

Amaz**ing!**News

FEBRUARY // 2019



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

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“E PLURIBUS UNUM DEUS” OUT OF MANY ONE GOD

Each Sunday in February falls in the season of Epiphany, a time when we celebrate that God’s goodness and blessing in Jesus Christ is for all the nations of the world. Our world is a diverse place with different languages, cultures, peoples, and religions. It is a multi-religious world. We see that with the reading from January 6 when the wise men came from the East. The East was probably Persia and their religion likely, Zoroastrianism. Jesus was born into and for a multi-religious world. For the ELCA, a diversity of religious belief systems coexisting in society isn’t a threat—it’s an invitation to conversation and understanding. “It’s part of our baptismal vocation as Lutherans,” says Kathryn Lohre, assistant to the ELCA presiding bishop and executive for ecumenical and interreligious relations. “We’re responding faithfully to [Martin] Luther’s explanation of the Eighth Commandment by engaging in mutual understanding.” In explaining that commandment, Luther wrote: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light” (Small Catechism).

Continued on Page 3



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHANGE THE WORLD

February. In the Church it is the season after the Epiphany, during which Magi (non-Jews, non-believers) came to visit the young Jesus. Also, we are reminded of St. Valentine, who while awaiting martyrdom for his Christian faith sent a note to his loved one, as we now send notes of love.

Both images tie in with an amazing event I attended this past November. The Parliament of World Religions was held in Toronto, at which 7000 people attended, representing over 200 religions. People were present from all around this world.

Throughout the week I encountered Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Christians (of several denominations), Sikhs, Baha'is, Zoroastrians, First People (Native Americans), Jews, Muslims, and many more. A few of the special speakers included Jim Wallis (editor of Sojourners magazine), the grandson of Gandhi, and a skyped-in conversation with the Dalai Lama. Here are just a few of the things I learned:

- This world is much more diverse and complex than I can imagine. And through this diversity, God's light shines brightly.
- When people come together in love, no matter from where they come, respect and care fill the conversation. Laughter knows no boundaries! We need more of this in our culture.

- The love of Jesus and His cross and empty grave that are so central to me are buttressed by John 3:16, where we read that "God so loved the world..." All the world is wrapped in the hands of our loving God.

-And I was reminded of the privilege of being a white, U.S. citizen, male, English-speaker in this world of color and diversity.

This event opened a new spot in my heart. Now, a few months later I continue to reflect on what I learned and who I met. So what?

One answer is reflected in an Episcopal theme, "Love God, Love your Neighbor, Change the World." If only we Christians could/would. To be the love of Jesus in the world is at the heart of the Gospel. Another is to connect in deeper ways with the Interfaith community here in Toledo, sharing God's love. Another is to pray, to thank, to worship Jesus, the Lord of All.

That's a start for February. How do you see the love of God reaching out through you to a neighbor or a stranger? The Magi and Valentine are teaching us yet – to be the love of God!

Continued from Page 1

This has been the basis for the ELCA's interreligious work over the last three decades. Soon after its formation, the ELCA recognized non-Christians as neighbors by establishing the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations. In 1994 the ELCA was the first Lutheran denomination to apologize to the Jewish people and repudiate Luther's anti-Semitic writings from 1543. In 2008, in response to an open letter from Muslim leaders looking for common ground and understanding with Christians, the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Muslim Relations was formed. This year the church has reflected deeply on how to continue to serve Muslim and Jewish neighbors. In January, President Donald Trump attempted to restrict entry of refugees and visitors from predominantly Muslim countries into the U.S. A month later there were attacks on Jewish cemeteries in Missouri and Pennsylvania, and threats of violence against 13 Jewish community centers across the country. In reaction to these occurrences, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton issued statements encouraging members and congregations to "[reach] out and [show] up with our Jewish neighbors" and to "offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition." Eaton also appointed the ELCA Interreligious Task Force in 2016 to develop a draft interreligious policy statement that is slated to be presented to the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Read the report here: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Draft-Policy-Statement>



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

After all the Christmas and New Year's celebrations, our enthusiastic carol-singing, the frantic pace of social commitments, we sail through the month January with the hopeful outlook of a better future. But January has left us, and the New Year doesn't feel so new anymore. It is usually in February that our aspirations come to the metaphorical fork in the road: we either embrace them and see them become a reality or pitch them into the bottomless dustbin of wishful thinking.

"Nihil sine magna labore"
("Nothing without great effort")

At a recent meeting of church musicians, a colleague asked a group of us whether we had any New Year wishes for our Congregations. One of us said, "I would like to grow my adult choir." Another, "I would like to see our young people and children more involved in worship." A third said, "I would love to see our congregation sing more." His reply shouldn't have caught me by surprise, but it did. His answer was, "What are you going to do about it?"

MY BROADWAY VALENTINE

FEBRUARY 16TH 7:30 PM

We are delighted to present "My Broadway Valentine" with Sonia and Omaldo Perez. Join us on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. as the musical couple charms us with a program featuring music from the Great White Way and the American Song Book. Cozying up to your sweetheart in our pews is optional. A reception will follow the concert and the money collected as part of our free-will offering will support the music ministry of Zoar. See you there!

THANK YOU!

HOLY LIGHT CONCERT BENEFITS COCOON SHELTER

Thank you to Saint Rose Catholic Church and everyone who attended the December 9TH Holy Light: A Service of Lessons and Carols. Through your generosity we were able to donate \$1300 to The Cocoon Shelter.

The Cocoon Shelter provides safety, healing and justice for battered women and their children. The Cocoon Shelter works to live its vision to be a trusted partner, community leader and transforming voice in Wood County and surrounding areas, committed to ending domestic violence and empowering those affected by it will be a trusted partner, community leader and transforming voice in Wood County, Ohio and surrounding areas, committed to ending domestic violence and empowering those affected by it.



GREAT LAKES GATHERING



My top three favorite moments or memories about my experience have to be...

- All of the food. Now that sounds obvious because who doesn't love food, it was more of the time we got to eat that let me in on high school youth group traditions and bond with my family and friends who went on this trip with me.
- I really really enjoyed small groups, there I met the most fun and interesting people who have all different ideas and points of view.
- My most favorite part of the trip has to be that I got to meet up with old friends. A couple years ago I went to the Jr. High Charge in Traverse City Michigan where I made friends with a couple of kids from Michigan. One of those friends recognized me and we were able to reconnect and talk about old memories and it was truly an amazing moment.

Jacob Benington

My favorite thing about the gathering is definitely the service day. This year we went around a neighborhood and collected cans for the greater Lansing food bank. I look forward to this day every year and enjoy the variety of projects they have every year, I've never done the same thing twice. Thank you so much for all of the opportunities I've had to go to the gathering, I'm blessed to be a part of such a generous and willing congregation.

Emily Haar

My favorite parts of the gathering where meeting new people and learning about myself and my relationship with god. Thanks to the entire congregation for helping to make this experience possible.

Connor Haar

My favorite part of the Michigan gathering is the skill shops. These are an opportunity to get to learn more about a topic you are passionate or curious about. I look forward to this gathering every year, thank you so much for the opportunity to go to the gathering for the past four years!

Gabriella Benington

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February 3RD 6 PM: Super Bowl Sunday Bash

February 10TH 4 - 6 PM: Service Sunday, Monthly Mingle with Woodlane
Valentines Day Cookie Decorating

February 17TH Time TBA: Third Sunday, SkyZone

February 24TH 4 - 6 PM: HS Youth Group

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BASH

FEBRUARY 3RD

Join us for the Super Bowl Sunday Bash! Football, games, food, silly commercials and MORE! Check your weekly youth update for more information.

SKY ZONE ADVENTURE

FEBRUARY 17TH

5th-12th Grade Youth are invited to join us at SkyZone on Sunday, February 17th. In order to join us, a SkyZone waiver must be filled out online before the event date! Please contact Amanda to RSVP and with any questions.



LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

FIRST COMMUNION

During the month of February Zoar's Fourth Grade Sunday School class will be studying the Sacrament of Holy Communion. First Communion for this year's Fourth Grade class will be held the weekend of Sunday, March 3rd. Please contact Amanda Rich or Pastor Tim for more information.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings dear friends,

Happy February! This month the youth of Zoar, in conjunction with a few of our friends from Social Committee, are introducing a new bi-monthly event called "Monthly Mingle." The first event will take place on February 10th from 4-6PM and we will be having a Valentine's Pizza Party, Indoor Game Night and Cookie Decorating. Every other Service Sunday, starting in February, we will be holding an outreach event for members of the Perrysburg community who live with developmental disabilities. The event will take place here at Zoar, where we will provide fellowship, food and fun for our friends and neighbors. With the help of the congregation and our youth we hope to provide an event here at Zoar that helps to include our friends in the community and in our church. If you are interested in joining us for our first Service Sunday: Monthly Mingle please RSVP to Amanda by February 6th.

Blessings,
Amanda Rich



from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

The evolution of technology increases at an ever-increasing rate. Social media is a major part of that evolution. Many of you, no doubt, are already active on social media in at least one way. You see its potential. It keeps you connected to people you love, and maybe to a couple of people who are hard to love. You see people tweeting, posting, face-timing, and 'snap'ping around you. Social media can be a hub of connectivity not just for individuals but for churches as well. Here are 5 ways social media boosts Zoar's work.

- 1) It expands our reach. As a church, our job is to help & serve others. But, to serve people we need to be where they are. Statistics show that 35% of the world's population is on social media.
- 2) It expands our influence. We are the salt and light of the world. We are the yeast that is destined to influence the dough. We are the vessels that carry solutions to the world's biggest problems. And social media is where people are asking the questions.
- 3) It expands our community. God's vision for us is to operate as a community. And social media networks are designed to facilitate community building.
- 4) It expands efficiency. Social media is mostly accessed by people using their mobile devices. This means any communication going through our social media can be instantly received by the recipient.
- 5) It expands giving options. Facebook already has a built in 'Donate' button for nonprofits. Twitter is experimenting with the features. By including social media into our congregation, we make it easier for people to partner with us financially.



SOCIAL MEDIA IN CHURCH

Facebook. Twitter. Youtube. Snapchat. Instagram. LinkedIn. The list goes on and on of social networking platforms with a trendy new one popping up every day. It seems like almost everyone is using them too. In 2008, 10% of the US population had at least one social media profile. In 2018, that number grew to 77%. Why are so many people using social media? More importantly why does social media matter at Zoar?

Community.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Absolutely this verse asks us to get together in person, to grow in our faith and share in fellowship. But what if you wake up on a Sunday morning and can't make it to service due to illness, or you find yourself inspired at 10PM on a Tuesday by a moving scripture passage and you feel called to share it with others, this is where social media fills the gap. Social Media has all the features of community built in. Groups, sharing, liking and commenting all help us to connect with the people around us.



Social Media is also a great way to share your faith in your own words. It enables us to have one-on-one conversations that may not be possible in person. Zoar's Groups give this opportunity to connect with new members (or new to you members), ask questions about the bible and share your life/faith with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Currently we have four Facebook Groups:

Zoar Lutheran Church-Perrysburg
Zoar Young Couples
Zoar Young Marrieds with Kids
Zoar Lutheran Church Youth

As the people of Zoar, social media is one of the easiest ways to build our community. Share a post about an upcoming event, maybe a friend looking for a church home will see it and check out Zoar. Visit Zoar on one of the Facebook groups, our Facebook page, Instagram or Youtube.

 [@ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg](#)

 [Zoar Lutheran Church](#)

 [@ZoarLutheran](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Do you enjoy connecting with others on social media?

Zoar is beginning a social media team! This group will be tasked with taking photos at events, listening for great sermon quotes and interacting with Zoar on social media.

If you think you'd be a good fit for this team email Mollie at: communications@zoarlutheran.com

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

HELP SEW SCHOOL BAGS

"Every girl and boy in every country is entitled to education. Quality education is critical to development both of societies and of individuals, and it helps pave the way to a successful and productive future. When all children have access to a quality education rooted in human rights and gender equality, it creates a ripple effect of opportunity that influences generations to come." - Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief needs your help sewing school bags. Providing simple tools such as those found in LWR School Kits helps those families have one less difficult decision to make. Thanks to your generosity, in 2016 alone, LWR was able to distribute 191,720 School Kits to communities in 12 different countries.

This year Zoar needs to sew 100 bags to provide to Lutheran World Relief. Bags of pre-cut school bags, ready to be sewn are available in the LWR cupboard by the elevators. Please pick up a bag and when completed return to cupboard.

Questions: Lois Staber 419-872-7232
Jackie Springer 419-872-9689



VALENTINES PIZZA PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 4 - 6 PM

On Sunday February 10th from 4 - 6 PM Zoar is hosting community members who have developmental disabilities for indoor games and Valentine cookie decorating. All are invited to join in the fun and decorate a cookie for your favorite Valentine. Pizza and beverages will also be provided.

Please RSVP to Amanda Rich at arich@zoarlutheran.com



NORTHWEST OHIO'S 2019 THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

ZOAR'S OWN KATE PHILABAUM

Kate Philabaum has received the honor of being name Theologian in Residence of the Northwest Ohio Synod. Kate is a retired music and drama teacher, who is now the Director of the HeArt Gallery at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Toledo, as well as a fiber artist, church musician, member of Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA), and a member of the Arts in Action leadership team. Kate is married to Pastor Tim. They have three grown children and five grandchildren. Through this grant and residency, Kate will be seeking to use the transformative power of the arts to connect, equip, and inspire NWOS church members in their study of scripture. She will be focusing on the connections between scripture, art, faith, and community as we journey through the Year of Scripture in the Northwestern Ohio Synod.



EVENT REMINDER

CHRIST CARE POTLUCK

Join the Christ Care team for a potluck luncheon celebration February 17 following late service. All current Christ Care group members are invited. We also encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about Christ Care groups and/or joining a group to come enjoy the food and fellowship while learning more about Christ Care groups.

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

FEBRUARY // 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Zoar Book Club	2 Singing for the Stage LaDonna Kossow Birthday
3 Super Bowl Sunday Bash Annual Meeting	4 Wilma Jimison Birthday	5	6	7	8 Widows Support Group	9 Singing for the Stage Board and Brush Art Event
10 Monthly Mingle	11 Janis Higbie Birthday Ruth Circle	12 Paul Sargent Birthday	13 Rachel Circle	14 Mirian Michaelis Birthday	15	16 Singing for the Stage My Broadway Valentine
17 Christ Care Potluck SkyZone Adventure	18	19 Council Meeting	20 William Ault Birthday	21 Naomi Circle	22 Kitchen of Hope	23 Singing for the Stage
24 HS Youth Group	25	26 Helen Dimick, Gerald Hazel & Carol Henschen Birthday	27	28 William King 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

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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 for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!



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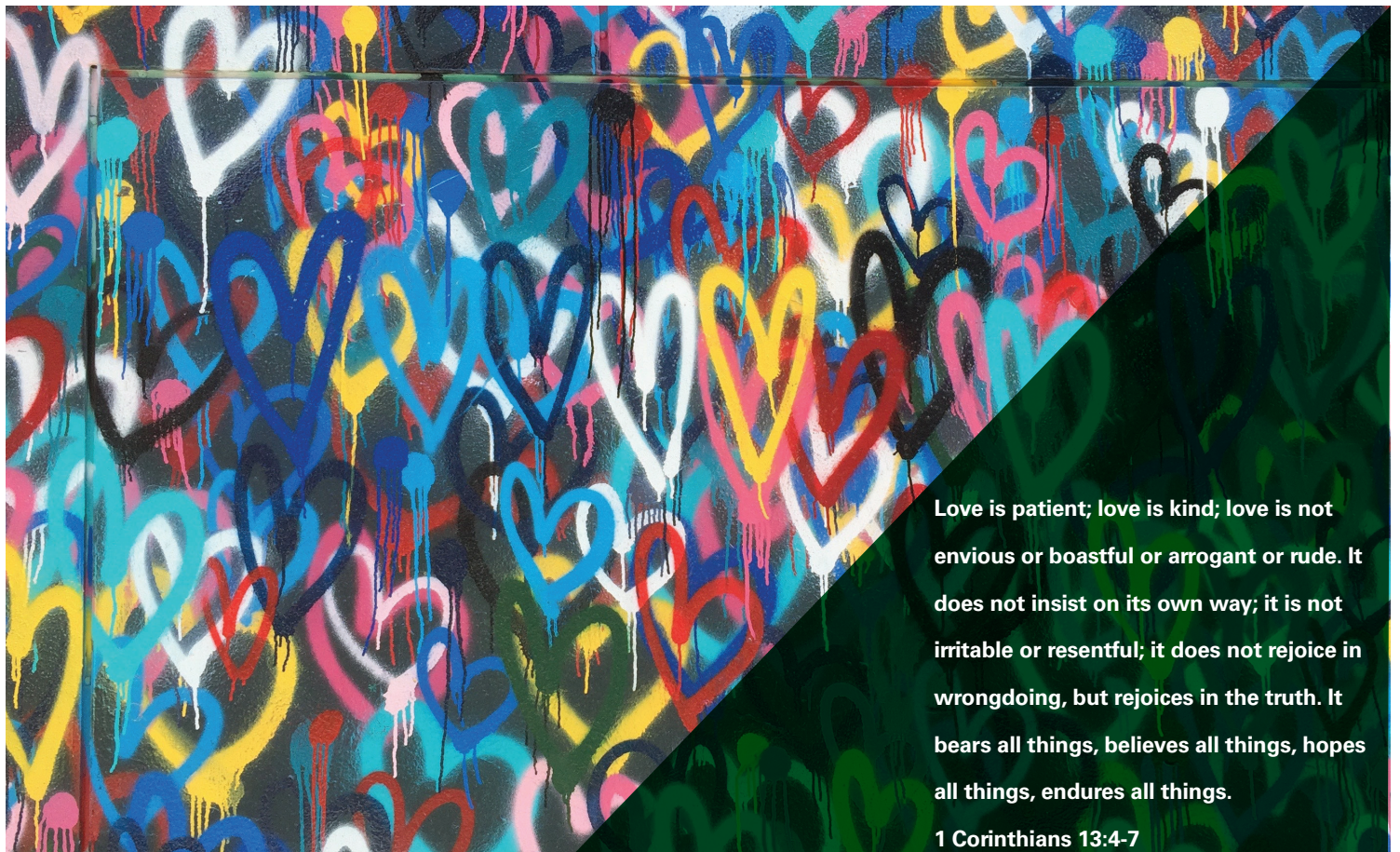
Worship times:
6 PM Saturday,
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

Be
AmaZed!



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Love is patient; love is kind; love is not
envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It
does not insist on its own way; it is not
irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in
wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It
bears all things, believes all things, hopes
all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7