

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

January 12, 2025 at 9:15am

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



## BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings”

WELCOME

### GATHERING

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

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

GREETING

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 (*Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy"*) Red Hymnal #154

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

SONG OF PRAISE      "O Beauty Ever Ancient"      (from ACS #1100)



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau-ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau-ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

God's word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

PSALM 29

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

God's word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

Red Hymnal #174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG

"Borning Cry"

Red Hymnal #732

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

1in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;

1you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

## 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

“Make Room”

Tim Krug

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 "Come to the Table"

Red Hymnal #481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

**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 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Red Hymnal #810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

“Baptized and Set Free”

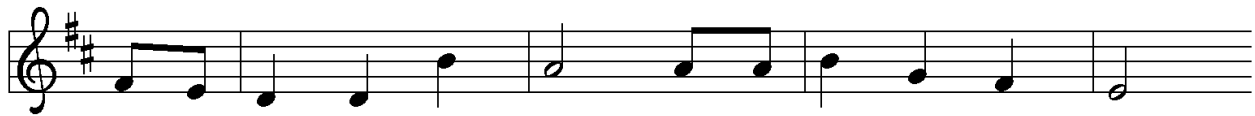
Red Hymnal #453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

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**

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen.**

# THE SENDING

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

## SENDING SONG "We Are Marching In the Light"

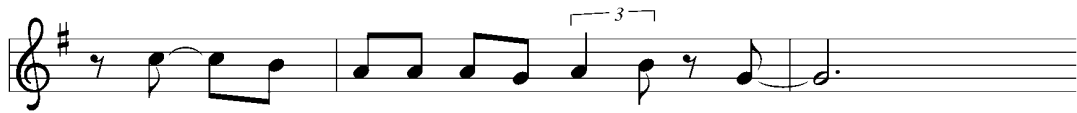
Red Hymnal #866



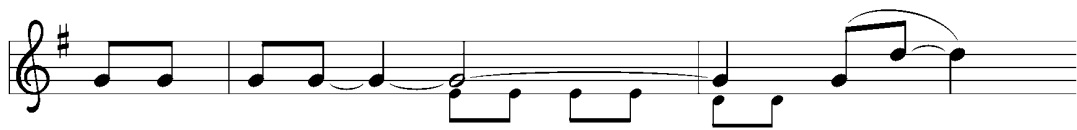
*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



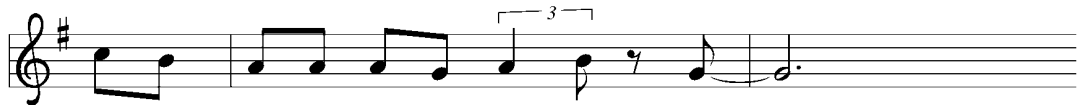
*nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

## SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

"This Little Light of Mine"



Twenty-Second Anniversary  
**Celebrating Dreams**

January 12, 2025  
Sunday at 11:00am

THEME: "IN THE GARDEN..."

Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Legacy Award Recipient: *Tedd Snowden*

LUNCH SERVED AFTERWARDS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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



# 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:

# OPEN MIC NIGHT!

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

# BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY  
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church - Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



# Congregational Meeting



ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW  
January 19, 2025 at 10:30am  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

January 26, 2025  
9:15am Worship  
10:30am Annual Meeting

KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATIONS

*"Zoom Communion & the New Reformation"*

Rev. Stephen Bowie

January 21, 2025  
Tuesday at Noon



KATIE'S CUP - 502 SEVENTH STREET  
ROCKFORD, IL 61104  
WWW.KATIESCUP.COM

# OPEN HOUSE

January 22, 2025 - Noon-1:00pm

Patriots Gateway Community Center

Get an Update on Patriots and a Free Meal

RSVP at 815-967-0413 - patriotsgateway@gmail.com



## WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Ann Harkabus  
Fellowship:  
Media:  
Music: Jodi Beach, Tom Marken-drums, Jim McDowell-bass  
Readers: Nancy Warden  
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 & Save the Date:** During January we are requesting donations of **Pancake Mix and/or Syrup** 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! There is a group of women that send Christmas cards to our area assisted living facilities. This year they sent out 3000 cards to residents! They are asking to collect more cards for next year. If you have any unused cards with envelopes, would you please bring them to church. Just leave them in the Narthex or the church office. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Grapevine for WOZ activities. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

**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

**ANNUAL REPORTS** - For those committee chairs, partners and staff we ask you to submit your annual report in writing or email to Jolyn at [zionrockford@gmail.com](mailto:zionrockford@gmail.com). Please add any photos of events you have held throughout the year! We ask for these reports to be submitted as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Jolyn by email or phone the office.

## 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

### 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: Dana (cousin of Shanita Baker), Eloise Anderson, David Bates, 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, Mary Wedel, 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	Baptism of our Lord Sunday
	11:00am	Celebrating Dreams Gospel Jamboree
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Nursery
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	4:00pm	WOW Leaders—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	11:00am	Finance Team—Nursery
Sunday	9:15am	Baptism of our Lord Sunday
	10:30am	Annual Report Review—In Person—Fellowship Hall

### UPCOMING

January 25	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
January 26	10:30am	Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
January 27	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
January 28	5:00pm	Human Resources
	6:00pm	Church Council
February 1	9:00am	Valentine Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
February 11	8:30am	RVC English as a second language resumes
February 16	10:30am	Forum: Alzheimer Association—Fellowship Hall
February 18	3:00pm	Zion Outreach—Nursery
February 23	10:30am	Forum: Reconciled in Christ Congregations?

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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>