

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

September 23, 2024 at 9:15am

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PRELUDE "Children of the Heavenly Father"

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
 5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
 prom - ise is bring - ing: “I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men.”

**BLESSING**

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**



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

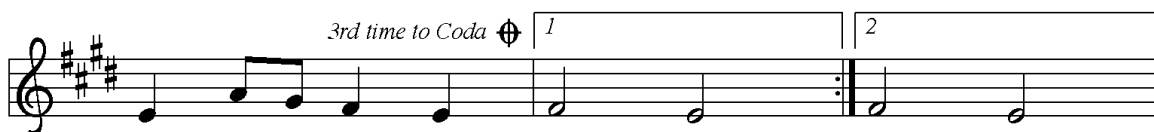
SONG OF PRAISE "Praise to You, O God of Mercy" Red Hymnal #843



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

FIRST READING Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" <sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 54

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;**  
**it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice**  
**and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>4:</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?”

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 Mark, the 9th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

SERMON

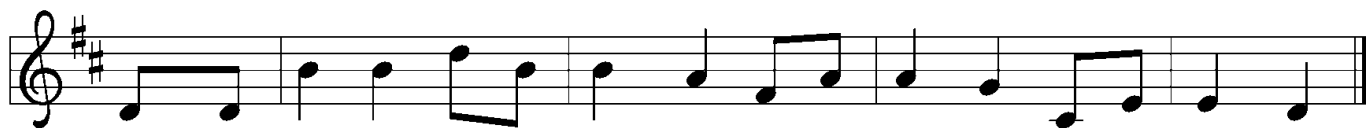
Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Red Hymnal #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

## 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.

## PRAYER TIME AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

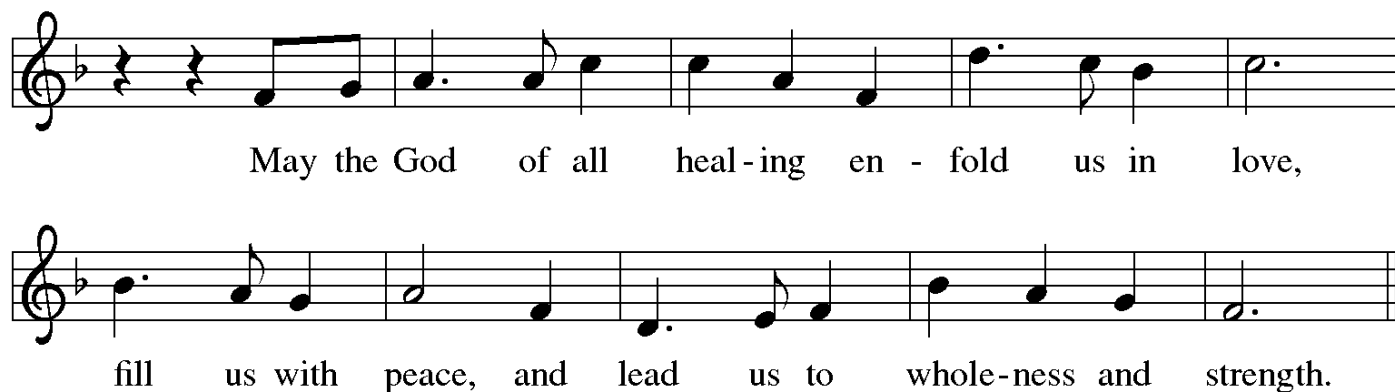
Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Friends in Christ, you are invited to come forward to light a candle.  
**Thanks be to God!**

We gather now for a time of prayer, candles and music.

*This is a time of prayer at your seat or light a candle at the two prayer stations.  
You can request a prayer at the prayer station for yourself or others.  
Feel free to pray, sing, sit in silence and pray for others.*

## SONG "May the God of All Healing" Red Hymnal #220



May the God of all heal-ing en-fold us in love,  
fill us with peace, and lead us to whole-ness and strength.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MUSIC & OFFERING “Our God Will Go Before Us”

By Keith & Krystan Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa

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.



## TABLE BLESSING

## “Come and Taste”

(from W&P #30)



Come and taste and see how good the love of God can be!



Come and taste and see how good the love of God



can be! We come here bro-ken - heart - ed,



seek - ing all that God of - fers. Come and taste and



see how good the love of God can be! Come see!

## THE MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



## 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 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.

## 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.**

*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.*

COMMUNION SONGS "Bind Us Together"

(from WOV #748)

*Refrain*  
F Dm Gm

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

C<sup>7</sup> F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.  
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

F C<sup>7</sup> F F C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>/C *Refrain*

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:  
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.



## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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### WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant:	Sue Drilling and Deb Raymond
Fellowship:	Neal & Deb Tolodxi in honor of their wedding anniversary
Media:	Cameron Kellermann
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Lisa Palmera
Sound:	Deangelo Brunson
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg and Kamyra Brunson

**BAG FLUFFING**—Bag fluffing will be on Monday, September 23rd, 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**NURSE JORI**—My goal in this role is not only to serve you with the greatest care and love, but to get to know all of you so that I can provide the best care possible. My office is located next to the nursery at the end of the hall, past the kitchen. My office hours are 10am-12pm Monday and Wednesday. Please stop by and say hi! If you are unable to come see me, please give the church a call and leave a voicemail for me, call me on my cell at 630.465.2135, or email me at [Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org). I can come see you if you are unable to travel to me!

**WORSHIP LEADERS** Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

**WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date:** During September we are requesting donations of **Canned Soups** for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you so much for your help!

**MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY** at Zion, 9:30am will begin on September 23rd, in the Nursery. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order. All are welcome!

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

#### **SAVE THE DATES FALL WOZ FUN FILLED ACTIVITIES:**

- ◆ *October 17th Thursday* "Afternoon in the Country" will be at the DC Winery in South Beloit, 1:00pm;
- ◆ *November 24th Sunday* "Decorate the Church". Right after the service, let's gather and put up the Christmas decorations. The more the merrier, and the men are definitely invited to this;
- ◆ *December 17th Tuesday 12:30* "WOZ Christmas luncheon" Stockholm Inn. Everyone buys their own lunch. We will have an optional white elephant gift exchange.

Mark your calendars and watch the weekly bulletins and Grapevine for further details. If you have any questions, please ask one of the WOZ board members.

Thank you, Sue Drilling, Margaret Hallin, Karen Kermgard, Kathy Rasch, Linda Reinhardt

**26th Annual Ecumenical Benefit Brunch  
Saturday, October 5, 2024**

**St. Bernadette Catholic Church  
2400 Bell Ave., Rockford, IL 61103**

**“Worry makes a heavy heart, a kindly word makes it glad”  
Proverbs 12:25**

**Featured Speaker:** Jeanette Towns, NAMI Mental Health advocate, Activist, Public Speaker, and published Author.

**“When Shattered lives Become Whole”**

**Registration:** 8:30 a.m.    **Brunch and Program:** 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Brunch will be provided by Countryside Meats and will include Egg Casserole with Sausage, Egg Casserole with Ham, Crustless Quiche with spinach, mushroom, onion, red pepper, & mozzarella Cheese, French Toast Casserole, Bacon, Cheesy Potatoes, a variety of Muffins and Pastries, Fresh Fruit Salad, Apple, and Orange Juice. **Cost: \$20.00**

The Brunch is co-sponsored by the Rockford Deanery Council of Catholic Women (RDCCW) and the North Conference of Northern Illinois Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (NISWO).

**There will be a Silent Auction -**

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE PAID FOR WITH CASH OR CHECK THE DAY OF THE BRUNCH.**

**All women and men are invited to attend this timely program.**

Clip and mail this form along with a check payable to (RDCCW Catholic) or (NISWO Lutheran) for \$20.00 per person to the treasurer by **Wednesday, September 25, 2024. No reservations will be accepted after that date.**

**Send to Peg Hyser 3512 Swan Tr. Rockford, IL 61103 815-262-6147 (Catholic)**

**Send to: Carolyn Ciaccio 2332 Nebraska Rd. Rockford, IL 61108 815-262-9544 (Lutheran)**

**(If unable to attend, monetary donations are welcome.)**

*Please copy this form for additional registrations.*

.....

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: (will not be shared) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Parish Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gluten-free food request: \_\_\_\_ Yes

Vegetarian food request: \_\_\_\_ Yes

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NAMI!**





**PATRIOTS**  
GATEWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

**PUB NIGHT**  
*fundraiser*

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**  
5:00 - 8:00 PM

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

**TICKETS: \$55** Tickets include food and 1 drink ticket  
Limited number of tickets available

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



**OCTOBER 5, 2024**  
**COOKOUT**  
AT  
**CARS & COFFEE ROCKFORD**  
**10AM-NOON**  
**RAISING FUNDS FOR KATIE'S CUP**

**Lutheran World Relief**  
**In-Gathering**

**October 5 9am-Noon**  
**October 6: Noon-3pm**



**Hispanic Heritage**  
October 13, 2024 at 10:15am  
Fellowship Hall

**SPEAKER:**  
**MARY LOU CASTRO**  
**LULCA PRESENTATION**



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



**Christian Nationalism?**  
October 20, 2024 at 10:15am  
Fellowship Hall

**LED BY PASTOR THOMAS**  
**"A DISCUSSION ON THE VARIOUS**  
**EXAMPLES OF CHURCH & STATE"**



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

**Civil Rights Trip Recap!**

October 27, 2024, at 1PM  
Fellowship Hall

**LED BY ZION'S**  
**MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE**



**FREE TURKEY BASKET**

**2024 Donation**  
**\$25.00 each basket!**  
Checks made out to Zion  
Lutheran Church  
Call Zion Lutheran Church  
For A Basket!  
**PICK-UP TBD**



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>



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



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, 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 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, Darleen Bates, David Bates, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Don Carlson, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Gary Fulkerson, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Tyler Johnson, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, and Brian Veitch.

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.

**PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK**

Sunday	9:15am	Worship at Zion
Monday	8:30am	RVC English as a Second Language Class—Marander Room
	9:30am	Book Study—Nursery
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC English as a Second Language Class—Marander Room
	11:00am	Finance Committee
	12:00pm	Katie’s Cup Conversation
	5:00pm	Human Resource Committee—Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Church Council—Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:00am	Miss Carly’s Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	8:30am	RVC English as a Second Language Class—Marander Room
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RVC English as a Second Language Class—Marander Room
	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—RPS Lot across from Katie’s Cup
	5:00pm	Patriots Pub Night—Ernie’s Midtown Pub
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

**UPCOMING**

October 5 & 6		Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering (Saturday 9am-Noon, Sunday Noon-3pm)
October 12	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen
October 13	10:15aam	Forum—Hispanic Heritage
October 16	11:30am	NI Synod Secretary luncheon—Calvary & Emmanuel
October 17	1:00pm	WOZ Afternoon in the Country—Meet at Zion
October 20	10:15am	Forum —Christian Nationalism
October 26	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen
October 27	10:15am	Forum—Lutheran 101
	1:00pm	Civil Rights Trip Recap at Zion
November 3	9:15am	All Saints Day Worship of Remembrance
November 13	11:30am	Cornucopia Prayer Service and Volunteer Luncheon—Zion

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\* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

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