

Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship “Gospel Boogie (A Wonderful Time Up There)- Johnny Cash

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 “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” - CCLI # 25400

V1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

V2 The chosen seed of Israel's race
He ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

V3 Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

V4 Oh, that with younger, sacred flaw
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

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: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” - CCLI # 2762582

V1 *Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him Who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.*

V2 *Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side—
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond’ring eye
At mysteries so bright.*

V3 *Crown Him the Lord of life!
Who triumphed o’er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.*

V4 *Crown Him the Lord of heav’n!
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv’n
From yonder glorious throne,
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days
Adored and magnified.*

Old Testament Readings: Jonah 1:17, 1 Kings 3:5, 9, 12 (NIV)

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

...the Lord appeared to Solomon...and...said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

...”give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong”...

(God said)... “I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Epistle Readings: Colossians 2:2–3, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

...in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Gospel Reading: Matthew 12:38-42 (NIV)

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.” He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: "Jesus Is the Greatest" - 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: "There is None Like You" - CCLI # 674545

*There is none like You
No one else can touch my heart like You do
And I can search for all eternity, Lord
And find, there is none like You*

*Your mercy flows like a river so wide
And healing comes from Your hand
Suffering children are safe in Your arms
There is none like You*

Announcements

- October Mission: Operation Family Christmas
 - Poster and Applications in Narthex
- Fall programs:
 - Community Bible Study - Ephesians, Mondays 3-4 pm
 - Led by Linda, at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - Bible Club at Birch Grove, Led by Richard and Roxana, Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30 starts this week, 10/28
 - Soup Suppers, Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 starts this week, 10/28
 - Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers starting 11/18
- Leadership Team meeting, today 10/25 after church
- North Shore Living in Grand Marais, today, 10/25 at 2:00
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Please 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.
- Please invite and Like us on FaceBook

Sending Hymn: “Our God (is Greater)” - CCLI # 5677416

V1 Water You turned into wine,
opened the eyes of the blind
there's no one like You,
none like You!

V2 Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes we rise
there's no one like You,
none like You!

Chorus

Our God is greater,
our God is stronger
God, You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer,
awesome in power Our God! Our God!

Bridge And if our God is for us,
then what could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us,
then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us,
then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us,
then what could stand against?
Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

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

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.