

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

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To: Box Holder

We asked the Good News Kids why they come to our
Good News Club. Here's what they said:

Kalina says, "It's fun to learn about the Bible."

Georgi says, "My parents sent me."

Cullen says, "Because I like to come here."

Sophia says, "It's fun to learn about God."

Judy says, "There are good things to eat."

Tucker says, "I don't know."

Wyle says, "My mom wants me to learn more."

Jack says, "It sounded really fun."

Tori says, "Because of the snacks."

Justin says, "Because I want to come here."

February/March, 2015



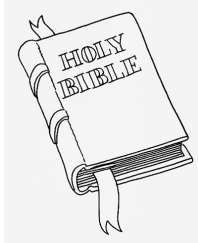
Pastor's Note:

Beautiful Word

The other day I was walking Wesley along the lake walk in Tofte Park, admiring the ice-castle shapes of the ice as the waves broke on the rocks. The snow was falling softly, giving the spruce a fresh coat of white against their dark green boughs. I was struck again by the beauty of God's creation. I don't tend to be too worried about whether he accomplished it in a day or an epoch, He spoke his Word, and it was beautiful and good.

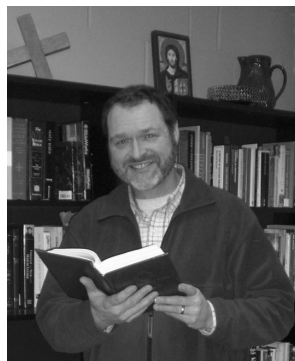
When I got back to the church I put on one of the "Joyce Plays Songs from the North Shore" CDs featuring Joyce Krueger's piano music. Beautiful.

During my studies for our messages on Islam this month I'd been reading the work of Christian historians describing the ancient textual evidence for the Christian story : that Jesus was born, He was crucified, and His disciples saw Him alive again. One of them described how we have enough manuscript fragments from the first century that we can re-assemble nearly the entire New Testament. The more archeologists discover, the more they confirm the basic truths of Christianity. He said it was "beautiful".



Five years ago the English speaking world celebrated the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. Praised for its accuracy in translating the original Greek and Hebrew, and for the beauty

of its style, it set the standard for the English language well into the last century. Since 2011 there has been an explosion of new bible translations, each attempting to capture the beauty of the KJV but in modern English.



One of these is the Nlrv, a Bible in simple, easy to read English. Another is the popular ESV, a literal translation somewhat like the KJV, but without the "thees" and "thous". Another, the "God's Word" version, was originally developed by a group of Lutherans! Reading one of these new translations is a great way to hear anew our story : the story of God becoming man to live among us, show us how to live, and pay the price of our sin for us.

God's Word is truly beautiful. It speaks to us in creation and through music. It speaks through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it speaks through the pages of the Bible today just as powerfully as it did 400 years ago and 1400 years ago.

So, putting this all together : the next time I go walking, I might just show up at your door to introduce myself, share with you a copy of the New Testament in one of these new translations (a gift from Zoar Church), and invite you to come and join us for worship. You might want to pick up a copy of Joyce's CD while you are here! Perhaps we will sing "Beautiful Savior" and you can learn again, along with me, how amazingly beautiful is his love for His creation, including (and especially for) you and me.

Zoar Church Annual Meeting

The Zoar Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 28th following the worship service. During the meeting we will be electing members to the Leadership Team, and prioritizing several building maintenance and improvement projects. One of these projects is a remodel of the kitchen so that we can continue to serve up fishcakes, lutefisk, and lots of pancakes for years to come. Other projects include painting and repairs to our building's exterior, new paint and carpeting in the Gathering Room, new energy efficient windows, lighting updates, and a bell tower!



Friends and members, Zoar Church needs your help to remain a vital gathering place and presence in the Tofte Schroeder North Shore community! Some of these projects are major, but others are just a matter of a little volunteer elbow grease. Some would even make great Thrivent Action Team projects. If you are interested in helping out financially or with a hammer or paint brush, or you are a Thrivent member wondering how you can put to work the dollars available to all Thrivent members, give Pastor Daren a call. At any rate, all members are encouraged to attend the upcoming annual meeting.

Lent Soup and Sandwich Suppers

Beginning February 17, join us at Zoar Church each Wednesday during Lent for a bowl of soup, a sandwich, and fellowship. Following the supper there will be a brief Lenten devotion and prayer. We'd especially like to invite the whole Tofte-Schroeder North Shore community to join us this year. If you'd like to be a part of preparing the meal, whether you are a member of Zoar Church or not, please let Pastor Daren or Secretary Diane know. Preparations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Supper is served at 6:00 p.m. and the time of devotion and prayer will begin at 6:30.

Good News Club

Every Wednesday at the Birch Grove Community Center Good News Club kids sing, learn Bible stories, play games, do crafts, and have a light snack. But I will let the kids speak for themselves! (read kids comments on the back page) The Good News Club is Open to kids from five to eleven years old. There's still plenty of room to join in the fun.

Jerusalem OmniMax Film February 27

Soar high above the Holy Land and plunge deep into the vibrant Old City to experience the iconic sites cherished by billions. "Jerusalem" explores the intersection of science, history, and religion in this enigmatic city. Discover why this tiny piece of land is sacred to three major religions through the stories of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim families who call Jerusalem home. The large format film "Jerusalem" is playing at the Science Museum of Minnesota through March 3rd. Pastor Daren is planning to caravan down on February 27th. Showtime is 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. Contact the church office if you are interested in riding or driving down with us. More details as we see how many people we have interested.

Cold


Someone's cold today, Lord.

While I complain at the inconvenience of having to don a sweater,
an old man stretches himself over a sidewalk grate to keep from freezing to death.

While I frustrate over expensive gifts given to people who neither want nor need them,
a child cries because he has no food.

While I look in dismay at my worn furniture,
a tenement mother fights off fatigue and the rats that would bite her sleeping infant.

Someone's cold today, Lord.
It's me.

 Marsha Hansen



A Case for Smiles

by Pam Iversen

I am looking back at 2015 and all the wonderful memories I have of last year. On top of my list of favorite memories is seeing all the pillow cases you made and donated to A Case for Smiles.

I delivered my final 2015 delivery to St. Mary's Children's Hospital on December 27th. Two nurses met Eric and me with a wagon, and we filled it with six grocery bags full of pillow cases. The nurses asked that we thank all of you and said "their children" loved the cases. I always find it so interesting when they say "their children" and never do they say "their patients". I find their terminology very sweet.

I want to share with you that in August, when I made my delivery, my bins ended up empty! I wondered what I had gotten myself into; starting this program for Northern Minnesota \St. Mary's Children's Hospital and not being able to keep it going. In a panic, had a long talk with God. I told him if he wanted this project to continue I needed help. During September's Challenge, pillow cases came in by mail from all over Minnesota! Eric picked up a beautiful donation from a church in Morris, Minnesota while he was on a hunting trip last Fall. Eighth graders, learning to sew, sent in their pillow cases from more than one school around Minnesota. Imagine the life lesson they learned giving those pillow cases to sick children less fortunate than themselves. I was amazed by their gift.

Each year our donations to St. Mary's Children's Hospital has risen and each year the hospital uses every last pillow case and often runs out before my next delivery.

The Pediatric Floor is where I deliver the cases. Sometimes the pillow cases are used in the NICU to cover tiny mattresses. Pediatric Day Surgery has even been able to use your pillow cases from time to time. In the four years we've been up and running in northern Minnesota, your generous hearts have donated over 4,300 pillow cases to St. Mary's Children's Hospital. On behalf of all those sick children I say a huge and heartfelt "THANK YOU!" Just think of the smiles you've created.



The Malawi Project

We are collecting used perscription bottles. These bottles will be sent to Malawi and used by rural clinics, hospitals and pharmacies. Please remove the labels and wash the bottles. They will be given to people who walk, often a long distance, to get their medications. There is a basket in the narthex of Zoar Church for these bottles. Little gifts often add-up to big blessings!

Evergreen Mission Congregation

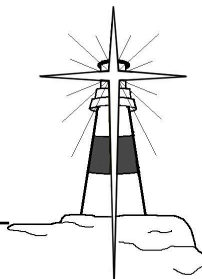
During the month of February, Zoar church will be supporting the Evergreen Mission Congregation in Saipan. Evergreen is a congregation of Chinese, Phillippino, and native Chamorro members on the Pacific island of Saipan in the US territory of the Northern Marianas. Pastor Daren had an opportunity to lead two mission teams from Korea to work with their Pastor Joshua Seo several years ago. Sadly, their church in the San Antonio district of Saipan was destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor last August. Pastor Seo and congregation leaders have located a new building but need help funding a remodel to turn it into a worship and education space. If you would like to help Evergreen Mission Congregation, be sure to mark your offering envelopes of special offerings in February. In March Zoar will once again be supporting the Cook County Food Shelf.



THANK YOU Julie Rannetsberger for all the time and effort you have put in over the years, making the Bloodmobile a success. You will be missed! The Bloodmobile will be at Zoar Church on March 1st. Please call Carla Mennsen at 663-0179 to be scheduled that afternoon. Your gift is a blessing to all who receive it .

ZOAR CHURCH

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



Lectionary and Sermon Series for February and March 2016

Date	Worship Style	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel	Series:Message	Youth/Family
2/7	Traditional Communion Service (Reclaim) 9:30 AM	Genesis 22:15-19	1 John 4:7-15, 5:4-7	Matthew 28:16-20	Cross and the Crescent: "The Great Commission"	Game Night
2/10	Ash Wednesday Service (Contemporary) 6:30 PM	Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:6-8	Romans 10:1-4, 9-13	Matthew 5:17, 38-47, 6:19-21	Ash Wednesday: "Fulfillment of the Law"	-
2/14	Contemporary Worship (No Communion) 9:30 AM	Exodus 12:3,5-8, 11-13	Acts 2:5-12	Luke 23:26,33-34	Final Words: "Father, forgive them..."	Drama Games and Bible Skits
2/21	Traditional Service of the Word (Reclaim) 9:30 AM	Genesis 2:7-9,15-17, 3:6-8	1 Corinthians 15:21-22,35-49	Luke 23:32,39-43	Final Words: "Today you will be with me in paradise."	Worship & Praise
2/28	Contemporary Worship (With Communion) 9:30 AM	Exodus 20:12	Ephesians 6:1-10	John 19:25-27	Final Words: "Behold, Your Son ..."	Movie: <i>Son of God</i> - Part 1
3/6	Traditional Communion Service (Reclaim) 9:30 AM	Psalms 22	2 Corinthians 5:15-21	Mark 15: 29-36	Final Words: "Why have you forsaken me?"	Movie: <i>Son of God</i> - Part 2
3/13	Contemporary Worship (No Communion) 9:30 AM	Jeremiah 2:11-19	Philippians 2:2-8	John 19:28-29	Final Words: "I thirst."	Game Night
3/20	Traditional Service of the Word (Reclaim) 9:30 AM	Psalms 118:19-29	2 Corinthians 6:2-10	John 12:12-19	Palm Sunday: "Always Rejoicing"	Worship & Praise
3/24	Maundy Thursday Service (With Communion) 6:30 PM	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 10:15-25	Luke 22:7-20	Maundy Thursday: "A New Covenant"	-
3/25	Good Friday Service (Contemporary) 6:30 PM	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9	John 19:30, Luke 23:44-47	Final Words: "It is finished."	-
3/27	Easter - Traditional Communion Service (Reclaim) 9:30 AM	Job 19:23-27	1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 51-57	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"	Drama Games and Bible Skits

More at www.zoarchurch.org

Youth and Family Nights

Youth and Family Nights at Zoar are an opportunity to hang out with youth from 0 to 99 and families of all sizes. Hey, if you are a family of one, we are your family in Christ - come join us! Each Sunday we do something different. "Game night" includes pool or foosball, board games or even, dare I say it, yes, cards in church. On "Drama games and Bible skits" night we play group games and explore stories and themes from the Bible in different ways and from different perspectives. On February 28 and March 6 we will be watching and discussing the 2014 film "Son of God". A highlight each month is "Worship and Praise night." Led by Dave Gustafson, we gather to sing some great contemporary praise songs in an informal atmosphere. Bring along your family and friends and join us 4:30 PM each Sunday.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Worship

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Christian Season of Lent while Good Friday is the end. During this time we remember Jesus journey to the cross and his crucifixion. We explore the meaning of his death for his disciples and for us, and we anticipate Easter morning, when he rose victorious from the grave. We are reminded that the darkness of a sinful world is very real. But we are also reminded that even in the midst of deep darkest, the light of Easter is breaking through. Ash Wednesday is February 10. Ashes will be applied to the forehead of those who choose to have them as a sign of the cross of Christ. Good Friday is March 25 when we nail even our own sins to the cross. Both services are at 6:30.

Final Words from the Cross

As he hung on a Roman instrument of torture, the gospels record Jesus speaking seven times to those nearby. Jesus' words were as powerful during his ministry among first century Judeans as they are for twenty-first century Americans. Even as He hung upon the cross his words carried meaning. During this season of lent we will explore one of these sayings each sunday - from the viewpoint of those who witnessed his death as well as for our lives today.

"Father Forgive Them"

"Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother"

"My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

"Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise."

"I Thirst."

"It Is Finished."

"Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit."

