

Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 18, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Welcome Visitors - Please fill out the Visitor Card and put it in the giving box in the Narthex

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Opening Prayer

Bell

Confession and Forgiveness (From Psalm 51 & Romans 7)

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing. (Silence for prayer and reflection)

P: Cleanse me and I will be clean;

C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Gathering Hymn "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" - CCLI # 106879

V1 Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of man,
Oh You rescue the souls of man.

V2 Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offered hope when our hearts had
Hopelessly lost our way,
Oh we'd hopelessly lost the way.

V3 Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own.
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh we're falling before Your Throne.

Chorus You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for,
Oh our hearts always hunger for.

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Opening Hymn: “Thy Word” - CCLI # 14301

Chorus

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path*

V2 *I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end*

V1 *When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end*

*Nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end
(Chorus)
And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path*

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 119:105 Proverbs 4:18, Proverbs 6:23, Proverbs 20:27 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,

The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being.

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:2, James 4:4 (NIV)

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?

Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV)

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “Light and Money” - Pastor Al Alexander

Song “Read Your Bible and Pray Every Day”

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Closing Hymn: "Seek Ye First" - CCLI # 1352

V1 *Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

V2 *Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!*

V3 *Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!*

Ending
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!
Allelu, Alleluia!*

Announcements

- January Mission: Bishop Kishore Daroga - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - This week - James 1:9-20
- Soup Supper - Wednesdays, serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Leadership Team meeting - 2/1/26 after service
- All Church Sunday - February 8th
- Zoar is looking for
 - A piano player to play for one or preferably two services per month.
 - A Sunday School teacher for one or two Sundays a month
 - Contact Linda at 612 817 8045
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Thanks to those who are praying for our young people. We could still use a couple of more prayers. Contact Pastor Al
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
- Prayer Requests - Form in seat back; box in Narthex
- Sign up for after church treats
 - Signup Genius on Zoar Facebook page and website
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of new puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Sending Hymn: “The Joy of the Lord is My Strength”

*The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength*

*He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more
He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more
He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more*

The joy of the Lord is my strength

The joy of the Lord is my strength

*He gives me living water and I thirst no more
He gives me living water and I thirst no more
He gives me living water and I thirst no more*

The joy of the Lord is my strength

Benediction Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen

Sending

Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen

Bell and Dismiss

Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925
Al Alexander, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Linda Alexander

Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex
or by clicking the link “Give” on the zoarchurch.org homepage.