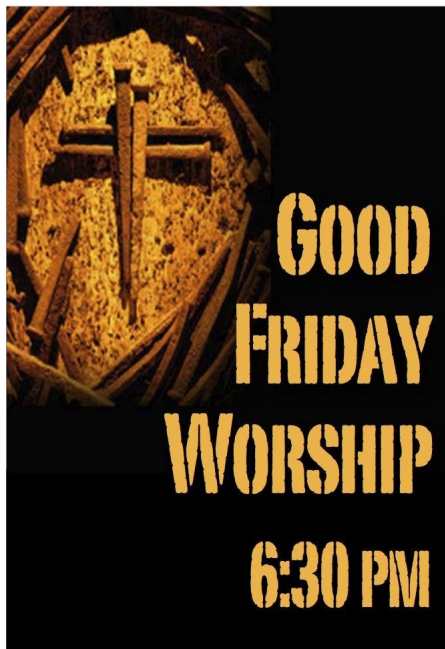


Zoar Church (LCMC)
PO Box 2098
7239 W. Highway 61
Tofte, MN 55615

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I Stand

What am I to do?
What am I to say?
When Satan comes before me
With a list of sins each day?
How can I get clean?
How can I get free?
There's only one way
I can get the victory:

I stand, Yes I stand
In the righteousness of Jesus
I'm trusting in His sacrifice
To make me clean.
I stand, Yes I stand
In the righteousness of Jesus
For the lamb of God
Shed His Holy Blood
And I've Been Redeemed

- Marsha Hanson

Beyond the Sunset

Hymns of Praise by Joyce

A selection of favorite hymns recorded by Joyce Krueger and collected by her family, this new CD is available in the Church Narthex. Free Will Donations will support Zoar's missions and ministries.

Chosen People Ministries

~ May 13, 6:30 PM ~

We look forward to welcoming Trevor Rubenstein of *Chosen People Ministries* to share his testimony and speak on the topic of "Messiah in the Old Testament." Trevor will outline the major prophecies in the Old Testament which predict the coming of Christ and help us as Christians to better understand our Jewish friends and neighbors. Call or email for more information.

Services are in-person, streamed on Facebook, and over 107.9 FM in our Parking Lot at 9:30am.

The Beacon

ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



Upcoming Messages

By Pastor Daren Blanck

Why? The Meaning of Jesus Death *Passion Week and Easter Sunday*

Passion Week is the week between Palm Sunday commemorating the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was met by cheering crowds, and Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. Passion week is followed by Easter Sunday when Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. This year we will be asking, how do we, as Christians, understand Jesus' death in the light of our own mortality? What gives us hope in the empty tomb? **The Good Friday Service will be at 6:30 PM. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services will be from 9:30 - 10:30 AM.** You are invited to join us online on Facebook, on the radio in Tofte at 107.9 FM, or in-person. There is no need to make reservations to join us in person, just bring a mask and join us inside.



Jesus - Myth, Madman, or Messiah?

A fascinating composite image of "Christ Pantocrator" from the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and the image from the Shroud of Turin.

Who is this Man? Jesus in Mark *Messages In April and May*

Written during a time when Jesus' followers were persecuted and struggling, the Gospel According to Mark is filled with a passion and urgency that continues to challenge us today. From Jesus' baptism to his crucifixion and resurrection, the events described by Mark help answer the question, "Who is this man?" Come explore Mark during **weekly worship from 9:30-10:30 each Sunday** through the end of May. You may join us online on Facebook, on the radio in Tofte at 107.9 FM, or in-person. There is no need to make reservations to join us in person, just bring a mask and join us inside.

April 11 - Jesus - Myth, Madman, or Messiah?

April 19 - Stories that Changed the World

April 25 - Even the Winds and the Waves

May 2 - The Word Came with Power

May 9 - The Yeast of the Pharisees



The End

Messages Beginning in May

There will be a day when the end will come. Individually we will all be confronted by our own mortality. Scientists know that one day the Earth will cease to be a habitable place for life. The Bible speaks of a day when Jesus will return and the end will come. How then shall we live? In fear? Searching for signs and wonders that the end is near? Seeking to stave off death through heroic medicine? This series of messages examines the end - our own as mortals on this earth, our planet's, and Biblical end times. Different Christians approach these topics quite differently, our approach will be to see what the Bible actually says (and doesn't) and ask some challenging questions about mortality, prophecy, and eternity. Communion is celebrated every first and third Sunday.

May 16 - Soul Man

May 23 - Facing Death with Dignity and Courage

May 30 - In a Flash

Virtual Coffee & Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM. Led by Pastor Daren. Join us by Google Meet. For an invite send a request to zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com



~February Mission Project ~



Water Missions International is a nonprofit Christian engineering ministry that creates sustainable safe water and sanitation solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas. They have created customized safe water solutions in nine permanent country programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Using state-of-the-art technology and engineering expertise, the organization has provided access to safe water and the Living Water Message of Jesus Christ for more than 2.8 million people in 52 countries on five continents since 2001. Through the provision of safe water and community outreach events doors are opened to share the Gospel.

Cook County Food Shelf

~March Mission Project ~

During the month of March, Zoar is supporting the *Cook County Food Shelf* as our Mission Project. The Cook County Food Shelf operates out of the First Congregational Church at Third Avenue and Second Street in Grand Marais. We are collecting monetary donations as well as donations of non perishable foods, household items, and clean brown paper grocery bags. For more information about the needs of the food shelf, you can contact Gwen Lenz at (218) 387-9860.

MN Adult & Teen Challenge

~April Mission Project ~

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge (MnTC) has been working for over 30 years to help teens and adults struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Their "mission is to assist teens and adults in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs." They offer effective and affordable programs throughout Minnesota in the form of long-term, faith-based recovery programs and also short-term licensed treatment programs. In addition to their treatment programs, MnTC uses their prevention program to inform people about the drug situation in their area and hosts community forums as well as presents to classrooms to inform about the dangers of drug use.



Blood Drive

The latest Blood Drive was held at Zoar Church on Wednesday, March 10th. It, again, was very successful despite the pandemic, so a huge shout out to all our faithful givers! Also, thank you to the scheduler, Carla Menssen, who has given many hours for lots of years to seeing that the March blood drives were highly successful, plus giving blood herself! Thank you to all of you who had a part in saving so many lives!!!



Birch Grove Kids' Bible Club

Over the course of the last few months, kids aged 9 -11 have been meeting once a week for *Bible Club*, a program sponsored by Zoar Church held at the Birch Grove Community Center. 5-8 year olds will be offered a six week Bible Club opportunity beginning Wednesday, April 7. Bible Club is a program for kids to learn about the Bible's themes of God's grace and forgiveness, and how followers of Jesus are called to love God and love their neighbors. Using songs, crafts, activities and age appropriate *Superbook Adventures* for older and *Veggie Tales* for younger, Bible Club kids get a chance to apply these ethics for living to their own lives. If you have a child aged 5-8 that you think would be interested in participating, give us a call or send us an email.

Semi Annual Meeting

The Semi Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held this coming **Sunday, March 28 immediately following the worship service at 10:45**. During the meeting congregational President Tina McKeever will lead a discussion on our annual budget, the congregation's monthly giving, church projects and our mission of being a beacon of hope on the North Shore.

(Meeting continued on page 3)

(Meeting continued...) The trustees have several projects that they are working on including some window replacements and the addition of new exit signage. They would like some help with some additional projects. These include remounting and lighting the cross in the sanctuary, repairing and rebuilding the rock wall that supports the SW corner of the narthex, moving the LP tank, replacing old fluorescent lighting with more energy efficient LEDs, finding a taker for the old organ, and doing some brushing and property clean-up behind the parking lot. Upcoming concerns include parking lot and septic system maintenance, boiler replacement and possible expansion of the solar project. Tina and Pastor Daren will report on the solar panels that were installed last fall.

Treasurer Judy Gregg reports that congregational giving has remained mostly steady during the Covid-19 pandemic while certain expenses have gone down. Monthly mission contributions from 2020 are below.

Our worship services are now inside and in-person and open to anyone in the community, however we continue to request that masks be worn and distancing maintained between families. We will discuss how and when we will begin enjoying sharing food (like soup) again, summer activities, and other outreach events at the meeting.

All members of Zoar are invited. If you'd like to join by *zoom*, please send an email and we will send you the link.

2020 Mission Donations

Month	Mission	Raised*
January	Samaritan's Purse	\$300
February	Solar (Peru & Local)	\$2,113
March & April	Cook Co. Food Shelf	\$800
May	The Net, NakNek, Alaska	\$300
June	Seed Company	\$175
July	Starfish Fund	\$1,150
August	Care Partners	\$150
September	Birch Grove School	\$450
October	Samaritan's Purse	\$225
November	CHUM - Duluth	\$1,060
December	Global Health Ministries	\$700

* Note: Monies sent to outside organizations below \$1,000 are rounded up to the nearest \$25 and above \$1,000 to the nearest \$10. Added money comes from the general fund.

The most recent *GoodNews@Home* video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/GGDWxMEBvjE> or ask questions of Linda at goodnews.athome@gmail.com.

Remembering Pastor Stew

Pastor Stew Carlson was the Pastor of Sychar Lutheran Church in Silver Bay until January of 2020 when he accepted a call to Grace Lutheran in Hayward Wisconsin. Stew passed away unexpectedly in his bed in Hayward this past week. I knew Stew as an active member of the Silver Bay community with a crazy knack for being present in kids' lives. He was also a valued ministry colleague. He was one of the area pastors who participated in my ordination and he remained the chair of the Lake Superior clergy fellowship of the LCMC even after he accepted the call to Hayward. I will miss our talks on such topics as how to be ambassadors of God's love and grace wherever God has planted us, the Minnesota Vikings, some theological treatise he'd just read, or the best combination of dishes at the Maya Mexican Restaurant in Hermantown where we often ate after our clergy meetings. Most of all I will remember his energy, enthusiasm, and selfless love for the students of William Kelley School and his Silver Bay congregation. Godspeed Pastor Stew. We will see each other again by God's grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ~ Pastor Daren



Good News @ Home

Zoar Church is excited to announce the addition of a new ministry to our outreach on the North Shore and beyond. Al and Linda Alexander (*pictured*) requested to have their ministry, *GoodNews@Home*, become part of Zoar. *GoodNews@Home* was started by the Alexanders in April, 2020 when their nursing home ministry was shut down due to COVID. The ministry delivers Bible teaching and encouragement through video DVDs and YouTube videos. They are aimed at isolated and sequestered people who are unable to be involved in a regular church community. The videos are watched in several nursing homes in the Twin Cities as well as by individuals across the states. One resident even sends them to her family and friends in Africa! If you would like more information, check out the videos by going to YouTube and search for 'Linda Alexander – GoodNews at Home'.



