

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship “Cup of Cold Water” - Cyndi Aarrestad

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 reflection and confession)

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 “Blessed Assurance” - With One Voice # 699

V1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

V2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

V3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

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: “The Servant Song” - CCLI # 72673

*Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too*

*I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through*

*We are pilgrims on the journey
We are travelers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load*

*Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too*

*I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the the peace you long to hear.*

Old Testament Readings: Psalm 62:12 Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)

and with you, Lord, is unfailing love; and, You reward everyone according to what they have done.

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will reward them for what they have done.

New Testament Readings: Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 6:10, 13:2; Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:40-42 (NIV)

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “Rewards” - Pastor Al Alexander

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

Communion

Please come forward during the communion hymn and take a cup of wine or grape juice and a wafer back to your seats. If you are joining us at home, please use your own bread or crackers and wine or juice. We believe the Lord’s Supper is a “means of grace” offered freely to all who seek Him. Please join us.

Communion Hymn: “Mystery” - CCLI # 5208445

Words of Institution & Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Holy and merciful God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.

C: Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving and to conform our lives to his, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever,

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: *"They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love"* - Family of God # 677

V1 *We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity
will one day be restored.*

V2 *We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other,
we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land.*

V3 *We will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
We will work with each other,
we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity
and save each man's pride.*

V4 *All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.*

Chorus

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Announcements

- August Mission: Birch Grove Kids Meals - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Monday's 6:00-7:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - This week: Galatians 4:21-31
- Leadership Team Meeting – Today, 8/16/26 after church
- Priscilla Revier Memorial Service – 8/22/26 at 10:00
- Church on the Rocks Sundays at 8:00 am near Fr. Baraga's Cross in Schroeder.
- Sophia Blanck address:
 - Swab Sophia Blanck, US Coast Guard Academy, 15 Mohegan Avenue, Chase Hall Box 7063, New London, CT 06320-8112
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Our Daily Bread devotional available in the Narthex
- Prayer Requests - email Pastor Al
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Sending Hymn: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” - CCLI # 6399315

V1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

V2 Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

V3 Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

V4 Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Chorus
Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

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

Bell

Sending

Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

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

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.***