Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 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: "Lead Me to the Cross"** *- CCLI # 4785828*

V1 *Saviour I come quiet my soul*
Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom

V2 *You were as I tempted and tried human*
The word became flesh
Bore my sin in death
Now You're risen

Bridge *To Your heart*
To Your heart
Lead me to Your heart
Lead me to Your heart

Pre-Chorus
Ev'rything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Chorus
Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

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 ***"My Life to You"*** - *CCLI # 4584988*

Your love is true, it never changes
No matter what I've done You will always love me
Your mercy and compassion, Lord
Always surround me, for that I surrender
My life to You, my Lord
My Life to You

I open all my heart to You
Laying down my fears I offer everything
Leave me with Your light
So that I can choose forever surrender
My life to You, my Lord
My Life to You

Forever I will worship You
Forever I will praise Your name
For You are holy, holy, holy
For You are holy, holy, holy

Song ***"Be the Center"*** - *CCLI # 2650429*

Jesus, be the center
Be my source, be my light, Jesus
Jesus, be the center
Be my hope, by my song, Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide, Jesus
(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: Jeremiah 4:3, Hosea 10:12 (NIV)
This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he comes
and showers his righteousness on you.

Epistle Readings: 1 Timothy 6:10, 1 John 2:15, Romans 1:16A (NIV)
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:18-23 (NIV)
Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

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

Message: ***"The Sower" (Part 2) -*** *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: "Holy Love" - *CCLI # 1774073*

V1 *Many waters cannot quench your love,*
Rivers cannot overwhelm it
Oceans of fear cannot conceal your love for me

V2 *Many sorrows cannot quench your love,*
Darkness cannot overwhelm it
I will not fear, your love is here to comfort me

Chorus *Holy love, flow in me,*
Fill me up like the deepest sea
Like a crashing wave pouring over me,
Holy love flow in me

Bridge When I find you I find healing
When I find you I find peace
And I know that there's no river so wide
No mountain so high, no ocean so deep
That you can't part the sea

Announcements

- November Mission: Samaritan's Purse - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study, Mondays 3:00-4:00, Ephesians
    - Led by Linda, at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
- Confirmation Classes, Led by Pastor Al and Linda, after Soup Suppers starting this Wednesday, 11/18
- Next Men's Breakfast – Saturday 12/5/26, 8:00-9:00
- Leadership Team meeting today after service.
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- See Pastor Al if you would like to become a member of Zoar
- Need one more to pray a young person
    - Thank you to those who are praying
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al.
- 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

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.