

Amaz**ing!**News

MARCH // 2018



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

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HIGH DRAMA OF THE MESSIANIC KIND

Drama is all around us. It's in our sporting events. It's in our movie theaters. It's in the books we read. It's in our government. It's in our societies. It's in our own families. Everywhere we look we can see drama. Sometimes it's entertaining, other times not. Jesus' dramatic parade into Jerusalem falls into both categories. Parades are almost always packed with crowds, smiling, and waving. This they did for Jesus. No doubt he waved back, smiling, pointing to the children, giving a thumbs-up to his admirers, fist bumping his fans. It was a nice show. But the deeper truth is, of course, that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was not for mere show. It was for the total transformation of the city, of the nation, and of people's lives. In waving to the crowds from atop his donkey, he was calling them to come off the sideline and get in line to follow him. That is true for Jesus then as well as now. Today, Jesus enters our hearts day after day asking for more than just a wave and a smile. He's on the road. He's headed for ultimate victory and he wants you at his side when it happens. That is high drama of the messianic kind.





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



WE JOURNEY TOGETHER

Greetings, sisters and brothers!

We journey together, through the joys of life, in the changes, and even out of the sorrows. We journey together, joined in Baptism, fed on bread and wine. And we journey in hope because of what God has already accomplished for us in Jesus.

Walk with me. It begins on Sunday, waiving our palms, singing "Hosanna" as Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Healings and teachings flow from Jesus, even as we spend the evenings in Bethany.

Thursday morning dawns and preparations are made. We travel back into Jerusalem to the second-floor room, and celebrate Passover. (remember: our ancestors were blessed by God to walk out of slavery in Egypt, through the sea, and to the Promised Land, even as we continue the journey!) Feet are washed, bread and wine shared, and the meal concludes. We walk out, across the valley, to the Garden. Too tired, we fall asleep, but Jesus prays deeply. Shouts awaken us as Judas leads the guards to where we are, and Jesus is captured.

For the rest of the night our teacher suffers a mock-trial,

until early in the morning He stands before Pilate, and is condemned.

Still we walk, frightened and grieving, as He carries the cross to the hill outside the city, is crucified, and died. Oh, how we know death. Oh, how we know loss. There we are, at what seems to the end of our journey. We sit in grief throughout Saturday.

Then comes the joy of Sunday, which God announces that not even death could hold Jesus down! That same announcement will be in our ears, when we hear that because of Jesus, not even death holds us down. Love wins! The gift of eternal life is given.

Where are your steps taking you? What burden are you carrying as you journey through life? What joys lighten your steps? There are a couple of truths that help me in these days. One is that Jesus has already walked that journey, and walks with me. I (we) are blessed by His presence and grace. Another is the community of Jesus also walks with me (us). Again, we are never alone. And then there is the promise that one day the journey will take us home, with all who have gone before us, with Jesus, with joy. Keep walking, sisters and brothers, walking together in the grace of God's love!



PUTTING POWER BACK IN YOUR PRAYER

WEDNESDAYS AT 11 AM & 7 PM

Put the power back in your prayer with this year's mid-week Lenten services. At these services, you'll learn 5 different forms of prayer and be given a customized prayer journal for the renewing of your spirit.

SATISFY YOUR HUNGER SATISFY YOUR SPIRIT

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 PM & 5:30 PM

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Zoar Family Life Center for a quick meal and quality conversation. Meals begin at 5:30 with an offering basket set out for donations. The offerings are designated to go to Redeemer's Summer Youth Program.



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TWO UPCOMING EVENTS FEATURE ZOAR ORGAN

Ex Libris: Music from the Library of J. S. Bach
Presented by Chad Fothergill

Sunday, March 4th, 4 PM

Ben Hur with Organ Accompaniment by
Andrew Rogers

Friday, March 23rd, 7 PM



from

Omaldo

Director of Music Ministries

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Lenten Greetings! Jesus heals, blesses, and forgives; his mission of salvation being his self-outpouring for the world.

March is the month this musician thinks the most about the nature of ministry. To that end, I would like to quote the most famous justification for music, which was offered by Johann Sebastian Bach. "The aim and final end of all music is the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul," he wisely said. All music, according to this way of thinking, has two orientations: one vertical (flowing toward God), and one horizontal (flowing toward our fellow human beings).

Zoar's music program models itself after this familiar pattern. The dual aim of music can be seen functioning in the two arms of our music ministry: the vertical is represented by our worship, while the concert series gives witness to the horizontal. This month I give thanks to God for you and your continued support in shaping our music program after the central symbol of our faith!

Soli Deo Gloria!

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT SATURDAY MARCH 24 4:45 PM

Join Zoar and the Toledo Walleye for a special pregame 'Faith and Family' event in The Aquarium on Saturday, March 24 at 4:45 PM.

This special pregame event will include an opportunity to hear directly from Team Chaplain, Tom Fraser, and select Walleye players as they discuss their faith and their experiences as professional athletes. The event will also feature keynote speaker, former University of Toledo and NFL quarterback, Bruce Gradkowski.

This event is open to all ages, adult tickets are \$17 a ticket and includes the pregame event and the 7:15 PM game versus the Brampton Beast. Children's tickets are covered by Zoar.

Please reserve tickets with the church office by March 11th and contact Kristen Scasny at kristenwirick@yahoo.com or at 419-308-9203 with any questions.



AT LONG LAST: FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY SUNDAY MARCH 4, 11:00 AM

One of the most powerful moments of a child's spiritual development comes in First Communion. Zoar provides 4 instructional times for preadolescents, 4th grade and older to prepare for first communion. These class times started Sundays during the Sunday School hour on February 18 & 25, and continue on March 4 & 11. The Sunday of First Communion will take place on March 11, during the 11:00 am service. There will be a reception following the service in the FLC.

ZOAR'S EASTER EGG HUNT



SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 10AM

Zoar will be holding its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 10 AM. The festivities begin with an egg hunt for toddlers through fourth grade. The Easter egg hunt will be organized by age to allow our littlest hunters time to find an Easter treat! The fun will continue with crafts, cookie making and more Easter festivities!

Youth workers are needed to make this event a success! Fifth grade and up are asked to assist with the Easter egg hunt, crafts, and more. Please contact Kristen Scasny at kristenwirick@yahoo.com or at 419-308-9203 if you are interested in volunteering.

YOUTH STORIES

IT'S COMING TOGETHER



Thanks to the AmaZing! commitment and efforts of key volunteers in ministries for youth and children, Zoar has continued a robust calendar of programs and events. Because of these individuals, Zoar's next Director of Youth will be able to join ministries that are mature and fruitful. The Youth Director search team has worked hard for over six months coming through 100 resumes, conducting over a dozen phone interviews, and having close to half a dozen in person interviews to identify and bring on a Director of Youth Ministries. Each resume and interview the team conducts puts Zoar one step closer to adding the next staff person.

The committee invites the prayers of the entire Zoar community for the team and potential candidates. A sense of expectancy and hope is in the air. At long last, things seem to be coming together.

HOUSTON BOUND YOUTH PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

It's just 115 days and counting from March 1 that Zoar's youth take off for the home of the Johnson Space Center, Houston Texas. Gathering with close to 30,000 other youth from around the country, Zoar's 30 youth will worship, learn, and serve in an explosive release of God's love for the downtrodden and lowly. Thanks to a grant from the Zoar Foundation Kurfis Fund, the entire cost of the gathering has been covered. In thanksgiving and appreciation, each Zoar youth commits to performing service hours in the church and community. Judging from the comments of previous Youth Gathering, it is an investment in the youth that pays big dividends.





from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

MY FIRST COMMUNION

This month, as we look forward to Holy Week, we celebrate little moments of holy acts like the rite of First Communion for some of our children and youth. It can be an exciting time for a young person to receive the holy meal for the first time. Many of you may remember your first communion. When I had first communion, I remember my mother bought me a brand new white shirt. She and my dad, brother, and sister all sat in the congregation to watch. The church was, of course, packed as all the first communion kids lined up then knelt at the communion rail. All I remember after I took my individual glass cup and placed it to my mouth was the feeling of liquid on my chest. I completely missed my mouth and poured it on my shirt. The purplish-red color of Manischewitz wine on my sleeve and down my front was there for all the church to see as I turned around to more than a few snickers. Not a very holy moment. But, as time passed, I got the hang of it as I learned that the holiness is not in how we do or don't mess up but in the hands of the God who loves us eternally.



MARCH LENT

March 7, 11 AM & 7 PM

Model Prayers – Kindness and
Gentleness

March 14, 11 AM & 7 PM

Guided Meditation – Generosity

March 21, 11 AM & 7 PM

Psalm Embodiment – Faithfulness and
Self-Control

Lenten Meals will be served every
Wednesday during Lent
at 12 PM and 5:30 PM

HOLY WEEK

Passion Weekend

March 24 6 PM
March 25 7 AM

Morning Worship

March 26 - March 29 7 AM

Maundy Thursday

Washing of Feet and Holy Communion
March 29 11 AM, 7 PM

Good Friday

Service at First Presbyterian 12 PM
Service at Zoar 7 PM

Holy Saturday

Easter begins at 6 PM



HOLY WEEK DETAILS

Weekday Morning Worship 7 AM

Rise early each day during holy week for a brief communion service.

Maundy Thursday 7 PM

This year at Maundy Thursday Worship, we will reenact Jesus' servant tradition of washing of feet. Just as the disciples were uncomfortable, at first, with Jesus kneel at their feet to wash them, so too, some of us might be hesitant. It is unusual, even unheard of, in our society to wash someone's feet. For Jesus, it was a demonstration of his deep love for serving others. There are many appropriate ways to respond during a foot washing: smiling, praying, laughing, relaxing, or thanking.

Good Friday 7 PM

On the evening of Good Friday worship focuses attention on Jesus' experience on the cross. Crucifixion was the end-point of Roman death row, a terribly painful and horrifying death. His death raised powerful questions for the first Christians. It raises questions still for many today.



WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

What is Holy Week? Why is it important?

After Christianity began, followers of Jesus would gather and visit the places that shaped the end of Jesus' life on earth. Over the years this time of remembering Jesus' last days spread throughout Christianity and was called Holy Week. Holy Week remembers the events of the last week that led up to Jesus' death and resurrection. Years later, we continue this holy practice at Zoar Lutheran Church and celebrate the Great Three Days - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

SOCIAL MINISTRY BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY MARCH 10, 8:00 AM - 2 PM

March was first named as Red Cross Month in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a way to raise awareness of the organization and its humanitarian mission in the midst of war. Since then, every year, March has been designated as American Red Cross Month. The Red Cross has been helping people for more than 130 years during natural disasters, life saving classes and blood drives.

In honor of Red Cross Month, Social Ministry is hosting a Blood Drive on Saturday, March 10th from 8 AM - 2 PM. Registration is preferred but walk-ins are welcome! To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS.

FACTS ABOUT BLOOD NEEDS

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.



MUSIC WITH A MISSION

Music-with-a-Mission is a special designation in Zoar's Concert Series. A free-will offering at a Music-with-a-Mission event will benefit a charity preselected by Zoar's Social Ministry. In less than three years, Zoar has held a dozen MWAM concerts and raised more than \$7,000. Beneficiaries include PCU, Mom's House, Cocoon, children in Peru, and The Haiti Project, among others.



Pastor Tim Philabaum and Omaldo Perez of Zoar Lutheran Church present a check to Shirley Kleist, President of Perrysburg Christians United in the amount of \$800 from money raised in at a recent Zoar music with a mission event.



Pastor Tim Philabaum and Omaldo Perez of Zoar Lutheran Church present a check to Christina Rodriguez, Executive Director of Mom's House in the amount of \$710 from money raised at a recent Zoar music with a mission event.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Finding your way and place in a church the size of Zoar Lutheran is not always easy. This is a church on the move to new ports of call to pick up new people for the adventure that is Zoar. It is for just this reason that Pastor Mike offers the class "Onboard with Zoar." It is a six week class to help orient all people. Whether you have been here a single Sunday or an entire lifetime at Zoar Lutheran, this course will help you find your place among the crew. New Member Classes are scheduled for:

Sunday, March 4th, 6 PM
Sunday, March 11th, 6 PM
Sunday, March 18th, 6 PM
Sunday, March 25th, 6 PM

New Member Sunday will be held Sunday, April 8th with a Fish Fry to welcome all new members.



ZOAR MEMORIES//

With so many happy memories at Zoar it is hard to pick just one, so I think I should talk about our first Zoar memory. Melissa, the boys and I had just moved to Perrysburg and were "church shopping." We started with that Lutheran church we happened to pass on the way to the grocery store. We never went anywhere else. We were immediately hooked by Zoar's excellent – and eclectic – music program and thoughtful sermons. The worship style, traditional without being stodgy, really appealed to us.

We were also impressed with the friendly people: Dorothy Beyer recognized us on our second visit and intercepted us after the service to introduce herself and invite us back. Some faces at Zoar have changed since that first visit, but these core elements of the Zoar experience remain strong.

-Neil Englehart, Council President

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

MARCH // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Men's Breakfast	2 Zoar Book Club	3 Worship
4 Ex Libris by Chad Fothergill Organ Concert	5 Last Day to Order Easter Flowers	6 The Struggle is Real Support Group	7 Lenten Worship	8 Chancel Choir Practice	9	10 Zoar Blood Drive
11 First Communion Sunday	12 Ruth Circle	13 Pickleball	14 Lenten Worship	15 Naomi Circle	16	17 Prayer Partners
18 MS/JH/HS Youth Group	19 Flutes Practice	20 Quilters	21 Lenten Worship	22 Agape Bells	23 Kitchen of Hope Ben Hur Organ Concert	24 Worship Faith and Family Night
25 Digging Deeper Bible Study	26 Morning Worship	27 Morning Worship	28 Morning Worship	29 Maundy Thursday	30 Good Friday	31 Zoar Easter Egg Hunt

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:
 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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**"Hosanna!
Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!"
— John 12:13**