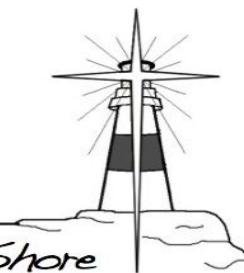


The Beacon

ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



A Place of Refuge A Beacon of Hope

By Pastor Daren Blanck

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14,16)

I've had a few folks here are there ask me about the names "Zoar", "Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)" and our slogan "*a Beacon of Hope on the North Shore.*" I'd like to take a moment to clarify where our name comes from, what our heritage is, and what LCMC is all about.

In the Bible (*Genesis 19:22*), the little village of Zoar was a place of refuge. Zoar Church in Tofte was founded over 100 years ago by hearty settlers from Norway who had been impacted by revival and believed in the power of the Gospel. Like a beacon in the darkness, those settlers found refuge in the body of Christ; brothers and sisters who could come along side of them in times of struggle and hardship.

Today Zoar is a member of LCMC, an association of more than 900 congregations in 41 states and 17 other countries who are rooted in the scriptures, accountable to one another, and free in Christ. LCMC isn't a traditional, hierarchical denomination.

We are "Lutheran" in the sense that we believe that Luther's rediscovery of the gospel still resonates in the world today. Being "Lutheran," though, is about our heritage - it's not about building walls.

Zoar is the church of the community! We are most importantly "in Mission for Christ." We have a story to tell. It's the story about God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. In Him we have abundant life. In Him we worship, lift each other up, and find Christian community. It's the story of hope for the world.

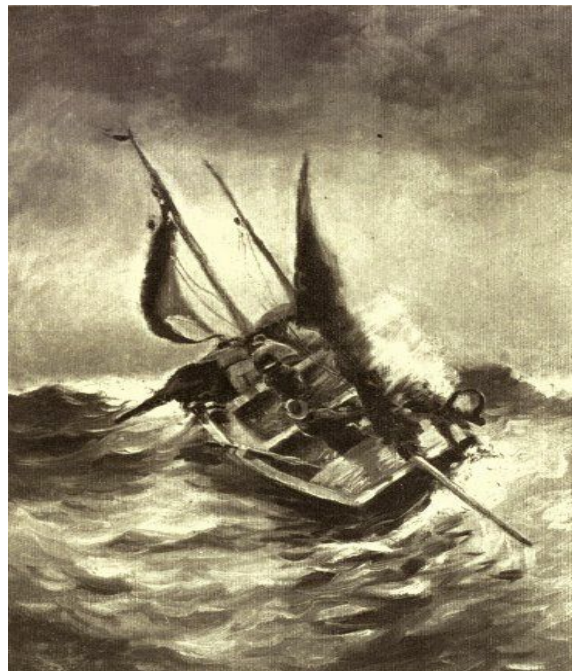


Image: Three Fishers Went Sailing - Edmund H. Garrett, 1895

If you are looking for a church home, regardless of your background, we'd love for you to join us in **worship** each **Sunday at 8:00** at Father Baraga's Cross in Schroeder or **9:30** at Zoar Church in Tofte.

If you have questions, I'd love to talk to you more about Zoar, the LCMC, or faith in Christ Jesus. Please give me a call at 218-663-7925 or send me an email to blanckd@gmail.com.

Life was hard on the North Shore 100 years ago. It's not always so easy today. Come experience the power of the Gospel and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 11 following worship.

An update on the budget, ministries, and projects of the church and congregational officer elections.

NAKNEK REFLECTIONS

By John & Carol Markwell

Having just returned from Naknek, Alaska, a cannery town where we volunteered this past month at a ministry outreach center called “The Net”, we’d like to share some comments about our experience.

The Net building is small, but quite large when people are sitting at tables, standing along the walls, or outside. One woman commented, “these fish canneries are drama, the Net is love.” Inside you observe people with their heads down, fingers flying over the key pads of their iPad and devices in their ears. The Net is a communication center for workers.

The Net was also a resource center. Bulletin boards provided information for clinic and library hours. Bibles, tracts, and a variety of spiritual books and articles are available. With temps in the low 40’s in the morning and some dorms not insulated, workers could also obtain blankets. Information was exchanged about fish flow, rumors of estimated catches of the day, and general news – somewhat like our post office or the recycling center when Roger ran it.

Over and over we were told by workers how thankful they felt about what we were doing. You could see by their behavior that they considered it a special place. Workers were respectful, quiet, friendly, considerate and accommodating towards each other. They picked up after themselves and often would help clean up in the evening. Twice, a woman took the vacuum cleaner out of my hands to do the task.

The Net is also a spiritual communication center. Pastor Jeff, a primary advocate to establish this place, set the tone and atmosphere along with Bobbie, our supervisor. Pastor Jeff seemed to make contact in moments – he has a blend of humor, curiosity and sincere interest in each person he met. He could navigate the conversation to spiritual matters in such a way that workers were willing to participate. He might comment on a verse posted on a blackboard, he might hand out a tract and say something about it or ask for the attention of people in the room in order to present a verse, take a few moments of commentary and share a prayer. Workers would come to him with problems and he went to work on finding solutions with them.

Locals also used the Net. Retired seniors would have their morning coffee gab session there much like what you might see at Schroeder bakery or the Holiday station. Kids riding bikes past The Net came in to raid the bakery tray and have a beverage.

We came to serve, but left feeling we were given a gift. We had many moments where we were out of our comfort zone and would pray, “Jesus help us.” One of the blessings to us came from the team members who serve there year round. We observed how they lived out their faith and sacrificed of themselves in a cheerful and dedicated manner. It inspired us to do likewise.

During the month of June, Zoar Church Mission of the month was for the Net mission in Naknek. **We wish to thank Zoar members for their generous gift of \$500.** The gift will be used for the electricity and internet charges incurred at the Net. We hope to return next year for a longer period of time. God commands us to be the salt and light. Hopefully those who we serve will see that in us.



COOK COUNTY FOOD SHELF

Zoar Church August Mission

The Cook County Food Shelf will be the mission of Zoar Church for the month of August. The Cook County Food Shelf, like many other community food programs, sees increased usage in winter months. Zoar Church would like to help to stock the shelves to ward off and prevent shortages that come during the winter crunch. Join us with this endeavor. Donations can be left in the church narthex.

BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

By Polly Erickson

We did it! We went over our goal of 37 blood-draws by 4! Thank you to all you wonderful donors for giving the gift of life to up to 123 people! Multiply that out by all the family and friends who are rejoicing over the recovery of their loved ones and you have some idea of how great your gift is! God will bless you as you have blessed others!

“NO BAKE” SALE DURING AUGUST

A No Bake Sale will be in progress during August. Don’t panic. No, you do not need to turn your oven on during the heat spells of August. No, you don’t have to search your recipe box for Great Grandma Smith’s secret chocolate cake recipe...all you have to do is watch your mail box. Open your letter from Zoar Church. Fill out the enclosed, and mail it back to the church. It is an easy fundraiser to do.

- Watch your mailbox
- Fill out the form
- Mail it to the church

Join us and help make this is a successful event!

SOMETHING MISSING...

By Tom Perusse

It was a day that couldn't be better, weather-wise. The temperature was 'not too hot' and 'not too cold'. It was midday with the sun high in the sky. Clouds were few and wispy and there was a gentle breeze that kept us comfortable. The humidity was 'not too high' and 'not too dry'. Skiers would call it a "Bluebird Day", whether in January or July. Christians might just refer to such a day as "*the day the Lord has made.*" (Psalm 118:24)

No, I wasn't on Carlton Peak taking in a panoramic view of Lake Superior. Instead I was standing on the picturesque capitol approach, in St. Paul. Such was the setting for DECISION AMERICA TOUR on Thursday, 16 June 2016.

The DECISION AMERICA TOUR is a ministry of Pastor Franklin Graham, part of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). During the course of this year's election cycle Pastor Graham and BGEA will visit all 50 states for a repentant prayer service in front of each capitol building. All are welcome.

The 45 minute service included mostly contemporary gospel hymns, known artists and a message by Pastor Graham - simple, Biblical, and to the point. 5000-6000 actively attended plus some lunchtime onlookers. We sang, laughed, clapped, raised our hands in the air, some even danced, but the vast majority were serious in the moment.

As Pastor Graham spoke the theme was that it is a serious time for America. He pleaded for each of us to repent of our sins individually and even out loud. Then we were asked to repent corporately of our sins at the local, state, and national levels, sins of commission and omission.



He quoted 2 Chronicles 7:14-15, "*if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray And seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.*"

American Christians DO NOT fully participate in the political arena, Pastor Graham said. 30 million Christians failed to even vote in the election four years ago. Too few Christians run for political office. God's people are losing momentum. Believers may not be of this world, but Jesus ministered in this world and peacefully changed it forever. Followers need to do likewise. Christians, Pastor Graham said, should participate in all processes of our democracy. He was quick to point out that we need to vote our conscience, an indication of the Holy Spirit in each, and that more Christians should run for political office at all levels

Pastor Graham pointed out that the Democratic Party will not be our savior, but then added, "and don't think the GOP would be any better." We have only one savior: Jesus Christ. "*My God, in whom we trust.*" (Psalm 91:2)

You might ask, "So what was missing at the prayer service?" There was no press! There were no TV cameras or radio personalities! No one had placards and no one was 'in your face.' No one threatened violence, disrupted commerce, or shut down an interstate. Pastor Graham didn't demand more rights. All was peaceful. All was copacetic! So why don't we get more good news from the media?!

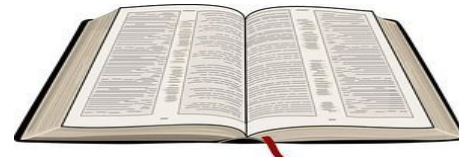
AUGUST SEWING DAYS

Pinner, ironers, and "supervisors" were all present during the July sewing day. Sewing machines were whirling in the basement of Zoar Church as our ladies completed 23 pillowcases, plus 9 more were started. One of our snowbirds, Leanne Williams, made 65 pillowcases over the winter months. Our appreciation and gratitude goes to Leanne and to the many ladies (**community members included**) who so generously worked on Ryan's Case for Smiles project.

The next sewing day is scheduled for **Monday, August 15, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**. Have you heard about the project of crocheting plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless? We have recently been introduced to this humanitarian project. If we had extra hands, they could help us begin this project and do some cutting for us.. Also fabric is waiting to be cut and tied for graduation blankets. The blankets go SO much faster if we have more than 1 or 2 doing the work. The September Sewing Day is Wednesday, September 14th.

BIBLE STUDY CHANGING TO THURSDAYS

Beginning Thursday, August 11 join us at 10:00 AM in Zoar's Gathering Room. Bible study is open to all who wish to participate. Join us for an invigorating and enlightening discussion based on Galatians!!!



LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's Annual Gathering is a four-day event featuring keynote speakers, worship and Bible study, breakout sessions and plenty of opportunities for fellowship with Christians from around the world. This year's gathering will be held in Denver, Colorado October 2-5. Zoar is able to sponsor two interested members or friends to attend. The 2016 theme: **Back to the Future**. If you are interested, let Pastor Daren know so we can get the best possible registration rate.

Zoar Church (LCMC)
PO Box 2098
7239 W. Highway 61
Tofte, MN 55615

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Tofte, MN
Permit No. 1

To: Box Holder



~ Galatians ~ The Good News of Freedom

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians nearly 2000 years ago, but his message of rejecting slavery and finding freedom in Christ is as important in our world today as it was then. Galatians is dynamite. It explodes the idea that getting right with God is about doing the right stuff and instead it's about the already accomplished work of Christ on the cross. Galatians cuts through the clutter to the heart of the Gospel. In our August series of messages we will be unpacking Galatians to discover the freedom of new life in Christ!

- August 7: ***“God's Gift”*** - Galatians 1
- August 14: ***“Connecting with God”*** - Galatians 2
- August 21: ***“True Freedom”*** - Galatians 3
- August 28: ***“Grow Up!”*** - Galatians 4

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGES 7-11
Join us Aug 8-12 here at Zoar Church at 1:30
for SUMMER GOOD NEWS CLUB



PANCAKE BREAKFAST -- Sunday, Aug. 14 following worship