

# Amaz**ing!**News

JUNE // 2018



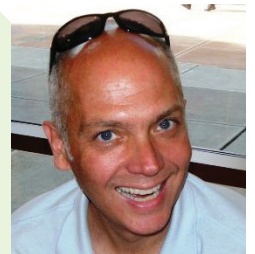
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH | [WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM](http://WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM)

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## ZOAR, RICH WITH POSSIBILITIES CAMPAIGN A GREAT SUCCESS

Zoar Lutheran Church has just discovered hundreds of new possibilities for growth and ministry. As a result of There's a Place for You! stewardship campaign, 140 and counting confirmed members offered themselves to help power Zoar's ministry and vision. People from every age, from 13 to over 80, stepped forward and said "count me in!" Almost without exception, each person who turned in a time and talent form offered to help in several ways, checking more than ten boxes. The bounty in possibilities for new connections and fresh energy numbers close to 500. Letters have been sent out to all who turned in a form. Letters will go out inviting those who could not be at church to do so. One of the most direct ways to experience Christ's presence is to offer ourselves for others. Giving generously of our time and talents to God's mission in the world is the way of Jesus. It is how Jesus leads us beyond ourselves into something much more important. It is how Jesus expands our reach and influence. Thank you to all who have and to those who will offer themselves to the amazing things God is doing through Zoar.



Thanks Joe Wagner!



from  
**Pastor Tim**  
Senior Pastor  
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



## FATHER'S DAY.

### JUST ANOTHER "HALLMARK DAY" ON OUR CALENDAR. OR...

As you may know, both of my parents have found their baptism in Jesus completed, and are now in God's arms, so I approach Mother's and Father's Day from a different perspective. I invite you into some of my June musings.

The role of the parent is one of the most important callings God has given us. Whether it is a male/female parent set, or a single-sex parent set, or one parent working hard, or grandparents, or the amazing ministry of foster/adoptive parents (or one of the other patterns of parenting today), the call is to share the faith, to show the love, to offer the guidance, to be the hugs and "safe-space" of God.

Luther expands the understanding of "parent" to include all those in authority. All of us - teachers, neighbors, business owners, police and medical personnel, government workers, aunts/uncles, pastors - are called to this same parenting task.

Once Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, and He responded that there were two: to love God with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others as one loves one's self. This is the call for the

Christian. This is our call in the parenting task. If each of us would love like this with children, as well with anyone we meet, the whole world would be different,

Now on to another musing: why is God called "Father?" God certainly is not male (nor is God female). God is greater than gender or identity or role. God is God, majestic, eternal, Trinity. Whereas I try not to use a pronoun for God (calling God "God" instead of him...) I do pray to "Our Father," because of the relationship of love that is in the Trinity, the dance of joy with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and because I learn to be a better father (in many roles) as I grow in God's love.

Father's Day. May all who have fathers be blessed! May all fathers who rest in Jesus be blessed! May all who serve in the father role, male and female, be blessed! May all who are growing in faith and life be blessed with fathers who love and teach! May all the world know of Jesus, who lived the love of the Father.

Blessed be our God and father of all!



## SUMMER SPIRITUALITY IN 7 EASY STEPS FOLLOWING NATURE'S TRAIL TO JESUS

Summer months are spiritual months. It is a time to grow larger in spirit through soaking up the nature around you. It is a time to connect more deeply with Christ through tuning into your senses. Here are some suggestions for getting the most out of your summer.

### 1. WALK BAREFOOT

When Moses approached the burning bush, in Exodus, God spoke to him and said, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Summer can be a time to be more conscious of the sanctity of the earth. While going barefoot might take some getting used to, it is a good way for you to connect to the earth and the one who created the earth.

### 2. GET IN THE WATER

A spiritual summer calls for as much contact with a lake, river, or ocean as possible. Life begins in water. Our bodies are mostly made up of water. And relating to real water is to connect with the larger world. Pools work in a pinch.

### 3. GAZE AT THE NIGHT SKY

You can create an unforgettable evening simply by laying an old quilt out in the backyard or on a hill some clear night. Look up into the summer night sky. Get lost in the stars above. The night sky unites you to peoples of ancient times and peoples far off in the future.

### 4. PLANT A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

You know to watch for fireflies, but have you considered taking the concept deeper? Butterflies will come to your garden in larger numbers if you plant a few herbs and flowering bushes that appeal to them. Butterflies have been a symbol for the resurrection for centuries.

### 5. SIT UNDER A GREAT TREE

Listen to the leaves as the breeze sweeps across. Look up into the branches and leaves. Watch the light break through. Sit and watch. Climb it. Have someone you love join you. Eat a ripe fruit grown from it (another bright idea from Genesis). Suspend a hammock between two trees and climb in.

### 6. SET UP A HUMMING BIRD FEEDER.

Feeding migrating hummingbirds when they buzz through your neighborhood can be one of the world's most thrilling activities. Hummingbirds are one of God's amazing creatures.

### 7. GO ON A DIGITAL FAST

Turn off the tv, lay aside your phone and leave the computer alone.

from  
**Omaldo**

**Director of Music Ministries**  
operez@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Friends,

I want to take a few minutes of your time to express my profound gratitude for your support and help. On Friday, April 27, we put together a large-scale oratorio that –as far as I can tell- has never been done in the Toledo area, perhaps not even in the whole state of Ohio. Our ambitious project involved many months of preparation and many, many people who donated time, talents, and resources. There are too many of you to name here individually, but I want to let you know that your encouragement, energy, and commitment have allowed Zoar's music program to reach a new level of outreach in our community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you! We did it - and we did it together.



## FAMILY FUN COOKOUT & GAMES JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> 4 PM

All are invited to a mid-summer cookout, picnic, and day of games on July 15, starting at 4:00 PM. Bring your fishing poles, your blanket or lawn chairs, and your best picnic dishes to share. Meats are provided.

This celebration will be at the property of Chip and Connie Krall at 9236 Mandell Rd., Perrysburg. Their property includes a pond and several acres with freshly mown grass and surrounded by trees. Fishing, fellowship and family friendly games will be the highlights of the afternoon. BYOB.



Lauren Cline is ready for Guitar Camp!

## STRUMMING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE GUITAR CAMP COMES TO ZOAR JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Children and youth, ages 10 and up are invited to Zoar's first guitar camp. Taking place June 11<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup>, from 6:30-8:00 PM, this camp is for those wanting to "try" guitar for the first time, beginners, and intermediate players wanting to improve. While acoustic guitars are provided, you may bring your own acoustic guitar if you like (no electric guitars). Campers will learn guitar basics, TAB, beginning chords, and song playing.

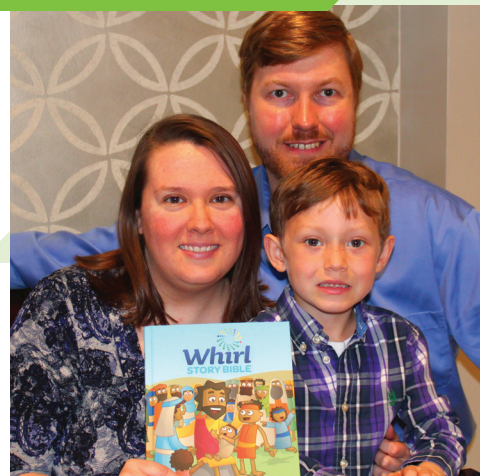
The fee for the event is \$50. Please register at [pastormike@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastormike@zoarlutheran.com).

## INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO GOD

### STORY BIBLES FOR ALL

On the importance and joy of having regular God-time at home, Adrienne King recently shared on Facebook: "We received this free kids story Bible from church. It's 555 pages, looks just like a textbook, and we read it most nights before bed. I'm so happy that we do. One day, Liam came out of Sunday School class and announced, 'Jesus and I were both baptized! We were baptized in the Jordan River!' It cracked me up." Zoar provides every household with pre-readers an award-winning story book Bible.

To claim yours, simply call the church office at 419-874-4346.



Adrienne, Bill and Liam King



## CONCERT - WATERPALOOZA

### DRESS FOR WATER

### JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM

Third Sunday will ACTUALLY BE June 10th for a concert and waterpalooza! Due to Father's Day our regular 5th-12th Grade Third Sunday programming will be moved to June 10th. We will be attending the Guitar Concert together at 2PM followed by Waterpalooza! Bring your friends and join us for an afternoon of music, water balloon games and more! All activities should conclude at 6PM.



from  
**Amanda**

**Director of Youth Ministries**  
arich@zoarlutheran.com

It is finally time to kick off our summer events! Our teams are hard at work planning for upcoming events including the trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX and for VBS! We kick off the exciting month of June by celebrating our 2018 Zoar Graduates, followed by gathering with other youth from Northwest Ohio for Synod Assembly at Bowling Green State University and by finally hopping on the train to Houston! In addition to these exciting events, we will participate in many service opportunities in the church and beyond. Join us in assisting with Feed Our Families, come help us serve meals, groceries and cheer on Fridays or help unload the materials on Thursday.

Is there something the youth of Zoar can do for YOU? Sign-up for a service to be completed by our volunteers on June 19th. So, grab your sunscreen and all of your friends and join us for a summer of sharing God's love in fellowship and service.



## HOUSTON HERE WE COME!

### ZOAR YOUTH DIVE IN TO HELP AND LEARN

Upcoming Houston Trip - The time has FINALLY arrived! Zoar will be sending twenty-three devoted youth and seven adult leaders to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Those attending are in for a transformative week as they learn more about the city of Houston, including a day of service, worship with 30,000 other youth and adults from all over the United States, listen to inspiring speakers and so much more! We ask that you pray for our youth and their leaders during this imperative time in their faith journey.

Want to worship with us? Tune into the ELCA Youth Gathering Facebook page during our trip for a livestream of some of the events!





from  
**Pastor Mike**  
Community Pastor  
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

## THE BEST EXPERIENCE

I can honestly say that growing up in a Lutheran church was the most important experience of my childhood and teen years. Of all the memories and rich experiences I carry with me, few rank as high as Vacation Bible School. At a time when summer breaks lasted a full three months, VBS was a Godsend. Back then, it was two weeks long. And even that was not long enough for me. I can still taste the cookies and punch. I'm not sure what kind of punch it was but it became very familiar over the many years. Beyond the snacks, I will never forget the games, singing, and the awesome love of the adults. VBS was one of the times when I knew that I belonged in that place. We weren't confined to a little room in a part of the church. The entire building was dedicated to bringing kids to Christ. Church was for me. Even more than confirmation, VBS formed my commitment to church and to God. I wonder how many of Zoar's kids are also touched by VBS in this way. I suspect a great many. VBS is one of the most important things we do to help kids connect with Christ. Let's go to it!



## THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER

### ZOAR VBS JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 9AM - 12PM

At Shipwrecked VBS, kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot! Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called Operation Kid-to-Kid, that will provide seeds for families in Haiti to grow food.







# JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>

## WE LOOK FOR THE BEST NATURALLY WE THOUGHT OF YOU

The summer's VBS will bring over a hundred children eager to love and learn about Jesus, and the Bible. Won't you help? Volunteers are needed for this year's VBS! We are looking for empowering, encouraging and positive volunteers entering the 7th grade and beyond to help assist and lead this year's Shipwrecked adventure.

If you are interested in helping-out in anyway, please contact Amanda Rich at [arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com) or visit [zoarlutheran.com/vbs-2018/](http://zoarlutheran.com/vbs-2018/)

ALL CHURCH ICE  
CREAM SOCIAL

July 12<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 - 8 PM

All are welcome to an Ice Cream Social in the FLC to celebrate the end of VBS!



# GATHER/GROW/GIVE

## JONAH (NOT) ON A MISSION FROM GOD

ADULT VBS COMES TO ZOAR

JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 - 8 PM

Jonah is an adventure story with fearful sailors, a repentant imperial city, a sorrowful deity, an angry prophet—and a very large fish! God drags Jonah to cross religious, ethnic, and political boundaries to share the love and mercy of God with the great city of Nineveh. As the story traces Jonah's run from God it unravels the inner workings of his heart—his fears, motivations, and values. In the process, it confronts us with questions about our own hearts. This short summer exploration of the book of Jonah will be led by Donna Laird, Ph.D. in Old Testament studies.

The class will meet for three evenings;

Tuesday-Thursday, July 24–26 from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Participants will be using a manuscript (typed copy) of Jonah and the study guide, Jonah, from the books of Faith series. Fruit, cheese, and crackers will be available each evening prior to class.

Friday July 27th attendees are invited to gather at the Black Cloister at 619 Monroe St. in downtown Toledo for a brew, celebration, and more discussion.





# REDEEMER SUMMER PROGRAM

Thank you to all the Zoar members and friends who gave a total of \$5,667.50 during Lent to provide for the Summer Youth Program at Redeemer. This program provides breakfast and lunch to about 50 children as well as a morning program of Bible stories, crafts, outdoor time, special presentations and music. This program would not be possible without your generosity. To volunteer part of your summer in the Redeemer Summer Program call Leigh Ann Meineke at 419-356-6123.



## UNDERSTANDING NORTH KOREA A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>, 9:45 - 10:45 AM

The North Korean nuclear program has arguably been the most important major foreign policy issue facing the Trump administration. An historic meeting between Kim Jung-un and Donald Trump is scheduled for June 12<sup>TH</sup>. Zoar will host a mini-class on the North Korean nuclear program with Neil Englehart, to help you prepare for the deluge of news to come, and to understand the outcome of the summit meeting. Dr. Englehart teaches international politics at BGSU and travelled to North Korea in 2011. On June 10th we will talk about how North Korea works and why they wanted to develop nuclear weapons in the first place. On the 17<sup>TH</sup> we will talk about the summit, its outcomes, and what a Christian approach to the problem might look like.

## INTERNATIONAL GUITARIST COMES TO ZOAR JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM



Nemanja Ostojić

Members of Zoar and the surrounding community are in for a real treat on June 10<sup>TH</sup>. Nemanja (Nem) Ostojić will perform a selection of sacred, baroque, and Spanish guitar to kick-off Zoar's guitar camp. Nem has performed in 19 countries on four continents. A masterful and musical player, he has been the gold medalist or the top prize winner in more than fifteen major international guitar competitions. His debut CD Album "First Born" has received rave international reviews. He has also made dozens of

National Public Radio and TV recordings. In addition to playing at 2:00 PM, Nem will also offer some special music at the 11:00 AM service.



## MEET A NEW MEMBER // CHRIS CLINE

Chris joined Zoar with his family Jodi, Averi, Lauren, and Carli in June of 2017. Since then, the family has become very involved through the Fall Family Retreat, First Communion, Confirmation, Guitar Camp, and they have joined a Christ Care Group. Beyond that, Chris has also joined the Youth and Young Adults Committee (YAYA) helping support the efforts of Zoar's youth ministry.

When asked what drew them to Zoar, Chris said "After several years at another church we started to lose the connection so Jodi, my wife, checked out some other options. She liked Zoar so the whole family went to some services. Zoar was very welcoming when we visited. We felt like there was a strong community there and opportunities for us all to get involved. Great pastors too!" Both Chris and Jodi are both warm and energetic people, easy to smile. So, it should be no surprise that Chris is in sales. He is a National Accounts Team Manager for MSC Industrial Supply. Basically, he manages a team of sellers who negotiate contracts with Fortune 500 companies.

Welcome to the entire Cline family!

# Z O A R C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S H I G H L I G H T S

## JUNE // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Baccalaureate	4 Mary Lou Meier Birthday	5	6	7	8 Feed Our Families Begins	9
10 Guitar Concert  MS/JH/HS Youth Group	11 Guitar Camp	12 Guitar Camp	13 Guitar Camp	14 Guitar Camp	15 Guitar Camp	16
17 Father's Day Gloria Weidner Birthday	18 Hazel Deuble Birthday	19	20	21	22	23 Thomas Bettinger Birthday Dorothy Whitacre Birthday Marvin Widdel Birthday
24	25 Youth Depart for Houston	26 Loujean Hazel Birthday	27	28	29	30 St. Pauls Soup Kitchen

for a complete list of events, please visit  
[zoarlutheran.com/calendar](http://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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Member SIPC

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

Contact Mollie at [communications@zoarlutheran.com](mailto: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

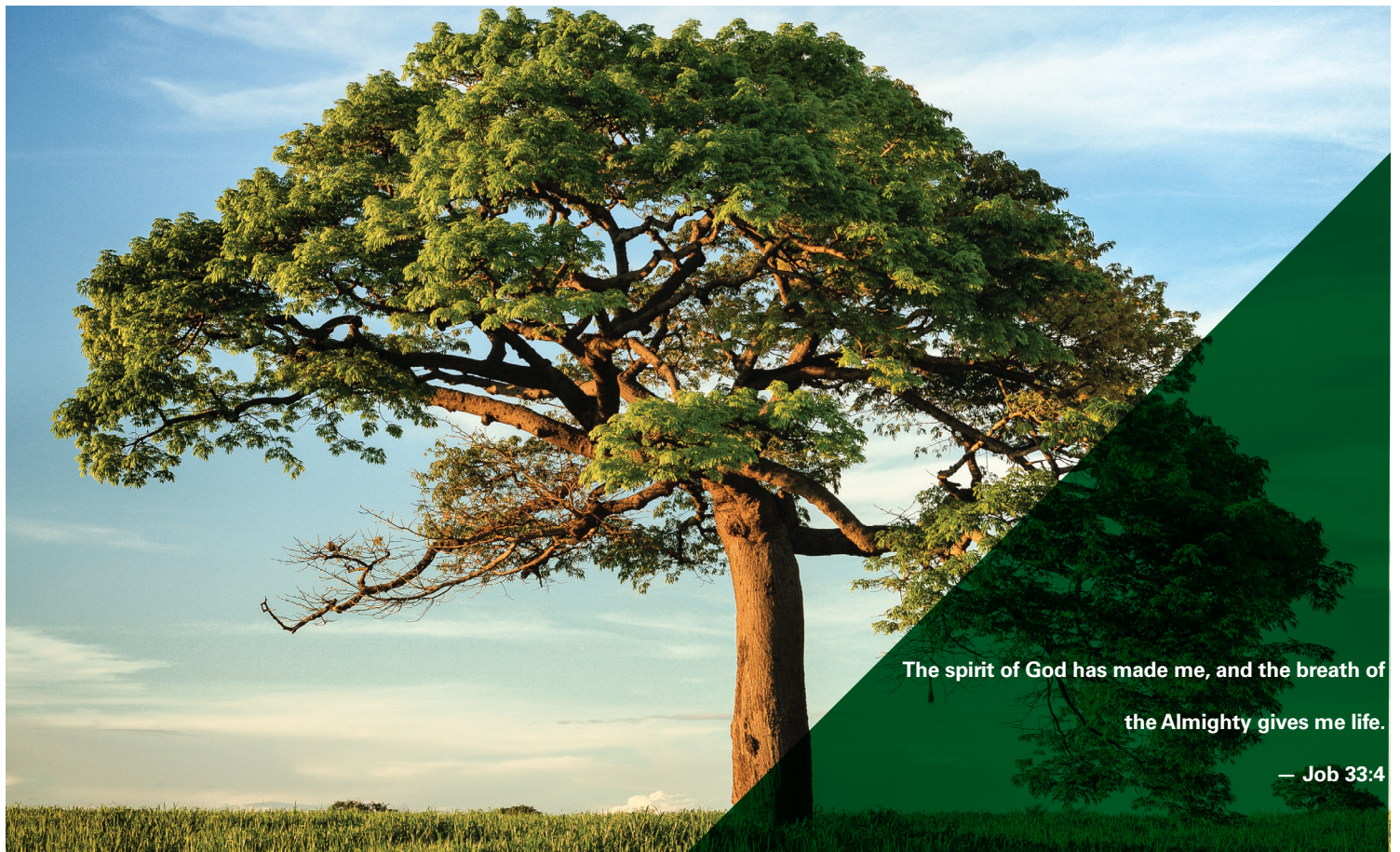
Worship times:  
6 PM Saturday,  
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



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The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of  
the Almighty gives me life.

— Job 33:4