

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

December 1, 2024 at 9:15am

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



ELCA

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE “The King of Glory” and “ Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel”  
settings by Anne Krentz Organ Kate Blair-flute

WELCOME BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### GATHERING

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

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**Amen.**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

**And also with you.**

Holy one, we are drawn to the manger that leads to the cross.

**Holy one, your light shines in the midst of our fears.**

Eternal light, you star leads us to the empty tomb.

**The hopes and tears of all our years find healing and forgiveness.**

Holy one, guide us with your lights and love.

**The hopes and tears of all our years find freedom and renewal.**

Christ has come. Christ is here. Christ will come again!

SONG OF PRAISE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (tune: HYFRYDOL)

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ADVENT WREATH LITURGY ^

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD,

**when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah”.**

Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here!

**the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.**

*Light the first candle on the Advent wreath*

SONG “Christ, Be Our Light” (vs1)

Red Hymnal #715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

## THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25: 1-10

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.  
(Repeat)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass

away, but my words will not pass away.<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,<sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.<sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Red Hymnal #257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## 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.**

## MUSIC & OFFERING "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.  
You can also go online at [www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com) or you can click on the QR code.





TABLE BLESSING “This is Christ’s Body”

(from ACS #967)



This is Christ’s bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ’s bod - y,



bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

**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 come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.*

*The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.*

*There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.*

## COMMUNION SONGS "Prepare the Royal Highway" Red Hymnal #264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

“Here is Bread”

Red Hymnal #483

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

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 Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

# SENDING SONG

## CHOOSE TO HOPE

Marty Haugen



1. Hope is born when we choose to be - lieve that  
2. Hope will grow when we choose to be - lieve that  
3. Hope will shine when we choose to be - lieve a  
4. Sing out hope through the vio - lence and fear, for



love is strong - er than ha - tred.  
we are sis - ters and broth - ers.  
lit - tle child will lead us.  
God is pres - ent be - side us.



Love is born when our hearts learn to see that  
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see the  
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see that  
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here; your



ev - 'ry per - son is sa - cred.  
life we share with each oth - er. In the  
God is dwell - ing with - in us.  
love and wis - dom will guide us.



times of dark - ness, in times of fear, choose to hope,



choose to love, and know that God is near.  
*Last time, during Advent:* Em - man - u - el is near.

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## SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”

Carl Schalk



## UPDATES NEEDED

The Missions Team would like anyone who has a current active relative in the Military, to bring in a current picture with their name and current branch of service. Also if you would like to furnish the office with their address for anyone who would like to contact them with words of encouragement.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer  
as little as 2 hours a month  
Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.  
Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

## Cornucopia



## Food Pantry



## ROCKFORD CHARAL UNION

Our 2024 *Messiah* Performances are at 3:00pm  
on Saturday, Nov. 30, and Sunday, Dec. 1.  
Both performances are at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
920 Third Avenue, Rockford, Illinois

# “Advent: Hopes & Fears”

Forum led by *Pastor Thomas*  
*Revelation: Rapture or Resurrection*

December 1, 2024 at 10:30am

Zion Lutheran Church – Rockford, IL

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  
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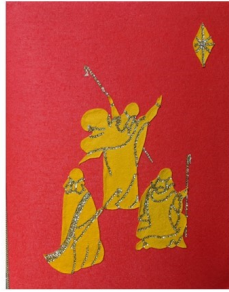
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# Joy Fund 2024

DONATIONS FOR  
ELCA  
HURRICANE RELIEF

Checks made out to Zion Lutheran Church



## HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AND MARKET



Saturday, 9am-1pm

December 7, 2024

**Katie's CUP**

MUSIC BY TRINADORA

**Santa Claus Appearance**

Music, Food, Coffee & 16 Vendors!



“Lucia Fest”

December 8, 2024  
10:15am

## “GRIEF & THE HOLIDAYS”

FORUM LED BY JOAN BURTON

OLSON FUNERAL HOME

December 15, 2024

at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall



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



“Blue Christmas” - December 15, 2024 at 9:15am

**Katie's CUP**

## SONGS & SUDS CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Thursday

December 19, 2024

6pm at Katie's Cup

Pastor's Jay Quinn, Scott Stoleberg and Mike Thomas & YOU

## Christmas Cantata Worship

9:15 am

December 22, 2024



## Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 pm

9:30pm String  
Quartet Concert



## WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant:

Fellowship:

Media: Cameron Kellermann

Music: Jodi Beach

Readers: Connie Heden

Sound: Deangelo Brunson

Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

**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:** During December we are requesting donations of **Peanut Butter & Jelly** 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 in the Nursery. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order.

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

**SAVE THE DATE WOZ FUN FILLED ACTIVITY:** *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

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

- ⇒ Sandra Swenson is now at Independence Village
- ⇒ Frank Macchi is now at Cherryvale Place
- ⇒ Deanna Hartenberg moving to Peoria, IL

### 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, Jessica Brown, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Brian Veitch, Diane Wegner, Gary Wegner, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

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
	10:15am	Forum—Advent: Hopes & Fears
	3:00pm	Messiah Concert— Emmanuel
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Nursery
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC English as a Second Language Class—Marander Room
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
Saturday	9:00am	Holiday Market and Festival at Katie's Cup (Santa Claus visits at 10am)
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Lucia Fest—Fellowship Hall

### UPCOMING

December 14	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
December 15	9:15am	"Blue Christmas" Worship
	10:15am	Forum—Grief & The Holidays
December 17	11:30am	Katie's Cup Conversation: "Watchfulness In A Distracted World"
December 17	12:30pm	WOZ Christmas Party —Stockholm Inn (responsible for your own lunch)
December 19	6:00pm	Songs and Suds at Katie's Cup—Christmas Carol Singalong
December 22	9:15am	Christmas Cantata Worship
December 24	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship (9:30pm String Quartet)
December 28	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet

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

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>