

# The Beacon

## ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

*A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore*



### Good News Club at Birch Grove



Good News Club sponsored by Zoar Church meets every Wednesday at Birch Grove Community Center. Open to students in grades 1-5, Good News Club is a time for singing, fun activities, and learning about God's love for us in Jesus. Here Good News Club kids draw beautiful scenes from God's creation. If you know of a potential club participant, they are welcome to join us. Call Pastor Daren for more information!

### Lutefisk Dinner at Zoar



People travelled from miles around for that annual Zoar rite of fall, the traditional Lutefisk and Ham dinner on Saturday November 5. Here Joyce Krueger and Eileen Hall pose before diving into a plate featuring Gary Hansen's culinary master stroke. Thank you to all volunteers and diners! The Lutefisk dinner is a fundraiser for Zoar's ongoing renovation projects and the winter fuel fund.

### Welcome

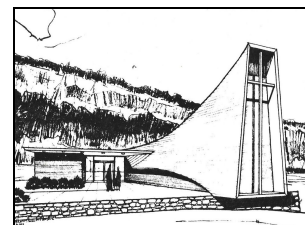
We welcome Emily VanDoren to the position of Zoar Church Secretary! Emily will be at church for your assistance during regular office hours.

### Upcoming Messages

By Pastor Daren Blanck

- "Ekklesia: The Church" - Nov. 13 & 20

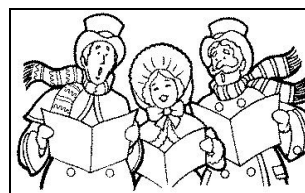
The church isn't a building. The church isn't bishops and synods, councils and popes. Believers in Jesus Christ, gathered in community, doing Christ's work are the church! Throughout the New



Testament Paul refers to the church as the saints. Sinners all, imperfect but bathed in Christ, young and old, we're ordinary saints meeting God in extraordinary ways everyday. It has been said "the Devil is in the details" but for Christians, God is in the details of the everyday as we live each day in the Spirit shining Christ's light with those around us.

- The Carols of Advent - Begins Nov. 27

Advent is a time when we wait in eager anticipation for Christ's coming - for our yearly celebration of his birth at Christmas and his coming again someday. This year Zoar church will be listening and singing our way through the season as we hope to discover more deeply the stories and meaning behind some familiar songs! Advent 2016 runs from Nov. 27 through Christmas.



- The Power of Words - January 2017

Throughout this past election season we've witnessed the power of words to build up and tear down. Words can comfort and words can tear down. Half-truths can leave us shaken. We'll explore the power of words in our January series of messages.

We welcome you to worship with us regardless of your background or heritage. We are committed to being the church of the community!



**~NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT~**

Churches United in Ministry (CHUM) serves more than 8,000 low-income, homeless, hungry, isolated, or otherwise marginalized community members throughout the Duluth community each year. CHUM was founded in 1973 when 10 churches in Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood pooled their resources to meet the needs of the neighborhood's many low-income residents more effectively. CHUM now has 40 member congregations and offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support, and street outreach.

With the addition of 44 apartments for families with children who have experienced long-term or recurrent homelessness, CHUM's response to homelessness covers the full continuum from street outreach to permanent housing. CHUM's programs include Stabilization Services, Distributive Services, and Congregational Outreach and Advocacy.

Zoar Church has supported CHUM annually, recognizing the organization as an important Christian outreach in our region. Please prayerfully consider contributing to CHUM as our regional mission for the month of November.

**YOU ARE MY RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**By Marsha Hansen**

You are my righteousness, my source of holiness.

O Jesus, I confess I owe my life to You.

Though You are heaven's best, You came in lowliness  
to suffer pain and death that I might live anew.

There's no way to ever repay You for the sacrifice that  
You made for me.

But all I have, and all I am, and all I ever may be, out of  
love, Lord, I bring it all and pour it out at Your feet!

**AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED,  
DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING  
THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.**

**~ COLOSSIANS 3:18 ~**



One of many churches destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. Thousands have been left homeless and without medical care. Churches remain one of the best ways to help people most affected by the storm.

**Haiti Hurricane Matthew Relief**

**~DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT~**

In October Haiti was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade. Homes, Schools, Hospitals, and whole villages were washed away or flattened by flooding and the 200+ mph winds. The death toll has risen to more than 1,000 people. Now a month later, one of Matthew's worst repercussions has been a crippling outbreak of cholera throughout much of the devastation zone.

Meanwhile the Washington Times reported late last month that Churches have been instrumental in picking up the pieces. "The church is uniquely positioned to understand the needs of a local community," they reported.

There are 10 Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ in Haiti, members of the same association as Zoar Church in Tofte. In December, as Zoar Church looks to support an international mission or ministry, we intend to work with these churches in getting help to some of the worst affected by Hurricane Matthew. We will be partnering in this effort with Waterside Church, a Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ in Punta Gorda, Florida. Waterside's pastor, Jonathon Kosec has been working directly with churches in Haiti and mission projects in the Dominican Republic for several years.

Look for more details on how we can help our fellow Christians in Haiti to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities next month. In the meanwhile please join us in praying for the people of Haiti in this time of great need.





Zoar Church members threw a baby shower on Nov. 10 for Alpheus Perry. Al's son was born Nov. 3 in Jamaica. Al spent the summer working at Coho Cafe. In Jamaica he is a Bible College instructor. We pray for safe travels as Al returns to his wife and son next month!

## Light Up A Life

The 8th Annual "Light up a Life" offers community members the opportunity to celebrate the life of a loved one during the holiday season. Each donation lights one bulb in memory of one person on our memory tree, located downtown, next to Drury Lane Books. Lights will be lit as donations come in. Donation forms are available at area churches (including Zoar Church), businesses or online at [www.carepartnersofcookcounty.org](http://www.carepartnersofcookcounty.org).

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held across the street at East Bay Suites in their Stone Throw Room on Thursday, **Dec. 1st at 6pm**. Pastor Beth Benson will assist with a short ceremony of reflection and connection. Music will be provided by Ann Russ and Jenny Delfs. The event is sponsored by Care Partners to support end of life services in Cook County. For more information, contact Kay Grindland, at 387-3788 or [carepartners@boreal.org](mailto:carepartners@boreal.org)

## A GREAT LIGHT!

By Marsha Hansen

The people in darkness have seen a great Light!  
 God's promised redemption has come  
 and shattered the night!  
 A virgin gave birth to a baby one morn, and Jesus,  
 the promised Messiah, was born.  
 The nighttime of crying and wondering when He would  
 come has given way to dawn and shouts of joy!  
 In God's perfect timing, He sent us His only Son.  
 Salvation is wrapped up in the Baby Boy!

## Advent Devotions

Zoar Lutheran Church offers a daily devotional from *Our Daily Bread*. *Our Daily Bread* is a non-denominational, non-profit organization that works to distribute materials to help people grow in their relationship with God. These devotionals will be replacing the *Christ in Our Home* devotionals. However, there are still devotionals available from *Christ in Our Home* through the month of December. There will also be a special Advent & Christmas devotional from *Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots* available. Please stop in and help yourself to a devotional to nurture your relationship with God.



## VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

*Ring a bell...help change a life*

It's almost that time of year again - we're looking for bell ringers for this Christmas season! On **Dec. 10th and 17th** Zoar Church will "man" the red kettles at the Tofte General Store. If you are able and willing to ring the bell for an hour, please call Polly Erickson at 663-7398 to sign up. Volunteer hours are from **11am to 6pm**. What a great way to show your Christmas spirit!

## Operation Christmas Child

**THANK YOU!**

The *Caring Hearts and Hands* group gathered together to complete the Samaritan Purse *Operation Christmas Child* Shoe Boxes project during October. Packing these boxes was a fun event and a luncheon at Coho Café followed for fellowship. All in all, fifty seven shoe boxes were packed with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and accessories like tee shirts, socks, and hats. This project could not have been completed without the generosity of the women participating in this group, plus those community members who dropped off their donation gifts. The shoebox, most often, is the first gift many children ever receive. The treasures inside communicate that someone cares for them and gives them an opportunity to experience the love of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ! Thank you to all who made this possible!



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

### **Wednesdays at 5:30 Beginning Nov. 23. Community Soup Suppers**

Come and grab a hot bowl of soup **Wednesday evenings! Starting Nov. 23rd** and continuing through the winter months, Zoar Lutheran Church in Tofte will be hosting Soup Suppers each Wednesday. This is an opportunity for all members of our community to get together and enjoy a simple meal. Please bring your family, friends and appetite. Soup is served beginning at **5:30pm until 7:00pm** every week. Meals are free provided by Zoar Church members and friends.



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**Sunday Worship at Zoar Church: 9:30 am.**  
**Sola Sunday School for Youth & Adults: 8:00 am.**  
**Bible Study is Thursday: 10:00 am. Open to all!**  
**Blood Drive: Nov 14th from 3 - 6 pm. at Zoar**  
**Care Center Worship led by Pastor Daren, Grand**  
**Marais: Sunday Nov 20 at 12:30 pm.**

### **Mitten Tree**

There are lots of kids and adults who could use a little warmth this winter. If you are able to donate new hats, scarves and/or mittens you would warm hearts as well as heads and fingers. There are trees located at both Zoar Church and Arrowhead Co-op that need decorating, so if you add some color **by Dec. 15th**, we'll see that your donations get to a needy child or adult.



### **Advent Decorating**

The time has come once again for decorating the church for Advent and Christmas! We invite the community to join us **Sunday Dec. 4th** after the worship service to trim the tree, hang some garland, string some lights, and get into the Christmas spirit!