

Amazing!News

MARCH // 2019



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

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A PASSION FOR JUSTICE AND JESUS

A simple pot of rice and beans originally brought Eidas Rivas to Santuario Luterano, Waltham, Mass. Rivas, who is 34, made them at her mother's request for a potluck following evening worship. She hadn't planned on getting involved at Santuario; her intention was to "just come that Sunday and be done with it." But it was the way the community embraced her three children—all with special needs—that kept Rivas coming back. Today she's deeply invested in the new ELCA congregation and so are her children, who serve as acolytes there. For Rivas, belonging to Santuario is important because "we do a lot of social justice." This passion for service is a common thread among the congregation's young Latino membership, said Ángel Marrero, pastor and mission developer there. Members lead a variety of outreach efforts, including a free food pantry, GED classes and more. Last fall, in the wake of Hurricane Maria, Rivas and two other young adults at Santuario organized a donation drive for Puerto Rican families whose lives were devastated by the disaster. Rivas remembers the constant flow of people and donations and calling Marrero to announce that a 24-foot truck had arrived—full of canned food for the people on the island. "I was expecting 10 boxes," Marrero said of the effort. "We filled two airplanes (of donations) out of this mission church!"

Continued on Page 3



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



THE MOST AMAZING MYSTERY OF ALL GOD

January was so cold, and by now we have made it through February (thanks to St. Valentine and the Presidents!). As much as I love winter, I also love sunlight. So, grey & cloudy Northwestern Ohio days can be a bit gloomy. Yet even in the grey, the snow and cold sparkles with the diversity of God's creative love.

Now comes March, and the days lengthen, and bit by bit the snows give way to flowers and spring. The early Church developed a special 40 day season to prepare for Easter, calling this season "Lent," since the days are "lengthening." During this time we turn our hearts to the most amazing mystery of all: God, in all of God's love and goodness, became human, crucified, and rose from the dead. God's love, freely given, fully expressed, for all.

But before we get to the joy of the Resurrection we begin this 40-day period with ashes. Symbols of repentance and mortality, these ashes are placed on our foreheads with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Not exactly joyful, but realistic, as we see death all around us, as we know we too shall die, and as we know that the Lord of love holds us in strong arms of grace.

Here at Zoar we will offer a time of ashes on Wednesday, March 6. A short service will commence at 7am, and then more extended services at 11am and 7pm (with lunch offered at noon, and supper beginning at 5:30). The scriptures will call us to use these days for prayer, for giving of offering, and for fasting.

How will you use this time of Lent to prepare for the gift of Easter? You may choose to take an extra few moments each day in prayer, or set aside an extra offering, or abstain from certain foods, or set aside time for service. In all these, the gift is that your heart is being softened, to receive the good news of Jesus.

May these days be filled with God's love in your being! May these days strengthen you in your service and care! May these days, like spring-light, shine in your words and deeds, to the glory of God. May God's love lengthen in your life! May all you do and say show Jesus to the world!

Continued from Page 1

He said the event was a turning point in his ministry with Santuario. New young people had found the congregation through it and asked him: "What's keeping you all together?" "We do this because of Jesus," Marrero answered. Now 78 people—and counting—are involved in Santuario's life and ministry, a reality that wouldn't be possible, Marrero said, without Mission Support. Mission Support from the Synod and the ELCA churchwide organization fund Marrero's work with Santuario, which shares space and a partnership with First Lutheran Church of Waltham. "The dollars you put in your offering ... is what allows me the freedom to work in Waltham [with the Latino community]," Marrero said. Zoar shares in the success of this new start through our financial support to the ELCA.



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

During Lent, we hear about penance, repentance, and fasting. However, what is the point of all this?

On March 6th when we begin our Lenten disciple we will meditate on the ephemeral and transitory nature of life: we will pray God to hold us in mercy even in the grips of death. On Lent I, we hear how Jesus was taken away to the wilderness and tempted. On Lent II, Jesus speaks of his duty and his journey to his crucifixion. On Lent III, we ponder what kind of fig trees Jesus had in mind. On Lent IV, we hear the parable of the prodigal. On Lent V, we hear of Jesus' feet washed with pure nard (foreshadowing his embalmment). Furthermore, Palm/Passion Sunday begins festively at the gates of Jerusalem and quickly ends in Calvary. Then we arrive at the Three Days, Good Friday giving us the disconcerting image of a dead yet sprouting stump and we celebrate the mystery of our faith: Death is not the end.

FAITH & ART

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH 5 - 7 PM

Zoar will host an immersive art event on Sunday, March 10 from 5 - 7 PM. After opening comments in the sanctuary, guests will be asked to remain silent (no speaking!) for 45 minutes. During that time they will explore our building where more than 40 things will be happening simultaneously. One might see artists working, enjoy musicians playing, hear a poetry reading, take in a short film, or participate in a corporate art piece. Some areas will be museum-style display, other areas more sensory. Guests are free to roam at their own pace and observe, perhaps participate. The challenge – no speaking – just immersing oneself in ways that art might relate to scripture.

At 6pm, guests will be directed to the Family Life Center for a family-style meal. Church groups will sit together and discuss what they have seen. The experience will likely be different for each person. Just like browsing through Pinterest, the hope is that this immersive "browsing" arts event will spark ideas for including art in the study of scripture and worship congregations throughout our synod. All are welcome to attend.

Please make reservations through the church office at 419-874-4346.

THRIVENT WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH 11 AM & 6:30 PM

For many, giving is spontaneous or comes from what's left after other expenses. While this giving is needed and important, there are other ways to give more with what you have. Thrivent Financial, presented by Thrivent Financial Associate Tim Bracy and sponsored by Ken Meinecke and Derek Dierks, invites you to explore methods to make your giving thoughtful and personal. There's a broad range of giving options available that can be customized to specific needs and interests. Planned giving is an expression of our values and is an opportunity to fulfill the mission of your church. In addition, there are strategies that can also offer considerable tax and financial benefits.

In working with your tax advisors, we can help make sense of all the options available. We hope you have the time to attend one of our workshops to be held at Zoar on April 11. There are two sessions to choose from: 11:00 AM or 6:30 PM. Call Ken Meinecke at 419-764-9526 to make a reservation today.



MARCH SCHEDULE

March 3RD: First Communion!

High School Youth Group 4-6PM

March 6TH: Ash Wednesday!

March 10TH: Service Sunday! 5th-12th Grade welcome! 4-6PM

March 17TH: Irish-fest! 12PM-2PM

March 22ND: Serve at Vision Kitchen! 4:45PM-7:30PM

March 24TH: HS Youth Group 4-6PM

March 31ST: 5th and 6th Grade NIGHT! 4-6PM

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

IRISH FEST

MARCH 17TH 12 - 2 PM

The congregation is invited to join Zoar's Youth and Families for a Jiggs Dinner and Irish Entertainment following the 11AM Worship Service. Sunday School age youth are invited to enter their best Shoe Box Sized Leprechaun Trap for the Leprechaun Trap Competition!



INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

MARCH 22ND 4:45 - 7:30 PM

Congregation members and youth are invited to serve with us at Vision Kitchen Ministries March 22nd! Vision Kitchen is a ministry of Vision Ministries which provides hot meals 3 days a week in South Toledo.

RSVP to Amanda by March 15th at arich@zoarlutheran.com.

Greetings friends,

In this month's edition of the Zoar Newsletter I wanted to share with you about my recent trip to Jacksonville, Florida for the 2019 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza.

Each January Youth Pastors, Youth Directors, church staff and volunteers gather for a weekend of education, renewal, networking and worship at the Extravaganza! This year's theme for 2019 was Disrupt! Throughout the weekend we heard several speakers and Pastors talk about how we as God's children are called to Disrupt: to be the change, stand up for what is right and to go out into the world to help and LOVE our neighbors. We also heard from speakers whose lives have been disrupted, by death and other hardships. These sessions were enlightening, inspiring and really gave breath to the challenges so many of us face in our communities and within the church.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com



In addition to these general sessions, I was able to attend several continuing education workshops focusing on faith formation, first communion, revolutionary relationships, how to pray the Rosary for Lutherans and more!

My favorite part of the Extravaganza this year was the early Intensive Care Course that I attended called: Faith Formation in Religious Diversity: Difference, Questions, and Personal Experience. During this course I had the opportunity to discuss interfaith opportunities, relationships and education with other youth workers. We also were able to visit the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida. There we met with the Imam (similar to a Priest only in the Muslim faith) who was willing to answer all of our questions about

our Muslim neighbors, in addition to sharing with us the pillars of his faith. Following our meeting with the Imam Bilal, we were invited to attend a worship service being held that afternoon. The people were extremely kind and welcoming. I learned so many things about our Muslim brothers and sisters that afternoon and the recurring theme of what they all shared about their faith: LOVE.

Continuing education and networking opportunities like this one could not be possible without the support of YOU the congregation. Thank you so much for this opportunity and for your investment in the youth here at Zoar.

With Gratitude,
Amanda Rich





from
Pastor Mike
Community Pastor
pastormike@zoarlutheran.com

Growing up in church, my family never once attended Ash Wednesday or Lent services. Honestly, I don't know why. It's just not something my parents ever did. They were in worship every single Sunday for decades. They were leaders, teachers, council presidents, grass cutters, youth volunteers. There was nothing they failed to do in church. Except for Ash Wednesday or Wednesday Lent services. Once I got out on my own and began attending these services, I was puzzled. Ash Wednesday was such an extremely powerful experience. Mid-week Lent services were short but so meaningful. As much as my parents immersed themselves in church, they really missed quite a lot. Ash Wednesday has become one of my favorite services of the year. Actually, it ranks above Christmas. It is such a sobering experience. It helps us see with clear eyes, focused minds, and needy hearts the meaning of our mortality. Ash Wednesday is a sober, not somber, moment for us to embrace the good news of Jesus Christ. I hope to see you all on March 6.



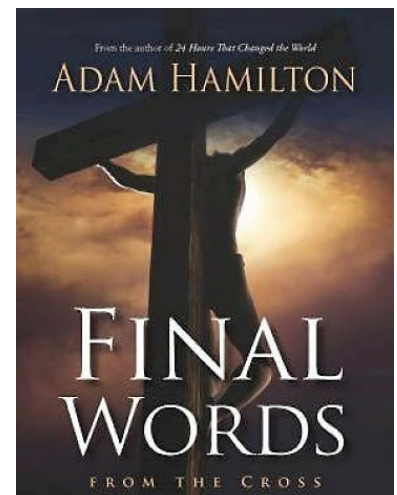
FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"I'm Losing it" – Frank Sinatra

"Tomorrow, at sunrise, I shall no longer be here." – Nostradamus

"Oh wow, Oh wow, Oh wow." – Steve Jobs

Famous last words said by influential figures. Did these people know these were their last words? Their last thoughts? This Lenten season we will explore the most famous and influential last words ever spoken. So much was given to us in the last hours before Jesus died. In that time He spoke forgiveness, hope, peace and faith. Using material from Adam Hamilton's - *Final Words From the Cross* we will explore the "Seven Last Words," prayers that enrich our faith and teach us hope in the midst of trial.





LENT SCHEDULE

At the 11 AM and 7 PM Wednesday worship services the schedule will be:

March 6TH (Ash Wednesday) – “Father Forgive Them”

March 13TH – “Today you will be with me in Paradise”

March 20TH – “Woman, Behold your son...Behold your mother”

March 27TH – “My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?”

April 3RD – “I Thirst”

April 10TH – “It is Finished,” and “Into Your Hands I commit My spirit.”

LENTEN MEALS

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Lenten season, we will have meals served for lunch and supper. However, we need your help. We are asking individuals, groups, or committees to prepare and serve the meals. Lunch will be served at noon following the 11:00 AM service. Prior to the evening service (7:00 PM), supper will be served at 5:30 PM. If you are interested in serving Zoar or need additional information, please contact Margie and Tom Iserpsn at iserpsn@bex.net or 419-874-5215. There is no charge for these meals, however, donations will be accepted.

This year's beneficiary is Lutheran Disaster Response. Our goal is to provide a \$5,000 donation to this worthwhile organization which is often the first agency to respond to disasters.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

VBS 2019

SAVE THE DATE JUNE 24TH - 27TH

At Roar VBS, kids discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. Roar is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Join us June 24 - 27, 9 AM - 12 PM. Registration deadline is May 24, absolutely no walk-ins or late registrations will be allowed.

Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in playclothes and safe shoes.

Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

VBS registration is now open! Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/zoarvbs2019> to register a participant or volunteer.



ZOAR YOUTH ADVENTURE TRIP

COMMITMENT FORMS DUE MARCH 5

On July 7 - 13, current 6 - 12th Grade Youth will be going on an adventure this year at Camp Lutherock in Newland, NC. There they will experience daily bible study, devotions and even whitewater rafting adventures! We can't wait!

ALL commitment forms are due March 5th!

Contact Amanda for more information arich@zoarlutheran.com



CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP: THANKING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

We praise God through our Church Council and Committees. Thank you to those who have devoted their time and talents to the growth of Zoar.

Church Council members completing their terms:

Neil Englehart
Scott Williams
Marianne Wagner
Michael Searle

Committee members completing their terms:

Lisa Hoverson
Paul Dodge
William Kahlenberg
Scott Libbe
Tom Schult
Roger Shoffner
Janis Stein



MEET A MEMBER THE MEYER FAMILY

Derek and Heidi Meyer have been members of Zoar since 2013, when they were looking for a church together with the Lutheran traditions that they both grew up with. Their children, Elias (4) and Nora (1.5) were both baptized at Zoar. Derek is a high school math teacher and Heidi is a high school social studies teacher. Elias loves trains, Paw Patrol, and playing with church friends. Nora enjoys anything that her brother loves and being her feisty self. They are both very active at Zoar. Derek is currently serving on church council, liaison to the stewardship committee, and helps lead the 5/6 Sunday School class. He also was part of the call committee that brought Pastor Mike to Zoar. Heidi is currently serving on the lifelong learning committee, is part of the money counters, teaches PreK Sunday School, and was also part of the vision committee. The Meyer's are hosts of one of the Young Married Couples with Kids' small groups.

They were first drawn to Zoar because of the Lutheran traditions, the strong youth ministry, and they could envision raising a family and growing in their faith together at Zoar. Zoar has truly become like a second family to them. They love all of the friendships they have made through the small groups and the growth of their faith walk. They can't wait to see what the future has to hold for Zoar and them.

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

MARCH // 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<div>1</div> <div>Zoar Book Club</div> <div>Singing for the Stage Performance</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Singing for the Stage Performance</div>
<div>3</div> <div>First Communion</div> <div>Vivian Corbin Birthday</div>	4	5	<div>6</div> <div>Ash Wednesday</div> <div>Donald Underwood Birthday</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Men's Breakfast</div> <div>Jan Odegaard Birthday</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Widows Support Group</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Faith, Science & Technology</div>
<div>10</div> <div>Service Sunday</div> <div>Faith & Art</div>	11	12	<div>13</div> <div>Lent I Worship</div>	14	15	16
<div>17</div> <div>Irish Fest</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Colleen Cichy Birthday</div>	19	<div>20</div> <div>Lent II Worship</div>	21	<div>22</div> <div>Vision Kitchen Ministry</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Dorothea Etue Birthday</div> <div>Blood Drive</div>
24	25	26	<div>27</div> <div>Lent III Worship</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Margaret Lusher Birthday</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Betty Orendorff Birthday</div> <div>Kitchen of Hope</div>	<div>30</div> <div>St. Paul Soup Kitchen</div>
<div>31</div> <div>5th & 6th Grade Youth Group</div>						

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



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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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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



The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
Zephaniah 3:17