



Be  
AmazEd!

MAY 2017

# ZOARNEWS



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**ZOAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NOURISH YOUR SOUL

**W**hen your emotional tank is empty, it's hard to keep giving love to people. Instead, you get overwhelmed and start to feel inadequate. You dream of getting away. David had this problem. He said, *"If only I had wings like a dove — I would fly away and find rest"* (Psalm 55:6 GW). To keep on loving people, you have to keep your emotional tank full, because when it gets low, it's going to make a difference in your relationships. The Bible has three suggestions for recharging emotionally:



**Solitude.** You need time alone. Jesus frequently withdrew from crowds when he needed to recharge himself emotionally. Sometimes there was so much hustle and bustle that Jesus told the disciples to "come apart" for a while (Mark 6:31 KJV). You either come apart or you will *come apart*. You need times of solitude. 2) **Recreation.** There are certain things that recreate energy and enthusiasm for life. For you it may be hobbies, a sport, a craft, or games. Experiment, find out what recharges you emotionally, and

Cont'd on page 8

314 E. Indiana Ave. Perrysburg, OH 43551

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from

## Pastor Tim

Senior Pastor

[pastortim@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastortim@zoarlutheran.com)

I love to sing, and I love singing hymns. At each season of the Church Year we sing out our faith through hymns, both ancient and modern. Hymns and hymn-tunes tie us into the faith of generations before us, as well as into the breadth of other Christians singing today.

And to make it even better, this is the season of Easter – Alleluia! These songs and hymns must have jumped out of the Tomb with Jesus. Together we sing of God’s glory, that God in Jesus has conquered death.

Also, this is the 500<sup>th</sup> Year of the beginning of the

Lutheran Reformation. Martin himself enlarged the role of hymns in worship, especially songs in the language of the people. He played the lute and sang throughout his life, expressing his faith through the gift of music.

So, I love to sing hymns. And I love the way our songs and music both speak to the needs in our soul, as well as lift our hearts up to our loving God!

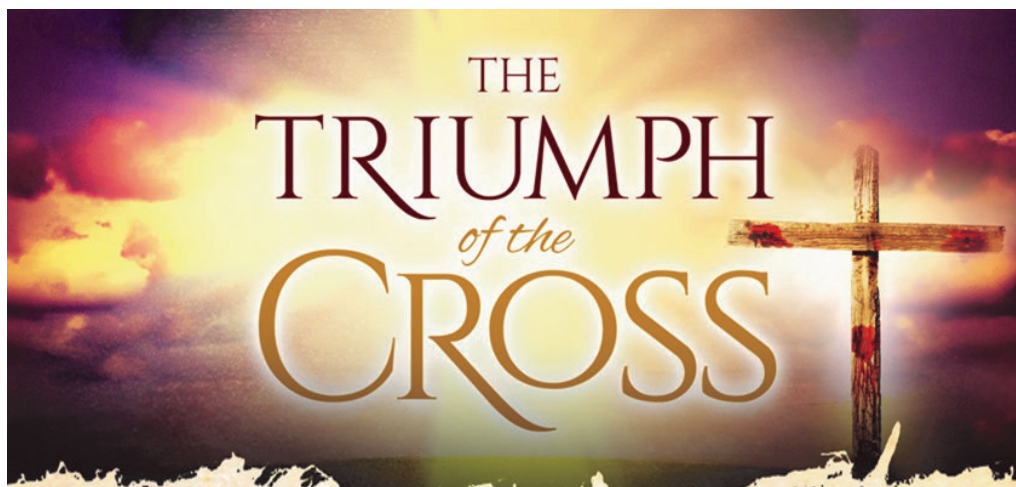
There are two hymns writers that we hold onto on our May “Saint” calendar. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we remember Count von Zinzendorf, a German-Lutheran by birth, who moved to early America, leading the Moravians. The song we sing, “Jesus, Still Lead On,” speaks of trust in God’s guidance in times of struggle and in times of joy. The other hymn writer is Juri Tranovsky, who died in 1637 in Slovakia. In his kyrie-style hymn, “O God, Father in Heaven,” we cry out to the Triune God for mercy, for peace, for healing. It is to our God, who first sang creation into being, that we sing our hopes, our love, our needs, our praise.

On the other hand, the singing of music has changed in our culture. There are very few places where we sing as a group. Modern

music tends to be something to which we listen, and few even sing *The Star Spangled Banner* at a sporting event. But in church we gather, and we sing together. Angels (we are told in Scripture) surround us and join us in song, even as we will join them in the eternal chorus. So, sisters and brothers, lift your voices this season. Join the music of the grass and flowers; weave your song with the birds and insects; lift your praise to the God of Resurrection, of joy, of love, of beauty!

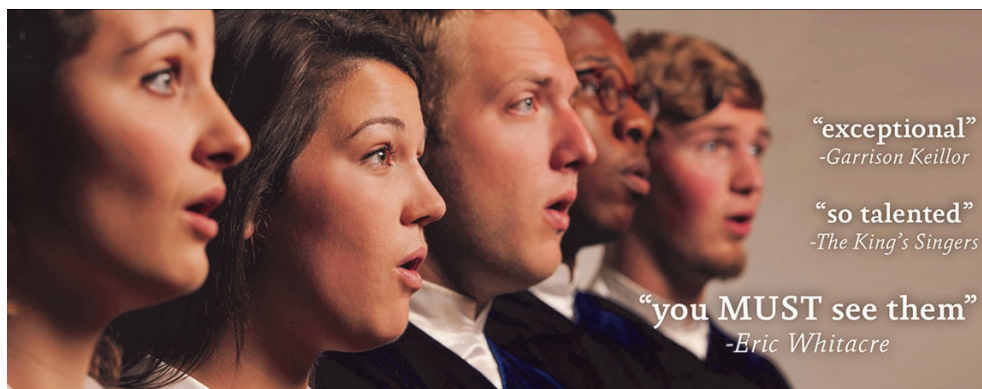






**Friday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.**

Zoar will present its Spring concert, *The Triumph of the Cross: A Musical Journey to the Resurrection*. Our Chancel Choir and several guest musicians will share their gifts and provide ample food for thought!



**Monday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

The Singers of the Concordia University Choir (NY), directed by Jason Thoms, will come to Zoar as part of their 2017 tour. We are counting on volunteers to help us house choir members. If you are interested in hosting, please contact the church office for more details.

### Save the Date

On Sunday, June 11, at four p.m., we will have guest musicians from all over the ELCA join us for a Hymn Festival to celebrate our Lutheran heritage and diversity in light of 500 years of Protestant Reformation. We look forward to seeing you!



*from*

**Omaldo**

*Director of Music Ministries,  
Organist*

**operez@zoarlutheran.com**

The month of May is with us, and we continue to celebrate Christ's victory during the fifty days of Easter! Our liturgies, hymnody, and programs all reflect this festive emphasis. You may have noticed that during the Remembrance of Baptism we begin our worship quoting the ever popular *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, which is then immediately followed by *This is the Feast*. We have been singing *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus* as an invitation to communion. Zoar's Spring Concert, *Journey to the Resurrection* will be on Friday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m., and on Monday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. the choir from Concordia College, NY will come to help us mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Let the Easter feast continue!





## from Madeline

Director of Youth Ministry  
mthomas@zoarlutheran.com

May is a special time both within and outside of the church. Celebrations, ceremonies and (hopefully) lots of sunshine! Graduation, concerts, musicals, weddings, baptisms, confirmation, first communion, there is a lot to be thankful for! "Big" milestones are important for faith formation. But along with large celebrations, it's also important to celebrate the little moments in our faith journeys, too. Did you have a few spare minutes today that you used to dig into your Bible? Did you pray with a child? Did you reach out to someone new or pay forward a kindness? Those are moments we can all celebrate!



## MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

### First Communion– May 6th/7th

Join us in celebrating this special class of 14 4th and 5th graders as they partake in the Sacrament of Communion for the first time. Each child will also receive a new Bible. Families are invited to a simple reception at 9:45 in the Family Life Center on May 7th.

### Confirmation– May 7th

We have 11 Confirmands who will celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday May 7th at 11:00 worship. Join us in welcoming these 8th graders as full members of the Zoar community. A reception for families will be held in the FLC at 9:45 am. Photos will be at 10:15 Robes and provided by Zoar.

### Mother's Day– May 14th

This year we will have a special musical prelude before the 11:00 service on Sunday May 14th. Our Sunday School classes will be playing the hand bells. Students will stay with their classes from 10:45 until 11:00 worship, then they will be released to their parents in the Sanctuary for the remainder of worship.

### Sunday School Breakfast– May 21st

All are invited to join this end-of-the-year party! Hot pancake breakfast with a free -will offering. Watch a slideshow of this year's ministries, celebrate our amazing Sunday School teachers, and sing along with our kids! Meet in the FLC during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45 am. Interested in helping to cook or serve? See Madeline.

## Register NOW for Vacation Bible School!



**July 10th-14th 2017**  
**9:00 AM- Noon**

Online registration is now open for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Visit [www.zoarlutheran.com](http://www.zoarlutheran.com) for the registration link. It's quick and easy!

Register by June 1st for a special surprise! For kids: Preschool (age 3) through 4th grade

For youth and adult volunteers: 5th grade and up We need lots of volunteers! Use your gifts to make VBS a success! Volunteer registration is online,





# THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

## Putt-Putt and Bubble Tea Outing Sunday May 21st 5-7 PM RSVP now!

All 5th-12th grade youth and friends are invited to our Third Sunday youth group! We will be going to Perry Falls for mini golf followed by a stop at Lola's for bubble tea. Bring \$10 and get ready to have a lot of fun! We will depart from and return to Zoar. Parent driver needed. Please RSVP by Wednesday May 17th if you plan to attend.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Many thanks to those of you who have supported our youth as they prepare for their summer trip to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Your contributions toward the Stock Sale have been generous and abundant and we are so grateful! If you contributed to the Stock Sale by purchasing an envelope, but have not yet received confirmation, please see Madeline. We want to make sure we have a complete list of supporters in order to send Stockholder Luncheon invitations later this summer. If you would like to become a stockholder, there is still time to do so! The Luncheon will be Sunday July 30th after 11:00 worship. Youth will share photos, stories, and music from their week of Encountering Christ on the Mountaintops throughout this event. Thank you for sharing in our excitement and anticipation of this faith-filled experience!

**Sky Ranch Youth Trip**  
**STOCKHOLDER'S LUNCHEON**  
**Sunday July 30th at Noon in the FLC**

## Youth Group Update

**Sunday April 30th**  
**5th-12th Grade Youth Group**  
**Movie Night 5-7 PM**

**Sunday May 7th**  
**High School Youth Group**  
**Humane Society Field Trip 5-7 PM**

**Sunday May 14th**  
**No Youth Group**  
**Mother's Day**

**Sunday May 21st**  
**Third Sunday Youth Group**  
**5th-12th Grade**  
**Putt-Putt and Bubble Tea 5-7 PM**

**Sunday May 28th**  
**No Youth Group**  
**Memorial Day Weekend**

**Sunday June 4th**  
**Community Game Night at Grace**  
**5th-12th Grade**  
**Gaga Ball, Volleyball, Dodgeball**  
**Time TBD**

**Youth Overnight June 9th-10th**  
**Location TBD**  
**Check youth board for details**

**Summer in the City Service Week**  
**June 22-24th**





from

## Pastor Mike

Community Pastor

[pastormike@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastormike@zoarlutheran.com)

One of the great false teachings about the Christian life is that once you've become a Christian suddenly all your problems go away. If there is one thing that Jesus' death on the cross makes abundantly clear it is that God's chosen ones suffer. Problems don't magically go away when we walk with Jesus. Jesus says "In this world you *will* have trouble" (John 16:33). God doesn't do magic. God does perform miracles, though, large and small, quick and long-in-the-making. Jesus' resurrection is God's dramatic statement on the reality of miracles. So, go ahead and ask. Seek. Knock.



# DEAR PAR

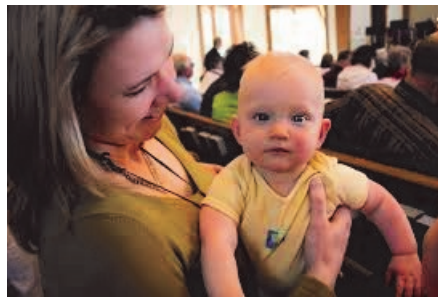
## An Open Letter (reprinted with permission),

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you

feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.



I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church

more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in*

Cont'd pg. 8



# ENTS OF ZOAR



## NEW NANA GROUP

With all the new babies born at Zoar the past two years, we also have a lot of new grandmothers. If you are interested in joining a NEW NANA group to discuss grandparenting issues in the modern age, this is the group for you! It will be a time to share practical topics such as ways to stay connected with



tech-savvy grandkids, apps for age-appropriate activities, books, songs, recipes for nursing moms and teething infants. Perhaps we'll find a day to fix a church-cooked meal and deliver to our new

Zoar moms, make a 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Time Capsule, or listen to a podcast from other interesting

grandmas around the globe. What are the biggest challenges we face as grandmothers? What do we want to preserve for our grandchildren? There's much to learn and share, and of course, we'll do a lot of praying! If you'd like to polish or grow your "grandma act", please join us Sunday, May 28 at 9:45am in the Conference Room. We'll meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, unless inspired to add other activities. Contact [kphila-baum@gmail.com](mailto:kphila-baum@gmail.com) for more information.



Cont'd from pg. 6

worship. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amen's" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning

to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

Scott, Megan, and Henry Williams  
Not pictured: Annie Grace

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family — with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy — are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.



## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

If you, a friend, or loved one has considered making Zoar your church home, then here is some good news! Please join Pastor Mike on May 21, 28, June 4, & 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.



## LITTLE JOB BIG IMPACT

The Sunday morning Treat Table is one of the small touches that has a big impact on Sunday mornings at Zoar. Stacked with donuts, brownies, bars, cookies, and fruit, the treat table is a veritable island of sweet deliciousness. It is a great way to welcome guests from the community. This important Sunday morning feature needs support and volunteer help. Please contact Pastor Mike at [pastormike@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastormike@zoarlutheran.com)



## BOOK CLUB

May 5  
12:00

Zoar's Book Club meets on the first Friday of each month at noon. Bring a sack lunch and thoughts for a lively discussion on the book of the month. On Friday, May 5, Anne and Tom Downs will lead a discussion on the meticulously researched book *Americas First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray. Drawn from thousands of letters and original sources, it is a fascinating story of Thomas Jefferson's eldest daughter Martha – a woman devoted to her father and her country. In the wake of her Mother's death, she becomes Jefferson's help-mate, protector and traveling companion which leaves her torn between the bonds of love, principles and the bonds of family



## FOUNDATION GRANT TO MATCH ABUNDANT LIFE

*"With God All Things Are Possible!"*

40 years ago Zoar founded Abundant Life of Perrysburg to provide a place and ministry for senior citizens on a fixed income. Still today the members of the Board are all Zoar members, and Zoar is blessed to be a part of the abundance of Abundant Life! Since the beginning, Abundant Life has been blessed to have a bus to transport residents to local shopping, various outings in Perrysburg and around northwest Ohio. The current bus is 20 years old and is experiencing many mechanical difficulties making it more and more unsafe to transport residents. Abundant Life is governed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which will not allow Abundant Life to use its own operation or reserve funds to purchase a new bus. However, HUD does allow the seeking of grants, donations, and fund raisers.

Thanks be to God! On April 6, 2017, the Zoar Foundation generously granted Abundant Life up to \$20,000.00 in matching funds to purchase a new (used) bus. An additional \$20,000 is needed for the new (used) bus. You are encouraged to be part of the continuing ministry at Abundant Life. The Staff and Board of Trustees are asking Zoar members to prayerfully consider making a donation to help us raise \$20,000.00 over the next few months. Any donations that Zoar members can contribute would be most appreciated. Gifts may be received in the Office, or through the mail. No gift is too small. Checks can be made out to Zoar Church-Memo Line: Abundant Life Bus.



## CONT'D, FROM PAGE 1

then make time for it. Matthew 11:9 says, *"The Son of Man came, enjoying life"* (Phillips translation). Jesus was the most intensive, ministry-oriented person that ever lived, but he enjoyed life. You need play time. 3) **Laughter.** *"Being cheerful keeps you healthy"* (Proverbs 17:22 TEV). Studies prove that when you laugh, it increases the number of T-cells, which raises your immunity level, which produces endorphins in your brain. Humor has beneficial effects! God has given us the gift of laughter, and we need to learn how to laugh. Laughter is a load lightener, an emotional recharger, and a love rebuilder.

# WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR MAY

## USHERS

May

7:15

Judy Schult  
Tom Schult

8:30

Jim Kwasniak  
Russ Heckman  
Glenn Abke  
Mary Ann Abke

11:00

Lee Grinonneau  
Richard Sipp  
Judy Cooper  
Bill Bair

## SATURDAY USHERS

6 Cheryl Williams, Jim Dollar  
13 Jim Laine, Charlie Rinker  
20 Ken & Carolyn Vajen  
27 Dave & Sue Gogel

## LECTORS

May

7:15

Judy Schult  
Ray Ruswinkle  
Janis Stein  
Dorothy Beyer

8:30

Ken Meinecke  
Scott Libbe  
Leigh An Meinecke  
Ann Richter

11:00

Kristen Scasny  
Jameson Czech  
Dan Taylor  
Roger Shoffner

## ACOLYTES

May

8:30

Ben Robeson  
Andrew Swoap  
Leah Schroeder  
Mitchell Smith

11:00

Chase Saneholtz  
Tyler Swoap  
Raegan Thurn  
Calista Grantham

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

May

7:15

Dorothy Beyer  
Ray Ruswinkle

8:30

Roger Geffe  
Carole Bohn  
Scott Geffe

11:00

Don Liedler  
Roger Shoffner

## GREETERS

May

8:30

High School Youth, Doris Henline  
M/M Larry Karnes, M/M Ackerman  
D. Sahloff, D. Current, K. Lundholm  
M/M Ted Weaver, Cindy Silvis

11:00

Connie Teare, Richard Hazle, Joan Moulton  
M/M Jeff Wilbur, Judy Cooper, Gloria Odegard  
M/M Jim Ninke, Vivian Corbin  
M/M Don Liedler, Keith Robeson

## SATURDAY GREETERS

6 Sondra Alexander  
13 Dave & Sue Gogel  
20 Cheryl & Ellen Williams  
27 Becky & John Hoge

## SOUND

May

8:30

Chuck Ackerman  
Russ Baker  
Vince Krolak  
Dave Sudman

11:00

Peter Cooper  
Spencer Tye  
Greg Tye  
Tom Trimble

## SATURDAY SOUND CREW

6 Steve Doughten  
13 Dough Williams  
20 Carl Habekost  
27 Martha Amstutz

## COUNTERS

May

Russ & Nancy Heckman, Jane Tomko  
Jim Kwasniak, Tom Dayton  
Carole Welling, Joyce Williams  
Glenn & Mary Ann Abke, Alice Coy

## ALTAR GUILD

May

7:15

N. Johnson, J. Schroeder  
Linda Hagedorn  
Connie Bricker  
Linda Hagedorn

8:30

Emily Ehrmin, Vicki Karnes  
Andrea Rex  
Vicki Karnes  
Vicki Karnes

11:00

Karen Lundholm, Donna Besly  
Elaine Cutcher  
Carolyn St. Meyers

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/7 Ray Norkowski  
5/21 Jenny Sorgenfrei  
5/22 Ruth Emch





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Community Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mike Brown  
Seminary Intern: Kevin O'Bryan  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Omaldo Perez  
Director of Youth Ministry: Madeline Thomas  
Administrative Manager: Dale Nordahl  
Secretary: Suzanne DeLaney  
Custodian: Paul Cannon

## CURRENT RESIDENT OR

WORSHIP  
SATURDAY 6:00 p.m.  
SUNDAY 7:15 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
(September—May)  
9:45 a.m.

## Directions

### From I-75 South:

Take the US-20/US-23 exit  
(exit number 193) toward  
PERRYSBURG/FREMONT.  
Then Turn left onto N.  
Sandusky St. (US-23/US-20)  
Zoar is about a mile ahead on  
the right side of the road.

### From I-75 North:

Merge onto Sandusky St/US-  
20 (exit number 193) toward  
PERRYSBURG/FORT MEIGS.  
Keep going straight. Zoar is  
about a mile ahead on the right  
side of the road.

*Zoar is an inclusive  
barrier-free community*



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**ZOAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

