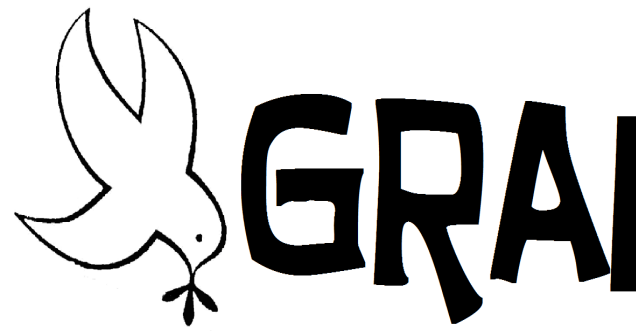


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 ROCKFORD, IL



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A MOSAIC COMMUNITY

**JANUARY 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](http://www.zionrockford.com)  
[zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockford@gmail.com)



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Pastor Thomas' Thoughts                | 2 |
| Student Pastor / Ruthie's Kitchen      | 3 |
| Faith Community Nurse<br>Women of Zion | 4 |
| Zion Partners                          | 5 |
| Calendar                               | 6 |
| Leadership & Prayer Corner             | 7 |



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**day Worship at 9:15am**  
**n the Worship Space**  
 o Facebook Live/Online Worship

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

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

**Congregational Meeting**



# S THOUGHTS

## HAPPY 15 YEARS!

I can't believe that it's been fifteen years since I started here at Zion on January 15, 2010. The past 15 years have been filled with the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives. I thank God for the call to word and sacrament here at Zion. I have learned so much about the Rockford community and the fabric of relationships at and beyond Zion. When we arrived here fifteen years ago, our kids were only 6 and 8 years old. I am so grateful for the various ways different people have blessed Maggie and Nathan, helping them to know they have gifts to serve.

Over these 15 years, we have reached out to people in so many ways through our ministries and programs. Some of the highlights for me include:

- ⇒ We have supported 12 Pastoral Interns as part of their seminary training toward ordination.
- ⇒ We have taken three different Civil Rights Trips to various places, learning to be a mosaic community sharing the grace of Christ!
- ⇒ We have served thousands of meals at Ruthie's Kitchen over the past six years.
- ⇒ Helped develop the Rockford Midtown Market and Cars & Coffee Rockford.

I am thankful as we begin a sixteenth year together. I believe we are called to continue to serve the neighborhoods of Rockford with an amazing outreach focus rooted in our Sunday morning worship where we are fed by the word, a meal and a growing community of friends in faith. This foundation is the way we are sustained for the call to serve the last, least and lost.

In this next year, I will be leading a conversation with the multicultural committee and council to discuss becoming a Reconciled in Christ Church. I encourage you to look at [www.reconcilingworks.com](http://www.reconcilingworks.com) for more information.

*Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Thomas  
[zionrockfordpastor@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockfordpastor@gmail.com)*

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

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

GRAPEVINE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 20  
submit an article: [zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockford@gmail.com), o

## OFFERINGS & DONATIONS WELC

Mailed...In-Person...Online

We are grateful for your generosity in supporting our m and beyond Zion. There are envelopes in the place you at in worship and in the lobby of the church. Donations mailed to the church office or placed in the Offering Box the pole on the pulpit side before, during and after wor also donate through the mobile app called, **Vanco Mobi** download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or recurring giving right through the app to our various mi have questions with online or the mobile app, please er [zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockfordfinances@gmail.com) for more information

|   |  |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |                     |                                  |   |                     |  |               |   |               |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|---------------|---|---------------|
| 9:15am Baptism of Our Lord ]Worship<br>11:00am Celebrating Dreams Gospel<br>Jamboree (worship space)<br>3:00pm Bethpage Travelers Reunion<br>at Katie's Cup | 9:30am Book Study -<br>Nursery<br>9:30am Book Study -<br>Nursery<br>9:30am Book Study -<br>Nursery<br>1:00pm Bag Fluffing -<br>Fellowship Hall | 9:15am Worship<br>10:30am Annual Report Review -<br>Fellowship Hall | 9:30am Book Study -<br>Nursery<br>1:00pm Bag Fluffing -<br>Fellowship Hall | 28<br>5:00pm HR<br>Committee<br>6:00pm Church<br>Council | Noon: Katie's Cup<br>Conversation<br>3:30pm Building and<br>Grounds | 8:00am Bible Study -<br>Stockholm Inn<br>8:00am Miss Carly's<br>Sandwich making<br>4:00pm WOW | 8:00am Bible Study -<br>Stockholm Inn<br>8:00am Miss Carly's<br>Sandwich making<br>12:00pm Patriots<br>Open House<br>4:00pm WOW | 22<br>8:00am Bible Study -<br>Stockholm Inn<br>8:00am Miss Carly's<br>Sandwich making<br>12:00pm Patriots<br>Open House<br>4:00pm WOW | 23<br>4:30pm Patriots<br>Board<br>7:00pm "Mike & Sue<br>Blair Concert" at<br>Katie's Cup | 24<br>Office Closed | 25<br>1:00pm Ruthie's<br>Kitchen | 30<br>8:00am Bible Study -<br>Stockholm Inn<br>8:00am Miss Carly's<br>Sandwich making<br>4:00pm WOW | 31<br>Office Closed | 1<br>9:00am Valentine<br>Festival and Indoor<br>Market - Katie's Cup | Office Closed | Grapevine Mailing<br>11:00am Finance<br>Committee | Office Closed |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|---------------|---|---------------|

# STUDENT

*The road isn't straight....the road isn't straight and sometimes you even get lost. The road isn't straight and sometimes you even get lost. The road isn't straight and sometimes you even get lost. The road isn't straight and sometimes you even get lost. The road isn't straight and sometimes you even get lost.*

Happy New Year, Zion. We journey into a new year and rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior. We all find ourselves in a new possibility. Perhaps we are feeling a bit lost or confused about the possibility we will need on this next part of the journey. It is also possible that we need a break. Our Monday morning Bible study group has been focusing on "Sanctified Art, Words for the Beginning". This devotion includes poems, scripture, and art. The reflection for Epiphany is the story of the Magi from Matthew 2: 1-12. The Magi traveled from the East and following a star. Their journey is met with many challenges. Their road back home from their visit with Jesus was not their only option. I am finding myself confused about the possibility of a new year is oftentimes overwhelming. You want to know what We have an idea of what our road should look like, what things happen that we never expected. Our road takes many miles away and sometimes these turns are sudden and unexpected. Like the Magi on their different road back home, we trust and hope we have to know where we are going to know that God is with us.

My roads have not been straight. I do not know where I have been done here. I do know, however, that God is with me. I know that God is on my journey. This presence is so comforting. I am entering a new road turns into. I pray that we all take time to sit and rest. When we turn and bump we come across. I pray that we keep going.

Here is a breathing prayer from the advent devotional:  
**Inhale: Each twist and turn**  
**Exhale: Invites me to follow you.**  
 Amen.  
 Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama



## UNITY NURSE JORI

The holiday season can be a very busy time for those that have experienced the health challenges. Your mental health is important, so it is important you are taking care of yourself, but here are some ways



As cleaning up spaces in your home is better than no movement. Entertainment, especially on a cold

day, especially after a busy day of hosting holiday

parties can be overwhelming, especially this time of year, so it's important to take a moment to be present with yourself and others on a busy day. Take a few moments to reflect on your

day as an opportunity to recover from the activities of the day, take a break from stress or challenges we may be facing. 8 ways

to relax, read, sew, crochet, knit, do holiday or DIY crafts, bake or create. Expressing yourself and creativity are endless, and may

include getting a haircut, getting a manicure or pedicure, doing your hair, applying lotion to dry skin or chap stick to dry lips, maintaining your physical hygiene. These tasks may seem simple, but they may take a lot of energy, physically and mentally

to complete. If you should need anything, feel free to contact me by email at [jori@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:jori@osfhealthcare.org). My office hours at Zion are 10-noon

[jori@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:jori@osfhealthcare.org)

## MINISTRIES

Shopping bags for the Pantry. Please drop off at the Fellowship Hall for lots of fun while we fluff, & enjoy! Thanks, Karen Kermgard.

(PLEASE PROVIDE ADDRESS)

Beginning December we are requesting donations of **pancake mix** as a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the church office. Thank you so much for your help!

Weekly bulletins: WOZ Board: Sue Drilling, Maggi Hallin,

Feel free to join us!

8:30am—feel free to us!

# Bethphage Travelers Reunion

Host: Pastor Bitner

January 12, 2025

3pm at Katie's Cup

Food and Drink

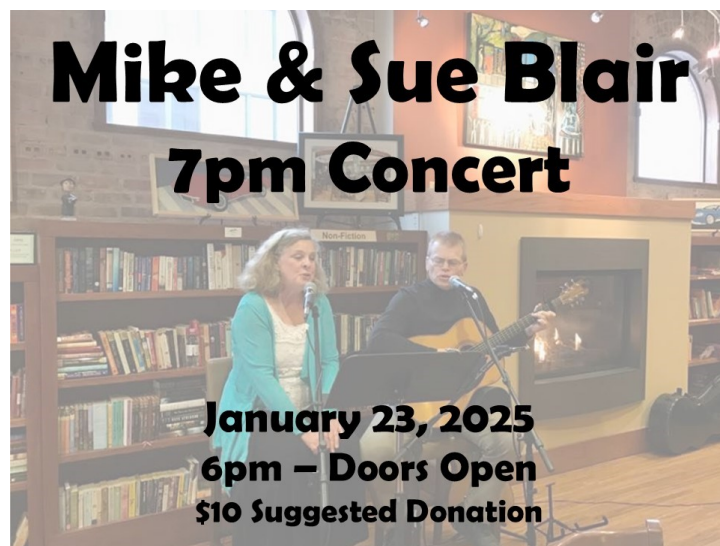
Music by Steve Johnson

Katie's Cup presents:

A photograph of two men at a microphone during an open mic night event. One man is speaking into the microphone while the other looks on.

## OPEN MIC NIGHT!

Hosted by Chris Sims  
January 14, 2025 (5-7pm)

A photograph of a man and a woman performing music in a room with bookshelves and a fireplace. The man is playing a guitar and the woman is singing.

## Mike & Sue Blair 7pm Concert

January 23, 2025  
6pm – Doors Open  
\$10 Suggested Donation