

Zoar Lutheran Church (LCMC)
P.O. Box 2098
7239 W. Highway 61
Tofte, MN 55616

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August/September, 2015

The **Beacon**
ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



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Pastor's Message

Hello, I'm Daren Blanck, the new pastor at Zoar Church. Last newsletter I briefly introduced myself and my family. This time I'd like to share a little bit about our slogan and logo, the LCMC, the upcoming sermon series for August and September, and youth and family night.



I'd like to start by saying how grateful I am for Pastor EvaLyn's service over the past six months. She has truly been a blessing not only to me as I prepared to leave Macedonia and come to the North Shore, but also to the members of Zoar and the entire community. Thank you Pastor EvaLyn! Along with the leadership team, she introduced a great slogan emphasizing our role here - "A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore." You might also notice that we have a new logo accompanying our slogan. Through the image of a lighthouse we wish to portray that the light of our beacon is the light of Christ. We pray that we might radiate the light of Christ in our lives as individuals and as a congregation, sharing His love in words and service to neighbor. Our thanks to Lighthouse Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania - at the other end of the Great Lakes - for letting us share their logo.

Zoar Church was founded over 100 years ago by settlers from Norway who believed in the power of the gospel and the authority of scripture. Today Zoar is a member of the LCMC - Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. LCMC is an association of nearly 900 congregations in 15 countries. We believe that the local congregation is where the church becomes a concrete reality for God's people. LCMC congregations are free in Christ; accountable to one another; rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. At Zoar, we understand ourselves to be the church of the community and, like the LCMC in general, we welcome the entire community to worship with us, regardless of your heritage. Along with Martin Luther and other Christian men and women before and after him, we affirm the gospel of Christ crucified. The LCMC annual gathering is coming up October 4. This year it will be in Texas with the theme "Our DNA." If you are interested in learning more and attending with me, please let me, congregational president Judy Gregg, or office secretary Diane Parker know!

FISHCAKE DINNER

WHERE: ZOAR LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WHEN: LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

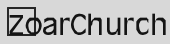
5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
\$12.00

Come Sew With Us

August 11th from 9am-3pm
Lunch will be served!

The community is invited to join us in sewing pillow cases for "**A Case of Smiles.**" The finished pillow cases will be delivered to the Pediatrics Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. **You say you don't sew?** Come join us—we have a perfect job for you also! Bring your smiles and don't forget your machines!

Sunday August 9 "The Kingdom of God is Near" (Mark 1:12-15)•Sunday August 16 "Misfits and Ragamuffins" (Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17)•Sunday August 23 "Spreading the Mustard" (Mark 4:1-2, 26-34)•Sunday August 30 "Even the Storms Obey Him!" (Mark 4:35-41)•Sunday September 6 "Jesus' Healing Ministry" (Mark 5:21-43)•Sunday September 13 "The Feeding of Thousands" (Mark 6:30-44)•Sunday September 20 "Casting out Demons" (Mark 9:14-29)•Sunday September 27 "Problems with Pharisees" (Mark 7:1-23)

ZoarChurch
Lutheran Congregations in
Mission for Christ
7239 West Highway 61
P.O. Box 2098
Tofte, MN. 55615
(218) 663-7925
Pastor Daren Blanck
Submissions to the Parish News
are encouraged. We reserve the
right to edit essays for content or
clarity, but every effort is made to
honor the perspectives of the
authors. All material in the Parish
News reflects the views of the
authors and does not necessarily
represent the total membership
of Zoar Lutheran Church
(LCMC).

During these next two months our scripture readings and messages will focus on “Jesus in the Gospel of Mark”. Two billion people claim to follow him. 70,000 books have been written about him. Entire civilizations have been shaped by him. Based on the first book ever written about Jesus, the Gospel According to Mark, we will ask the question, “Who Is This Man?” Through the eyes of Jesus’ earliest followers and modern photographs of the places where he walked, we will explore what his life mean for our lives today. It is my hope that you'll come to understand his ministry and message in new ways.

•Finally, beginning August 18 and continuing all year, Zoar will host Youth and Family Night each Tuesday at 6:00 PM. Youth and families of all ages are welcome! Here’s a rundown of each Tuesday -

- The first Tuesday of each month will be Game Night. Foosball, pool, air hockey, cards, and board games are all in the mix. Nothing deep here - just pizza, Christian fellowship and some friendly competition!
- The second Tuesday of each month will be Bible Skit Night. Have fun playing group drama games and exploring God’s word through skits and role playing. The Bible is full of zany characters and high drama. No pressure, no previous acting experience required - all fun! A light meal will be served.
- The third Tuesday of each month will be Family Worship. Gather for an informal worship experience with contemporary praise music and a message especially for youth and families. Designed especially for busy families from the area who might not have the opportunity to worship with us on Sundays, but open to all!
- The fourth Tuesday of each month will be Movie Night. We will watch a recent Christian film or film with themes that we can explore from a Christian perspective. Popcorn will be served and we hope lively conversation will spring forth!

Finally our website is now up and running. We plan to post the newsletter, weekly announcements, Sunday message audio, and program information there. The address is www.zoarchurch.org. Let us know if you have an idea about how we can use our website to more effectively serve our community.

I am excited to be a part of a place where God is so clearly at work and I can’t wait to see what he will do next! Peace and blessings as the summer comes to a glorious close here on the north shore.

PS - Harry the Church Mouse has sadly moved on with pastor EvaLyn, meanwhile Billy the Beaver (Go BSU) has agreed to file a report from time to time when he is off the beaver pond. Look for his “constructive” ponderings in the months to come!

Matters of Interest

Dear friends ,

Is autumn already on our door step? Another Fourth of July celebration has come and gone, and we couldn't have asked for more perfect weather. It was evident that everyone had a great time participating in all the activities.

This year Zoar Church sponsored three fundraisers, a brat booth, Bingo, and a spaghetti dinner at the 4th of July festivities. Because of their success, the church fuel budget for 2016 received a healthy boost. Zoar Church is very appreciative of the many volunteer workers who helped to facilitate these events, and we are especially thankful to the community.

Your support of our community church is greatly appreciated! A big thank you to west-end residents and businesses who donated prizes for the Bingo games: accept our gratitude for your generosity and support.

At their regular meeting, the Leadership Team decided that the Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 16th following the Worship Service. Please circle the date on your calendar, and plan to attend this important meeting.

If you can sew, we need you! Come join us for a day of community sewing on Tuesday, August 11th from 9am to 3pm. We will be sewing pillow cases for "A Case for Smiles". The finished cases will be delivered to the Pediatrics Unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth.

The fabric is cut and ready to go. What? You say you don't sew? Please come join us. We have a job for you also. Bring your smiles and sewing machines! Lunch will be served.

Remember; the Semi-Annual congregational meeting will be held after the Worship Service on Sunday, August 16th

Come sew with us on August 11th from 9am to 3pm. The fabric is cut and waiting to be sewn into pillow cases for the Pediatric Unit of St. Mary's Hospital, Duluth for the "A Case for Smiles" program. Lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome!

A Squeek From Harry Mouse...

Dear Zoar friends,
Thank you for your warm welcome (warm that is after I got my Norwegian Knit sweater), and your kindness during EvaLyn's last (I hope) interim. I have enjoyed being the "little mouse in the corner" listening to your concerns, your laughter, your hopes and your dreams for Zoar Church. I have grown to love each of you in special ways, even though there are those who did such a good job of sweeping up crumbs after Sunday Services that I didn't get nearly enough to snack on!
There is much I will miss: Generations for Christ warming up for Contemporary services; learning new Lutheran hymns; watching EvaLyn trying to figure out the order of service! HA! Tapping my tail to the music of Carah and Rod's special event. I won't forget the energetic Bible Studies or the Lenten "Bread for the Journey" soup and worship during Lent.
And mostly I will miss the excitement of your preparing for a new minister. (I wonder if he will shovel the walk better than EvaLyn did!?) It sure does feel like you have found a partner in your ministry of bringing a beacon of hope to your part of the North Shore. While I am here in EvaLyn's office, reclining in my hammock, well out of reach of her cat, I will be thinking of and praying for you all. With love and whiskers full of blessings: Harry
PS Pray for EvaLyn, she hasn't figured out what to do with all of her extra time and is still wandering aimlessly around in circles wondering what to do!

And a Letter From Rev. EvaLyn

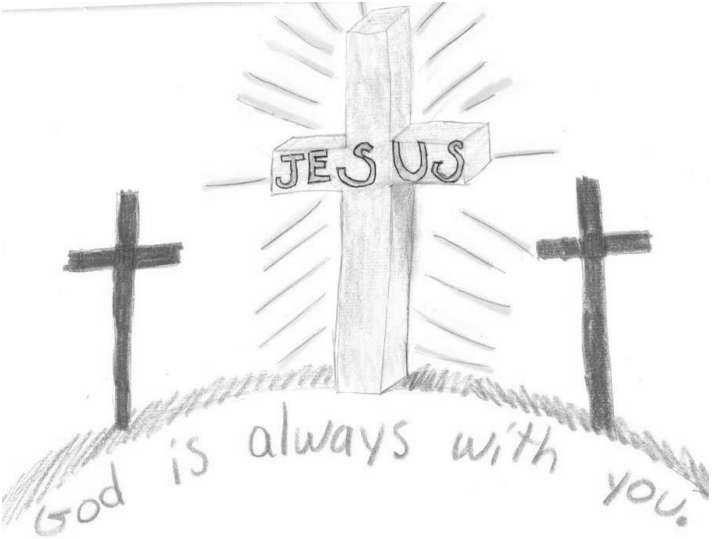
Greetings on this the second week of my third retirement!
It has been such a blessing to be able to walk with you on part of your interim journey. The time "in between pastors" is such an important time when you can reflect on your history and finding the opportunities to look forward to your future. I so enjoyed the privilege to learn from your liturgical practices, try out some new things with you, challenge you and be challenged by you... And possibly did my fair share of causing some confusion.
Thank you for your willingness to work with me during this time and warmly welcoming me into your circle. The strength of Zoar Church is that welcome acceptance of all who enter your doors and the love that you extend to your community beyond your doors.
My prayers are with you as you continue your ministry in partnership with Daren and Michelle.

Blessings, EvaLyn

Hi, I am Elijah Blanck. My dad is the new pastor at Zoar Church in Tofte. I am 11 years old and starting 6th grade at William Kelley School in Silver Bay. Before we moved here, we lived in South Korea and then in Macedonia. Suwon South Korea was a clean city and people were friendly. In Macedonia I liked that the currency was less than the dollar and the people were very nice and helpful. I like the schools that I attended because I got to meet new friends. One of my favorite hobbies is flying remote control helicopters and different devices. One of my other hobbies is archery. I love that it's cooler here by Lake Superior and I like to take a quick dip every once in a while with my dad and sister. I also love that Tofte is a small town and I'll almost know everybody. I hope to make some good friends here. I am excited to be here.

My name is Sophia. I was born in Brainerd, Minnesota but I have lived in South Korea for three years and Macedonia for two years of my life. I have never attended school in the United States before and I am excited to go to Birch Grove Community School in Tofte starting in September! I love to draw and write. I also like to read. I really like horses. For the last two summers I got to participate at Spirit Horse Camp south of Brainerd, MN. I rode, groomed, and saddled the horses. I like being so close to Lake Superior and to nature.

I am Michelle Blanck, married to Daren, and mom to Elijah and Sophia. Our family has been in a big transition this past month, from living and teaching in the Republic of Macedonia - saying goodbye to our friends and community there, and now moving back to Minnesota. We are having fun settling in, meeting new people, exploring, learning, and transitioning to Tofte. I have enjoyed all of our experiences abroad and now am very pleased to be here on the north shore of Lake Superior. Through all of our travels, challenges, and growth, I know that God has been preparing our family for this move and has taken care of all steps along the way. I already feel blessed to be part of the Tofte and the surrounding communities here on the north shore. I am excited to be here!



Worship Service every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at Father Baraga's Cross.

Inspired by the Lord

"I couldn't write a song to save my neck, but if God puts it in my heart, He makes it possible." Marsha Hansen has been writing wonderful poetry for many years; poetry that begs to be be set to music. The hymn printed on these pages is only one of the poems Marsha has written through inspiration.

"When I finish a song, I put it in a box. I've asked the Lord, ' what am I to do with these writings?' Until the answer comes, I'll keep the songs and lyrics safe in the box."

Maybe, Marsha, the answer has come. What other treasures might we find if we look through the contents of that box of inspired poetry and songs?

I Lift My Voice to You

The musical score for 'I Lift My Voice to You' is written for piano. It consists of six systems of music. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The lyrics are: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glo - ry! I lift my voice to sing Your match - less worth!'. The second system continues the melody and bass line. The third system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glo - ry! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The fourth system has the lyrics: 'Je - sus is the migh - ty Name we're lift - ing up in praise! There is no oth - er Name by which we must be saved!'. The fifth system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth! I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The sixth system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth! I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The score includes various chords and musical notation.

Save the Date:
Saturday, September
5th. Zoar Church will
serve-up a fabulous
Fishcake Dinner from
5pm to 7pm. Cost is
only \$12.00. All are
welcome!

The musical score for 'I Lift My Voice to You' is written for piano. It consists of six systems of music. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The lyrics are: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glo - ry! I lift my voice to sing Your match - less worth!'. The second system continues the melody and bass line. The third system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glo - ry! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The fourth system has the lyrics: 'Je - sus is the migh - ty Name we're lift - ing up in praise! There is no oth - er Name by which we must be saved!'. The fifth system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth! I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The sixth system has the lyrics: 'I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth! I lift my voice to You, O God of glory! O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.'. The score includes various chords and musical notation.

With thankfulness to God, Marsha Hansen
Copyright 1993 in a collection of songs "In the Shadow of His Wings". 8-27-91 -2-

I lift my voice to You, O God of glory!
I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth!
I lift my voice to You, O God of glory!
O may Your Name be praised in all the earth.

Jesus is the mighty Name we're lifting up in praise!
There is no other Name by which we must be saved!
Lamb of God, whose precious blood for all our sins atoned,
You're seated at the right hand of the Father's throne!

I lift my voice to You, O God of glory!
I lift my voice to sing Your matchless worth!
I lift my voice to You, O God of glory!
O may Your Name be praised in all the earth!

by Marsha Hansen