

AmazIng!News

APRIL // 2018



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH | WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM

INSIDE

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| AmaZed by God's Goodness | Pg. 2 |
| La Resurrezione | Pg. 3 |
| VBS Save the Date | Pg. 4 |
| Youth Stories | Pg. 5 |
| There's a Place for You | Pg. 6 |
| New Member Sunday | Pg. 8 |
| Songs of the Faithful | Pg. 9 |

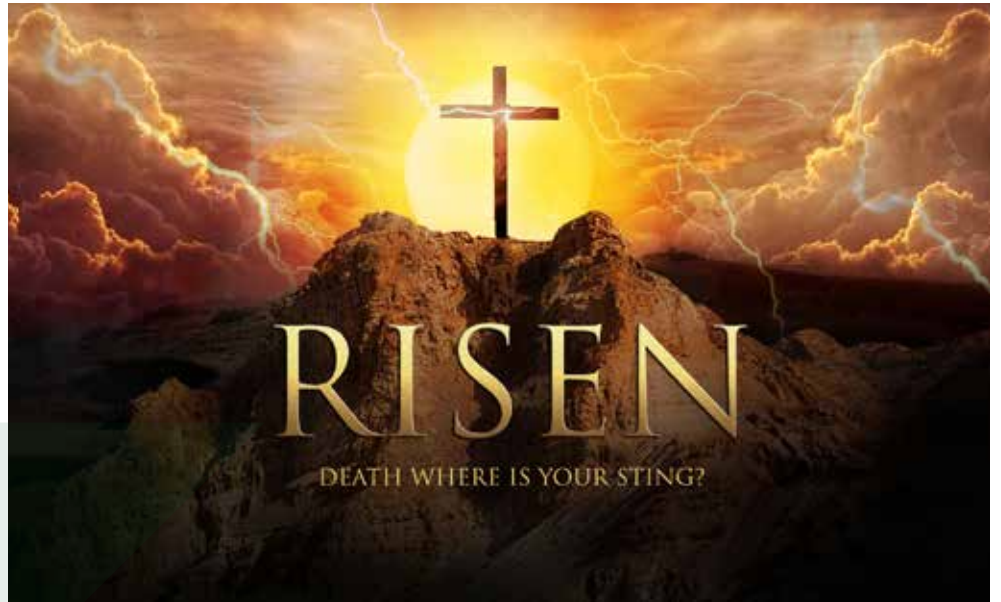
DEATH! LOL! THE JOKE IS ON YOU!

April Fools' Day has no real place in Christianity. However, because it falls on the same day as Easter this year, it sets the perfect stage for Jesus' resurrection. In the best sense, April Fools' Day is about laughter and practical jokes. Many Christians overlook the fact that the Bible is full of humor. Think of laughable moments like when Elijah suggested that the God Baal might be on the toilet, or when Balaam talks to his ass, or when God made 90 year old Sarah laugh by giving her a baby boy. Even the greatest moment in scripture leaves us laughing. Jesus' resurrection is the clearest sign that God always gets the last laugh. What more could Jesus have done to mock sin, death, and the devil than to rise from the dead? When we say we are Easter people, we say we believe in God's ultimate victory over all that is opposed to God. We say we are part of God's turning of events to generate bursts of joy as in Psalm 126:2, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



AMAZED BY GOD'S GOODNESS

Easter is full of awesome stories. In one, Mary comes to the empty tomb, crying because Jesus is gone, and then He (well, she thinks He is the gardener) calls out her name, and she knows Jesus as the resurrected Lord. In another, later in the afternoon, Jesus starts walking with two disciples who are headed to their home in Emmaus, and they don't know who He really is until He breaks the bread in their home. Later that night Jesus enters the locked room and forgives the disciples (who all ran away and hid while He was being crucified).

These disciples, plus many others, saw Jesus for the 40 days after his Resurrection, eating with Him, talking to Him, receiving grace and forgiveness. How awesome for them, to be with the One they love, to see (and touch) His resurrected body, to know firsthand that death no longer has the same power. Many of these disciples then went on to preach this good news in such a way that they gave their life for Jesus. Nothing was more important.

Nothing is more important! Jesus is risen! Even though we still experience suffering, death, brokenness, disease, and world problems, in Jesus there is hope. In Jesus God will bring all the good together, and will take all the evil and

problematic "junk" and wrap it in loving arms. In Jesus is my hope and life, now and forever. In Jesus, all the truth of the universe is centered.

Wow, the promise of death now destroyed! I am amazed by God's goodness!

So, what does this mean? I invite you to take a moment and assess your days. How do you experience the presence of Jesus in your life? How does His life make a difference in your brokenness and pain?

I invite you into a spiritual discipline of gratitude: each time you see something of beauty, pray, "Thank you, Jesus." Every time you hear the clock chime at the top of the hour, pray, "Thank you, Jesus." Every time you see the delight of a child, or the wisdom of the aged, pray, "Thank you, Jesus." Every time you think about it, give thanks. This small prayer is just one way to open your heart to what the Resurrection Jesus is doing in your life.

I pray that you continue to grow in Jesus, as His love surrounds you with grace, into forever!

EASTER BRINGS FANFARE

TOWER BRASS TO PLAY AT ZOAR

Sunday, April 1ST 9 & 11 AM

For over thirty-five years, Tower Brass has shaped their ensemble to become one of the favorite brass quintets in Northwest Ohio. Tower Brass will be joining Zoar Easter Sunday at the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Don't miss this unique musical performance.



from
Omaldo
Director of Music Ministries
operez@zoarlutheran.com

This month I just want to share with you some of the most beautiful words ever written about the Resurrection of our Lord.

John Chrysostom, an early father of the church, wrote them nearly 1,600 years ago. "Let all the pious and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay.

The Lord gives rest to those who come on the eleventh hour as well as to those who have toiled since the first: yes, the Lord has pity on the last and serves the first... Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord."

Let us join the celebration wholeheartedly and without reservations!

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LA RESURREZIONE

Friday, April 27TH 7 PM



Please join us on Friday, April 27th at 7 PM for a night of musical splendor when G. F. Handel's early masterpiece, La Resurrezione, (The Resurrection) will be presented with soloists, chorus, and orchestra, under the direction of Omaldo Perez.

Music lovers and anyone interested in the events leading up to Easter morning will be delighted to be part of this dramatic retelling. A Free-will offering will be collected. A themed reception will follow the performance.

PRAISE FROM THE VOICES OF CHILDREN

SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH
11 AM

Always an inspirational highlight during worship, Zoar's Sunday school children will offer their heartfelt praise April 8 during the 11:00 service. There are few experiences more beautiful than witnessing children expressing their love for Jesus.

It was one of Jesus' favorite experiences as well, as we read in Matthew 21:14-16, The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, "Praise to David's Son!" 16 So they asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying?" "Indeed I do," answered Jesus. "Haven't you ever read this scripture? 'You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.'"

GOLDFISH FOR EVERY CHILD AQUARIUMS NOT INCLUDED

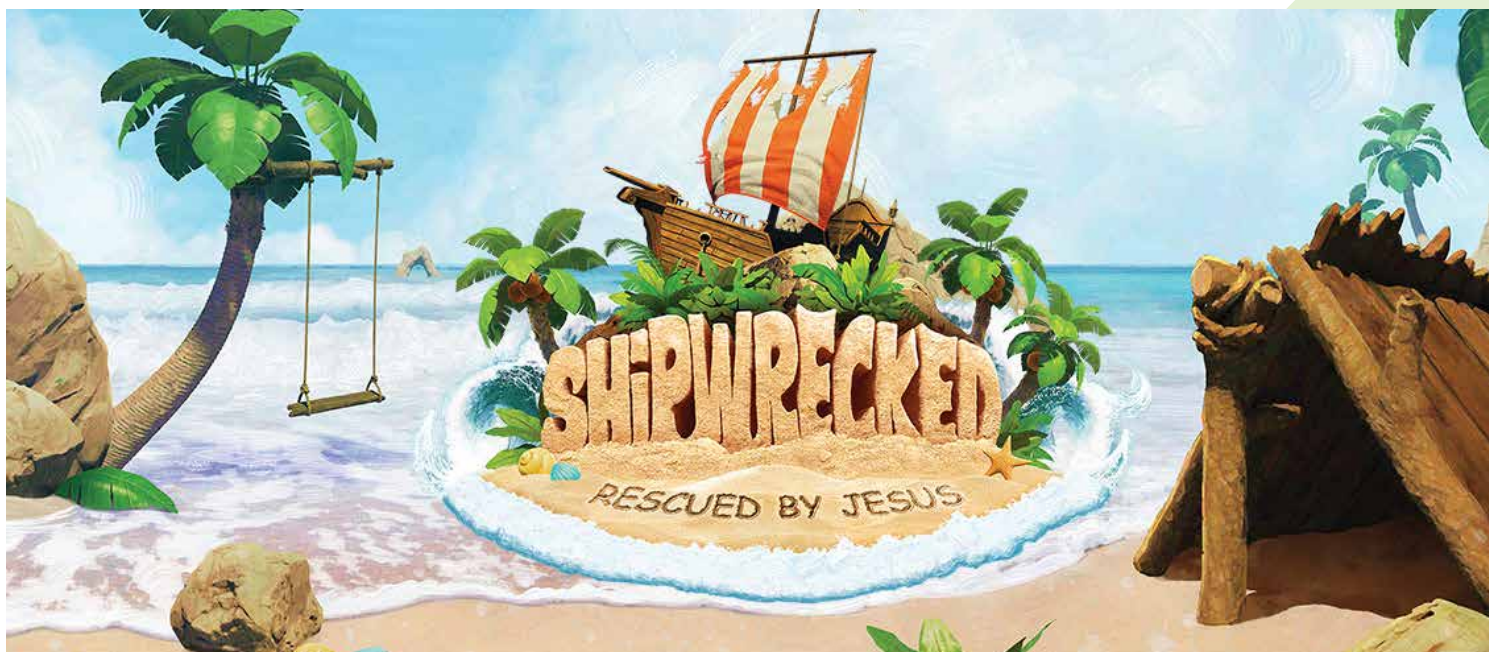
SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH 12:00 PM

On Sunday, April 8th at 12:00 PM in the FLC, Zoar will be hosting a Fish Fry to celebrate the first Sunday after Easter. All children and youth who would like one will receive a goldfish! Bags will be provided, but not aquariums.



VBS SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 9TH - 13TH 9 AM - 12 PM





Raegan Thurn and Emma Mathison tuned in to Confirmation Camp presentation

For the second time this school year, Zoar's confirmation group (7th & 8th graders), spent a weekend away from home in the setting of a beautiful camp focused on developing Christ centered teens. Over the weekend of February 16TH-18TH, more than a dozen Zoar teens jumped into Bible study, games, prayers, and developing friends.



WELCOME NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR AMANDA RICH JOINS ZOAR

After a lengthy and prayerful search for our next Director of Youth Ministry, we are excited to welcome Amanda Rich to Zoar. Amanda joins us with experience as a Coordinator of Youth Ministry and with a Masters Degree in Voice Performance from BGSU.

Thank you to the members of the hiring committee for their hard work on filling this important role. Amanda's first Sunday will be April 8th. We are looking forward to this wonderful addition to the Zoar staff.

MS / JH / HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

APRIL 15TH 4 PM

Every 3rd Sunday, Middle School and Junior High Students are invited to join the High Schoolers for Youth Group. Make new friends, grow in your faith and get to know our new Youth Director!



from
Pastor Mike
 Community Pastor
 pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

THE BIG R

If we were to boil the entire Bible down into a single word, that word would be "relationship." In Genesis, we read about God's desire for a special relationship with all people. God established humankind with a special relationship as steward of all the creation. In scripture, God expresses a vision for how people will be in right relationships with each other. This theme runs all through the Bible and through the heart of the cross of Jesus where God restores us to right relationships. At Zoar, if there is one thing we are about, it is relationships. It is at the heart of what is AmaZing! around here. Because it is so AmaZing, we need to spend time in worship lifting it up. What does it mean? How does it work? How am I a part? These are the questions we will address with our Spring stewardship campaign, *There's a Place for You!* Through this campaign, we want to hear from you. What are your abilities, gifts, interests, hobbies, hopes, and hurts? What makes you, you? The Bible says you are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Join us in April for an energizing time and discover just how rich you are in Zoar relationships.

THERE'S



WHEN GETTING BIGGER MEANS GETTING PERSONAL

As Zoar becomes bigger, we will become more personal. By most standards, Zoar is a large church. If last year's growth in membership and attendance is any indication, we'll become even larger. Does that mean Zoar will be less intimate and personal? Not at all! This April, we will dedicate three Sundays for a campaign to build community by helping people find their niche. We want no one left out. Called "*There's a Place For You*," this campaign will invite all members of Zoar, young and old, to share about themselves, their interests, hopes, and talents. *There's a Place For You* will inspire and help members get involved in existing small groups and ministries or form new groups and ministries. Join us the weekends of April 15, 22, and 29 for a time of finding greater community and personal impact.

A new sermon series will be a major feature of the *There's a Place for You!* This series will address the very real obstacles that many people encounter when they consider becoming more a part of the church community. Feeling unqualified, burned out, or overly busy can easily block our hopes to share in the life of Zoar. Join us to hear the Good News of the Bible about how our life in Christ lifts you up, gives you space, and sets you free.





THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

APRIL 15TH, 22ND & 29TH

Back by popular demand, the Zoar Drama Team will offer a short skit during the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services in April's stewardship campaign, There's a Place for You! Insightful, creative, and captivating, these dramas will not leave you wanting. *Wonderfully Made* is about a girl who is gifted in one way but whose parents pressure her to excel in things she is not as interested in. *Tired When Needed* tells the story of a man who just needs a break from church activity. *Plate Spinner* addresses the all-too-common modern experience of having too many demands in life. Each drama raises the question to be addressed in the sermon.

Wonderfully Made
Tired When Needed
Plate Spinner

April 15 Drama
April 22 Drama
April 29 Drama



WITHOUT YOU WE'RE INCOMPLETE

During Easter Sunday and the Sundays of the There's a Place for You! campaign we are looking for a great influx of important information. In recent years, technology has changed dramatically providing many with cell phones and new email addresses. Land lines are less and less common. Zoar needs to refresh its information. Every single adult (age 18 and over) is kindly and lovingly requested to fill out the forms and return them after church.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH 11 AM

Join us Sunday, April 8TH at the 11 AM service to welcome our newest Zoar Members. After finishing a 4 - week New Members class, a new group will make Zoar their church home.

NEW MEMBER FISH FRY

One of the first things Jesus did after his resurrection was to gather his followers and have a fish fry. Well, maybe they weren't deep fried but they were definitely cooked over a fire on the beach. On the first Sunday after Easter, April 8, at 12:00 Zoar will gather all the Jesus disciples for a meal of fresh perch, hush puppies, and various sides. Hot dogs will also be served for any who don't eat fish. No need to bring anything. The tables will be set and the food ready.

Luke 24:41-43

[After Jesus' resurrection] While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.



PSALMS: SONGS OF THE FAITHFUL

April 15TH - May 6TH

The book of Psalms contains one hundred-fifty prayers, songs, liturgies, and poems that are divided into five smaller books. The Psalms display the highs and lows of the life of faith. Together we will explore psalms of wisdom, lamentation, praise, and thanksgiving. Led by Old Testament Professor Dr. Donna Laird.

This four-week study will follow Augsburg/Fortress Press, Songs of the Faithful.

- Two roads diverged in a yellow wood - Which one will I take? **Psalm 1**
- I have sunk so low - Is there help for me? **Psalm 51:1-10**
- You have lifted me up - and I'm thankful **Psalm 113**
- What does it mean to place all your trust in the Lord? **Psalm 146**
- Listen to your elders **Psalm 37:1-9**
- Look at all the wonderous deeds God has done! **Psalm 111**



ZOAR MEMORIES//

Hundreds of people walk by it each week. The miniature church replica at the top of the ramp into the sanctuary was hand crafted by Fred Kazmaier in 1990. Fred carved every piece, except the exterior from a wood beam taken from the original 1917 church building. Made in exquisite detail, Fred handcrafted the interior, the wood plank flooring, pews, organ and altar. The altar cloths are handstitched. Even the potbellied stove was formed from the metal of tomato paste cans.



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ZOAR DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Beginning Tuesday, April 17TH

Zoar's Disciples of Christ, a Men's Bible study, will be starting up on Tuesday, April 17th, for a meal and social hour at the home of Paul Smithers. Please join us at 6:15 PM for a Sloppy Joe meal with all the trimmings. No need to bring anything as we'll just be enjoying a meal and introducing each other as a social hour (or two).

A discussion regarding content and purpose of our mission, to be an extension of the adult education programs at Zoar, will follow. You're welcome to bring a friend or neighbor who might enjoy a men's Bible study to see if this type of ministry is right for you. We will meet for an additional 10 weeks each Tuesday evening at Zoar from 7:30 to 9 PM. Our Spring session will end June 26th for the summer and pick back up in the fall on Tuesday, Sept 11th, ending on Nov. 13th for our winter break. Watch the Sunday insert for meeting notices.

Please contact Paul if you'd like to attend or with any questions at 419-265-0203 or pcsnas@aol.com.

Z O A R C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

APRIL // 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 Easter Worship | 2 Office Closed | 3 Pickleball | 4 Bible Study | 5 Men's Breakfast | 6 Zoar Book Club Gerald Moser Birthday | 7 Worship Charles Fansler Birthday |
| 8 New Member Sunday | 9 Popcorn Gang | 10 The Struggle is Real Support Group | 11 Rachel Circle | 12 Chancel Choir Practice Richard Hazle Birthday | 13 | 14 Yarns of Love |
| 15 Time and Talent Campaign Pat Buenting Birthday | 16 Solomon's Porch Jacques Everhart Birthday | 17 Quilters Carrie Osgood Birthday | 18 Recorders | 19 Naomi Circle | 20 | 21 Prayer Partners Don Thornton Birthday |
| 22 Time and Talent Campaign | 23 Yarns of Love Roy Lessing Birthday | 24 Men's Disciples | 25 Bible Study | 26 Flutes | 27 Kitchen of Hope La Resurrezione Concert | 28 Worship |
| 29 Time and Talent Campaign | 30 Phyllis Belch Birthday | | | | | |

for a complete list of events, please visit
zoarlutheran.com/calendar

ZOAR STAFF

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: Amanda Rich
 Director of Communications: Mollie Rauscher

Administrative Manager: Dale Nordahl
 Secretary: Suzanne DeLaney
 Custodian: Paul Cannon

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Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mike Brown, Community Pastor

Worship times:
6 PM Saturday,
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

Be
AmaZed!



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" But he said to them, "Do not be
alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of
Nazareth, who was crucified. He has
been raised; he is not here. Look, there
is the place they laid him."

— Mark 16:6