

Zoar Church (LCMC)
PO Box 2098
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Tofte, MN 55615

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Zoar Church Fall Newsletter 2026

Community Soup Suppers Return! Wednesdays starting 10/28 at 5:15pm



Zoar is happy to provide Soup Suppers again this year. A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex. Special suppers (aka. Not SOUP) will regularly be planned as well.

We invite you to share your talents and resources by making soup or bringing salads, breads or dessert. If you just need a break from nightly cooking, come as you are and enjoy a good meal and fellowship!

Soup Suppers are provided as an act of agape love; there is no charge though Freewill Offerings are appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

♥ Memorial Blood Centers Community Blood Drive

Monday November 16th

The Memorial Bloodmobile will be at Zoar on **Monday November 16th** from **2:30pm-5:30pm**. Donations are by appointment only.

You can schedule your donation by going online to www.mbc.org/searchdrives (Sponsor Code 1673) or by contacting Anna Latz at annamlatz@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

Jesus' Rest

Matthew 11:28-30

~Pastor Al Alexander~



We all rest because we're tired, need a recharge. We nap, go fishing, take a walk, play a computer game, or simply get a good night's sleep.

Jesus promises a different kind of rest to His followers who are weary and heavy laden with the

difficulties of life; those trying to do it on their own; those consumed by habitual sins; those with guilt because of their past actions.

To the one who comes to Him and takes on His yoke, Jesus promises and delivers so much!

- deep, spiritual peace
- relief for the soul
- forgiveness of sins
- freedom from guilt
- no fear of death
- love and joy
- relief from the slavery of habitual sin
- relief from the pressures of the world
- help through difficulties

Not a problem free life, but a *better* life. The key is to allow yourself to be yoked to Jesus.

In Jesus day, yokes were carefully fitted to the animal. The ox would be brought to the carpenter. He'd take precise measurements, and custom fit the yoke so it would not chafe or wound. So Jesus' yoke is custom-made just for YOU; it's pleasant, well-fitting, and kind.

(Pastor's Corner Cont.) Not a one-size-fits-all, but a specific path designed for your unique strengths and weaknesses.

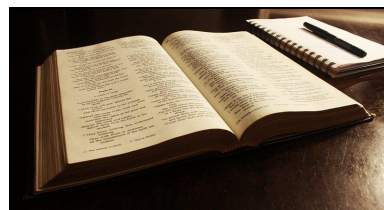
You see, a yoke unites two in common purpose. Jesus says, "I will help you through life. I'll direct you, but we'll work together for God's glory."

Please don't be afraid to take on Jesus' yoke. His burden is easy and His load is light and you will find rest for your soul.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Community Bible Study



Bible Study continues this Fall for all who wish to attend. We now offer 3 ways to participate – in person at Zoar or online live

via Zoom (get your email address to imsalexand@gmail.com if you are not getting regular invitations) AND the Zoom meeting is recorded and sent out for those who can't attend live.

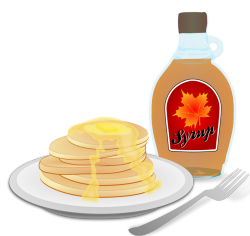
We will finish our study of Galatians on September 28 and will take a 2-week break. Bible Study resumes on October 19th with Linda Alexander facilitating.

NOTE: We will be shifting to our Winter hours so Bible Study will start at **3pm** on October 19th until daylight returns in the Spring!

Zoar Calendar

- Sept 13 – Last Church on the Rocks for the season
- Sept 20 - Jeremy and Plami Chase baptism, 11:30 am
- Sept 27 – Zoar Church Annual Meeting; after worship
- Oct 21 – Heritage Dinner 6-8pm; a cultural extravaganza of dishes made by visitor workers and Zoar members
- Oct 28 – Bible Club starts; Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 at BGCC
- Oct 28 – Soup Supper starts –Wednesdays, 5:15-6:30 pm
- Oct 28 – Confirmation Class – Wednesdays 6 pm (after Soup Supper)
- Early Nov – Fishcake and Swedish Meatball Dinner; date and time TBD
- Nov. 25 – No Bible Club or Soup Supper (Thanksgiving)
- Dec 23 & 30 – No Bible Club or Soup Supper (Christmas)
- Mar 24, 2027 – No Bible Club or Soup Supper (Spring Break)
- May 5, 2027 – Last Bible Club and Soup Supper for season
- Sunday Services and Children's Church 9:30 am
 - Message series on the Gospel of Matthew
- Community Bible Study at Zoar or online Zoom – Mondays 6-7pm through 9/28; winter schedule starts 10/19, Mondays 3-4pm
- Men's Breakfast – Saturdays at 8:00 am starting 10/24

Men's Breakfast Starts 10/24!



For all you men! Zoar is starting a new men's fellowship on Saturday mornings at 8am. Come join us for breakfast (prepared by Pastor Al), a short devotional as well as camaraderie and plenty of coffee (or tea). We'll also consider some project for Zoar or the community. Looking forward to seeing you October 24th 8:00 am in the Zoar Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Al and Linda will be leading confirmation classes after Soup Suppers starting October 28th. Young people 5th Grade and above are welcome. The 45 minute time will be split into teaching foundational Christian doctrine and focused fun activities. The purpose is to teach the kids what Christianity is all about and for each young person to make their faith their own.

Depending on the number of students, we will assist in returning the kids home after class. If you or your child is interested in attending, please contact Pastor Al or Linda Alexander.

Kids Bible Club

Bible Club will again meet in the BGCC Starting October 28, from 3:15-4:30pm on Wednesday. We are excited to announce Bible Club will be taught this year by Richard and Roxana Cruz. They bring their love of God and the kids as well as creativity and energy to the Club. Expect active game times, creative play and crafts, acting out the lessons and, of course, treats and songs. Everyone is sure to enjoy this fun format! Look for the signup sheet in your school packets.



Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Mark 10:14

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 graduates 97% of their students on time, fundraises 90% of tuition, and never turns 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.



Operation Family Christmas

~ October Mission Project ~

This program is sponsored out of The Hub in Grand Marais and is intended for local families who need a little extra help during the Christmas season. Families with children can fill out an application to receive gifts and/or food cards if they are approved; families can be either permanent residents or temporary workers. Zoar will have applications in the narthex if you or someone you know could qualify for these gifts. We will also have more information about how the program works and who qualifies. Finally, Zoar will donate October's Benevolent Offering to the program. Don't miss this chance to show the love of Christ to our neighbors at Christmas!

Samaritan's Purse

~ November Mission Project ~



Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. It is inspired by the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of

people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

3rd Annual Heritage Dinner

October 21, 2026

Each year, Zoar Church and the international community team for our Heritage Dinner where we prepare and serve dishes from our heritage to the community. It's a great time of tasting new dishes and sharing time with people from around the world. Last year we had everything from borscht and lutefisk to empanadas. With help from local resorts and funds from Empty Bowls, Zoar covers the cost of food purchases and welcomes the many who have stepped up to cook some of their favorite dishes. Please join us, October 21st for a delicious meal and intercultural experience! We will serve from 6-8:00 pm to allow international workers time to transition from their workday to the dinner.

