebook live

Burmese Worship at 10:30am

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61104

Phone: 815-964-4609
www.zionrockford.com
zionrockford@gmail.com

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Rockford Midtown Market
2023 SEASON
June 1 to September 28

Held outside of Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street - Rockford, IL 61104
Seventh Street & Fourth Avenue
RPS205 Administration Parking Lot



BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



140TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

“BE THE BODY: TODAY & TOMORROW”

PASTOR'S CORNER

SABBATICAL

I thank the congregation for the sabbatical time off the month of July. I will be spending time with my family, reading and working on a daily devotional that I will share with the congregation in the future. Intern Alana will be leading worship each week and will do a great job!

140TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 140th Anniversary theme is **“Be The Body”**. We want to remember our past, celebrate our present, and rejoice that we are the body of Christ, today and tomorrow. Zion has remained here on the corner of 5th Avenue and 6th Street and served the community. The Holy Spirit has guided us through the years and we know the Holy Spirit is leading us into the future. We have a wonderfully rich history in serving here in and reaching out across the world. Zion has served many children, youth, and adults. We have had great musicians who have blessed us. We have a Swedish ancestors and many other cultures that have created a diverse “mosaic” community sharing the grace of Christ.

SEPTEMBER 10 ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

The September 10th Anniversary Banquet will follow our 9:15am worship. Pastor Kendall Koenig will be our guest preacher at worship that day. Afterwards, we will have our Anniversary Luncheon held at Mau-Nah-Tee-See Club, 5151 Guilford Road, Rockford. The Fellowship Hour will begin there at 11:00am. The meal and program will start at noon. Please see reservation form on next page, which you can mail back to Zion.

We have many guest preachers and special events scheduled. In addition to our regular church activities, here are some key dates for you to put on your calendars:

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

August 13: Pastor Chrissy Salser Guest Preacher

August 20: Pastor Julane Nease Guest Preacher

October 14 - Anniversary “Taste of Zion”
Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00pm

October 15 - Homecoming Worship Service
9:15am with Pastor Denver Bitner

October 29 - Retirement of Bible Ceremony
9:15am at Worship

November 19 - Pastor Katrina Steingraeber
Guest Preacher

December 3 - Bishop Stacie Fidler
Northern Illinois Synod
9:15am Guest Preacher at worship

December 10 - St. Lucia Fest at Zion
After 9:15am worship

Be sure to tell your families and friends, former members, and those who have been baptized, confirmed, or married at Zion about these upcoming events. We would like as many as possible to share in this celebration. As with any event, we need your help. We are looking for donations to help keep the costs down wherever we can. We would be grateful for any donation you could make toward these activities. Please consider sending a contribution to the church office with a designation for the anniversary celebration.

We give God thanks and praise for the mosaic community of Zion as we share the grace of Christ with those at and beyond Zion. We look forward to a festive 140th Anniversary year!

Together in Christ,
Pastor Thomas

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

PASTORAL INTERN

*Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

-2 Corinthians 3:17



Dear siblings in Christ,

With the celebration of Juneteenth on June 19, the Freedom to Marry Anniversary on June 25, and July's observation of Independence Day, my calendar has led me to reflect on freedom a lot lately. Pentecost is a wonderful season for this, since we celebrate the Spirit being poured out on people from all nations and recognize that the Spirit's presence brings liberation. We praise God that, in this season and always, we are free from striving to gain God's favor because Christ has saved us, brought us into community with God, and liberated us for mission in the world.

I'm sure the WOW kids are experiencing a sense of freedom these days as the school year has ended and the fun of summer has begun. If I'm honest, I'm feeling grateful for the extra freedom in my weekly schedule while also feeling sad that my regular time with the kids has ended. At the same time, I'm looking forward to the beginning of summer camp at Patriots and the continued fun and formation that will happen there.

Another place I'm learning about liberation is at the Rockford Midtown Market, which continues each Thursday throughout the summer. In addition to being a great event that brings the neighborhood together, this ministry has taught me about the oppressive power of food insecurity and the incredible freedom that comes with having access to fresh produce and a supportive community. I am grateful for Malika Miller, our Market Manager, the entire RMM team, and all the vendors and musicians that are invested in helping the market – as well as Midtown – be the best it can be. You're invited to join the fun each Thursday from 9am-1pm in the RPS lot across from Katie's Cup!

Finally, I'm grateful that I have the freedom and privilege to participate in all of these things, as well as life at Zion in general. It is truly a blessing to live and learn here, and I'm so incredibly thankful that the Spirit keeps calling me to places where God's grace and mercy are shared abundantly. Every time I see the Spirit of freedom present in this community, even in simple things like the breaking of doughnuts and in the drinking of coffee, I praise God that in Christ we are freed from the power of sin and death and freed for service to God and to our neighbor.

Wishing you all God's blessings in this summer season,

Intern Alana

PANTRY DONATIONS Thank you all for supporting WOZ (Women of Zion) in our effort to collect food for Cornucopia Food Pantry during the first six months of this year. The pantry is busier than ever and certain items are still difficult to get from the food bank. During July we're asking for donations of canned vegetables. You can put the items in the grocery cart in the Narthex or bring to the church office. Thanks again!
Karen Kermgard

BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Stockholm Inn, 8:00AM, feel free to join the group

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

HOMELESSTRAINING.COM As a member of the Missions Team, I volunteered to watch a one hour free video on Homeless Training. I have a personal interest in this subject as I have someone I love very much who is experiencing homelessness and addiction. I highly recommend that others commit to watching this video instructed by Ryan Dowd, who has worked many years in a Homeless Shelter and teaches many of these classes. Homeless people experience a great deal more physical and sexual trauma than any of us could even imagine. If not as children or youth, but also being homeless and living on the streets, a very unsafe environment in which to try and exist. When people experience high levels of trauma, it alters the areas of their brains that house decision making, abstract thinking and regulates their moods. Trauma changes how the brain works and the trajectory of their life. This training teaches about how to relate to them with compassion, know their names. speaking calmly, making eye contact, shaking their hands. Greeting them in the same way you would greet another human being. Ryan gives us ideas for diffusing conflict without having to call the police. He teaches how we can lead a person into the kind of behavior we want from them by modeling appropriate behavior. Body language is a great tool to help diffuse a situation or to encourage a positive encounter. Homeless people already have a very battered self esteem. Kindness goes a long way. To loosely paraphrase the Bible verse 1st Corinthians 15:10 " Yet but for the grace of God I go."

Bonnie Dahlberg

BAG FLUFFING: We are in need of plastic shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the office and join us on the fourth Monday for lots of fun while we fluff, (Coffee & treats too) Thanks,
Karen Kermgard.

Patriots Gateway Community Center: June Staff Meeting



Cars & Coffee Rockford
c/o Katie's Cup
502 Seventh Street
Rockford, IL 61104
info@carsandcoffeerockford.com
www.carsandcoffeerockford.com



**CARS & COFFEE
(Rockford, IL)**

**First Saturday
9am to Noon
May thru October**

**Lutheran World Relief
In-Gathering**

October 7 9am-Noon

October 8: Noon-3pm



JULY 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15am Worship	26 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Youth Center	27 5:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Church Council	28 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 4:30pm Patriots Gateway Center Board 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	29 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market 5:00pm "Axe" the Intern - Big Timber Axe Throwing	30 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center 1:00pm Anniversary Committee	1 9:00am Cars & Coffee - RPS Parking Lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
2 9:15am Worship	3 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	4 Independence Day	5 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	6 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board	7 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	8 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
9 9:15am Worship 10:15am Around the Tables - Youth Center	10 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	11	12 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 9:00am Grapevine Articles Due 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	13 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market	14 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	15 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
16 9:15am Worship	17 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	18 3:30pm Building and Grounds	19 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 11:00am Missions Team - Youth Center 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	20 Grapevine Mailing 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market	21 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	22 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
23 9:15am Worship	24 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Youth Center	25 6:00pm Church Council - Picnic Mississippi Park Band Shelter	26 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	27 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market	28 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	29 11:00am Habitat for Humanity Lunches 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen
30 9:15am Worship	31 9:00am Miss Carly's Sandwich making - kitchen	1	2 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 5:00pm Music Lessons - Choir Room	3 9:00am Rockford Mid-town Market 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board	4 Office Closed 9:00am Private Music Lesson - Youth Center	5 9:00am Cars & Coffee - RPS Parking Lot 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor: Michael Thomas;

zionrockfordpastor@gmail.com

Pastoral Intern: Alana Harms;

internalanah@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com

Office Manager: Jolyn Hess: zionrockford@gmail.com

Faith Community Nurse: Mary Wedel;

Mary.V.Wedel@osfhealthcare.org

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jodi Beach;

jodibeach3@gmail.com

Custodian: Shanita Baker;

zion.custodian1883@gmail.com

Outreach Coordinator: Janice Forrest;

juju051959@gmail.com

Worship Media: Kurt Brown; zionrockford@gmail.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Beert, Bonnie Dahlberg, Gary Fulkerson, Debbie Gortowski, Kathy Hand, Ruth Larson, Angeles Polcher, James Rasch, Kris Sommer, Pastor Michael Thomas, Neal Tolodxi.

2023 Church Council Officers

President: Kris Sommer

Vice-President: Michael Beert

Treasurer: James Rasch

Secretary: Ruth Larson

Pastor: Michael E. Thomas

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.zionrockford.com

Like us on www.facebook.com

Follow us on www.youtube.com/zionrockford

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 loss of Pastor Joanne Adrian.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Kurt Brown, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer and Ingrid Tryggestad.

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.

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

FOR THE August 2023 GRAPEVINE,
EMAIL BY JULY 12, 2023

To submit an article, please send a hardcopy to the church office or email to zionrockford@gmail.com.

Offerings: We are grateful for your generosity in supporting our ministries at and beyond Zion. There are envelopes at the place you are sitting and in the lobby. Donations can be placed in the Offering Box in the back at the pole on the pulpit side before, during and after worship. You can also



donate through the mobile app called, **Vanco Mobile**. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app to our various ministries. If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please email zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com for more information.

VANCO
FAITH

Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61104

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ROCKFORD, IL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Place mailing label here.

*"A Mosaic Community Sharing
the Grace of Christ with All"*



GRAPEVINE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MOSAIC COMMUNITY SHARING THE GRACE OF CHRIST WITH ALL...

Zion is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

July 2023

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61104
Phone: 815-964-4609
www.zionrockford.com
zionrockford@gmail.com

PARTNERSHIPS



Sunday Worship at 9:15am

Facebook Live/Online Worship

(Also posted at www.youtube.com/zionrockford afterwards)

**Burmese Worship at 10:30am
In the Chapel**