

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship “Gospel Boogie” - Russel Bennett

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 “There is Power in the Blood” - CCLI # 21370

V1 Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

V4 Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

V2 Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Refrain
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

V3 Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Sin-stains are lost in its life-giving flow;
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

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: "In His Time" - CCLI # 25981

V1 *In His time, in His time*

*He makes all things beautiful, in His time
Lord please show me ev'ry day,
as You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say, in Your time*

Chorus

*Lord please show me every day,
as You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say,
in Your time*

V2 *In Your time, in Your time*

*You make all things beautiful, in Your time
Lord my life to You I bring,
may each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time*

V3 *In Your time (in Your time)*

*in Your time (in Your time Lord)
You make all things beautiful in Your time
(in Your time)
Lord my life to You I bring,
may each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time
Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time*

Old Testament Readings: Isaiah 29:18 Isaiah 35:4-6; Malachi 3:1 (NIV)

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll,
and out of gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind will see.

say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

New Testament Readings: Acts 13:24, 19:4 (NIV)

Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel.

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-6 (NIV)

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

P: The Word of God for the people of God C: Thanks be to God

Message: "Jesus, What Are You Doing?" - 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

Closing Hymn: "My Savior My God" - CCLI # 4592255

*I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned
I only know at his right hand
Stands one who is my Savior*

*I take him at His word and deed
Christ died to save me: this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior*

*That He would leave His place on high
And for sinful man to die
You count it strange, so once did I
Before I knew my Savior*

*My Savior Loves, my Savior Lives
My Savior's always there for me
My God; He was, my God; He is
My God; is always gonna be*

*Yes, living, dying: let me bring
My Strength, my solace from this spring
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior*

*My Savior Loves, my Savior Lives
My Savior's always there for me
My God; He was, my God; He is
My God; is always gonna be*

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 5:1-6
- Zoar Church Annual Meeting, Sunday 9/27/26 after church
- Church on the Rocks Sundays at 8:00 am near Fr. Baraga's Cross in Schroeder.
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- New 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: "It is Well with My Soul" - Reclaim # 224 v. 1,3,4

V1 When peace, like a river
Attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, with my soul.
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

V2 My sin, oh, the bliss
Of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross,
And I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

V3 And Lord, haste the day
When my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
And the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with 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.***