

Amaz**ing!**News

NOVEMBER // 2018



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

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ZOAR HELPS END WORLD HUNGER SUPPORTING ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Huon Sok lives with her husband and six children in Kiri Akphivoath, a rural village in Cambodia. Lack of food, drinking water, healthcare and schools were challenges they faced daily. As a part of a new government project, Huon and more than 800 other families each received a small plot of residential and agricultural land for farming. Her first year owning the land was a challenge. The land was covered by thick bushes and stumps, and she lacked the resources to prepare the land for planting crops. "Although our living condition during the first year on the new land had not yet significantly changed, we felt happier than before because we had our own land now, and we hoped that our life would be better soon," Huon said. Today, her family's life is looking brighter. Through a program supported by Zoar's gifts to ELCA World Hunger, lands have been cleared for planting, and communities are gaining access to water, energy, healthcare, education and agricultural training. Huon's land is now ready for sowing. She plans to grow cassava, corn and watermelon. With income from her crops and her earnings from a small, pig business established through a microloan, she and her husband will be able to continue sending their children to school and earn a steady income as business owners. If she and her family can continue to live on and farm the land for five years, they will gain title to the land.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
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FOR ALL THE SAINTS

"Let your light so shine that others may see your good works and give glory to your heavenly Father." From a candle first lit at the Easter Vigil (tying us into the death and resurrection of Jesus) the newly baptized receives their lit candle with these words. This new child of God has been washed in God's love, is a sister/brother of Jesus, and in God's heart is both a forgiven sinner and a song-filled saint.

In November we remember God's saints. Some of them have just been baptized this year and are hardly even able to speak. But they praise God with their actions and growth. Others have lived long lives, and the stories of their death in Jesus may be painful or peaceful, long-overdue or too-soon.

But in Jesus (for us Lutherans) "sainthood" is not just for these two important times. Luther reminds us that we are both saint and sinner. In us is the presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding our lives, surrounding us with grace. In us is the gift

of Jesus, risen from the dead, working resurrection power through all the struggles and sorrows of life. But also in us is the taint of sin, that which causes us to focus on "me," or as the ancients said, "we are curved in ourselves." This sinfulness is that of which we need to confess constantly, but also remember that we are graciously forgiven.

So, brothers and sisters, saints of God, how do you live this grace through your discipleship, through your stewardship, through your worship, through your days? You are washed, claimed, and named by the God of grace, and you are completely loved! In this love, oh Saint, you are gifted to share that love with others. What an honor, to love on behalf of the God of the Universe.

Let your light so shine!

ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH

In gratitude for God's grace, we give thanks for these new saints in Jesus, baptized this past year:

Casen Joshua Adams	Isabella Rose Adams	John Andrew Newton Gardner
Zachary James Beaber	Nolan Dane Zechman	Peyton Yvonne Bowers
Savannah Michelsen	Luke Alexander Miller	Henry Christopher Seambos
Ivan Paul Downey	Chelsea Brewster	Oskar Matthew Hudson
Connor John Moser	Madison Mariana Zibbel	Grayden Wood Pleitz
Emma Lynn Heilman	Lindsey Ann Heilman	Mikaela Paige Hennessey
Cheyenne Blaize Hodulik	Olivia Barnes	Charles Oliver Erickson
Madeline Claire Newman	Logan Ryan Shackelford	Christian Nicholas Hens
Owen Michael Kennedy		

We also give thanks for these saints now in God's arms:

Vera Geffe	Donna J. McCally	Ruth Morgan
Wallace F Screptock	Jane Smith	Richard Fought
Eleanor Merrill	Hugh F. Sautter	John Piper
Carol Schroeder	Jenny Sorgenfrei	Rosa Williams
Allyn J. Rollo	Mary Ellen Kohl	Bruce Schroeder
William E. Fisher	Virginia Sargent	Betty Fallon
Dorothy Hansen	Rose Mae Simon	Lesley Suzanne Albon
June Flaughner	Carlie Miller	William J. Priest
James Kazmaier	Mark Frey	Clarence (Clem) Dye
William H. Blecke	Marilyn Baker	Dorothy Carter
Rolland L. Emch, Jr.	Ronald C. Born	Marvin Widdel
Keith Tymiak	Mark S. Miller	Caroline Fisher
David S. Jamison	Walter Nelson	James Robertson
Sarah Rupert	Alice Parrish	



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

As the year approaches its vertiginous end, November reminds us to pause. In the month with a day set aside to appreciate what has been given (the Day of Thanksgiving), I would like to reiterate my gratitude to all of you for a fruitful and productive year. I have witnessed more gatherings, growth, and giving in our worship and in concerts than any other year since we arrived here from Seattle in 2014. Thanks!

I also want to convey my enthusiasm. For starters, we are actively building bridges, inside and outside our building walls. To this end, we have put together concerts in partnership with St. Tim's Episcopal (Oct 19), St. Rose (December 9), and with the regional singing community at large (as exemplified by the Festival Choir plans for our Epiphany Bach Vespers on Jan. 6). In fact, we are so excited by this trend; we would like to make 2019 the official year of ZOAR CONNECTIONS!

As always, we rely on your prayers, good wishes, and support. Please help tell the story of the AmaZing things God is doing in our midst.



SEPTMEBER: A MONTH OF FUN AND SERVICE

On September 15th several middle and high school youth attended the annual Pointfest Concert at Cedar Point! The group enjoyed listening to contemporary Christian artists and hours of adventure on the rollercoasters!



With the help of Lois Staber, Amanda and 19 youth gathered to pack Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief on September 23rd. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and service for our youth. The youth enjoyed learning about the mission of Lutheran World Relief and asking questions about how their service impacts our neighbors.



NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November 4TH: No Youth Group

(Amanda will be returning from the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit)

November 11TH: Service Sunday: Deck the Halls at St. Paul's Toledo!

November 16TH-18TH: Family Camp at Camp Mowana

November 25TH: No Youth Group

(Thanksgiving Weekend)

November 30TH-31ST: 7th-12th Grade Lock Out/In 5PM-9AM

LOCK OUT / LOCK IN NOVEMBER 30TH

Join us Friday, November 30TH for our Zoar Youth Lock Out/Lock In. The evening will begin by serving at Vision Kitchen in South Toledo, followed by dinner out on the town, an Escape Room or Movie, late night pizza, devotions and more! This event is open to all youth in 7th-12th Grade. RSVP REQUIRED: Please notify Amanda if you plan to attend no later than November 19TH by noon. Adult Volunteers are also needed, please contact Amanda if you are willing to take a shift.



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

ADVENT WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 4TH - DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

This year's Advent Workshop will be held December 4TH during the Sunday School Hour. Sunday school children and their families are invited to join us in creating an interactive advent calendar for the whole family. Come and celebrate the advent season as together we await the celebration of Jesus' birth.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 16TH 11 AM

Zoar youth are preparing yet again for another fabulous Christmas Program. This year's program is called Hosanna Rock! by Sheila Wilson: Arranged and Edited by Alison Hedger. Zoar Sunday School Children and friends will share the story of Christmas on December 16TH during the 11AM worship service.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
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Greetings Friends,

As I continue to serve alongside the wonderful people of Zoar, I am continuously reminded of how blessed I am. I have fabulous Sunday School teachers, wonderful choir friends, a supportive staff and youth that are passionate about learning about Jesus. Joining you all in worship each Sunday brings joy to my heart and soul. I love seeing the smiles on the children's faces in anticipation of upcoming events and in hearing God's word. Each day God showers us with blessings. What a wonderful feeling it is to take a few moments out of our busy lives and account for each one of them. This November, I challenge you to acknowledge your blessings daily and give your thanks to God.



from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

Not too long ago, I read a news article about “nature deficit syndrome.” The basic idea is that our modern world deprives us of really connecting with nature. There is something deeply spiritual about being in nature. It is especially important for children whose lives are so often surrounded by four walls and filled with digital devices. But not only for children! We all need to connect with nature. In nature you can sometimes feel the hills and trees reach out and hug you. Sitting and watching leaves fall from on high can slow our hearts and calm our breathing. Being in nature is healing. God intended for us to connect, to be at one with the world around us. There is a fundamental unity in the world that we experience when in nature. In nature, God’s presence comes to us through the swishing of the breeze, the playful squirrel, the clicking song of the bird, and the dancing light in the sky. It comes to us in the welcome smile of a friend.



FALL FAMILY RETREAT

NOVEMBER 16, 17 & 18

Thanks to a grant from the Zoar Foundation, Fall Family Retreat will enjoy its third year. Taking place the weekend before Thanksgiving, families can relax, rest, and enjoy some peaceful recreation. The Retreat will again be held at Camp Mowana in Mansfield, OH. Join other families with young children from Zoar to build faith, forts and friends. Lodging will be in the Fleming Falls Retreat Center, a very nice hotel-like facility. Meals and lodging are provided. The cost is a \$50 contribution to Zoar designated for Feed Our Families. Otherwise, the weekend is free.





LY RETREAT

PACKING LIST:

OHIO WEATHER IS UNPREDICTABLE

Bring clothes appropriate for the weather and season. Layers are often a wise choice. The staff at Camp Mowana will provide all programming which includes a campfire experience with singing campfire songs. There is no need for sleeping bags, bedding, or towels since the campout takes place in the Fleming Falls Retreat Center. Board games, cards, and beverages are allowed.



DIRECTIONS

Visit the LOMO website to download a map to the camp and take a virtual tour!

<http://www.lomocamps.org/campmowana>





GATHER/GROW/GIVE

FOOD COLLECTION WORSHIP

BRING BEFORE NOVEMBER 13TH

Thanksgiving time is near. Altar Guild will be decorating the chancel for Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 13th. We are in need of non-perishable canned and boxed food items. We could also use harvest decorations such as Indian corn, gourds and pumpkins. Please place the items in the Sacristy before Tuesday, November 13, 2018. The food items will be donated to Perrysburg Christians United. Any help the congregation can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your help!



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

NOVEMBER 21ST, 7 PM

"O Come, all ye thankful!" What a year this has been! Through all the joys and struggles, our God has blessed us with grace and His presence. So, as with ancient saints, we bring God gifts, offerings, and thanks. The time for the Zoar thanks-giving will be Wednesday, November 21, at 7pm. With your thanks and your offerings, you are invited to bring a boxed or canned food to be given to our Perrysburg "Feed your Neighbor." This evening will be a time of focused thanks-giving, but, of course, may your life give thanks throughout the year!

THANKSGIVING MEAL AT ZOAR

NOVEMBER 22ND, 12 PM

Zoar Lutheran Church is partnering with Bob Evans Restaurant on Route 20 in Perrysburg to provide a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. This meal is open to all who are regular guests of Zoar's Kitchen of Hope and to anyone else who might not be with family on Thanksgiving Day and wishes to partake in a wonderful dinner on the holiday. The meal will be served at 12 noon in Zoar's Family Life Center on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018. There will be NO COST for this meal, however, donations will be accepted that day. Reservations are absolutely necessary and can be made by calling the Church Office at 419-874-4346 by Thursday, November 15TH.



HELP FOF SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Feed Our Families is hosting our third annual Christmas distribution Saturday, December 15, 2018. We will invite 36 families with a total of 94 children, which we serve during our summer distribution. Each family will be given a bag of groceries, personal items and a gift card for each child. The parents are also able to shop for additional items for their school age children. However, we would like to empower the children by allowing them the opportunity to shop for their parents. This is where FOF is asking for your help. We are looking for the following donations for parents: Moms - perfume, jewelry, fashion scarves, dish towels, dish cloths, coffee mugs, books, slippers. Dads - flashlights, tools, gloves, car scrapers, books, cologne, wallets, coffee mugs, socks, phone chargers. Please place your items in the marked bin in the Gathering Space. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact Tracy Rickman at 419-206-7927 or Cynthia Blubaugh at 419-376-1851.



MEET A MEMBER //

NEAL AND JAMIE ELLIS FAMILY

Caitlyn and Carolyn are both 7, Neal teaches science at Southview High School, and I teach 8th grade at Grove Patterson Academy. We were married in Zoar 13 years ago, we love that there are many activities to do outside of church, and that the service has a tradition feel that we both appreciate in our worship. The music has always been a wonderful part of our worship, and the children love Jam Time. Zoar felt like home the first time we walked in the doors over 13 years ago, and it still does!

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

NOVEMBER // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Zoar Book Club	3 All Saints Worship
4 All Saints Worship	5	6 Greeters Orientation	7	8	9 Joan Moulton Birthday	10
11 Service Sunday	12	13 Altar Guild Decorating Sanctuary	14	15 Dorothy Beyer Birthday	16 Fall Family Retreat	17 Fall Family Retreat
18 Fall Family Retreat	19	20	21 Thanksgiving Eve Service	22 Thanksgiving	23 Office Closed	24 Marcelyn Moser Birthday
25 New Member Sunday	26	27 Rosalie Moser Birthday	28 Thomas Seeman Birthday	29	30 Kitchen of Hope Lock Out Lock In	

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

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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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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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



O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; for his
steadfast love endures
forever. — Psalm 107:1