

# Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

August 27, 2023 at 9:15am  
Sanctuary & Facebook Live

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

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.**



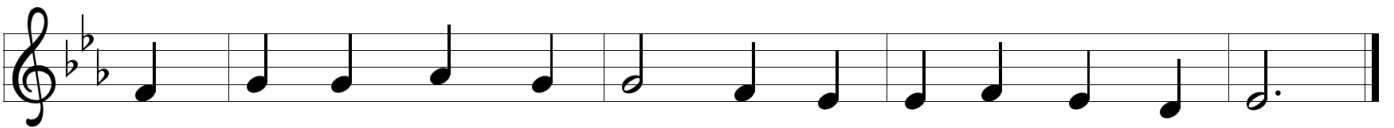
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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 51:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 138

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD,  
your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

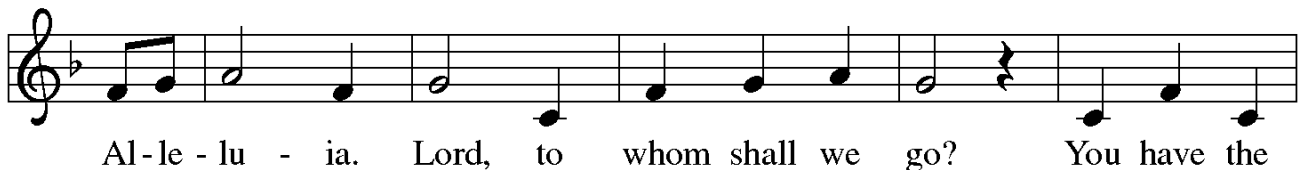
<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

<sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?"



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

SERMON Pastoral Intern Alana Harms

SERMON SONG "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Red Hymnal #596



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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

"Here Is Bread"

Here is bread, here is wine; Christ is with us, he is with us  
Break the bread, drink the wine; Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace; Christ is with us, he is with us  
Know his grace, find his peace; Feast on Jesus here

Refrain: In this bread there is healing  
*In this cup there's life forever*  
*In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here*

Here we are, joined in one  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
We'll proclaim, till he comes, Jesus crucified

## 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.**

**FAREWELL AND GODSPEED** *Pastoral Intern Alana Harms*

Pastor: Pastoral Intern Alana has been a partner in the ministry here at Zion for this past year. We give God thanks for the life we have shared in Christ. It is time for us to say goodbye to Intern Alana and her family. We pray the Holy Spirit would guide you through your seminary preparation for the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Intern: I have found our time together rewarding and the memories of what we have shared will always be precious to me. You have taught me so much and I am grateful to God for our time together.

**C: “The Lord is loving to everyone; God's compassion is over all God's works. All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.” (Psalm 145:9-10)**

Pastor: Let us pray....

Let us thank God for your ministry here at Zion.

**C: We give you thanks for your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. For our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for the Spirit that has empowered us to worship and praise God. Amen!**

Pastor: Intern Alana, we thank you for serving at and beyond Zion. God has now called you to move forward in a new direction with your pastoral formation. We thank God for you, for your willingness to follow the prompting of the spirit.

Intern: I was called among you to be your Pastoral Intern. I give God thanks for our time together and return to you these symbols of my ministry with you.

**C: We are called to a shared leadership model for ministry between the Pastor and congregational leaders. You have helped us to wrestle with what that will mean in the future as we learn to trust and grow as an emerging ELCA community of faith.**

Intern: I give God thanks for our ministry together. I relinquish my leadership as the Intern here at Zion.



**C: Thanks be to God for your serving and calling. We accept your calling and will not consider you our Pastoral Intern in the future.**

P: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen!**

Intern: And now, it is time for us to say farewell. I ask that in your love and commitment, you send us forth with a blessing.

**C: As you go on your way may Christ go with you, May he go before you to show you the way; May he go behind you to encourage you; Beside you to befriend, above you to watch over; Within you to give you peace.**

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 “We Are Marching in the Light of God” Red Hymnal #866

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing . . .  
We are praying . . .  
We are singing . . .

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the harvest. Dance in community.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “We Are Marching in the Light of God”



# God's work. Our hands.

Midtown Lutheran Parish

September 9, 2023

9am-11am



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

11:00AM

MAU-NAH-TEE-SEE GOLF CLUB



Reception for Intern Alana in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to a time of fellowship.

### **PASTORAL INTERN RACHEL!**

We are blessed to have a Pastoral Intern starting next Sunday. Back in the spring, we were told by Wartburg Seminary that there were not enough seminarians for all the sites and we were planning on not having an Intern. Then, at the start of August, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago reached out and asked if we would be open to a last minute placement of a seminarian who would soon be endorsed by her Candidacy Committee to go on internship. Intern Rachel is from Janesville, WI and will be in her last year of seminary as an Intern at Zion. We welcome Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins to Zion. She begins September 1st and will move into an apartment on Seventh Street and Fifth Avenue that Zion Development owns.

### **Pastoral Intern Rachel**

My name is Rachel Perkins. I was born and raised in Janesville, WI. Growing up, my family and I were active members of my home congregation. While on a mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, when I was 13 years old, I felt a calling into ministry. The Pastors of my home congregation welcomed and nourished my feeling of a call. I did two years of internship with my Pastors while in High School before I attended Wartburg College. I double majored in Religion and Peace and Justice Studies with a minor in Leadership. After graduating college, I moved to the Kingdom of Eswatini as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer. While in Eswatini, I met my fiancé and soon to be husband, Nkosinathi. After my year of service, I moved to Chicago and began seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I did my unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mount Sinai Hospital the summer of 2020. Throughout seminary I have served as a pulpit supply resource for my synod, South Central Synod of Wisconsin. I am excited to join the community of Zion Lutheran and grow pastorally.



Pastoral Intern Rachel - [internrachelperkins@gmail.com](mailto:internrachelperkins@gmail.com)

Zion Lutheran Church  
**HOMECOMING SUNDAY**  
*October 15, 2023*  
*9:15 a.m.*

**HOMECOMING SUNDAY**



**OCTOBER 15, 2023**

**140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**9:15AM WORSHIP**

**10:30 TASTE OF ZION ETHNIC FOOD**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: TRINADORA**

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

Dear Zion Choir Friend,

This year, 2023, marks the 140th Anniversary for Zion Lutheran Church and throughout the year, we are celebrating this significant occasion with many special events. On October 15th, our church will host a "Homecoming Sunday" with the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner preaching, and we hope that you will consider "coming home" to worship with us on that day.

Through the leadership of various organists, choir directors, soloists, and members of our A Cappella and bell choirs, Zion has, indeed, carried on the tradition of our strong Lutheran musical heritage. So, in recognition of this anniversary year, we invite you to be part of our **Zion Homecoming Choir** for the service on Sunday, October 15th. There will be just one rehearsal beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the choir room on that day.

The anthem for our worship will be the song "For the Beauty of the Earth" composed by John Rutter. This piece has a tender melody with deep and lush harmonies. The text proclaims the wonder of God's love and goodness through the gift of community with "friends on earth and friends above." If you would like to practice this song before October 15th, please let Jodi or Mary know and they will send the music to you.

We ask that you mark your calendars and plan to join in the joy of singing and worshipping together on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Please email us so that we will know if you are able to participate or not. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at Zion this fall!

Peace,

The Zion Worship Team

*Jodi Beach, Pam Bitner, Intern Alana Harms, Mary Shore & Pastor Thomas*

Contact information

[jodibeach3@gmail.com](mailto:jodibeach3@gmail.com)

[mary.shore2021@gmail.com](mailto:mary.shore2021@gmail.com)

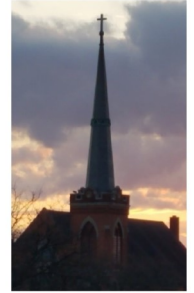


Ruthie's Kitchen

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. September items: **Cereal** 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

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



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## PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship—Farewell and Godspeed Pastoral Intern Alana Harms
	10:15am	Pastoral Intern Farewell and Godspeed Reception—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Youth Center
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)
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
Saturday	9:00am	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship—Welcome Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

September 2	Cars and Coffee — RPS Parking Lot
September 9	God's Work Our Hands at 9am Midtown Strong Block Party— 201 7th Street, Noon-6pm
September 10	140th Anniversary Banquet at Mau-nah-Tee-See Country Club, 11:00am
September 13	WOW Leaders Meeting—Fellowship Hall, 5:00pm
September 20	WOW begins
September 28	WOZ "Donuts In The Park" at Sinnissippi Park at 9:30am
October 7 & 8	Lutheran World Relief Collection, back parking lot Zion
October 15	Homecoming Sunday Worship, Taste of Zion
October 20	Harvest Celebration/Watermelon Festival, 2-4pm - Buddy House

### Flower ministry sponsorships are available.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Pr. Jerry & Lois Peterson.

Given With thankful hearts and

In Honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary on August 9th.

Also for good wishes and appreciation to Alana on her farewell.

### 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/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India.
- ◇ 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: Sharon Habing.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jim Duhigg, Dan Johnson, 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.