

Amazing!News

OCTOBER // 2018



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

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GIVING TO CHRIST'S MISSION THE GREATEST OF HONORS

Great news everybody! You rock! You have helped make this one of the best years, ever! Your generosity this year fueled the creation of several new Zoar ministries and strengthened the work of dozens more. Last October in 2017, over 150 adults made a financial commitment during worship to support Christ's work in this community and around the world. And mercy! Did you ever?! After last year's Stewardship Campaign, giving surged at the end of 2017 to be 12% higher than the previous year of 2016. So far this year in 2018, giving is equal to last year. Great work! In a nation where giving and participation are declining in all denominations, you are keeping Christ's work at Zoar strong. We are not finished yet, though. There is much more for us to do for the sake of Jesus. There is so much more growth that we are capable of experiencing. Children need Christ's teaching. Youth need further training. Families need enriching. Hurting people need our help. But perhaps more personally, Lutherans like you feel a need to give to express a deep gratitude for what God has done for you. That's why we are ramping-up for another energizing stewardship experience this October. This is the time we invite each other to share generously for Christ's mission. Thank you for your love and involvement.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



FIVE HUNDRED ONE

What has happened this past 501 years? The American Revolution, cultivation of electricity, the founding of Zoar, growing equality for women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ communities, discovery of how microbes work (including yeast!), advances in medicine, E-books, closer ties around the world, and...

On October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the Church door. His call was to reform the church - re-center it on Scripture, re-form the sacraments back into the two called for by Jesus (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion), re-model the Church from hierarchy back into a communion, re-introduce salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Last year we were able to commemorate this 500th anniversary. But for me the joy of this anniversary was that we remembered it with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. Gathered in worship, in prayer, in scripture- and history-studies each of our respective denominations came to a deeper understanding of the Reformation, and of how each of us are "church" today.

What remains central for me is that the community of God's people hold in common the truth that God in Jesus has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. Out of God's eternal love, God's unfailing forgiveness, and God's grace wrapped around all of God's people, we are a new creation. God in Jesus took our brokenness and sin, nailed it to the cross, broke the chains of death, and created a new community of grace.

This is the Good News our world (and our own selves) needs to hear! We are freed in Christ! We are loved by God! We are wrapped in grace! We are given the gift of peace that this world cannot understand! We are granted a higher calling - that of loving and serving the neighbor.

So, sisters and brothers, take stock of your life and how you serve. What needs to be 're-formed?' Where does the amaZing love of Jesus call you to be reenergized? What new songs can your soul sing as you become more deeply aware of God's love? How can your blessing become a blessing for those around you?

Many changes have happened this 501 years. The years ahead, with all the curves and changes, will be awash in God's grace and love, until the amaZing final day when Christ returns. May that day come!



CORNERSTONE CHORALE AND BRASS CONCERT

OCTOBER 19, FRIDAY, 7:30 PM

The Cornerstone Chorale and Brass, widely acclaimed professional touring ensemble, will present a new concert production on Friday, October 19, at 7:30 PM, at Zoar. This program is being co-sponsored by St. Timothy's Episcopal Church as a benefit for Perrysburg Christians United Food Pantry. The program features a unique and powerful combination of traditional choral and instrumental music with narration, woven together with newly composed music supporting themes. This concert offers a unique faith experience reflecting on Archibald Macleigh's famous work describing the July 1969 Apollo Moon landing: "To see the earth as it truly is,...is to see ourselves as riders on the earth together – brothers and sisters in the eternal cold." New York music critic, Ken Smith, said of Cornerstone's Lincoln Center performance, "The Cornerstone Chorale and Brass is a top-notch ensemble with a high level of musicianship....The evening provided a message of great importance."

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REFORMATION SUNDAY MEANS BRASS

OCTOBER 28

Few services are so near and dear to the hearts of Zoar members than the annual Reformation service. Weekend services include Saturday at 6:00pm and Sunday at 7:15, 8:30, and 11:00. The 8:30 and 11:00 services will be punctuated by the stylings of the Academy Brass and Zoar's Chancel Choir.



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

The 1944 film "Here Come the Waves" may not ring a bell nowadays, but there is one memorable song in it, "Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive," that encapsulates the spirit of this letter. Using Bing Crosby's song as our launching pad and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to lift up this month's Zoar anniversary: October 1st marks the beginning of my fourth year of ministry at Zoar. Looking back, I am glad to report these last three years have been the most fruitful and fulfilling time in my life as a musician, and I look forward to another year of exciting projects. With an eye to the future, we hope you consider making a contribution to Zoar's Special Giving for October. This month's Special Giving will support our future projects. By way of gratitude, we would like to invite you and your family to our "Thank you – Thank you – Thank you" reception. So please join us in the Family Life Center on Saturday, October 6th, at 7 p.m. for some food, laughs, and updates on upcoming concerts. Thanks!

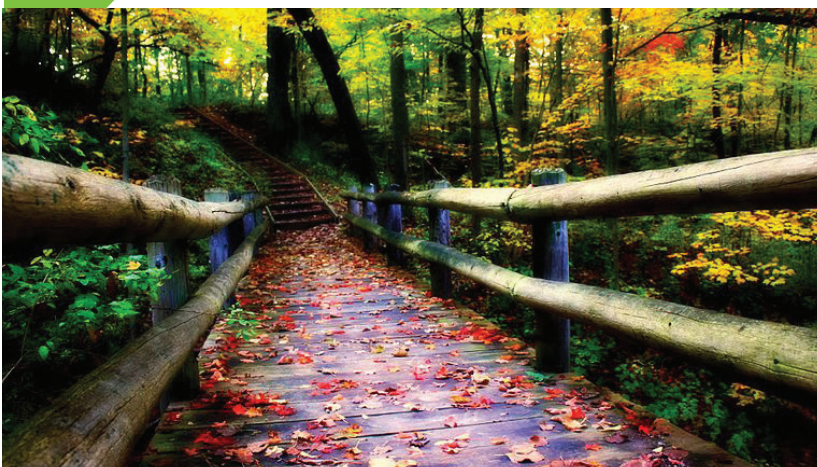


FALL FUN WITH TRUNK OR TREAT GREAT TIMES FOR ALL

Grab your friends, put on your costumes, and join the fun!
There will be food, games, and treats for all. Decorate your
vehicles and prepare to pass our candy for all the kids.
Festivities begin at 6:00.



YOUNG FAMILY FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 16, 17, & 18



Calling lovers of the outdoors to Camp Mowana in Mansfield, OH. Join other families from Zoar to build faith, forts, and friends. Lodging will be in the Fleming Falls Retreat Center, a very nice hotel-like facility. Meals are provided. The cost is a \$50 contribution to Zoar designated for Feed Our Families. Otherwise, the weekend is free. Please sign up at the church office by calling 419-874-4346, or by emailing Pastor Mike at pastormike@zoarlutheran.com. Bring clothes appropriate for the weather and season and walks through the woods. The staff at Camp Mowana will provide all programming which includes a campfire experience with singing campfire songs.

SUNDAY SERVICE

PAINTING FOR REFUGEES

7th-12th Graders are welcome to join us for our first OFFICIAL Service Sunday! We will be painting canvases for Syrian Refugees who are living in Toledo and learning about their experiences as they seek safety. I hope you can join us for this exciting event!

CUPCAKE AND COOKIE BAKING/ PUMPKIN CARVING

THIRD SUNDAY 5TH-12TH GRADE



This month we will be carving pumpkins and baking cupcakes and cookies for our Trunk-or-Treat decorating contest! Come join in on the fun!



from

Amanda

Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

We have reached the beautiful time of year where the leaves begin to fall, the crisp air replaces the heat and the sight and smell of pumpkins consumes every corner. October for me is the perfect time of year to grab a hoodie out of my closet, a good book, a cup of coffee, light a pumpkin spice candle and cozy up on the couch for some good reading. One of my favorite things to do in October is to make a good midwestern bowl of chili and a giant cinnamon roll with the family! I hope that you all are able to cherish these moments with your families as you enjoy the month of October. I am excited to spend quality time with our Zoar family this month! We will kick off the month with High School Youth Group, followed by our first OFFICIAL Service Sunday, enjoying third Sunday by celebrating fall with Pumpkin Carving and baking and finishing with our annual Trunk-or-Treat Celebration on October 28th!



from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

Early in life we start the process of learning how to take care of things. Parents and guardians teach us as children how to brush our teeth, and care for bedrooms and belongings. When, as children, we learn to say “please” and “thank you” we are learning how to take care of relationships. Yes, one of our first lessons is how to take care of things. It’s part of becoming a grown-up. And it is a lesson we build on throughout life. This is how it is with stewardship and Christians. Stewardship is the word the Bible uses to talk about taking care of things. It is one of the early and most important lessons we learn as followers of Jesus. That’s why we return to it year after year. Managing our time, talents, and finances with Jesus in mind helps us grow closer to Jesus. Growing closer to Jesus helps us become Christian grown-ups. That is the point of stewardship at Zoar. The point of stewardship is growing closer to Jesus and becoming mature in Christ.



**ABUNDANT JOY,
OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY**
MATERIALS TO ARRIVE BY MAIL
OCTOBER 7, 14, & 21



IN-GATHERING PLEDGE CARDS ARE FORTHANKS

October 20/21 is the weekend all members of Zoar and all guests are encouraged to express their gratitude through a financial commitment for what God has done for them. This is done by filling-out a pledge card which will be mailed to each Zoar member's home address. Cards will also be placed in the worship bulletins. Pledge cards are not a "contract" with the church but an expression of thanks as we support the work of Christ in and through Zoar. Pledge cards will be received as a part of worship.



ONLINE GIVING

Using the secure, online payment platform, you can set up a recurring payment or give a one-time donation. You do not have to be a member of Zoar Lutheran to make a donation. To use this easy and safe option for supporting Christ's mission in the world, visit www.zoarlutheran.com/give-financially.

During the weeks of October 7, 14, & 21, Zoar will celebrate how God's extravagant generosity spills over into our world through us. Called Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity these weeks will be a time of great celebration, inspiring personal stories, and a call to join together in expressing our gratitude to Jesus Christ by making a financial commitment for 2019. Zoar's Stewardship Committee is sending campaign packets to each member in the mail filled with helpful materials. Included in this packet is a brochure with testimonies from Zoar members on why they give, a pamphlet with encouraging Biblical teaching on giving, a letter, a pledge card, and a return envelope. Please read these prayerfully.



GATHER/GROW/GIVE

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

On October 7, Zoar will have a special service of blessing and dedication for the quilts made by Zoar hands. These quilts will be sent around the world to comfort millions of refugees affected by war and storm. Lutherans are known for many wonderful things around the world, not the least of which are quilts. Wherever there are people crushed by natural disasters and humanitarian and refugee crises, Lutherans are there in mass through the Lutheran World Relief. Combining the compassion and resources of 72 million Lutherans worldwide, LWR brings lasting aid to the suffering world. One of the most visible gifts LWR delivers are the quilts, handmade by individual Lutheran churches around the world. These provide comfort, shelter, and protection from the elements for people who are displaced from their homes.





KITCHEN OF HOPE SERVES ALL

HOME-COOKED GOODNESS

Zoar's Kitchen of Hope provides a meal during the school year once a month to anyone who needs or wants it. Serving at noon once a month, Zoar volunteers create quite a spread of good home-cooked items.



GROUP FOR OUTDOORS PEOPLE

HEAD FOR THE GUN CLUB

Zoar is beginning a new group for those who love outdoors sports like fishing and hunting. On Wednesday, October 10 from 6:30 – 8:30 at Towers Armory, fellow outdoors sports enthusiasts will meet for some skeet shooting and Christian fellowship. If you are interested, please contact Dante Flores at 419-705-4332 or Michael Arnos at 614-493-7944.

MEET A NEW MEMBER //

NATHAN AND SARAH ELLIS FAMILY

Nathan and Sarah Nellis joined Zoar recently with their children, Lauren, Natalie, and Brendan. Nathan teaches math at Clay High School and Sarah teaches first grade at Christ the King school. They are actively involved in a Zoar Date Nite group that meets for spiritual support and friendship. When asked why they made Zoar their spiritual home, Sarah said "There are so many reasons we enjoy coming to Zoar. The warm and welcoming members made us feel like home right away. We love the positive energy, opportunities for our family, and uplifting music. It is a place our children love to come and we truly appreciate everyone at Zoar who has helped our faith to grow!"

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

OCTOBER // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Reformation Celebration	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

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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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!



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Rev. Dr. Mike Brown, Community Pastor

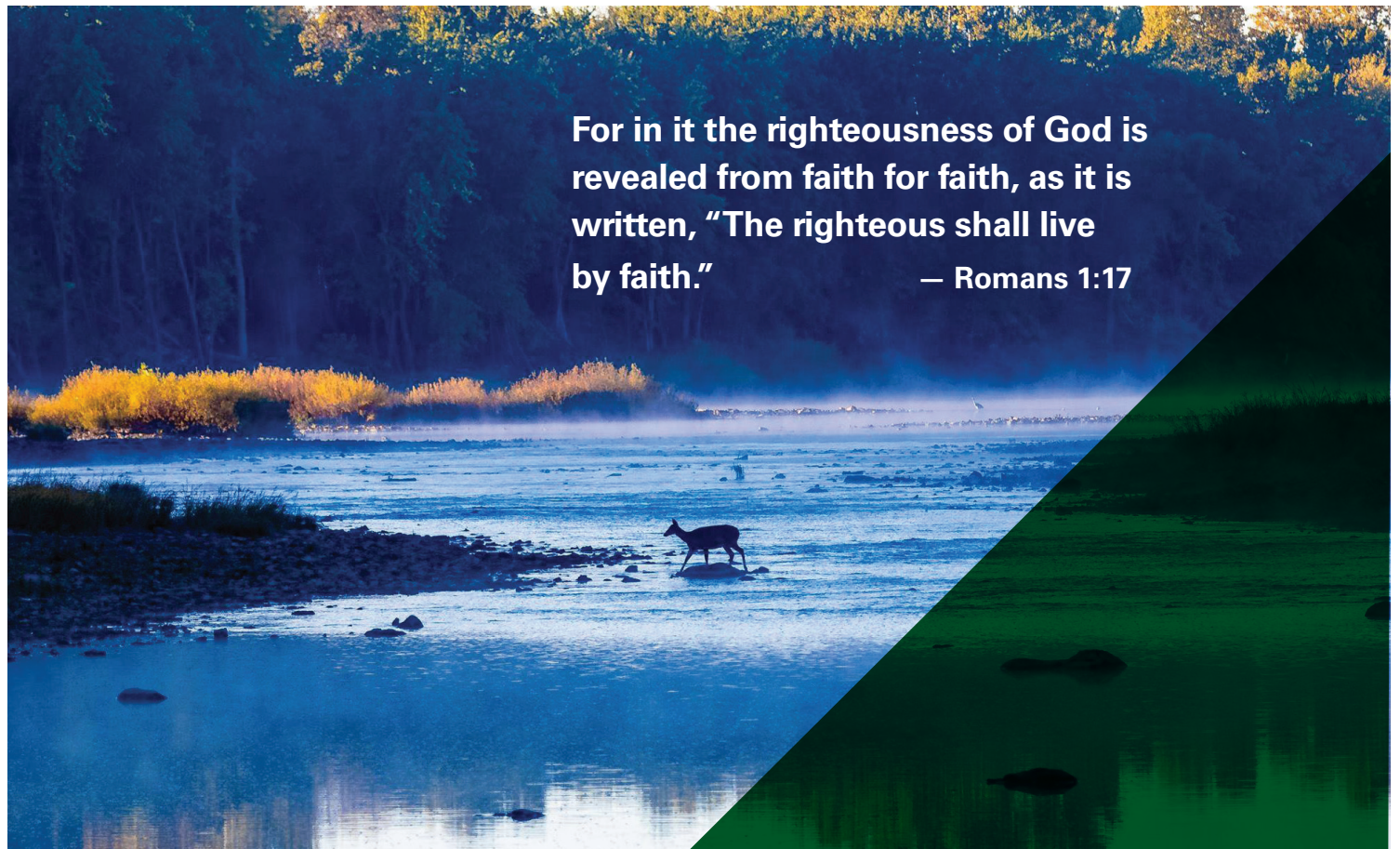
Worship times:
6 PM Saturday,
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

Be
AmaZed!



www.zoarlutheran.com



For in it the righteousness of God is
revealed from faith for faith, as it is
written, "The righteous shall live
by faith."
— Romans 1:17