

Amazing!News

SEPTEMBER // 2018



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

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BRICK CAMPAIGN PAVES THE WAY TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP

Plans are underway to renovate the Courtyard between the sanctuary and music wing. After 20 months of researching and hosting several informational meetings, the recommendation of the Task Force was unanimously accepted by church council and approved by the congregation in August with 89% voting in favor of the project. The renovation to the Courtyard and its adjacent landscape will 1) increase the visibility of the church; 2) increase the functional use of the space; and 3) create an area for the interment of ashes for members who wish to have their cremains surrounded by an active faith community. To finance these improvements, an engraved brick campaign has been launched. Your name, or that of someone you wish to honor or remember, will be laser printed on a clay brick, and placed in a winding path that begins at the Sandusky Street entrance and continues through the courtyard, replacing the existing concrete slabs. Until September 9 - bricks can be ordered for \$125. After that date, bricks can be ordered at special times throughout the year for \$150. Order forms are on the church website, in the Gathering Space and in the Church Office. Help create a lasting legacy for the future and a beautiful, updated space for all to enjoy. Remember, the initial BRICK CAMPAIGN at a reduced rate ends Sunday, September 9.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



CROSS - CENTERED LIVING

Greetings, sisters and brothers! As we delve into autumn, I pray that you know God's richest grace!

This September article is centered on an event that occurred in this month. Back in the early 300's, newly-Christian Roman Emperor Constantine sent his mother, Helena, to search out the sites of Jesus and the disciples, so that churches be built on those sacred spots. When she arrived, she found that many of the sites had already been enshrined in the memories of local people. For instance, the grave of St. Peter was already known to be in a certain spot in Rome, so Constantine built St. Peter's Cathedral there.

Helena went to Israel and was led to the traditional spot of the crucifixion of Jesus. There she "found" the "True Cross," Later revered by many and debunked by some, the cross ultimately was divided up throughout the Roman Empire. On October 14, 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was consecrated on the spot where the cross was found.

Now, this isn't really a history lesson, but a time to center on God's love. In all of God's mercy, God's plan was that in Jesus, God would redeem the world. As you know, Jesus was nailed to the cross, dying through Roman political punishment. For many years the Church was unable to use the cross as symbol, due to his disgusting nature. Rather the

"fish" symbol was used (The Greek letters for fish were the 1st letters in "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior") Eventually the cross became a primary symbol for the Church.

I would like you, right here, as you are reading this, to close your eyes, and imagine a cross. Notice how the vertical line links the top of heaven to the very edge of earth. Notice also how the horizontal line could go on forever. As you imagine and gaze, let the fulness of God's love fill you, as God in heaven took our flesh on earth, and as God reached out nailed-hands to embrace you and the whole world. Be surrounded in God's act of love for you, and for the world. And in that warming-love, give thanks. For God so loved the world, that God gave God's only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall be saved.

Blessings, sisters and brothers, as the love of God through the cross leads you each day!



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Dear friends,

We are excited to announce a new season in our music ministry! Our ensembles are now rehearsing, and we would like to invite you to join us in our musical faith-journey. Besides our weekly activities, we have an exciting lineup of public events.

On Sunday, September 30, at 3:00 PM, fellow music director from North Carolina, Mark Glaeser, will share his musical gifts with us in a Hymn Festival. On Friday, October 19, at 7:30 PM we will be joining forces with Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church to bring the celebrated Cornerstone Chorale and Brass to our sanctuary. On December 7, at 7:30 PM, the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra will help us celebrate the season with the community. On December 9, at 3:00 PM, Saint Rose Catholic Church will be joining us in an ecumenical service of Lessons and Carols. We count on your support and prayers. It is a great time to be here at Zoar.

Please remember: October's Special Offering is going to help our music program and the Music-with-a-Mission initiative!

COURTYARD DESTINED FOR PRAISE MULTIPURPOSE SPACE TO STRENGTHEN MISSION

Time Magazine's "Cremation: The New American Way of Death" highlights a very real issue that is a growing concern as more Americans choose cremation as a preferred disposition choice. What do you do with the ashes? Statistics from the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) show that in 2017, the US cremation rate was 51.6%. By 2022, the US cremation rate is projected to reach 57.8%. The choice is very personal, but those who prefer cremation often cite the desire for a simpler and more affordable funeral alternative, and the desire to be buried in an area surrounded by a vibrant faith community where the family has a history. Zoar has responded to this request by offering an area in the Courtyard for the "direct burial" of ashes in a bio-degradable linen bag. Within 4 - 6 months, the bag and ashes will be "returned" to the earth. An interment fee of \$800 will be held in a separate account for the perpetual maintenance of the garden and managed by a six-member Courtyard Garden board. The redesigned Courtyard provides a safe and final resting place for the remains of Zoar members, former members, and their families. While the Courtyard is designed to be a multi-purpose space for activities such as Easter Egg hunt, small services, and social hour - beautiful artwork, landscaping and benches also provide a place for quiet reflection. Pre-arrangement for interment prior to death, can be made. In such case, after discussing one's request with a Zoar pastor, the application including payment in full, may be submitted and held in the church office.



DIGGING DEEPER ADULT BIBLE STUDY LIVING WISELY

How are we to live in this world? Can we grow in wisdom, and in wise living? What does the Bible say about how to live wisely? Beginning on September 9 (Bring a Friend Sunday), Pastor Tim will explore wisdom and wise living. Using www.thebibleproject as curriculum, this class will explore the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job, and then work our way into the sayings of Jesus. Come and join the class in the Lower Level of the building, 9:45 AM.



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF!

PLAYFUL PRAYER STATIONS FEATURED

Join us September 9, 9:45 - 10:45 AM, for our Sunday School Kick-off! Sunday School Families and their friends are welcome to join us in exploring Playful Prayer Stations of Worship. Each family will be given a Playful Prayer Station Passport and will be asked to explore our Playful Prayer Stations focusing on the parts of worship. Explore each station with hands-on activities featuring confession and forgiveness, the gospel, baptism and more! Complete each station and you will receive a prize to prep you for the afternoon's Cowboy Hoe-Down and Texas BBQ!

ZOAR TIME AND DONATIONS ENRICH REDEEMERYOUTH

Thank you, Zoar for your generous donations given and time volunteered with Redeemer Summer Youth Program! Your gifts provided many opportunities. A young man had a chance to have an in-depth conversation with a docent at the art museum; two young girls overcame their initial screaming fear to canoe at Pearson Metropark; youth got up close and personal with animals on a farm; they got to hold exotic snakes, frogs, and lizards in their hands; we all learned to hula hoop; and we tried our hand at robotics and engineering with the Lucas Co Library. We had a full and enriching summer!



SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION ONLINE NOW

This year Sunday School Registration is happening online! Visit the Zoar website for a link to the registration page. Registration is open now!

SERVICE SUNDAYS 7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH

Starting this month 7th - 12th grade youth are invited to join us for Service Sundays. Service Sunday will take place on the Second Sunday of each month. Keep your eyes open for this month's project coming soon!

POINTFEST 7TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH

Pointfest is September 15! Zoar youth will be traveling to Cedar Point for a day of adventure including rollercoasters and hearing some of today's hottest Christian bands including TobyMac, For King & Country and Crowder!



SEPTEMBER 15 // SANDUSKY, OH
CEDAR POINT

5TH SUNDAY 5TH - 6TH GRADE YOUTH

NEW THIS MONTH- All fifth Sundays will be dedicated to 5th and 6th grade youth! Join us for devotion time and fellowship from 4 - 6 PM! This month we will be exploring team building games, similar to Minute to Win It AND devotions on prayer!



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

September is quite possibly my favorite month of the year! It brings us promise for a new school year, excitement for our favorite fall sports (GO HUSKERS!), a new Sunday School year and so much more. Here at Zoar we are gearing up for several exciting events ourselves.

This month we kick-off TWO new programs in addition to our regular Sunday programming. Starting in October every Second Sunday youth group will be designated to service. We hope to not only do in-house service projects, but also reach out to our neighbors here in Perrysburg and Northwest Ohio. Second Sundays are open to youth in grades 7 - 12. In addition, Fifth Sunday youth group will be focused on 5th and 6th grade ONLY! If you are a 5th or 6th grader grab your friends and join us for Fifth Sunday programming! First and fourth Sundays will be designated to our High School youth only.

As the school year settles in upon us and our calendars quickly fill up with exciting events, I would like to remind you to share those events with us here at Zoar! Do you play sports, sing in choir, play in band or orchestra? I would love to come cheer you and your child on! Send me an email/text with an upcoming game or performance and I would love to support your family however I can!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!



from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

I remember going to the movies with my mom and dad as a kid in 1975 to watch the comedian Peter Sellers star in the movie The Return of the Pink Panther. Actually, I watched my mother watch the movie. She laughed hysterically through the entire movie. Fortunately, the Scott Theater in Odessa, TX was not very full that day. Until that moment, I'd never seen someone so caught up in a movie. But since then, I have seen people completely caught up in a movie plenty of times. You probably have too. Sometimes we are that person. Movies have a way of connecting with us and opening us up. For me, movies like Brian's Song, JAWS, Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back, Jurassic Park, The Naked Gun, Fried Green Tomatoes, 12 Years a Slave, Unforgiven, Forest Gump, It's a Wonderful Life, High Plains Drifter, The Matrix, and Juno all reached inside my heart or head and did something. Good films have a way of expressing our deepest longings, questions, hurts, and hopes. That's why we are using movies as a part of the sermons in September.

I hope to see you there.

— Bring FRIEN WEEK

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SEPTEMBER 8TH & 9TH

On the weekend of September 8 & 9, Zoar will host a "Bring a Friend 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.

Don't miss out! If you don't have a friend, borrow one!



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ND

SEPTEMBER 8TH - 9TH



BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY TEXAS STYLE BBQ

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH 12 PM

Join us for a Finger-Lickin', Lip-Smackin', Knee-Slappin' Good Ole Time on Bring a Friend Sunday, September 9. Zoar Foundation is sponsoring this TEXAS STYLE BBQ fellowship event at noon. Live music under the big tent begins with Old State Line, a local five-piece band playing all your country favorites so well you can strut sittin' down.

The menu will be BBQ beef brisket or hot dogs, country-style baked beans, cole slaw, baked potato and the best dessert bar this side of Texas. You'll be as happy as a hog in mud playing our carnival-style games. So get gussied up in your western attire and meet us at the big tent from noon - 2 PM on Bring a Friend Sunday! The event is free but donations appreciated.



GET THE BIG PICTURE FINDING GOD IN FILM

We're bringing the experience of the Big Screen to Zoar in September in a new sermon series: GET THE BIG PICTURE: Finding God in Film. Using clips from movies, we will dive into spiritual questions.

Join us in service on the Sundays of September 16, 23 and 30 for a spiritually uplifting and attention-grabbing message.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

BOOK CLUB OPEN TO ALL READING GLASSES OPTIONAL

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join the Zoar Book Club. Meeting on the first Friday of each month at noon, book lovers gather in the lower level class rooms for great discussion of award-winning books. Bring a sack lunch, your book, and an appetite for discussion.

9/7/18 A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman (2013)

10/5/18 And If I Perish: Frontline U.S. Army Nurses in World War II, by Evelyn Monahan & Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee (2003)

11/2/18 One Thousand White Women, by Jim Fergus (1998)

12/7/18 Book Club members are asked to share favorite Christmas stories/songs/ poems/ memories and to share some Christmas goodies (Cookies/Desserts)

1/4/19 Wreckage, by Emily Bleeker (2015)

2/1/19 Life Together, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1939)

2/1/19 Glass House, by Brian Alexander (2017)

4/5/19 Mustard Seed, by Laila Ibrahim (2017)

5/3/19 Promise, by Minrose Gwin (2018)

ZOAR FOUNDATION INVITES GRANT PROPOSALS

SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE

In April 2018, the Zoar Foundation approved \$32,000 in grants requests. \$50,000 is available for grants for the remainder of 2018. Requests are due by September 30. Funds support projects that will expand or enhance the ministries that our congregation offers to its members, its community and the wider work of the church. Guidelines, application form and instructions for submitting proposals are available on the Zoar website or in the church office. The Zoar Foundation invites all boards, committees, staff and individual members of Zoar to submit proposals for support of new or expanded ministries of the Church.

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HELP ZOAR CLEAN UP THE WORLD

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

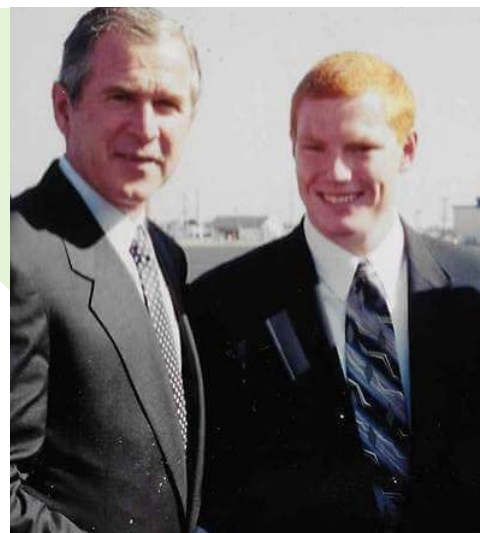
Young or old. Big or small. We need the help of all! We will be collecting donations of bath size bars of soap and light weight hand towels for Lutheran World Relief kits. These will be sent to adults and children in the developing world affected by natural disasters or conflict. Please place your donations in the Lutheran World Relief containers (located in the cabinets by the elevator). This collection will run from September 9 thru October 7.



SUNDAY MORNING CLASS ON FAITH & SCIENCE

SEPTEMBER 23RD, 9:45 AM

Join special guest, Dr. Sara Miles, for a one hour treat on how Christians can integrate their walk with God with modern science. Sara has her Ph.D. in History of Science, with one of her specialties being science and religion. She is Secretary/Treasurer of the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (PASTCF) and contributes regularly to their newsletter SciTech.



MEET A NEW MEMBER //

MICHAEL ARNOS

Michael joined Zoar in 2017. He brings with him a degree (2004) in Political Science from The Ohio State University. He also served in the Army National Guard from 1997-2003 and was a part of Operation Noble Eagle. Michael received training from Penta Vocational in 2017 and now specializing in small refrigeration and vending repair.

Thanks to Michael, Zoar's soda machine works again. His hobbies include "recreational shooting, puttering on the family farm, spending time with the family, and drinking the occasional beer." When asked why he made Zoar his spiritual home, Michael said, "Zoar gave generously to my home church's bed building ministry so when I moved to Perrysburg, I decided to visit. I stayed because I really like the people and there's lots of opportunities to get involved."

Michael certainly hasn't wasted any time getting involved, joining the Property Committee, helping launch a small group for singles, and chipping in wherever he can. Great job, Michael. In the photo above, Michael is the one next to former President George Bush.

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

SEPTEMBER // 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Phyllis Spoerl Birthday	5	6	7	8 Bring a Friend Weekend Harold Wolf Birthday
9 Bring a Friend Weekend	10	11	12	13	14 Ruth Alteneder Birthday	15 Pointfest Harrison Rally Day
16 God in Film	17	18	19	20	21 PCU Blood Drive	22
23 God in Film	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 God in Film						

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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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



"My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:2