

Zoar Church (LCMC)
PO Box 2098
7239 W. Highway 62
Tofte, MN 55615

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Good News Club Resurrection Play Easter Sunday

“Jesus is the Good, Good News,” so sang the Birch Grove Good News Club kids during their performance on Easter Sunday at Zoar. Their “Resurrection Play” told the story of Jesus rising from the dead. A pancake breakfast courtesy of Gary and Marsha Hansen followed in the Fellowship Hall. Later Pastor Daren asked the congregation to consider three questions: “What does this all mean?” “Do I believe it?” and “What am I going to do about it?” What a great day to celebrate His resurrection, our salvation, and our new life in Christ!



The **Beacon**
ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



- April Sermon Series -
Stories to Live By:
The Parables of Jesus in Luke



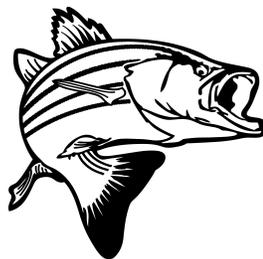
Jesus taught in Parables. These 2000 year old earthly stories with heavenly meanings have real and profound relevance to us today. In this series of Sunday morning messages we'll look at some of the parables that are found only in the gospel of Luke.

If you've heard them before, we'll seek in this series to understand the words of Jesus in a fresh light. If you've never considered the words of Jesus, it will be a great way to begin to understand the heart of the man at the center of Christianity.

- **Cr tkl32** "The Meaning of Love - The Good Samaritan" *Nwng'32-47/59+"
- **Cr tkl39** "Exercises in Missing the Point -The Rich Fool"" *Nwng'34-35/43+"
- **Cr tkl46** "God's Relentless Love - Lost Sheep, Lost Coins""*Nwng'37-3/32+"
- **O c{ '3** "The Way Home - The Prodigal Son" *Nwng" 37-33/54+"
- **O c{ '!** "Making Life Count - The Rich Man and Lazarus" *Nwng'38-3; /53+"

Fishing Stories

If you have a favorite fishing story you'd be willing to share, I'd love to include it in an upcoming sermon series I'm planning entitled *ōI qpg" Hkuj kpō"/"Vj g"Hkuj kpi "Uxqt kgu"qH'vj g" Dkdrō0*. Just send it to blanckd@gmail.com or give me a call. (If its a story you can tell on somebody else, its all the better!)



Pastor Daren and Michelle Blanck, Elijah and Sophia,

NOTES FROM PASTOR DAREN
Yearning for Spring

The warm weather in mid-March got me thinking of spring. I imagined blue skies, warm sunshine, green grass and blooming flowers. Alas, when I woke up on the Saturday before Easter Sunday to snow on the ground my heart sank. I said to Gary Hansen, who was setting up for the pancake breakfast the next day, that I should have known better, I had been told not to expect spring until April on the North Shore. He laughed and said, "April? The last snow fall won't be until the end of May!" For many around the world, Easter Sunday is all about spring, cuddly bunnies and chirping chicks. Perhaps a cold breeze helped remind me once again that the real joy of Easter isn't all of that, it is the resurrection of Jesus. In rising again Jesus proclaimed that he conquered sin death, and the power of the Devil, and that through him we can have eternal life. Now in grateful response we, along with every one of his followers, are sent out on a mission of love for our neighbors, to let His light shine through us. Spring will come, as surely as He lives, and I'm looking forward to a bright one. I pray you are as well.

The Basket by the Door

Just inside the door of Zoar Church a basketful of colorful, hand knitted and crocheted squares catches the eyes of passersby. A short note is attached to each square: "Put me in your pocket, backpack, or purse, in your car, your desk or briefcase. Put me anywhere! Then, when you need a "God Hug" I will be there!"



Written on the back of the note is this passage: Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

How did these small, knitted reminders of God's love and care come to be tucked into a basket on that table next to the church door? Who made them? Can anyone just take one?

Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo attended the Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. The two women started the Prayer Shawl ministry in 1998, and since then the ministry has grown to include millions of churches around the world. Shirley Seidel, with the help of Carol Markwell, introduced the Prayer Shawl and Prayer Square ministry to Zoar Church about ten years ago. Women of Zoar and the community have knitted and given away more than one hundred Prayer Shawls, and the basket of Prayer Squares constantly needs refilling.

Often, the women who knit and crochet the Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares do not know whom their handiwork will bless. They say that they knit prayers into their work; prayers for healing, peace, comfort, thanksgiving and joy. When a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square is complete, a blessing is said. A card explaining the gift of the shawl, its uses, and the name of the person who made it is included.

Even though the recipient of the gift of a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square may never meet the person who made it, a spiritual bond is created. The Love of God is passed along to another who, in turn, passes that love on to another, and so the living presence of God's Holy Spirit is known through us. The note attached to the Prayer Square explains, "This little square was made for me to touch and hold each time I pray; its comfort helps to set me free. It calms the night and cheers my day. Someone took the time to care; each stitch is a prayer, a thought of love. As I am blessed by this small square I thank the Lord in Heaven above."



If God Never Answered

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Y qwf 'k'wknidg'y qt vj 'k'vq'd'qy 'cv'J ku'vj t'qpg. "
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~~~~~ ~ Marsha Hansen*

## Bible Study: Moving to Tuesdays

The weekly Bible study at Zoar is moving from Thursdays to Tuesdays at 10:00 AM! During the month of April we will be looking closely at the parables of Jesus found in the Gospel of Luke. Open to everyone in the community.

## Youth and Family Nights

### Game Night, Amazing Grace, Worship & Praise,

Game night will be April 3 this month. On April 10 and 24 we will be watching parts 1 and 2 of the film *ōCo c/kipi* "I tcegö about William Wilberforce, a man of Christian conviction who against all odds nearly single handedly brought an end to the British slave trade. On April 17 Dave Gustafson will once again lead us on guitar in Praise and Worship, featuring some of the latest contemporary Christian music in an informal setting. All youth and family night activities are on Sunday evening at 4:30 PM. Open to youth and families from 1 to 99.

