*First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 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***

***Lighting of the Advent Candle*** *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NIV)*

*The people walking in darkness*
*have seen a great light;*
*on those living in the land of deep darkness*
*a light has dawned.*
*For to us a child is born,*
*to us a son is given,*
*and the government will be on his shoulders.*
*And he will be called*
*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*
*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
*Of the greatness of his government and peace*
*there will be no end.*
*He will reign on David's throne*
*and over his kingdom,*
*establishing and upholding it*
*with justice and righteousness*
*from that time on and forever.*
*The zeal of the Lord Almighty*
*will accomplish this.*

***Hymn*** **"Light One Candle"** - *With One Voice # 630 v. 1*

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.*
*He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise*

***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*** **"How Many Kings"** - *CCLI #* 5351880

***V1*** *Follow the star to a place unexpected*
*Would you believe after all we've projected*
*A child in a manger*
*Lowly and small the weakest of all*
*Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl*
*Just a child*
*Is this who we've waited for 'cause*

***V2*** *Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior*
*All that we have whether costly or meek*
*Because we believe*
*Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure*
*And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer*
*Do you believe*
*Is this who we've waited for*

***Chorus***
*How many kings stepped down from their thrones*
*How many lords have abandoned their homes*
*How many greats have become the least for me*
*And how many gods have poured out their hearts*
*To romance a world that is torn all apart*
*How many fathers gave up their sons for me*

***Bridge*** *Only one did that for me ooh*
*All for me ah ah ah*
*All for me all for you*

***Ending***
*Only one did that for me oh*
*All for me all for you*

***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 Reading:** Psalm 62:5–6, Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)
Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**New Testament Readings:** Colossians 1:27, 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)
To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Gospel Readings:** John 1:4-5, John 16:33, Matthew 11:28–30, John 11:25, Matthew 6:25, 33 (NIV)
In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
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.
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

***Message:*** ***"Hope" -*** *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**

**Song:** ***"Seek Ye First"*** - CCLI # 1352

***V1*** *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*
*And its righteousness*
*And all these things shall be added unto you*
*Allelu Alleluia*

***V2*** *We do not live by bread alone*
*But by every word*
*That proceeds from the mouth of God*
*Allelu Alleluia*

***V3*** *Ask and it shall be given unto you*
*Seek and you shall find*
*Knock and the door shall be opened unto you*
*Allelu Alleluia*

**Song:** ***"It Is Well With My Soul"*** - CCLI # *2891594*

***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!*
*Praise the Lord, praises the Lord, O 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.*

**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, Wednesdays after Soup Suppers
- Next Men's Breakfast – This Saturday 12/5/26, 8:00-9:00
- Leadership Team Meeting on 12/13 has been moved into January, tentatively 1/17/27 after church.
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- See Pastor Al if you would like to become a member of Zoar
- Thank you to those 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.
- 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** *Romans 15:13 (NIV)*
*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

**Sending**

*Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.*
***Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen***

**Bell and Dismiss**

***Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925***
***Al Alexander, Pastor 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.***