

Zoar Church (LCMC)
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Remembering Joyce Krueger

Joyce Amy Nelsen Krueger was 93 when she was called home on June 13, 2020. Joyce had been a long time resident of Tofte and a member of Zoar Church. Joyce was a woman of remarkable faith. She lived her faith in love and service to her family, her neighbors and her church. She was a Postmaster in Tofte, a member of the West End Garden Club, and she was a charter member of the Christian Contemporary group, *Generations For Christ*. *Generations* included musicians young and old who led worship twice a month at Zoar. Joyce played the keyboard with gusto at Zoar and later at the North Shore Care Center in Grand Marais where she played for sing alongs and worship services.

We were saddened by Joyce's passing in June, especially considering the limited opportunities to spend time with her before her death due to COVID-19 precautions. We believe, however, that we will get to sing along with Joyce again in heaven. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Thessaloniki, "Do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."



So on **Sunday, August 30th** we're going to celebrate Joyce's life and we're inviting the whole community to join us. We will be singing some of Joyce's favorite hymns and songs as we dedicate the **9:30** worship service to her memory and her witness to the world. (Joyce's family will be holding a private family funeral service at a future time.)

Community Food Distribution Event



The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency is planning on a fall distribution of shelf stable meals on **Wednesday, September 30th at noon** at the Zoar Church Parking Lot. Each box



includes two weeks of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. This project is intended for members of the community making 300% of the federal poverty limit or less or those of any income who have a need due to COVID-19. Pre-registration is not required, however, in order to

have an estimate of the number of meals needed AEOA is requesting that you pre-register by phone at 218-749-2912.

Outdoor Services at Father Baraga's Cross every Sunday until September 20 at 8:00 AM
Drive-In Parking Lot Services at Zoar Church at 9:30 AM through September

The Beacon

ZOAR CHURCH PARISH NEWS

A Beacon of Hope on the North Shore



Upcoming Messages - August, September & October

By Pastor Daren Blanck

Ordinary People - Extraordinary God!

One of the most striking things for me about reading about the “great heroes of the Bible” is that hardly any of them are “heros” as we might think of action heroes today. They are generally ordinary folks tapped by God to do amazing things.



Abraham was a shopkeeper’s son, Moses was born a slave, David was a shepherd boy - the youngest of his brothers, Elijah was from such a small town nobody to this day knows for sure where it was, Mary was a peasant girl, and Peter was a fisherman. I could go on and on. These are regular, ordinary people. In fact the Bible’s usual villains are those born into wealth and privilege.

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker, a trade he continued to practice wherever he went. Paul never thought of himself as a hero. He was often sick and his eyes were weak. In one of his letters he calls a physical ailment he is experiencing a “thorn in the flesh.”

“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away,” he says. But God’s response is, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

Paul traveled on foot and by ship throughout the Mediterranean region preaching the gospel of Christ crucified, but the apostle credited everything to God’s power working in him. He said, “When I am weak, then I am strong.”



That same strength is ours as we trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Paul reminded Christians who were experiencing persecution that, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.”

Throughout history ordinary people have done amazing things when empowered by our extraordinary God - from the middle ages through today, from Korea to Macedonia, from abolitionists to industrialists, from children’s TV hosts to college professors. *(Continued to the right)*

The Fruitful Life



The Bible says being plugged into the Holy Spirit looks like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

When Jesus talks about fruit he’s often referring to grapes or wheat. He says fruitfulness comes with pruning, that is sometimes the best fruit comes from vines that have been fastened up in some way or had some leaves snipped off. He also says the fields are ripe for the harvest.

What does all of this mean? This summer we’ve been engaged in a study of the Biblical meaning of a fruitful life. Come to the **8:00 AM outdoor service at Father Baraga’s Cross through September or the 9:30 AM Drive-In service to find out more.** Zoar Church strives to be the church of the community. We welcome you to worship with us regardless of your background as we journey in faith together.

- Aug 23 **“Generosity”**
- Aug 30 **“Faithfulness”**
- Sept 6 **“Gentleness and Self-Control”**
- Sept 13 **“Pruning”**
- Sept 20 **“Harvest of Abundance”**

Martin Luther was one of those people. In the 16th Century he rediscovered the core of the Christian Faith in five simple “solos” in Latin (or we could say “alones” in English) - We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Scripture alone is the rule of faith and in it we discover the God who alone is to be worshipped and praised.

This series of messages is about ordinary people like you and me who God called on to do amazing things. Using the “5 Solas of the Reformation” we’ll discover the lives of people who were called to the heights of grace and faith, to Christlikeness in living and to God’s word and worship. Join us inside on **Sundays at 9:30 at Zoar Church beginning July 27.** MDH cleaning protocols and social distancing guidelines will be practiced.

Care Partners

~ August Mission Project ~

Care Partners of Cook County provides support and companionship on the journey of aging and serious illness. They were incorporated as a nonprofit in 2015. Care Partners provides services and programs that allow community members to stay in their home, helps them to maintain their health and quality of life and helps plan and arrange for care. Trained volunteers provide services to improve the quality of life for those with life-threatening, life limiting, or chronic illnesses.

Volunteers provide companionship, check-ins, presence at end-of-life, and respite for caregivers. Senior Rides is also available to residents 60 and over in Cook County through Care Partners, helping residents to attend medical appointments and run essential errands. Other programs include Senior Chore Program and Caregiver Support. Care Partners does not require clients to pay, but encourages donations. For the month of August, our mission collections will be going to Care Partners to ensure that they can continue to assist members of our community.



Annual Meeting Sept. 20th

The annual meeting of the congregation is set for **September 20 at noon**. During the meeting members of the congregation will have the opportunity to review church finances, get an update on current and future projects from the trustees, give input and receive reports from the deacons and Pastor Daren on worship and the missions and ministries we support.

Elections for vacancies on the Leadership Team will also be held. We are also in need of individuals willing to serve in leadership positions including one deacon, a treasurer, and a secretary. There is also a need for members to serve on the Altar, Audit, Bereavement, and Worship committees or as the congregational Historian. If you are interested in serving the congregation in one of these capacities, or for more information, please contact Pastor Daren or president Tina McKeever.

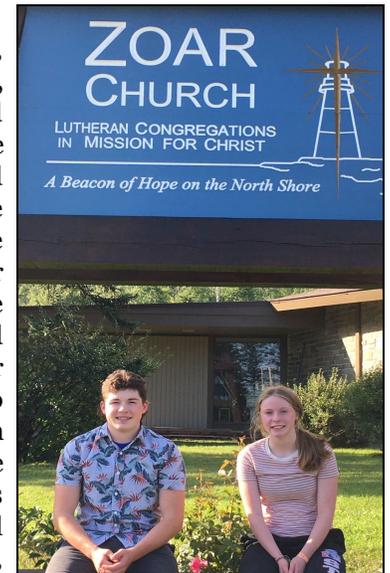


Baptisms and Confirmations

Jesus commanded his disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is a sacrament with many meanings - as the people of God we welcome new members into His church, we pray for the Holy Spirit’s presence in the lives of those baptized to create and sustain faith, and we see it as a reminder and a reality of the forgiveness of sins in the blood of Jesus. We believe that baptism is God’s work, and with the early church we baptize children as well as adults. Jesus affirmed the faith of children and called us to childlike faith in him.

At the same time scripture says, “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” In the Haugean Lutheran tradition then, confirmation has been a means for adolescents and teens to gain a deeper understanding of their faith and encourage them in their own confession, affirming the promises God makes in baptism.

This coming Sunday, **August 23 at noon**, Tori P, Arvo E, and Katherine S will be baptized and Elijah and Sophia B will be confirmed along the banks of the Cross River in Schroeder. Those being baptized and confirmed and their parents are invited to gather on the beach on the west bank of the river (on the Lamb’s resort side) while all other friends, relatives, and members of our church family are invited to join us from the bluff on the east bank (near Father Baraga’s Cross). Congratulations Tori, Arvo, Katherine, Elijah, and Sophia! (*Confirmands Elijah and Sophia are pictured above.*)



Left: All Energy Solar recently completed the installation of a 6.6 kW PV array on the parsonage. The panels were manufactured by Heliene in Mountain Iron. Electricity from the array feeds the church meter and was funded through a generous partnership with the Tofte General Store and friends and members of Zoar Church who donated specifically to the project. We are looking forward to the benefits of “going solar!”

Used Electronics

Craig Ross is collecting used electronics for recycling at no charge. A portion of the proceeds from recycling will go towards Zoar Church missions and ministries. Call 663-7398 for more information.



Birch Grove Community School

~ September Mission Project ~

Birch Grove Community School is a very small school and 60% of K-5 pupils qualify for Free/Reduced meals, and the school has limited resources to help fight hunger.

Birch Grove does not have a school breakfast program but does provide breakfast bars in the morning which, in many cases, keeps children from starting the school day hungry – children seem to be better able to concentrate and focus on learning with reduced behavior issues when they are not hungry. Breakfast bars will be available in each classroom.

Up until this year, the school served a hot lunch two days a week to K-5 and the Saplings Program (ages 3-5) and the other three days a week, students would bring a cold lunch from home. However, due to COVID-19, the hot lunch program will be suspended for this upcoming school year and all students will be required to bring a cold lunch from home. During lunch, students that have eaten their entire cold lunch from home, but say they are still hungry, receive additional food stuffs and are able to return to the classroom with fuller bellies. Occasionally, students forget their lunch at home and do not have a “back up” lunch in their locker, then staff can prepare a cold lunch for them with foods that are available on hand. Birch Grove Community School uses “hunger” donations for breakfast bars, food supplements for children that are still hungry, and food for children that do not bring a cold lunch from home.



Birch Grove Community School appreciates your consideration to contribute to helping us to feed hungry children. Birch Grove Community School...

”Where Roots Grow Deep and Branches Reach High!”

A Fond Farewell

Someone once said, “The only thing that’s constant is change.” I’d differ with that a bit - God is the same yesterday, today and forever, but the point is taken - change is constant. Thus it is that we say good-bye to some congregation members who will soon relocate.

Eric and Pam Iverson have been members for nearly 20 years. Eric volunteered to be a trustee before they actually joined! As a trustee he always made it a point to talk with long time members to seek their input. Eric audited our books several years and headed the call committee in 2014-15. Pam organized several gatherings to create pillow cases for local hospitals. Pam and Eric established and maintained the Memorial Garden, made lefse several years for the Lutefisk dinner, and took on the task of sprucing up the parsonage between pastors more than once. We will miss their willingness to serve, active leadership and sound wisdom! *(Continued to the right)*

September Drive In Movie Nights

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 for a drive in movie at the Zoar Church Parking Lot beginning Wednesday September 2 through October 28. In keeping with the “Ordinary People, Extraordinary God” theme, each of the movies will center on a figure from a true story. Some stories are lighter, some heavier set across the last 200 years. All are rated PG and all are free.

On Thursday evening at 8:00 you are invited to participate in a Facebook Live discussion on the Christian themes in each film led by Pastor Daren.

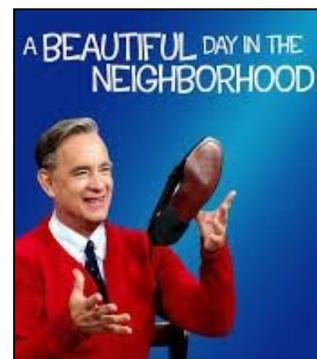
September 2 - *Big Miracle*: The tale of three gray whales that got trapped in an ice patch in Alaska and the ordinary folks who fought to save them.

September 9 - *Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*: Presbyterian minister turned children’s TV host Fred Rogers is interviewed by cynical journalist Tom Junod and a friendship develops that changes Junod’s life.

September 16 - *Amazing Grace*: Slavery captain turned pastor John Newton inspires a young politician, William Wilburforce, to take up the abolitionist cause to end the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

September 23 - *I Still Believe*: The modern true-life story of Christian music star Jeremy Camp and his journey of love and loss that proves there is always hope.

September 30 - *Chariots of Fire*: The story of two athletes, one a determined Jew, and the other a devout Christian, their struggles to remain true to their convictions, and the quest for gold in the 1924 Olympics.



Chip and Jaimie Sisson will also be relocating this fall. They haven’t been around as long, but in their short time here they have made a big difference. Chip has taken on the task of mowing and plowing and helping to maintain the church water filtration system. Using his skills in property management he created the 5 year building maintenance plan we have adopted. Jamie served as the leadership team treasurer this past term. Together they ran the brat stand on July 4th, recruiting many new, younger members to join them. On top of it all Chip shared his talents on the violin several times during worship. The Sissons will be missed!

God be with you as you move into new adventures!

