

Zoar Church (LCMC)  
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## Zoar Church Fall Newsletter 2023

### Zoar's Community Fall Dinner



Join us for a  
Fishcake/Ham Dinner on  
**Saturday Nov 4th** from  
**4:30 pm - 7:00 pm** at  
Zoar Lutheran Church.  
Cost: \$18.00 per Person  
Kids 8 and under: \$5.00

Please call the Church Office to reserve your spot at  
218-663-7925.

Fishcake Recipe from the Old Satellite's Country Inn  
Restaurant (Marion McKeever)

Come join us - you will not want to miss this!

### Community Soup Suppers

#### Wednesday Evenings at 5:15

Join us on Wednesday evenings this winter for a free bowl of soup! Soup suppers provide an opportunity to come together as a community during the cold, and often tough, months of winter to share a delicious meal, fellowship and a few songs. Soup is served from **5:15 pm until 6:00 pm** and is provided by Zoar Church members and friends. The first soup supper will be held on **Wednesday, October 4th**.



**Sunday services at 9:30 AM are in-person and streamed on Facebook**

**Church office hours: Thursday 8am-11am**

**Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday mornings**

# The Beacon

## ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

*A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore*



### Upcoming Fall Messages

This fall, Pastor Al will continue the series of messages on the Gospel of Matthew

10/1 – Parable of the Two Sons – Matt 21:23-32

10/8 – Parable of the Tenants – Matt 21:33-46

10/15 – Jesus Heals Ten Lepers – Luke 17:11-19

10/22 – A Tax Question – Matt 22:1-14

10/29 – The Truth will Set You Free - John 8:31-36

11/5 – Beatitudes - Matt 5:1-5

11/12 – Parable of 10 Virgins – Matt 25:1-13

11/19 – Parable of the Talents – Matt 25:14-30

11/26 – Jesus the Judge – Matt 25:31-46

### Advent Messages - The Second Coming of Jesus

During this Advent season, Pastor Al will speak on Jesus' second advent as foretold in Chapter 24 of the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus tells His followers to be ready and to look for the signs that proceed His second Coming.

### Thought of the Week

Every week, Pastor Al posts a 3-4 minute video on YouTube for encouragement and contemplation. These mini messages use some aspect of life and our Christian walk to focus our thoughts and challenge us to apply what we learn. A new video is published every Tuesday; you can find the link on Zoar's Webpage or on YouTube at: @lindaalexander-goodnewsath5013

### Why Go to Church?

We surveyed a couple hundred Christians on why they do or do not go to church. 40 people responded and their comments are worth sharing. They cited the following as the most important reasons they go to church: Worship (19), a Scriptural message (18) and fellowship/community (17). Other reasons for going to church included: get encouragement/ meet needs (10), receive forgiveness (4) and children's ministry (3). The principal reason cited or not going to church was people had their own private devotionals (8).

Interestingly, one person commented they did not go to church for years because no one asked them. Therefore, you are hereby invited to Zoar church for worship, learning and fellowship.

Please join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m.!



### Zoar Fall Calendar

- Oct. 4 – Soup Suppers Return.  
Serving 5:15 - 6:00 pm
- Oct. 18 – Missionary Soup/Supper:  
Indian food with Bishop Kishore Daroga
- Nov. 1 – Bible Club begins!  
Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:30 at BGCC
- Nov. 4 – Community Fishcake and Ham dinner.  
Serving 4:30-7:00pm
- Monday Nov. 20 – Special Thanksgiving  
Soup/Supper, 5:15 – 6:30pm;  
Bible Study following (optional)
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm
- Sunday Services and Children's Church: 9:30 am  
10/1 through 11/26 – Messages from Matthew  
12/3 through 12/17 – The Second Advent (hint:  
Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!)

### Pastor's Corner

~Pastor Al Alexander~

Fall is a good time for thanksgiving. God loves it when His children recognize and thank Him for what He has done.

This fall, I am especially thankful for the privilege of succeeding Pastor Daren as pastor of Zoar church. I thank God for Pastor Daren



and the Zoar family for their tremendous support. I feel very welcomed, encouraged and empowered.

Sometimes, I go through the alphabet in thankfulness. I thank God for things and people starting with A and then go on to B and so forth all the way to Z. This works especially well when I can't sleep at night.

Thanks for reading this message. I encourage you to make this fall a season of thankfulness.

## Hope Academy

### ~September Mission Project~



Hope Academy is a 600 student, private, K-12 Christian school that focuses on inner city children. Hope Academy has graduated 97% of their students, fundraises 90% of tuition, has 93%

of students accepted into college, and has never turned a child away because of financial issues. Hope Academy provides Minneapolis youth with a remarkable Christ-centered education that celebrates and fosters the unique fingerprints of God within each student.

## Wycliffe International

### ~October Mission Project~

This October Zoar supports Wycliffe Bible Translators. Wycliffe is an interdenominational nonprofit organization with a goal "for people from every language to understand the Bible and be transformed." Zoar has had a number of connections with Wycliffe throughout the years and we believe in their mission to "serve with the global body of Christ to advance Bible translation and work together so people can encounter God through His Word."



### ~ November Mission Project ~

Zoar Church is supporting *Samaritan's Purse* as our Mission Project during the month of November. *Samaritan's Purse* is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that provides spiritual and physical aid to people around the world by providing help to those affected by war, poverty, natural disasters, and famine.

## Monday Evening Bible Study



Please join us for Bible study **Monday** evenings at **6:00pm** in the **Gathering Room**. Between now and Christmas we will be exploring those passages of Matthew not covered by the Sunday messages. Pastor Al's objective is to mix Scripture understanding practical application. Let Pastor Al know if you would be interested in calling or Zooming into the study.

## CHUM

### ~ December 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 area each year. CHUM has 40 member congregations and offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support, and street outreach.

CHUM is Duluth's primary safety-net organization where people who are homeless or who have low incomes can go for assistance and a safe community. CHUM also operates Duluth's largest food shelf. CHUM has a Drop-In Center where people can pick up mail, do their laundry, eat a hot meal, and socialize.

## International Mission – Peru!



Over the past several years, Zoar Church worked with Richard and Roxana Cruz to provide passive solar heating to a school high in the Andes of Peru. The tiny

village of Chichillapi is located above the highest mountains in Rocky Mountains (at 15,019 ft!). Its unheated school is so cold the students often cannot hold a pencil or concentrate on their lessons. Through the generosity of Zoar Church and the creativity of former Pastor Daren Blanck and others, passive solar "kits" were supplied to Chichillapi and installed by Richard and Roxana.

The final stage is expected to be complete in early October. The principal is thrilled to have these panels and says they are operating and improving the school so much, other villages are noticing and want panels of their own! Please contact Zoar if you are interested in giving to this important project.





## Zoarkins Children's Church

Every Sunday, during 9:30 worship, the Zoarkins (kids of Zoar) have their own time of worship with a Bible lesson, singing, games and crafts. Our goal is to learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun, supportive environment while parents (or grandparents!) enjoy the sermon by themselves. All kids (ages 5-12) are welcome – come and see what fun church can be!

### Bible Club



Kids' Bible Club will be starting **November 1st**, we will meet **WEDNESDAYS** from **3:15-4:30pm** at **Birch Grove Community Center**. Kids; Bible Club is a non-denominational program that uses Bible stories to teach timeless truths and the importance of good character. Each

week we will do a game or craft, sing songs, watch an animated "Superbook" Bible adventure video and have a healthy snack. Bible Club will be lead by Pastor Al with support from Lavona Czaplicki on the piano (other volunteers may help on occasion). Zoar Church sponsors this free program and all kids (Grades K – 4) are invited! We will meet November through April when school is in session; you will be notified by email of any cancellations or schedule changes. If kids are involved in other after-school activities, they may join Kids' Bible Club at any time.

If you have any questions, please call Pastor Al (612-308-2185) or Linda Alexander (612-817-8045). We look forward to having fun and learning with your kids!

### Special Indian Soup/Supper

On **Wednesday, October 18th**, our soup/supper will be turned over to **Bishop Kishore Daroga**. Bishop Kishore has founded 13 churches in Andhra Pradesh, India. He will be cooking for us and sharing what God is doing in India.

Please join us for a free delicious Indian meal! All are welcome! **Serving 5:15 - 6:00pm**. A free will offering will be taken.



## Grief Recovery Group



We all experience grief at some point in our lives, whether it's loss of a job, loved one, relationship or what life was like prior to COVID. Come share and connect with others who have also experienced grief in

their journey of life. This common ground can often help us heal, make us feel less alone, and even inspire us to help others. **Sawtooth Mountain Clinic** and **Care Partners of Cook County** are pleased to offer a 10-week **Grief Recovery Group** that will meet in **Grand Marais** starting **Wednesday, October 11** from **6-7:30pm**. Because no single model of grief can perfectly describe each person's unique experience, the Grief Recovery Group will explore different forms of grief, focusing on psycho-education and emotional regulation skills. Participants will receive valuable guidance and discover tips to help navigate the grief process in a supportive environment – a safe place to talk about struggles, learn new ways to cope, and support one another along the way.

Facilitators are Melissa Beseres, MSW, LICSW and Anna Ross. Melissa is a Behavioral Health Consultant at Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, with experience working in a Level I trauma hospital and outpatient mental health clinics. She has also worked in individual therapy and group therapy settings and has earned a Grief Support Specialist Certificate through the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Anna is in her final semesters working toward a master's degree in social work. She has worked in the mental health field for the past 5 years and holds a bachelor's degree in psychology. Anna has co-facilitated the Grief Group with Melissa for the past two sessions.

The Grief Recovery Group is intended to be small in nature to foster getting to know each other and build group camaraderie, so group size will be limited. This is also a closed group, meaning that members will all start and finish together with no new participants added during the ten-week session. It is important that participants are at least 6 months removed from their loss as the activities and group sharing may be overwhelming for those who are just beginning their grief journey. Please call Sawtooth Mountain Clinic at 218-387-2330 to see if this group might be a good fit for you. The Grief Recovery Group is offered through a partnership between Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and Care Partners of Cook County and is sponsored by Care Partners through a Federal Older Americans Act grant administered by the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging.