

ZOARNEWS



WHAT'S INSIDE?

I Love Christmas

PAGE 2

Join a Small Group

PAGE 3

Genesis Bible Study

PAGE 4

Youth Stories

PAGE 5

Come and See

PAGE 6

Advent / Christmas Schedule

PAGE 7

Gather. Grow. Give.

PAGE 8

Calendar of Events

PAGE 9

Sponsors

PAGE 10

Worship Servants

PAGE 11

Map

PAGE 12

ADVENT WORSHIP

DECEMBER 6TH, 13TH & 20TH
7:30 PM

The month of December gives us the gift of Advent, in which we wait. We wait for the celebration of the birth of Jesus; we wait for the return of Christ; we wait for re-connection with loved ones; we wait for the end of disease and sorrow; we wait in the hope and promise that Jesus waits with us.

At each of the 3 Wednesdays in December at 7:30 PM we offer a time of prayer and reflection. We will sing our praise using Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer, and offer times of Scripture and silence. As you prepare for Christmas, may this time be one for you in which your spirit is revived by God's grace!



www.zoarlutheran.com

I LOVE CHRISTMAS



I love Christmas time. Of course, I love the cold, and the snow, and the dark nights, and the decorations. Of course, I love the foods and the drinks. Of course, I love the families getting together. And even though I am writing this in the middle of November, I love to hear the Christmas carols in stores and on the radio. Then when we come to Christmas Eve, I love the gathering of the Zoar family, some who travel “home” for worship in this community. I love Christmas time.

I know, I know, all of this is just frosting on the cake. What’s really important is that God, out of God’s eternal love from the beginning of time, chose to empty God’s self into a vulnerable babe, born from a virgin, entering the world in the home of animals, surrounded by angels and shepherds, and the Virgin’s fiancé. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”
I love Christmas time!

The Incarnation (God-in-flesh) event at Bethlehem is a pivotal event in history. God steps out of eternity and into time - - our time. In a mere 30+ years He will take all the sin and brokenness of the world on Himself, nailed to the cross, buried in the tomb, and then rise from the dead, alleluia! Only the God-Man Jesus could accomplish this for us. Only out of the love of God are we freed from the brokenness that infects us and the whole world.

Ah, but first we must wait through the season of Advent, even as a family awaits the birth of their child. We too wait for the joy of the birth of Jesus. But we also wait for Christ’s return, for an end of war, and sin, and death, and brokenness, and disease, and pain. Even in the midst of Christmas, we wait for its completion. Come, Lord Jesus!

So, hold both together this month – the waiting and the celebrating. Let the birth of Jesus fill you with complete joy, so that in the waiting and in the brokenness, you may know God’s presence. And live with the full awareness that Jesus was born for you, out of God’s great love.

I love Christmas. Thank you, Jesus!

Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



JOIN A SMALL GROUP

At Zoar, we want to keep the main thing the main thing. That means keeping Jesus Christ front and center. It's what we do. It's the one thing that focuses all our efforts. There is nothing more important for us than to help people become thriving followers of Jesus Christ. Of course, the way we say it here at Zoar is that our mission is to "Gather, Grow, and Give." Each Sunday we "gather" together for worship. Throughout the weeks, any number of people meet in small groups to "grow" in relationship with Christ, the church, and each other. And as we experienced together during our Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love stewardship campaign, we "give" of our time, talents, and treasures to



Christ's work in the world through Zoar. It is the second part of our mission that I want to call your attention to: Grow.

One of the first things Jesus did in his earthly ministry was to form a small group. He had crowds around him. That's for sure. But the majority of his time was spent in the intimacy of his twelve disciples. It was a primary way for him to bring his kingdom into the world. Many people at Zoar have discovered the power of having a group of people around to provide friendship and support. Whether we call them faith groups, life groups, Christ Care groups, or growth groups isn't as important as all of us being a part of one. As we approach Christmas, consider giving yourself one of the greatest gifts ever: the gift of being part of a small group.

Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com



BLUE CHRISTMAS

December 10th
2 PM

The joy of Christmas is all around us, unless it's not. The Angels tell the shepherds not to be afraid, but sometimes we are. The songs and symbols of the season speak peace, but sometimes our hearts are too broken to understand peace.

On Sunday, December 10, at 2pm, we will offer a Blue Christmas service. You may bring your heartache, your brokenness, your loss, and your despair. We will hear scripture and reflection, sing songs that help hearts to heal, and light candles to remember, to remind God of our need, and to reflect. We will prepare for the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. Come.



GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



BEGINS JANUARY 7TH

9:45 AM

We humans are deeply interested in our origins. Identifying ancestors and one's geographic and cultural roots is not new. In fact, the title of the Bible's first book, Genesis, is borrowed from the Greek word for "origin." Genesis is concerned with the origin of the earth's creation, of humankind, of civilization, and of one family chosen by God to be the medium of world blessing.

This 8-week study will explore how the stories portray God's character and intentions and who we are in relationship to God and the rest of creation. The stories of the difficulties, temptations, and doubts of the characters in Genesis also provides a space for religious people to wrestle with our own spiritual struggles and doubts. We will also identify how Genesis was shaped by and addressed its ancient culture as well as how present-day culture influences our reading.

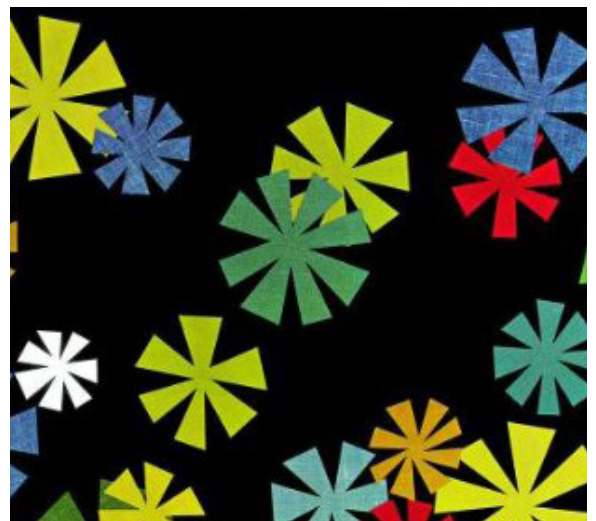
Led by Donna Laird (Ph.D. in Old Testament studies), we will follow the Genesis study guide from Augsburg-Fortress Press's Books of Faith Series. Class will meet in the conference room.

ZOAR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 17th

11 AM

Come and see Zoar's Sunday School Children present a Christmas Cantata that will make everyone tap their toes! Christmas Jazz by Kenneth Cartwright will surely delight and entertain.



YOUTH STORIES



7 Things I Have Enjoyed Doing with Zoar:

1. Summer in the City: In June, Summer in the City was an amazing and eye opening experience that showed a lot about poverty, and how to help people, along with getting to feel what's it's like to be out in the cold by being locked in a freezer (just for a few minutes!).
2. Sky Ranch: This year we went to Sky Ranch in Colorado. We had a fun time traveling by plane, and when we got there it just got better. Some of the things we got to do include: a high ropes course, a hiking trip, 9 square, hiking across a river and sleeping in a tent, along with much more while we encountered Christ in the mountain tops.
3. Dog Park: This summer during one of the August youth groups we decided to walk our dogs to Woodland Park. While there we had some very thought provoking discussions on faith and got to have fun with our dogs.
4. Bonfire: This September we got to have a fun night at the Schuppenies' house. We played basketball, volleyball, and jumped on the trampoline. Lastly we sat around the bonfire and had s'mores, which were delicious.
5. Cedar Point: I enjoyed going to Cedar Point with the youth group in September of this year. I rode almost all of the rides in the front seat due to winning some fast passes with my friends in the plinko game. Overall it was a very fun day.
6. Music with Omaldo: This October some of the high school youth played instruments with Omaldo during the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. We got to play instruments and meet God through music. It was a very fun experience.
7. Movie Night: We had a movie night at Intern Kevin's apartment this Halloween. It was a very fun time spent eating candy, petting cats, and watching scary movies.

4 Things I Look Forward to Doing with Zoar:

1. Feed our Families: This December I am looking forward to volunteering with the Feed our Families group.
2. Michigan Gathering: This December I am looking forward to going to the Michigan Gathering and to be able to "Join the Rebellion."
3. College Prep Night: In January I am looking forward to the college prep night to help the high schoolers prepare for their futures while the parents prepare for freedom.
4. 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: We will be taking part in the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. I am looking forward to going to Houston for this in June.

**Peace,
Connor Haar**



COME AND SEE

This month we have an opportunity to hear again “the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, God’s Son” as presented by Mark, the evangelist. As we embark on this year-long journey through the book of Mark, we hope that in the hearing of the gospel (the good news) and in the sharing the good news (as we “gospel” each other) we are provoked and motivated into action. And the action is this: tell your friends and family these words, “Come and See.”



Yes! Come and see what happens at Zoar! This month you are invited to an exciting Christmas concert on Friday, December 15. Carols for the Christ-Child will be Zoar’s music ministry’s way to share, celebrate, and rejoice in the Good News with the whole Perrysburg community. So please plan to join us this date and invite friends!

Furthermore, for 2018 we are bringing an exciting array of concerts, and we hope that we can make as many of these as we can Music-with-a- Mission events. However, to put on quality performances which also support outside charities, we need your help. As you may have read in my fundraising letter, we can either pay our guest musicians or collect money for charity, but we cannot do both successfully. This December I ask you to consider supporting our Music-with-a-Mission and check the posters and announcements regarding our next five concerts. “What is the good news?” Come and see... the things we can do together. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Omaldo
Director of Music/Organist
operez@zoarlutheran.com



JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to have an article in the January newsletter is December 6th. This has been moved to accommodate the Christmas season.

All newsletter requests can be submitted to Mollie at communications@zoarlutheran.com

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Advent I

Saturday, December 2, @ 6 PM
Sunday, December 3, @ 7:15, 8:30, and 11 AM

Wednesday Advent Evening Prayer
Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 PM

Advent II

Saturday, December 9, @ 6 PM
Sunday, December 10, @ 7:15, 8:30, and 11 AM
Blue Christmas @ 2 PM

Wednesday Advent Evening Prayer
Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 PM
Choir Christmas Concert
Friday, December 15, 7 PM

Advent III

Saturday, December 16 @ 6 PM
Sunday, December 17 @ 7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM
Sunday School Christmas Program @ 11 AM

Wednesday Advent Evening Prayer
Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 PM

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 23, 6 PM
Sunday, December 24 at 11 AM, 3:30 PM, 8:30 PM and 11 PM.
All five services complete with carols, candles, and Communion

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 30, 6 PM, Pastor Lori Strang preaching
Sunday, December 31, 7:15, 8:30, & 11 AM, Pastor Chuck Campbell preaching

GATHERGROWGIVE



Feed Our Families Christmas Distribution

Saturday, December 16

Contact: Tracy Rickman 419-206-7927

Cynthia Blubaugh 419-376-1851

Feed Our Families is hosting our second annual Christmas distribution Saturday, December 16, 2017. We have invited 49 families with a total of 135 children, which we serve during our summer distribution. Each family will be given a bag of groceries, personal items and a gift card for each child. However, we would also like to give the parents an opportunity to do additional shopping for their children, as well as give the children an opportunity to shop for their parents. This is where FOF is asking for your help.

We are looking for the following donations:

- new or gently used toys for children of all ages
- handmade scarves
- like new jewelry that could be given from a child to a parent
- gifts for dads i.e. flashlights, wallets, socks, slippers
- any other items that may make nice gifts from a child to a parent

We would like to have these donations no later than Wednesday, December 13, 2017, so that we can organize them for the distribution. Please place your items in the marked bin in the Gathering Space.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Zoar Book Club	2 Cantorei Jr. Choir Practice
3 The Gathering Youth Council Meeting	4 Last Day to Order Christmas Poinsetta	5 Pickleball	6 Recorders Advent Evening Prayer	7 Agape Bells	8	9 Yarns of Love
10 Blue Christmas Worship Sunday School	11 Ruth Circle Popcorn Gang	12	13 Bible Study Advent Evening Prayer	14 Men's Card Club	15 Kitchen of Hope Zoar Christmas Concert	16 Feed Our Families Distribution
17 Children's Christmas Program Young Adults - Christmas Party Poco Piatti	18 Festive Flutes	19 Council Meeting	20 Confirmation Advent Evening Prayer	21 Naomi Circle	22	23 Worship
24 Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed Youth Gathering Lansing, MI	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Worship
31 The Gathering						

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS VISIT
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85+ DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1	Lois Widdel	12/17	Kathleen Heath
12/2	Eleanor Merrill	12/18	Esther Speck
12/3	Elizabeth Kaczar	12/24	Betty Creps
12/9	Walter Krueger	12/28	Ann Lieder
12/15	Catherine King	12/29	Jane St. John

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

ACOLYTES	8:30			11:00	
12/3	Ben Robeson, Chase Saneholtz			Andrew Swoap, Tyler Swoap	
12/10	Leah Schroeder, Chelsea Brewster			Mitchel Smith, Grant Knowlton	
12/17	Reagan Thurn, Calista Grantham				
ASSISTING MINISTERS	7:15		8:30	11	
12/3	Dorothy Beyer		Roger Geffe	Don Lieder	
12/10	Ray Ruswinkle		Carole Bohn	Roger Shoffner	
12/17			Scott Geffe		
USHERS	6 PM		7:15	8:30	11
12/2	Jim Laine & Charlie Rinker	12/3	Greg Williams & Tom Dayton	Dick Cox, Ralph Debbe, Ted Weaver & Dave Stuckey	Terry Harris & Scott Loehrke
12/9	Ken & Carolyn Vajen	12/10	Greg Williams & Tom Dayton	Dick Cox, Ralph Debbe, Ted Weaver & Dave Stuckey	Terry Harris & Scott Loehrke
12/16	Judy Cooper & Gloria Odegard	12/17	Greg Williams & Tom Dayton	Dick Cox, Ralph Debbe, Ted Weaver & Dave Stuckey	Terry Harris & Scott Loehrke
12/23	Terry & Rhonda Jones	12/24	Greg Williams & Tom Dayton	Dick Cox, Ralph Debbe, Ted Weaver & Dave Stuckey	Terry Harris & Scott Loehrke
12/30	Dave & Lisa Richard	12/31	Greg Williams & Tom Dayton	Dick Cox, Ralph Debbe, Ted Weaver & Dave Stuckey	Terry Harris & Scott Loehrke
LECTORS	7:15		8:30	11	
12/3	Judy Schult		Mary Richter	Rachel Abke	
12/10	Ray Ruswinkle		Karen Lundholm	John Henzler	
12/17	Janis Stein		Marie Obrock	Lee Rupert	
12/24	Dorothy Beyer		Alice Coy	Nathan Englehart	
12/31	Judy Schult		Chuck Ackerman	Neil Englehart	
USHERS	6 PM			8:30	11
12/2	Cheryl Williams & Ellen Williams	12/3		Chuck & Claire Ackerman, Arlene Hustwick	Nancy & Jeff Wilbur, High School Youth
12/9	Dave & Sue Gogel	12/10		Scott & Karen Heslup, Carol & Tom Easterwood	Joan Multon & Cynthia Blubaugh
12/16	Ken & Carolyn Vajen	12/17		Lida Ryan & Doris Henline	Don & Ann Lieder, Dorothy Beyer
COUNTERS					
12/3	Jim Kwasniak & Tom Dayton				
12/10	Chuck & Nancy Elvers, Heidi & Derek Meyer				
12/17	Glenn & Mary Ann Abke, Alice Coy				
12/24	David Sudman & Dan Bartels				
12/31	Carole Welling & Joyce Williams				
SOUND	6 PM			8:30 AM	11 AM
12/2	Doug Williams	12/3		Chuck Ackerman	Vince Krolak
12/9	Carl Haberkost	12/10		Peter Cooper	Doug Williams
12/16	Ryan Williams	12/17		Russ Baker	Spencer Tye
12/23	Ryan Williams	12/24		Doug Williams	Dave Sudman
12/30	Doug Williams	12/31		Dave Sudman	



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Senior Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum
Community Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Mike Brown
Seminary Intern:	Kevin O'Bryan
Director of Music/Organist:	Omaldo Perez
Director of Youth Ministry:	
Director of Communications:	Mollie Rauscher
Administrative Manager:	Dale Nordahl
Secretary:	Suzanne DeLaney
Custodian:	Paul Cannon

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Worship	
Saturday	6:00 PM
Sunday	7:15 AM
	8:30 AM
	11:00 AM
Sunday School	9:45 AM September - May

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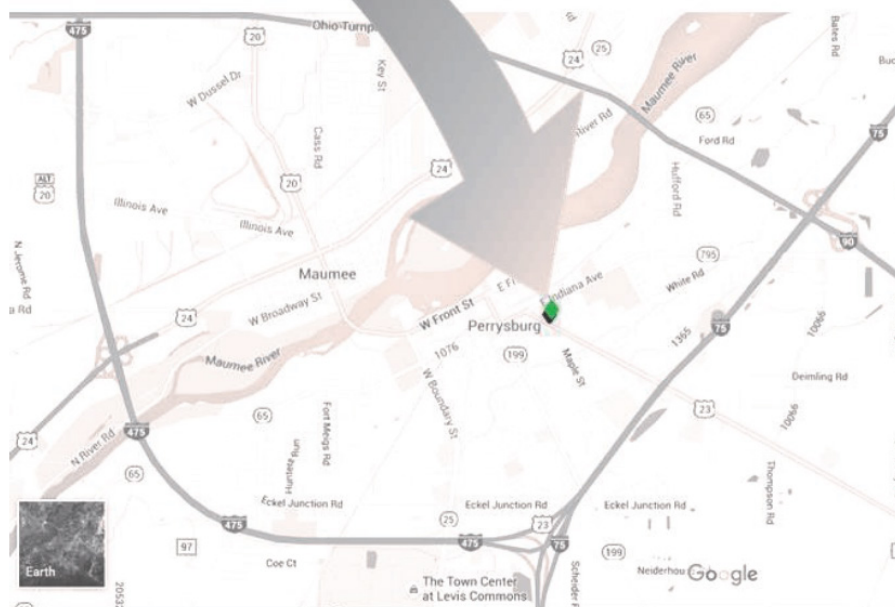


From I-75 South:

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 ahead on the right side of the road.



314 East Indiana Avenue (419) 874-4346
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551 www.zoarlutheran.com

