

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, October 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

Opening Song: "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" - CCLI # 265239

V1 Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name of the Lord Most High

V3 The name of the Lord is a strong tower
The righteous run into it and they are safe

V2 Holy is the name of the Lord
Holy is the name of the Lord
Holy is the name of the Lord Most High

V4 Glory to the name of the Lord
Glory to the name of the Lord
Glory to the name of the Lord Most High

Confession and Forgiveness (From 1 John & Psalm 32)

Pastor: God is light

Congregation: in him there is no darkness at all.

P: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and confession)

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

C: And he forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Song "Carry Me" - CCLI # 5025910

V1 Like a wounded lamb I come
Lord, I cannot walk alone
I come to fall into Your arms
I am weak and weary
Lord, there's far too much to carry
I come to fall into Your arms

V2 In the dark night of my soul
When I cannot carry on
I come to fall into Your arms
I will cast my cares on You
For I know You care for me
I come to fall into Your arms

Chorus Father, carry me
through the pain I must endure
Carry me through the darkness
Carry me for Your arms are strong and sure
My Father, I need You to carry me

Bridge Comfort me, comfort me,
My Father, I need You to comfort me
Carry me, carry me, My Father,
I need you to carry me.

Ending My Father I know You will carry me
Oh my Father I know You will carry me
My Father I know You will carry me
I need You to carry me

Song “Gratitude” - CCLI # 7158417

V1 All my words fall short
I got nothing new
How could I express
All my gratitude

V2 I could sing these songs
As often as I do
But every song must end
And You never do

V3 I’ve got one response
I’ve got just one move
With my arms stretched wide
I will worship You

Chorus So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
‘Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it’s not much
But I’ve nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah

Bridge Come on my soul
Oh don’t you get shy on me
Lift up your song
Cause you’ve got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the lord
(Repeat)

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

Old Testament Readings: Joshua 24:15B, Amos 5:15 A, Proverbs 10:20-21 (NIV)
But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,
but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

Epistle Readings: James 4:4, Galatians 5:22-23A, Romans 14:12 (NIV)

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.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:30-37 (NIV)

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “For or Against Jesus” - 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.

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

Song: “Your Love Never Fails” - CCLI # 5337172

V1 Nothing can separate
Even if I ran away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes but
You have new mercies for me ev’ryday
Your love never fails

V2 The wind is strong and the water’s deep
But I’m not alone here in these open seas
‘Cause Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide
I never thought I’d reach the other side
But Your love never fails

Chorus You stay the same through the ages
Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don’t have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
And Your love never fails

Bridge You make all things
work together for my good
(Repeat)

Announcements

- October Mission: Operation Family Christmas - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Monday's 3:00-4:00 pm
 - On break, resumes 10/19/26
- Fall programs start soon
 - Men's Breakfast, Led by Pastor Al, Saturdays at 8 am, starting 10/17
 - Heritage Dinner, 10/21 6-8 pm – See poster in Narthex
 - Bible Club at Birch Grove, Led by Richard and Roxana, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 starting 10/28
 - Soup Suppers, Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 starting 10/28
 - Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers starting 10/28
- Please be gentle with water usage at the church. Our tank is full.
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- See Pastor Al if you would like to become a member of Zoar
- Thanks to all who are praying for our young people
- 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 or email Pastor Al
- Sign up for after church treats - sheet in Narthex
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace

Bell

Sending

Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

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

Dismiss

Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925

Pastor Al Alexander 612-308-2185 • Music provided this morning by Dave Gustafson

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