

The Beacon

ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



Upcoming Messages in October

By Pastor Daren Blanck

"Encourage each other and build each other up..."

1 Thess. 5:11 (NLT)

One of the reasons we meet together in Christian community each week is to hear the gospel proclaimed anew and applied to life in the here and now as well as the hereafter. Another, the Apostle Paul says, is to encourage one another. I love the warmth of fellowship at Zoar church. People here are great about encouraging each other. I pray as well that each of us takes something away from the message that helps us better understand some aspect of scripture or apply our faith to daily living. Regardless of your religious heritage I hope you will join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am. You will find yourself among friends. Here are the messages coming up in October:

The Good News of Freedom

In the conclusion to Paul's letter to the Galatians, the apostle exhorts the church to fearlessly remain in the Gospel. His message speaks to us in a world where fear seems often so present.

10/9 - Keep it up! (Galatians 6)

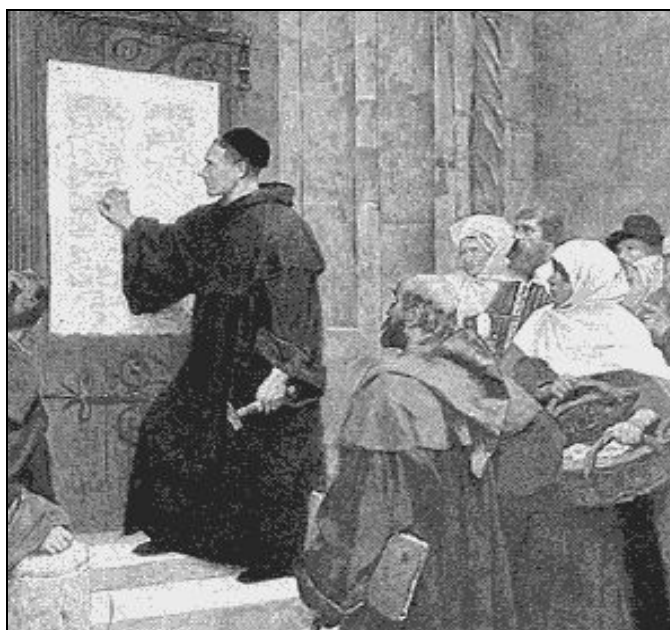
Living the Reformation

499 years ago on October 30, a relatively unknown monk in Wittenberg Germany nailed a bill of 95 theses he wanted to debate regarding practices in the church he believed were unscriptural. The blows of Martin Luther's hammer would soon resonate across Europe, sparking the Protestant Reformation. This series of messages is designed to take a closer look at what the Reformation was all about, and how we, like Luther, can be encouraged by scripture to live out our faith in a hostile world.

10/16 - Here I Stand: What was it all about?

10/23 - God With Us: Practicing "Communion" every day.

11/6 - The Priesthood of All Believers: Our call to service.



Luther nails the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Church, Oct. 30, 1517

Halloween

What is the history of Halloween? How should Christians feel about it? Is there a positive way for us to respond to a holiday that appears so dark? These are some of the questions I hope to explore as Zoar church takes a foray into All Hallow's Eve.

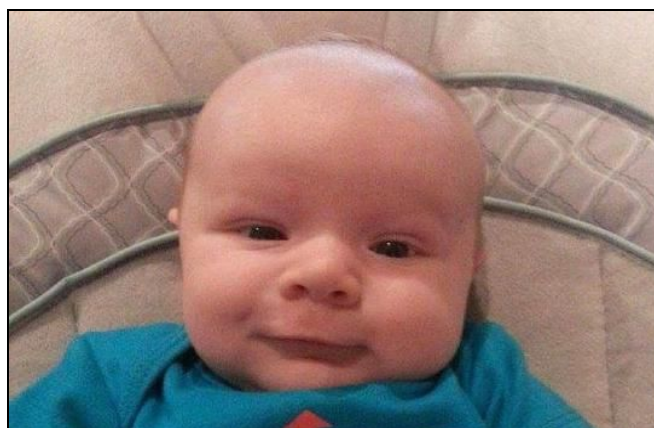
10/30 - Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!





Memorial Garden Ready For Winter

Help was on hand for needed cleaning and digging of the Memorial Garden the morning of September 21. Old plants were eliminated, hostas were divided, and new plants were given a new home. Edging and new chips also lent to a new look of our ten year old garden. Special thanks to Chief Eric, and his assistant Skip for their dedication to this project. Pam and Carol worked along side of Eric and Skip, mostly weeding but never short of expert gardening advice. If you have perennials from your garden that you wish to share, let us know. Stop and see the garden before the frost decides to visit.



We welcome Cooper into Christian Community with us. Cooper was baptized on Sunday September 25. We pray that Cooper's life will be filled with the Holy Spirit as he grows in Christian faith and service.

Baptism

by Marsha Hansen

Immerse me, surround me, baptize and drown me,
O Jesus, with Your holy love

Caring Hearts & Hands

We have a new name for the Zoar's sewing, knitting, and crocheting group... "Caring Hearts & Hands". Anyone, female or male, can join us as we work on various projects. We know there are men who do some of the same crafty items we put together. **COME ALONG WHEN WE MEET!!!** Last month 2 blankets were made for the 2017 West End Graduates. As we cleaned out our project closet we found that we had two very large bags of polar fleece scraps remaining from years of blanket making. We decided to pass love on to some of God's "Creatures" by donating the fleece to Animal Allies in Duluth. The fleece scraps will be braided into toys for cats and dogs at the shelter. Any pieces large enough to cover the bottom of a small or medium kennel will be tied together much like we do the big graduation blankets. These little blankets go home with newly adopted cats or dogs. Also noteworthy... In August, 26 baby bibs were mailed to Bethany Crisis Nursery in Duluth. It is run by Lutheran Social Services and provides emergency day or night care for children 0-12 years old.

Blessed to be a Blessing

Zoar's "Blessed to be a Blessing" stewardship drive has a new look this year. Watch for a letter in the mail. Your job? Two simple steps:

Step 1: *Verify the data previously given to Zoar by you after completing the estimates forms.*

Step 2: *Complete the Estimate of Giving form.*

Mail these 2 forms back to the church and your work is done. Please help us with these 2 items so planning can be accurate for Zoar's 2017 budget year.

Zoar's mission here in Tofte is to be a "beacon of hope" on the North Shore. We are blessed with a beautiful environment. God also blesses us each with financial resources, time, and talents. We pray that together we can fulfill Jesus' commands to love our neighbors and share the good news.

~ Lake Superior Region LCMC Conference ~ "Faith and Health" - Oct. 29

Dr. Arndt Braaten will discuss the connection between faith and health. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at New Life Lutheran Church in Duluth. Open to the public. Contact Pastor Daren for details.

JESUS CALLED THE CHILDREN TO HIM AND SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE." LUKE 18:16 (NIV)

~ September Mission Offerings ~ Samaritan's Purse Disaster Fund

During the month of September Zoar Church Mission offerings were designated for Samaritan's Purse Disaster Fund. While Louisiana was experiencing flood conditions, orange-clad team members are helping homeowners salvage precious home belongings and then assisting them in taking out waterlogged items to the curb. After Italy's earthquake, similar events are taking place. Workers work tirelessly, especially giving aid to those who are homeless and injured.

~ October Mission Offerings ~ Military BibleSticks

Many soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines live in cramped quarters in very uncomfortable and challenging circumstances, working hard and putting in long hours every day - too tired to read a Bible, even if they have one.

The Military BibleStick, developed by the ministry Faith Comes By Hearing, reaches these service men and women, deployed in some of the most dangerous areas of the world, with God's Word in audio. Each Military BibleStick contains the entire Audio Drama New Testament and selected Psalms chosen specifically for "warriors," yet it's only about the size of a pack of chewing gum.

Military service is dangerous - not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually. Many servicemen and women come home with "mental shrapnel." 400,000 have been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. 22 commit suicide every day. God's Word offers peace, comfort, and strength - real help and real hope for our men and women in uniform. Zoar's leadership team has designated October missions offerings for the Military BibleSticks program. We encourage you to contribute to this important mission.



Operation Christmas Child

During October Zoar Church, along with the Hearts and Hands Birthday Club, are working on the Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child. A few of us have been in the process of purchasing suggested items in order to fill the shoe boxes. Anyone in the community can be a part of this mission! There is a display in the narthex of the church in which you can leave your donations of gift items, or a contribution can be made to help with the cost of shipping the boxes. Here's a note from a Christmas Shoebox recipient that just goes to show how important our efforts can be:



Dear Friends,

I received my shoebox gift in Romania at age 2, the youngest you can be to receive a box. So, I don't remember all the details of what happened. But my older sister would always tell me about the day we each received our shoeboxes and how I came to have my toy car. I loved that toy car. I played with it all the time. I hadn't had a toy like that before. At the time, our idea of a Christmas gift was the orange my father received as a holiday present at his job.

The harshness of my life was contrasted with the hope and joy I found in this manifestation of God's love. The shoebox I received ended up being a seed for the Gospel in my life.

My parents had just begun attending the church where my sister and I received our shoebox gifts. My parents saw how the church was reaching out to its community, believers and nonbelievers alike, to show them the love of Christ in a tangible way through these shoeboxes. It made a lasting impression on their own walks of faith with the Lord. A year later, we moved to the United States.

At age 10, I committed my life to Christ. Now, I'm studying biomedical engineering at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. My goal—to make things to help people in Jesus' Name.

The toy car I received as a shoebox gift is a clear example of how God can use the simplest of things to influence people's lives. The Lord can take your gift and plant a seed for the Gospel. He did mine.

**You are invited to help pack shoeboxes for
2016 at Zoar Church on Saturday,
Oct. 22, 10:00 am.**

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME... TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME." ~ MATTHEW 25:35,40 (NIV)

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

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To: Box Holder

Painting Action Team



A big thanks to the folks who gathered on August 21 to help repaint the outside of the church. It was a lot of fun and it looks great! There are still a few "finishing touches" left. Let Pastor Daren know if you might be able to add a few brush strokes of praise!



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH, 5-7 PM.
RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT 218-663-7925

Sola Begins Oct. 16

~The class about being a Christian~

Sola is open to anyone in the community ages 10-Adult. Through Bible based study of the Apostle's Creed, the 10 Commandments and Lord's Prayer, students gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, what "grace" means, and how we live out our faith in our daily lives. *Sola* will meet at 8:00 am each Sunday morning at Zoar. If you want to learn more about Christian faith, we welcome you to join us.

Campfire Sing & Praise Oct. 23

A cup of hot cider, a campfire, and singing with friends to the strumming of a guitar. What could be better?

Everyone is welcome. Tofte Park - 4:30 pm.

Bible Club Starts Oct. 26

Zoar church will once again sponsor Bible Club on Wednesday afternoons from 3:15-4:30 at Birch Grove Community Center. This fun-filled time includes dynamic Bible lessons and creative learning activities for kids aged 7-11 led by local community members. Our goal is to teach kids that God is amazing and Jesus loves them! Contact us for more information.