

Amaz**ing!**News

MAY // 2018



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

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FROM THE WOMB TO THE TOMB AND OUT AGAIN

What does mothering have in common with God? Plenty, if you look carefully at the Bible. Sprinkled lightly in scripture, images of God in motherly terms are there. For example, God is described as a mother (Hosea 11:3-4), as a protective mother bear (Hosea 13:8), as a mother eagle (Deuteronomy 32:11-12), as a woman who gives birth (Deuteronomy 32:18), as a comforting mother (Isaiah 66:13), as a nursing mother (Isaiah 49:15), as a woman in labor (Isaiah 42:14), and as a protective mother hen (Luke 13:34). On an even deeper level, the New Testament says that compassion encompasses all of Jesus' work. In the Hebrew language of the Old Testament the word for "compassion" comes from the same root as the word, "womb." There is a womb-like character to how God relates to the creation. Paul points to this in Romans 8:22-23 "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves." The picture is of a birthing. Something new is being born. The Holy Spirit is bringing about a new creation in us and in the world. All is being born again!





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com

PENTECOST

WOOSH! SHAKE! FIRE! EXPLOSION OF LANGUAGES! WOW!

After the shock of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples spent forty days with Our Lord. They ate with Him, learned from Him, touched Him (proving that He was not a ghost!), and celebrated His presence. At the end of those days, Jesus ascended to The Father, physically departing until the Last Day (when He shall return). But before He left, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would remind the disciples (and us) of God's grace and guidance. So, the disciples waited.

Ten days later they were back in the Upper Room. They gathered to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, one dedicated to the harvest, and to the giving of the Law. There they were, in the same Upper Room in which Jesus had celebrated the Last Supper, when the Holy Spirit came. Not what they were expecting! Woosh! The Spirit moved through the men and women in that room, shook the foundations of the building, gave them other languages to speak, and power to share the good news of God's love in Jesus. Alleluia! From this "birthday of the Church" the disciples spread out to the ends of the world, proclaiming this message.

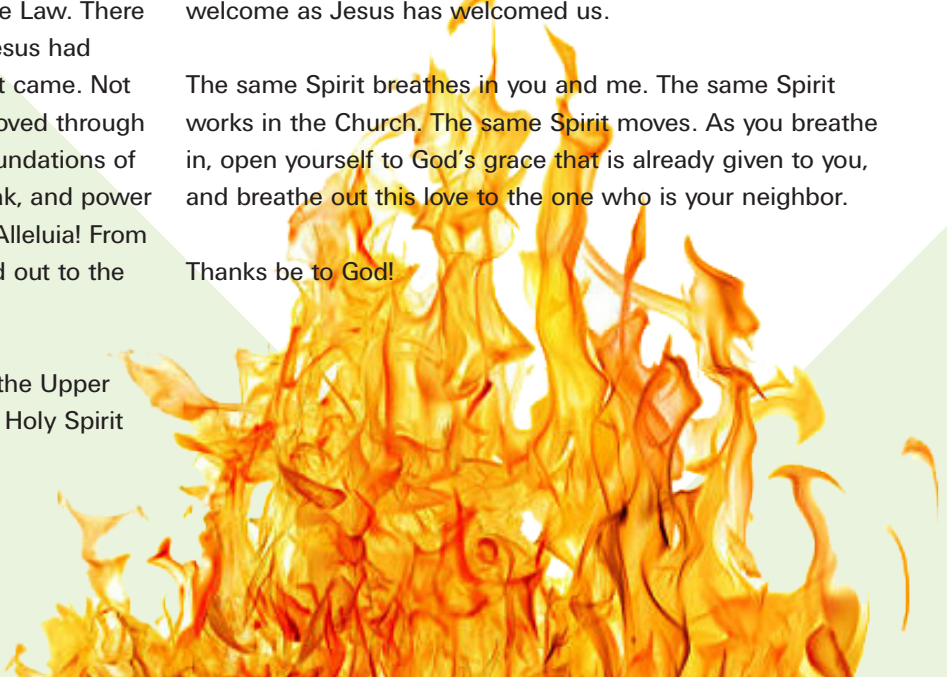
2000+ years later, and we are now the ones in the Upper Room. We are now the ones through whom the Holy Spirit

moves. With God's empowerment boldness to live the Christ-like life is possible. With the breathing of the Holy Spirit God's love flows through us.

Hmm. Do you feel that power? Do you sense the guidance of God in your life? Sometimes, yes, maybe not always. But this is where the reality is: in Jesus God has shown God's love for the whole world; nothing can separate us from this love (Paul in Romans 8), not death, not even our own decisions; washed in Baptism and fed in Communion we are empowered; it is this love from God that compels us to serve as Jesus served, to forgive as Jesus forgave, to bring joy as Jesus shared, to welcome as Jesus has welcomed us.

The same Spirit breathes in you and me. The same Spirit works in the Church. The same Spirit moves. As you breathe in, open yourself to God's grace that is already given to you, and breathe out this love to the one who is your neighbor.

Thanks be to God!



IT'S A RITE OF PASSAGE

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 6TH 11 AM

These young people have spent the last two years exploring Luther’s Small Catechism, as well as The Bible. They were washed in Baptism, and have been fed in Holy Communion. And while their parents have been responsible for their faith-growth, it is now time for them to affirm their faith. On Sunday, May 6, at the 11am Worship Service, the congregation will gather, pray for these young members, and give thanks for their growth and their faith. Please keep them and their families in your prayers, as God moves them, and us, into God’s future!

Aubrey Arndt	Jacob Benington	Alijah Beverly
Chelsea Brewster	Averi Cline	Sydney Doughten
Calista Grantham	Grant Knowlton	Graham Michael
Jenna Rettig	Sydney Rettig	Jakob Rickman
Benjamin Robeson	Chase Saneholtz	Leah Schroeder
Mitchell Smith	Andrew Swoap	Tyler Swoap
Raegan Thurn		



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MOTHER’S DAY

ALL WOMEN TO RECEIVE CARNATIONS

This year at Zoar, we will honor the noble and holy vocation of mothering. Whether you have given birth or not, many women of all ages find themselves in a mothering role.

The gifts of the many different types of mothers God has provided to the world is as beautifully diverse as the world. Join us on May 13 as we remember the good God brings about through all of our mothers.



from
Omaldo
Director of Music Ministries
operez@zoarlutheran.com

This is the good news: God does not have grandchildren! We all, by virtue of the sacrifice on the cross and the triumph of the resurrection of Jesus, have become a part of a holy nation, a royal priesthood, siblings and heirs to the kingdom of God. This is the wonderful gift of grace.

During this season of Easter, as we explore our baptism vocation and remember that we are called to love, may we find opportunities to celebrate that love - remember our Maundy Thursday mantra? “Love each other as I have loved you.”

Loving each other and having received the gift of God’s promises in the waters of Baptism, we move confidently to make a difference...to be ambassadors of the Good News to the world. Let us rejoice, sing, and continue the feast!

CHILDREN PERFORM FOR MOTHERS DAY

KIDS MAKE MUSIC
MAY 13TH

This Mother's Day be treated to a special performance by our littlest Lutherans.

Preschool - Fifth grade will perform for a special song for all the moms of Zoar.



ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
MAY 20TH, 9:45 - 10:45 AM

All are invited to join this end-of-the-year party! Hot pancake breakfast with a free-will offering. Watch a slide show of this year's wonderful accomplishments. Celebrate our amazing volunteers. Sing along with our kids. Catch the VBS teaser. And watch the World Guinness record holder for world's fastest flipper of pancakes! The entire church is invited to this pancake breakfast.

KID'S GOD ADVENTURES: LUTHERAN CAMP HELPS KIDS

Jesus intentionally used outdoor adventure to get to the hearts of his disciples. One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them,

"Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out...
(Luke 8:22)

Modern studies show the benefits of learning about God in an outdoor setting. A recent Yale study measured the actual results of camping experiences for children and youth. The results?

Increased confidence, increased self-esteem, increased independence, and increased awareness of God. These improvements happen, in large part, because of the immersion in undisturbed natural surroundings. Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio offers many options for summer camp fun!



Check out their website for more info: lomocamps.org



from
Amanda
 Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

A WARM HELLO!

It is with great joy, excitement and gratitude that I introduce myself as your Director of Youth Ministries. I am honored to join the Zoar staff after having served most recently as the Coordinator of Youth Ministries at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green.

In May of 2017 I graduated from Bowling Green State University with my Masters of Music degree in Vocal Music Performance. I also hold a degree in Music Education and Performance from the University of South Dakota. Before moving to Ohio, I served as kindergarten through eighth grade vocal music teacher at Sacred Heart School in Sioux City, IA.

I am passionate about music, faith, education and empowering our young people in the life of the church and our community. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve alongside each of you as we work to empower, strengthen and develop our youth as they embark on their personal faith journeys. I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming days, weeks and months. Please feel free to drop by my office to say hello!

Blessings,
 Amanda Rich

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

SUNDAY JUNE 3RD, 11 AM

Join us in honoring our 2018 Zoar Graduates. The Class of 2018 will be asked to stand before the congregation at the 11AM Worship service for recognition and a blessing on this milestone achievement. Graduates and their families who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to Amanda Rich by June 1st arich@zoarlutheran.com





from
Pastor Mike
 Community Pastor
 pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

MOM'S HEAVENLY BANQUETS

As a young girl, poor and in a broken home, my mother never quite knew when she should expect a meal, except on Sundays. Local churches would help provide some food. She knew that on Sundays her mother (my grandmother) would make sure there was some sort of meal. On that day, she felt a special kind of love. When she had a family of her own, she decided to make sure every day was a Sunday for her husband and kids. Mom prepared elaborate meals and set a beautiful table, often decorated with roses from her rose garden. She learned how to cook all types of cuisine. You name it and she could cook it, and well. Sundays were always my favorite day because when we got home from church, she would make a massive breakfast with fried eggs, ham, grits, homemade biscuits, gravy, and fried pork chops. After we all dozed off to sleep away the afternoon, she'd make an expansive supper with roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, other veggies, homemade rolls, and pie or cake. Mom's meals were always more than meals. They were heaven.



FINDING HEAVEN ON EARTH LOCAL FAMILIES TURN TO ZOAR

Zoar's summer program to help end local hunger resumes this year on June 8. Remarkable in many ways, Feed Our Families supports families through the summer who qualify for free and reduced lunch meal programs at Perrysburg public schools.

Taking place each Friday, families at risk for hunger enter Zoar's FLC to receive a lunch and a week's worth of groceries. These groceries are made possible by financial contributions from Zoar members individually and through the Sunday offerings. Last year, Feed Our Families provided over 10,000 meals.



Tracy Rickman at Feed Our Families 2017

You can help end hunger in our community. To learn more about the variety of ways you can help, contact Tracy Rickman at 419-206-7927 or at tracyrickman@hotmail.com.



OUR FAMILIES BEGINS JUNE 8TH

REGISTRATION, UNLOADING, LOADING TAKE YOUR PICK

There are many ways to volunteer for Feed Our Families. The food truck arrives Thursdays in the AM. Maybe, you can help unload the boxes of food. Our guests need to register. So maybe you're good at the computer or at helping fill-out our forms. The bags of groceries have to make it into our guests' cars. So, maybe you can help load. However you help, it will make a great difference.

Contact Tracy Rickman at 419-206-7927 or at tracyrickman@hotmail.com.



CHRIST'S HUNGERING PEOPLE

With a total population of 129,730 residents, Wood County's poverty level is 7%. Food insecurity affects 13.7% of residents in Wood County. Food insecurity rate for children is 19.9%. 5,370 children in Wood County go to bed each night without access to adequate food.

(Source: Toledo Food Bank)



GATHER/GROW/GIVE GET YOUR GEEK ON!

EXPLORE FAITH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEETS ON THE 2ND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
CHARLIE'S RESTAURANT 8 AM

According to a Pew Research Center report in 2014, a majority of Americans (68%) say that science does not conflict with their own personal religious beliefs. This report points out that there are millions of Christians who celebrate the advances in science and technology.

In the Lutheran tradition, science and faith have never been seen to be in conflict. Instead, they complement each other. Zoar's group for Faith, Science and Technology meets once a month to discuss books, recent findings, and listen to speakers to explore the relationship between faith, science, and technology. You are invited to this great conversation.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Mike in person or at pastormike@zoarlutheran.com.

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars."

– Martin Luther

"Whatever brings the whole of [hu]mankind a greater use than science? Not arts, not business, not even the fruits of the Earth itself, not even the sun that many believe is the creator of life is more necessary than science."

– Phillip Melancthon (Lutheran Reformer with Martin Luther)

HAPPINESS IS IN

MAY 13TH - JUNE 4TH

9:45 AM ZOAR CONFERENCE ROOM

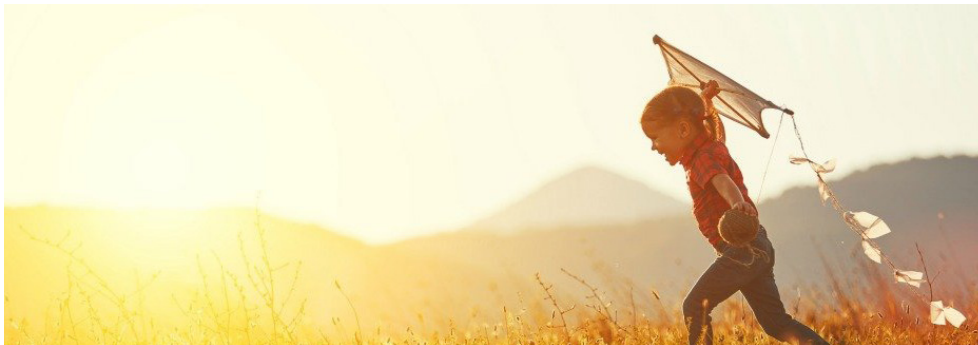
Happiness is a hot topic in college classes across the country. Zoar member Rick Myers of Owens Community College will bring the latest findings to Zoar in May. Rick says, "The search for happiness is always more, or at least, as important as the achievement of happiness." Join Rick and others in the conference room beginning May 13 at 9:45.

WEEK ONE: Happiness around the world.

WEEK TWO: Happiness in America.

WEEK THREE: Finding personal happiness. techniques, approaches, and plans.

WEEK FOUR: God's plan and how humans resolve the differences.



A DREAM COMES TRUE

INTERN KEVIN EYES THE FUTURE

After much prayer and conversation, the ELCA has assigned me to serve in Southwest Pennsylvania Synod. I will now begin the process of interviewing and discerning where God is calling me to serve. This is a very exciting time for Meghan and me and is really a dream come true. I became aware of this call 13 years ago, and I am more sure than ever that God has been in this process with me, strengthening and holding me close throughout this journey, even as I rest assured in that same promise into first call and beyond.

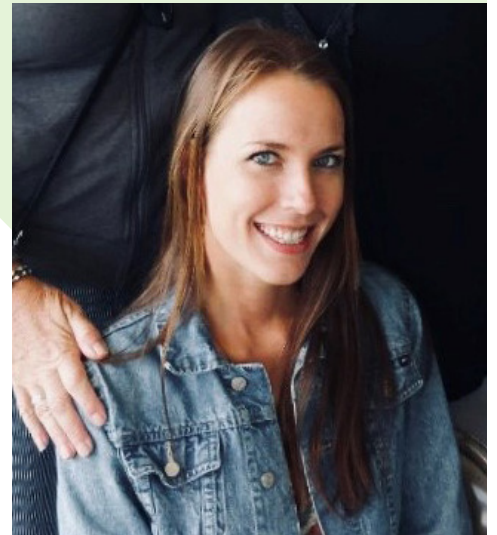
However, this is also a bittersweet time for us as we also prepare to leave this wonderful community. Zoar has been a place of education, of nourishment, and of love for both of us. You all have embraced and supported us from day one and we cannot have become the people we are without you. Thank you very much for being servants to us and allowing me to serve you.

-Intern Kevin

FAREWELL GATHERING

MAY 29TH

Intern Kevin's last Sunday at Zoar will be May 29. There will be a farewell gathering that Sunday after 11:00 worship. Please join others in the Family Life Center to express thanks and appreciation to Kevin and Meghan.



MEET A NEW MEMBER //

HANNAH SMITH

Hannah is one of Zoar's newest members, joining the church with nine others on April 8. At 29 years old, she has a wisdom and a sense of grace that is beyond her years. Some of that comes from her supportive parents and extended family. Some of it comes by successfully coming through some very dark days. For several years, Hannah was stuck in the dark valley of drug addiction. Through treatment, support groups, and caring family she has emerged a changed and healthy person. When sharing how Zoar is a part of her journey, she said,

"Becoming a member of Zoar was truly a monumental event in my spiritual journey as well as for my family. Two years ago I never thought I would be part of the Zoar family." Even before formally joining Zoar, Hannah had started a new ministry. After sharing her recovery story at the Zoar convocation on Opioid Addiction, she started a community support for others recovering from addiction. Called "The Struggle Is Real," the group meets every Tuesday night on the top floor at Zoar. A graduate of Indiana University, Hannah now works in Perrysburg at Clean Streams as a Communication and Outreach Specialist. Welcome Hannah!

ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

MAY // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Confirmation Worship	7	8 David Cremer Birthday	9	10	11 Ray Norkowski Birthday	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 PCU Blood Drive	19
20 Pancake Breakfast	21 Sonia Fisher Birthday Betty Hoffman Birthday	22 Ruth Emch Birthday	23	24	25 Kitchen of Hope	26
27 Reception for Intern Kevin	28 Office Closed for Holiday	29	30	31		

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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Zoar Staff would like to congratulate all our seniors on your graduation success.

May God's graces be with you as you step ahead towards your dreams.

Would you like to place a birthday announcement or congratulatory message in the Zoar monthly newsletter?

Contact Mollie at communications@zoarlutheran.com for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!



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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!



www.zoarlutheran.com



I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

— Psalms 9:1