

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

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To: Box Holder

Zoar Church Summer Newsletter 2025

Church on the Rocks - 8:00am



Our summer tradition of hosting Sunday services on the rocks near Father Baraga's Cross in Schroder began on June 1st and will continue through September 14th with Dave Gustafson on music and Pastor Al preaching. We have enjoyed joyful worship with great attendance. Our thanks to Roby Revier for fogging the area to keep the bugs down!

♥ Memorial Blood Centers Community Blood Drive

Monday July 21st

The Memorial Bloodmobile will be at Zoar on **Monday July 21st** from **2:00pm-6:00pm**. Donations are by appointment only.

You can schedule your donation by going online to www.mbc.org/searchdrives (Sponsor Code 1673) or by contacting Terri Nelson at (651) 398-7838 or terrinelson57@gmail.com.

Sunday service: 9:30 Sanctuary & streaming on Facebook

Church office hours: Friday 8am-11am

Pastor's office hours: by appointment 218-663-7925

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN is affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

The Beacon

ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



Pastor's Corner Good Postcard

~Pastor Al Alexander~

Have you ever received a postcard from a friend on holiday? Maybe a postcard from New York City showing the beautiful skyline. Or maybe you sent a postcard from Tofte showing the amazing shoreline of Lake Superior. Note that the New York postcard was not a picture of the ghetto, nor was the Tofte postcard a picture of Big Joe's Salvage. Postcards are meant to attract people to the places they represent.

Did you know that, as a Christian, you are Jesus' postcard? In Matthew 5:16, Jesus tells His followers to let their light shine so others will see and glorify God. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul tells Christians they are Jesus' ambassadors.

The truth is, as Christians, we are either drawing people to Jesus by our actions or driving people away from Jesus. For instance, by showing love and respect to everyone, we attract people to Jesus. Hatred, anger and being judgmental push people away from Jesus.

I encourage you to live your life worthy of Jesus' calling and, please, forgive those who give Jesus a bad name. Don't let a bad postcard drive you away from Jesus. A bad postcard's actions do not invalidate the truth of Jesus; it only means that one person has made a mistake.

Want to learn more? Please join us for worship at Zoar (9:30 am Sundays) or on the rocks near Father Baraga's Cross in Schroeder at 8:00 am.



Upcoming Summer Message Series

Starting July 13, Pastor Al will be speaking from the Gospel of Matthew, the first book of the New Testament. The Gospel of Matthew is written to a Jewish audience and recounts the teachings, miracles and fulfilled prophecies of Jesus. It emphasizes the establishment of a spiritual kingdom. Catch the good news live at Zoar (Sundays 9:30am) or early birds can join us on the rocks near Father Baraga's Cross (8:00am). Or join online through Facebook (Zoar Lutheran Church of Tofte, MN).

Zoar Calendar

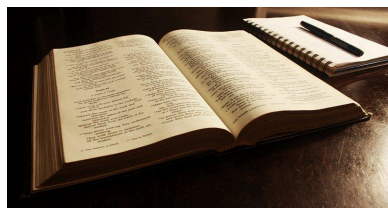
- Vacation Bible School July 14-16 6-7:30 pm
- Bloodmobile - July 21st
- Craft Night - July 23rd 6pm
- Spanish Movie Night - July 31st
- Indian Dinner - August 2nd
- All-Church Picnic & Game Night - August 13
- Spanish Movie Night - August 21st

Building Community!

Zoar Church has many opportunities to use your gifts and talents to strengthen our community and show your love. Do you like to sing? Join the worship team on Sundays or come to the monthly sing-a-long at North Shore Living! Do you love to bake? Sign up to bring treats at the Rocks or in church (Signup Genius). Love to garden? Pitch in to care for the gardens around the church. Are you an encourager? Consider visiting those who are unable to get around like they used to or come to Spanish movie nights and interact with some of our temporary workers. How about kids and teaching? Just once a month, you can teach Children's Church and make a difference in our kids' lives!

Also, Zoar continues to support local groups and services. Zoar will be hosting the Garden Club on July 19th and the Bloodmobile on July 21st. If you have questions or want to get involved, contact Pastor Al (218-663-7925) or Linda (lmsalexand@gmail.com). We'd love to get you connected!

Community Bible Study



Do you have questions about the Bible or your faith? On Mondays (6-7 pm), everyone is welcome to our Community Bible

Study; you can join in person at Zoar or online via Zoom. Most recently, we learned what the Bible says about the end times (primarily from Matthew 24 and 25), spent four weeks studying the life and teachings of Martin Luther and just completed two weeks on how the Books of the Bible were chosen.

July 14th, we start a verse-by-verse study of 1 John. The apostle John wrote 1 John to combat Gnosticism and encourage believers in Christian truths. My favorite verses on forgiveness and love are found in 1 John. Please join us! (To get on the Zoom list, send your email address to Linda Alexander at lmsalexand@gmail.com.)

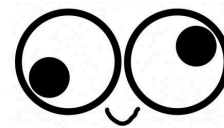
Kid-tivities!

On June 14th, the Zoarkins traveled in 3 carloads to Duluth to tour the William A. Irwin ore ship. We started our day picnicking at Enger Tower Park; even though it was chilly and windy, we ran around like crazy people, climbed the tower and rang the bell. Next we toured U.S. Steel's former flagship Great Lakes freighter. We explored the galleys, bunk rooms, engine room and the luxurious guest quarters, complete with a lounge and dining room. The last stop was the bridge where all the kids got a chance to ring the bell.



Look Back

Summer is in full swing and Zoar has been busy. Did you miss out on some of the fun already?



MOVIE NIGHT: Zoar held its first Spanish movie night; 10 of our temporary workers came and enjoyed a comedy with Tim Allen and an all-star cast. Even the English-only attendees were able to figure out the plot and laugh along!

SPECIAL THANKS for July 4th – Ken Netland and his small but mighty band of workers did a bang-up job serving more than 350 people at the Tofte July 4th celebration! Pastor Al worked with his team to decorate the truck (thank you Jim Gregg!) and pass out candy to the crowds. Everyone had a blast! What a marvelous way to celebrate our freedoms and the country we call home.



Look Ahead

So much more to come this summer – you won't want to miss Vacation Bible School (VBS) (7/16 – 7/18), All-Church Picnic and Game night (August 13), Spanish movie nights (7/31 and 8/21) with English subtitles, sweet and salty popcorn and beverages! Finally, Zoar is hosting another Indian Dinner with Bishop Kishore on August 2nd. Great fellowship, learning and deliciousness are in your future so mark your calendars; we hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is literally right around the corner! Richard and Roxana will again be helping Pastor Al to ensure the kids play great games, learn a bunch and have a wonderful time. Lessons are based on 3 parables of Jesus: the parable of the Soils, the parable of the Treasures and the parable of the Good Samaritan.

As much as possible, VBS will take place outside this year so dress and plan appropriately.

You won't want your kids to miss this!

Wed-Fri (7/16-18) from 6-7:30pm.

Starfish Fund

~ July Mission Project ~

In addition to the support that we provide to national and international missions, we also support the needs of our local community. During the month of July, we will be collecting funds for our Starfish Fund. The Starfish Fund is used to support community members in times of need.



Craft Nights

Tina McKeever and Greta Hall have been organizing Craft Nights each month on Thursdays. Have you got a project in the works, want to start something or just want some company as you work on it? This is a wonderful opportunity to join in the conversation, laughter and encouragement. Join us for the next night July 23 at 6pm; everyone is welcome!



Birch Grove Kids' Meals

~ August Mission Project ~

With limited resources, Birch Grove Community School provides breakfast bars in the morning which, in many cases, keeps children from starting the school day hungry so they are better able to concentrate on learning. BGCS also serves a hot lunch four days a week. One day a week students bring lunch from home. Zoar's contribution assists BGCS in purchasing breakfast bars and food for children that forget a lunch from home. BGCS appreciates your support in this program.



Hope Academy

~ September Mission Project ~

Hope Academy is a 690 student, private, K-12 Christian school that focuses on inner city children.

Hope Academy has graduated 97% of their students on time, fundraises 90% of tuition, 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.



Prayer Requests

At Zoar, we believe prayer changes things - not only for those prayed for but for those who pray. We have many ways to share your requests and ensure your needs are being lifted up to God. You can call the church, use our website, tell a church member, email or call Pastor Al, drop a note or Prayer Card (from the pew seats) in the Prayer Box in the Narthex at Zoar.



Your needs matter to us and to God - and will be treated confidentially if you request. Please share your requests and experience the blessing of answered prayer and the spiritual support God will provide. And, if you want to join the Prayer Chain to pray regularly for others, contact Pastor Al via email or phone.

Global Health Ministries

~ October Mission Project ~



Throughout the year Zoar Church supports several missions and ministries locally and throughout the world. All of these have some sort of connection to our congregation. The ministry we will support in October is Global Health Ministries (GHM), a program a former Zoar pastor has been with for several years. GHM is a non-profit, volunteer-powered organization that supports global Lutheran efforts in healthcare. GHM ships medical equipment and supplies all over the world. These shipments help make healthcare accessible for some of the world's most vulnerable people.