



# GRAPEVINE

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

## MARCH 2025 Sunday Worship at 9:15am

In Person & Facebook live

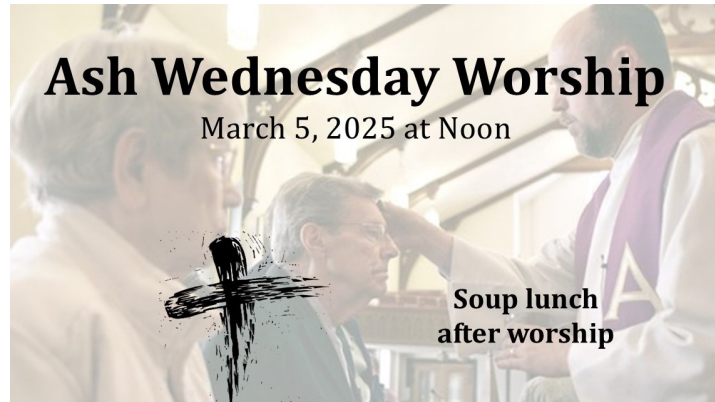
Burmese Worship at 10:30am

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue  
Rockford, Illinois 61104



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

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## Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, 2025 at Noon

Soup lunch  
after worship



**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**  
WHEN INTERACTING WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS (ICE)

CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS  
CUANDO INTERACTÚE CON AGENTES DE INMIGRACIÓN (ICE)

## Conversation about Immigration

Presented by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

**March 23, 2025 at 10:30am**

Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

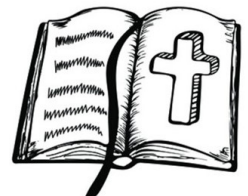


## MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

AT 9:30AM AT ZION

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

AT 8:00AM AT STOCKHOLM INN



# Turning Toward God's Abundance

## 2025 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE AT 11:00AM  
LED BY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES  
SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

March 12 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 19 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Vicar Leslie Aska

March 26 at Calvary/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

April 2 at First Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Student Pastor Rachel Perkins

April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg  
(No exercise class today)



Turning Toward God's Abundance

A Lenten Service of  
Word and Prayer

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## LENT 2025

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th and we will gather for worship at noon—then have some soup afterwards. We will begin our Lenten journey with ashes, remembering we are dust and to dust we shall return. If you have palm branches from last year, please bring them into worship or the office. I'll make the time to burn them and make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Starting on March 12th, we will have our noon mid-week Lenten worship at one of the Midtown Lutheran churches—please see the schedule.

Holy Week - We will hold Maundy Thursday at noon and then on Good Friday, we will worship at noon and 7:00pm.

## SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

In the month of March and April, we will have the chance to gather during the 10:30am Forum time for fellowship and conversation. A few of these were set up with Nurse Jori so thank you! There will be different speakers each week.

- ⇒ March 2 - "Funeral Preparation" talk with an Olson Funeral Home staff
- ⇒ March 9 - "Burmese" ministry update from Pastor Uk from the Zion chapel
- ⇒ March 16 - "Baha'i Faith" conversation with Dick and Ann Rundall about their Baha'i faith tradition.
- ⇒ March 23 - "Know Your Rights" discussion on immigration rights with Yenny Munoz-Swaninger from Maze of Life agency
- ⇒ April 6 - "NAMI" Talk about National Alliance on Mental Illness, Jeannette Towns will be our speaker
- ⇒ April 13 - Palm Sunday Breakfast meal as we talk with one another about our favorite breakfast items...lol

## REMEMBERING BOB CAMPBELL AT ZION DEVELOPMENT

We give God thanks and praise for the life and ministry of Bob Campbell, who passed away on February 8th at the age of 56 from a sudden respiratory infection. Bob served as the Executive Director at Zion Development since 2015. We just celebrated the ten year milestone and this photo was from his installation here at Zion that year. It is still a shock that he's gone. A memorial service is being planned for the spring. Bob had such a passion for the city of Rockford and the neighborhoods of Midtown, living here for the past 20 years on Fourth Avenue raising his three children. When I moved here in 2010, our children attended the charter school together at Patriots. Bob and I helped start the All Pro Dad's program at Patriots. Please pray for his wife Jill and their children during this time of loss and sorrow. The Memorial Service is set for Saturday, March 29th at 1pm at Zion.

*Peace, Pastor Thomas*



# INTERN'S PAGE

Happy March Zion!

I pray that you have had a great year so far. I am grateful that we are continuing to journey together through this year and be there for every joy and sorrow that comes.

The Lenten season is upon us and I pray that we can journey through this time of year together with compassion and grace. Our weekly Lent services are going to follow the theme put together by the Northern Illinois Synod. This year's theme is "Turning Toward God's Abundance". Lent is a time for us all to intentionally turn to God for repentance and to ask for God's goodness to wipe away our sins. While "Turning Toward God's Abundance" we will focus on five attributes found in the Gospels: faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. The theme for the year for the Northern Illinois Synod is "Growing Disciples" and during the Lenten season we are encouraged to focus on prayer as one means to grow as a disciple. Each week we will talk about faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love through different expressions of prayer. There are many different ways that we can pray and we will explore different expressions each week. The Lenten season can bring up a lot of different emotions. It is a time of intentional reflection oftentimes this reflection can make us feel vulnerable. We are invited to bare all to God and to ask for God's goodness and mercy. I hope that you can participate in our weekly Lenten services this year.

This month we will be having our last Indoor Market at Katie's Cup. The market is always a great way to connect to the community and meet local vendors and support small businesses! March is also going to be a busy time for Around the Tables! Our first Around the Table is about funeral preparation. We will also have presentations about the Burmese Ministry, Baha'i Faith, and "Know Your Rights".

Thank you for your ongoing support for me and my journey to my first call! Nathi and Thomas and I are so grateful for each and every one of you in the Zion community. I am so appreciative of everything I have been able to learn while growing as a leader alongside each of you.

Blessings during this month of reflection and prayer.

Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

## WOZ / ADDRESS UPDATES

**WOZ Events:** After taking January and February off the WOZ board is starting to plan events for 2025. Spring will be here before we know it! Everyone seems to enjoy playing BUNCO so our first event will be BUNCO on March 20th 1:00 in the Zion Fellowship Hall. On April 17th Quilters and Crafters please join us. Come see some of Phyllis Campbell's beautiful quilts, bring one of your own or a craft you enjoy making to share. Or, if you're like me, completely untalented, just come and enjoy. Same time, same place. May 15th will be our annual salad luncheon. Bring whatever you enjoy whipping up. We always have a wonderful variety of delectable, delightful food! We'll change the time to 12:00 for this. On June 19th 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall Jeff Dahlberg will present a program about local dairies. Men are invited to join us for this program. If anyone has an idea for a program, please let any board member know. Lastly, we are asking you to bring a donation of nonperishable food items for Cornucopia Food Pantry to each meeting. The grocery cart in the Narthex has been looking really empty. Thanks, WOZ Board-Sue Drilling, Maggi Hallin, Karen Kermgard, Kathy Rasch and Linda Reinhardt.

**MEMBERS MOVING (LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS)**

Jack & Marlene Wilton, 1595 Marie Drive, Apt. 105, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

# ACTIVITIES AT ZION!!

## EXERCISE CLASS

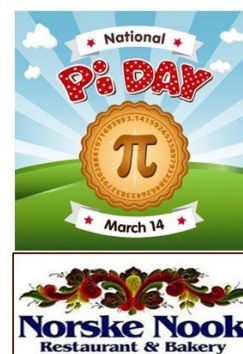


Hello everyone! I just became certified to teach exercise classes! There is a 12-week course that focuses on strength training and balance! Class would be held twice a week for approximately 45 minutes. Dates and times are TBD. Please call me at 630- 465-2135 or email [Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org) if interested!

## Pi-Day Pies

March 13-14, 2024

Pickup at Katie's Cup  
Norske Nook Pies at Katie's Cup



Visit Facebook or <https://www.katiescup.com> to order online.  
Stop into Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street, for a cup of coffee and order in person.  
All proceeds help support the mission of Katie's Cup.



**ZION FORUM**  
March 2, 2025  
10:15am  
Fellowship Hall

### "FUNERAL PREPARATION"

A CONVERSATION WITH OLSON FUNERAL HOME  
LED BY JANE BURDEN



AROUND THE TABLE  
**Burmese Ministry Update**  
Pastor Uk  
March 9, 2025 at 10:15am

## ALABAMA STORY

THEATRE AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY

BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF A 1959 CENSORSHIP OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH



APRIL 6, 2025  
2:00PM  
TICKETS: \$28 FOR ADULTS &  
\$10 FOR STUDENTS

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - 815.964.4609 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



BAHAI FAITH

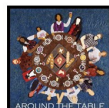


### "Bahai Faith: History and Beliefs"

Presented by  
**Dick & Ann Rundall**  
Members of the Bahai Center of Rockford, IL

March 16, 2025 at 10:15am

HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
Sponsored by Zion's Multicultural Committee  
Held at Zion Lutheran Church  
925 Fifth Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61104



## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY  
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm  
Zion Lutheran Church - Youth Center!



## BAHAI TEMPLE TRIP

INTERFAITH EXPERIENCE TO WILMETTE, IL



MAY 31, 2025  
8:00AM-5:00PM

TICKETS: \$50  
(PAYS FOR BUS & LUNCH)

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM

# MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:15am Worship 10:30am Congregational Meeting - Fellowship Hall	27 9:30am Book Study - Multipurpose Room 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Fellowship Hall	28 5:00pm Human Resource Committee 6:00pm Church Council	29 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 4:00pm WOW	30	31 Office Closed	1 9:00am Indoor Market - Katie's Cup 1-3pm Ruthie's Kitchen Meal
2 9:15am Worship 10:30am Forum: Funeral Preparation	3 9:30am Book Study - Multipurpose Room	4	5 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 4:00pm WOW	6	7 Office Closed	8 1-3pm Ruthie's Kitchen Meal
9 9:15am Worship 10:30am - Forum: Burmese Ministry Update	10 9:30am Book Study - Multi Purpose Room	11 8:30am RCV ESL Class 9:00am Worship Team 11:00am Memorial Committee 12:00pm Multicultural Team	12 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RCV ESL Class 11:00am Missions & Evangelism Team 2:00pm Katie's Cup Program Team 4:00pm WOW	13 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:00pm Katie's Cup Board 5:30pm Zion Development Board	14 Office Closed	15
16 9:15am Worship 10:15am Forum: Bahai Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall	17 9:30am Book Study - Multi Purpose Room	18 8:30am RCV ESL Class 3:30pm Building and Grounds	19 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:00pm WOW	20 8:30am RCV ESL Class 11:00am Zion Finance Committee 1:00pm WOZ Bunco	21 Office Closed 1:00pm Patriots Finance Committee	22 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen Meal
23 9:15am Worship 10:30am Forum: Know Your Rights on Immigration	24 9:30am Book Study - Multi Purpose Room 1:00pm Bag Fluffing - Fellowship Hall	25 8:30am RCV ESL Class 5:00pm Human Resource Committee 6pm Church Council	26 8:00am Bible Study - Stockholm Inn 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:00pm WOW	27 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:30pm Patriots Board	28 Office Closed	29 9:00am Spring Festival and Indoor Market - Katie's Cup
30 9:15am Worship	31 9:30am Book Study - Multi Purpose Room	1 8am Bible Study at Stockholm Inn 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:00pm WOW	2 8am Bible Study at Stockholm Inn 8:30am RCV ESL Class 4:00pm WOW	3	4	5 9am-Noon cars & Coffee Rockford 1-3pm Ruthie's Kitchen Meal

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Our Ministers - All the People of Zion

Senior Pastor Michael Thomas

Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner

Office Manager & Finance Secretary: Jolyn Hess

Outreach Coordinator & Deaconess Student:

Janice Forrest

Faith Community Nurse: Jori Roysdon

Music Ministry Coordinator: Jodi Beach

Custodians: Shanita Baker and

Denzel Banks

Worship Media: Kurt Brown

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Beert, Pam Bitner, Bonnie Dahlberg,  
Gary Fulkerson, Debbie Gortowski, Thomas Habing,  
Karen Kermgard, Angeles Polcher, Debbie Raymond,  
Ron Simmons, Kris Sommer,  
Pastor Michael Thomas, and Neal Tolodxi

### Church Council Officers

President: Kris Sommer

Vice-President: Thomas Habing

Treasurer: Michael Beert

Secretary: Bonnie Dahlberg

Pastor: Michael E. Thomas

[www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com)

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

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](https://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

## PRAYER CORNER

### WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Michael Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama, 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 Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India.
- ◇ Mission Partner in Senegal with Pastor Mytch Dorvilier
- ◇ 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 loved ones: Darlene Handlin, and Bob Campbell.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Jolyn Hess, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Neal Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, and Megan Zaphel.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of gratitude 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 after worship services.

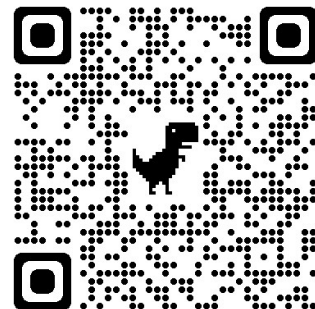
GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2025 GRAPEVINE, EMAIL BY MARCH 15, 2025 to submit an article: [zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockford@gmail.com), or please send a hardcopy to the church office.

## OFFERINGS & DONATIONS WELCOMED!

Mailed...In-Person...Online

We are grateful for your generosity in supporting our ministries at and beyond Zion. There are envelopes in the place you are sitting at in worship and in the lobby of the church. Donations can be mailed to the church office or 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 with online or the mobile app, please email [zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com) for more information.

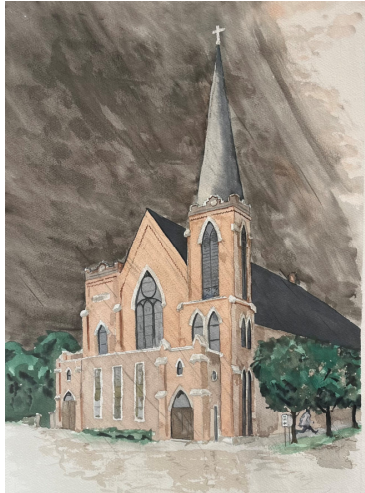
**VANCO**  
FAITH



Zion Lutheran Church  
925 Fifth Avenue  
Rockford, Illinois 61104  
zionrockford@gmail.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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# 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.*

### PARTNERSHIPS



## Sunday Worship at 9:15am In the Worship Space

Also Facebook Live/Online Worship

(Also posted at [www.youtube.com/zionrockford](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford) afterwards)

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