

Amaz**ing!**News

AUGUST // 2018



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

INSIDE

Jesus Changes Everything	Pg. 2
Bring a Friend Weekend	Pg. 3
Youth Stories	Pg. 4
Houston Gathering	Pg. 5
Immigration	Pg. 6
When People Need Us	Pg. 8
Doing Life Together	Pg. 9

YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES BECAUSE EVERY NAME & FACE COUNTS

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! It's official. Zoar is going to produce a new, completely updated, and beautiful new pictorial directory. With all the new members we have seen in the last couple of years, it's time. Save these dates on your calendar: August 6, September 10 - 15, October 15 - 20 and October 22 - 25. Most growing churches know they need a membership directory to help everyone in the congregation put names and faces together. Directories have multiple benefits. Through the pages of the directory, guests and newer members literally see themselves as members of the church. They also help longstanding members see that the future of the church is positive. They also are a handy tool for church leaders. The directory can help these leaders get to know others in the congregation and put a face with a name on their time and talent forms. In a very real sense, directories are important in helping members of a congregation feel connected to one another. Members feel a sense of pride, a sense of belonging, a sense of community when they are a part of the directory. Indeed, for many, church directory photos often become family heirlooms as they capture a moment in time for various households.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

How quickly August has come! Soon children, teachers, & staff will be back in school, vacations will have been completed, and the weather will begin to turn. Already the beautiful (and pervasive) sound of cicadids fill the evening air.

I have delights yet this summer: upcoming weddings, including that of my niece, times of worship and song, family gathering, healing of my back and the beauty and bounty of God's creation.

But large in my summer-story is the trip with Zoar's youth and adults to the National Youth Convention. What a spiritual highlight. Each day our youth and adults experienced God's presence as they worked in an elementary school, or gathered with the other members of our Synod for Word and fellowship, or spent hours in an amazing space full of physical activities, prayer activities, worship activities (including Omaldo!), fellowship activities, and even quiet activities.

The days began and ended with 15-minute small group Bible studies and discussions, which were rich with important conversations and learnings. Each evening, in the Stadium with 31,000 of our closest Lutheran friends, our youth and adults all had several "God-moments," as presenters, speakers and musicians enlightened us with their problems,

and how God's love in Jesus makes the difference. Two of my favorites were Pastor Nadia Boltz-Weber, who clearly called us to renounce the power of evil in our lives, and Bishop Steve Bowman, whose office was across the street from the Twin Towers at 911, call to us was to not let the destructive powers around us gain the upper hand, for God is still God!

Zoar – you may be proud of how our youth were engaged, and how I could see God's impact on their lives. Thank you for the support and care you as a congregation have given them, and continue to give!

Throughout the whole time, the central theme was, "This Changes Everything." So, we grew in how hope, love, grace and (centrally) Jesus changes everything. Not only in our total world, but also in our own personal worlds. Jesus, God's love incarnate, changes everything!

Brothers & sisters, may you enjoy these awesome days of summer. May you know that no matter what, God's love surrounds you completely. May you know that this community called Zoar will hold onto you. And may you know that in Jesus, everything is changed in God's love.

Alleluia!

— Bring a — FRIEND WEEKEND



BRING A FRIEND WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 8TH & 9TH

On the weekend of September 8 & 9, Zoar will host a “Bring a Friend to Church Weekend” as we kick-off the Sunday School Year. All guests that weekend will receive a custom made Zoar gift box filled with goodies and blessings. We will also have a Texas-themed BBQ following the 11 AM service on Sunday with a country band, playing some exciting foot-stomping music. Don’t miss out! If you don’t have a friend, borrow one!



THE BENEFITS OF CHURCH NEW YORK TIMES HEADLINE

It’s not a surprise to most of us at Zoar that church is good for us, but an article in the New York Times shared some ideas as to why: “ONE of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious attendance boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life. The reason for this is not entirely clear. Social support is no doubt part of the story. At the churches I’ve studied as an anthropologist, people really did seem to look out for one another. They showed up with dinner when friends were sick and sat to talk with them when they were unhappy. The help was sometimes surprisingly concrete. Perhaps a third of the church members belonged to small groups that met weekly to talk about the Bible and their lives. One evening, a young woman in a group began to cry. Her dentist had told her that she needed a \$1,500 procedure, and she didn’t have the money. Amazingly, the small group — most of them students — simply covered the cost, by anonymous donation.”

Over the months, years, or decades that you have been a part of the community at Zoar, certainly you have your reasons for why attending worship is important for you. Think about these. Write them down. Pray about them. Give thanks to God for them. Then, as you prepare yourself to invite a friend to church you will do so with greater clarity and conviction.



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

You may have heard the news, but let’s make it official: I am happy to announce that my position has been renamed to “Cantor.” The word has a long history in the Christian tradition; its roots go back to the days of the Jewish temple. I am sure you know or may have heard the name of our most celebrated cantor: J.S. Bach (1685-1750).

For five-hundred years, the Lutheran Church has held on to or reclaimed this title as part of its distinguished inheritance. The expression conveys the duties of a music director (i.e., managing, scheduling, etc.), while also giving voice to the ministry of music (leading of the people’s singing, and helping the people recount and proclaim the story of God’s grace in song). I want to thank our Worship and Music and Personnel committees, and our Church’s Council, for acknowledging this critical historical connection in our joint Christian journey.



2018 HOUSTON YOUTH GATHERING

Twenty-two Zoar and Lutheran Church of the Master Youth recently returned from a wonderful trip to Houston, TX. In Houston, these youth and their fearless leaders had the opportunity to explore, worship, serve and grow in their faith together alongside 31,000 other Lutherans and the wonderful community of Houston. During all five days of the event, all 31,000 people joined together in NRG Stadium (where the Super Bowl was held in 2017). There we listened to several speakers, including Nadia Bolz-Weber, who shared their stories and opened our eyes to new opportunities, how we can act on our faith at home and so much more! Two of the nights even included famous Christian musicians Tauren Wells and the band Tenth Avenue North. Take a look at some of the highlights from our trip!



DAY 1 : SPACE CENTER HOUSTON

On our first full day in Houston we travelled to Space Center Houston! We were able to enjoy a private tram ride and even got to see Mission Control from the famous Apollo 13 mission. Just underneath us, several engineers were working to currently assist the International Space Station. We even got to see models of new robots to be tested in space and astronauts in training. It was a great experience!



DAY 2 : SERVICE LEARNING

On our Service Learning Day we travelled with our friends from churches Elmore and Bowling Green, Ohio to L.L. Pugh Elementary School where we met Mr. Hall, the school custodian. At the school we helped him paint, do landscaping, prepped



bulletin boards for the teachers and even organized a supply closet. Our time with Mr. Hall was really special, SO special he came on the bus to again say thank you. The gentleman's faith was truly evident. He made sure to tell us just how special our relationship is to God and to keep up the good work.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

DAY 3 : INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Interactive Learning Day and visiting the Community Life Center gave us the opportunity to attend small group bible study, play games, try on liturgical wear and so much more. This day even offered us the opportunity to experience a few simulations, one of which was what it would be like to be a refugee traveling to the US. It was a great day!



DAY 4 : SYNOD DAY

On Synod Day we had the opportunity to meet, worship and play games with over 600 youth and their leaders from Northwest Ohio. This was a great day and many of us hope to carry those connections we made that day on here at home.



What a blast we have had here at Zoar over the past month! July was full of many fun, faith-filled and inspiring events. We were able to serve in our community, as well as with our friends in Houston, TX. We spent a week on a deserted island learning about God's undying love for us and how no matter what Jesus will be there to rescue us. It has been my privilege to walk alongside our youth as they discover God's love and grow in their faith together.

As we enter August the fun continues! Even though it is time to pack up our summer items and pull out our backpacks, many events have been planned for the month of August! On August 5th we invite you to bring your backpacks and/or workbags to worship for a blessing and that is only where it starts! Join us for an in-house service project August 12th at youth group and the Synod Softball Tournament in Bowling Green on the 25th!

Blessings, Amanda



from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

The Bible tells several powerful stories of refugees like the story of Moses and the Exodus. Most of us know the Exodus story when the Israelites were aliens in Egypt and mistreated. God helped them escape to take refuge in the desert where they lived for 40 years. God then led them across the border to a land that they could finally call home. This experience of living as aliens and refugees was so painful and frightening that God ordered his people for all time to have special care for the alien: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34). The Bible is full of commands to care for foreign refugees in our midst. That's because in the Bible's story, God has a special concern for the vulnerable, the exposed, and the displaced. A lot gets said about the immigration "crisis" in our country. Let our words reflect the compassion and concern of our heavenly Father.



MAKING SENSE OF IMMIGRATION SUNDAYS IN AUGUST, 9:45 AM

Watching the news might give you the idea that the immigration "crisis" is a new thing. Actually, it's not. As Lutherans can tell you, it has been an ongoing flash point for our nation from the beginning.

Join us Sunday mornings in August at 9:45 for an in-depth look at the topic and walk away with a fresh understanding. Class discussions will feature special guest speakers like Dr. Vibha Bhalla, an immigration researcher from BGSU, and Patty Hernandez, an immigration attorney who specializes in Agricultural Worker and Immigrant Rights.



AUGUST 5TH - 26TH

IMMIGRATION PERSPECTIVE

SOUTH OF THE BORDER: A MINI FILM FESTIVAL SUNDAYS IN AUGUST, 5 PM

On Sunday evenings, join Pastor Mike on the top floor at Zoar to gain an even more intimate look at the experience of immigrants from Latin America. This mini film festival will feature award-winning films and documentaries.

Titles include *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, *El Norte*, *The Other Side of Immigration*, and *Which Way Home*.

LUTHERANS IN ACTION

Where does the government place asylum-seeking children separated from their parents? Many go to large detention centers in private facilities or military bases. The lucky ones are placed with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS).

Learn more about the work LIRS does at: www.lirs.org.



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

THANKS TO YOU

WE ARE THERE WHEN PEOPLE NEED US THE MOST

Because of your giving to support Christ's work in the world through Zoar, we are able to provide a powerful and important service to people who are in grief at the loss of a loved one. Death often brings with it great grief and suffering. In those times, people turn to their church. Through your offerings you are there with them in difficult moments. Your giving makes possible the support people receive in the hospital, in the home, or some other facility. Your support makes possible the funeral services that take place in the sanctuary. Your support provides the food people eat at the funeral meal. Your support makes possible the clean dishes in the kitchen. Thank you for your generosity.

When asked why they volunteer to serve in the kitchen for funeral meals, Tom Easterwood said "We are just happy to do something for others in dire need. Carol and I both know what it's like to lose someone. So, we've never said 'no' to helping grieving people."

Thank you, Tom and Carol. Thank you to all who work in the kitchen. Thank you to all who provide food.

To learn more or to join this powerful ministry, contact Suzanne at 419-874-4346.



Tom and Carol Easterwood



GOOD GODTALK

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Starting this September, Zoar will begin a discussion group called Good God Talk. No doubt there are many people who have serious questions about God, spirituality, the Bible, Heaven and Hell, etc., that you don't often have a chance to ask and delve into.

This group will have a very welcoming attitude towards questions. After all, Jesus doesn't ask you to check your brains at the door of the church. God gave us a mind to use. This discussion group will explore all manner of questions. Reading through a book together will help stimulate questions and suggest new ways of thinking about the faith.

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



DOING LIFE TOGETHER

250 ZOAR MEMBERS IN A SMALL GROUP

The earliest Christians faced great and terrible challenges. The government of Rome was against them. They were unwanted in many communities. They were considered so undesirable that they were, at times, fed to the lions for public entertainment. Still, they flourished and thrived. One of the keys to their strength was the fact that they held tight together.

In Acts 2:46, the Bible says that "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Basically, they did life together. They formed small groups for personal support and growth.

Following this example, Zoar now has close to 2 dozen groups for people to meet and develop church friends. There are groups for Parents of Young Children, Parents of Tweenies, Parents of Youth, and Parents of Young Adults. Zoar has six Christ Care groups with more forming. There are groups for recovering addicts, mixed singles, single women, bridge players, pickleball players, singers, flutists, recorder players, golfers, bowlers, men, and women's circles. More groups are forming all the time. Increase your ability to stand strong with Jesus in this world by getting involved in a small group.

For more information, contact Pastor Mike at pastormike@zoarlutheran.com



MEET A NEW MEMBER //

THE JACOBY FAMILY

Meet Dennis and Maureen Jacoby. Who have been married for 17 years and have two boys: Patrick and Joseph. Dennis is an Enterprise Architect at Dana and enjoys biking and competing in races. Maureen retired in 2016 from Owens Community College where she worked in Finance, and now enjoys volunteering, reading and cheering on her boys at sporting events.

Patrick is 15 and starting his sophomore year at Perrysburg High School. He plays on the Varsity Bowling Team and plays soccer. Joey is 13 and entering 8th grade at Perrysburg Junior High, and plays football and runs track. Both boys are also Boy Scouts.

They first attended Zoar several years ago, but just became members in 2017. When asked what they like about their new church home, Maureen said, "We love all the opportunities that Zoar has for our family to grow as Christians. We love our new Christ Cares group and have really enjoyed the fellowship. The community outreach at Zoar is outstanding. You can't help but feel the welcoming and enthusiasm for Christ when you walk in the doors. We looked at several churches before joining, but Zoar was the answer for us."

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

AUGUST // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Marilyn Comer Birthday	3	4
5 Blessing of the Backpacks Immigration Workshop	6	7	8 Dale Moser Birthday	9	10 Youth Retreat Last Feed our Families	11 Youth Retreat
12 Youth Retreat Immigration Workshop Youth Service Project	13 Mary Ellen Jameson Birthday	14	15 Mary Layman Birthday	16	17	18
19 Immigration Workshop MS / JH / HS Youth Group	20 Margaret Miller Birthday	21	22 Betty Grolle Birthday	23	24	25 Synod Softball Tournament
26 Immigration Workshop	27	28	29	30	31 Barbara Ayers 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

Cantor: Omaldo Perez
 Director of Youth Ministry: Amanda Rich
 Director of Communications: Mollie Rauscher

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

WE WISH TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



	<p>Chris Baroncini RE/MAX Executives #1 Company Sales Leader 2013 – 2015 3rd Year Straight! 13 Years Licensed Realtor Tel: 419-283-9752 baronsells@bex.net www.baronsells.com</p>	<p>Thinking of Selling Your Home?</p> <p>Save Time & Money with Chris Baroncini</p> <p>SAVE THOUSANDS on the sale of your home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 2.5% Total Comm. – I Find Buyer.◆ 5% Total Comm. – Any Realtor Brings Buyer.
<p>Member Zoar Lutheran Church Resident Perrysburg, Ohio</p>		
<p>Why Pay More To Sell Your Home?? Sell Your Home For As Low As...</p> <p>2.5% Total Commission!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ No Hidden Fees◆ No Surprises◆ FULL RE/MAX SERVICE!◆ Including Aggressive Marketing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multiple Listing Service- Dozens Of The Top Internet Sites- Paper Advertising (Blade + Others)- & Much More!		
<p>"Free Market Evaluation on your home"</p> <p><i>Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.</i></p> 		
<p><small>Different commission rates, fees, and listing & marketing services may be offered by other RE/MAX franchisees and sales associates serving this market area.</small></p>		

www.edwardjones.com

We Understand Commitment.


For decades, Edward Jones has been committed to providing financial solutions and personalized service to individual investors.

You can rely on us for:

- **Convenience**
Locations in the community and face-to-face meetings at your convenience.
- **A Quality-focused Investment Philosophy**
A long-term approach that focuses on quality investments and diversification.
- **Highly Personal Service**
Investment guidance tailored to your personal needs.

Call or visit today.

Lee Odegaard, CFP®, AAMS®
& Loren Odegaard, AAMS®
Financial Advisors
215 Louisiana Avenue
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(419) 874-8504



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

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!



Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 49
Perrysburg, OH

314 East Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419.874.4346
www.zoarlutheran.com

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

