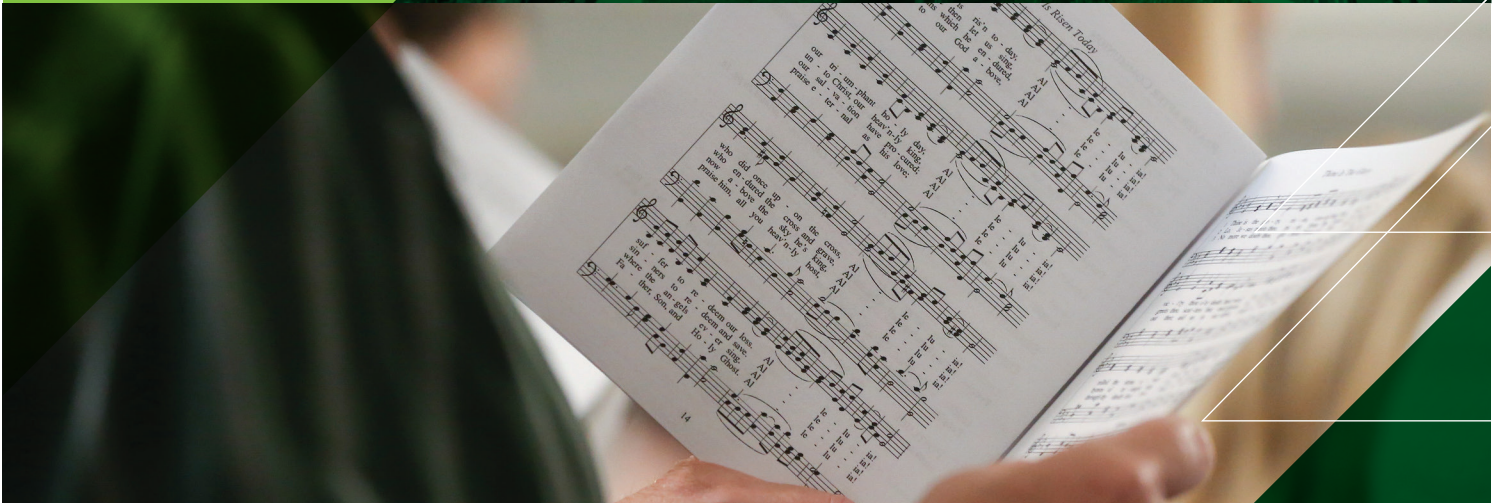


Amaz^{ing}! News

SEPTEMBER // 2019



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

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EXPLORE ZOAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Come EXPLORE ZOAR and its unique opportunities to Gather, Grow and Give in a Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 8TH from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The fair will include information booths from a variety of ministry opportunities at Zoar as well as opportunities to join in, learn more and receive regular updates on ministries that meet personal needs and interests. The event will also offer fair-themed food, carnival games and children's activities. In addition, a special Sunday School Preview will be held from 9:45 - 10:15 AM, where students will be able to meet their Sunday School teachers and get a taste for the upcoming year's activities.

Why should you attend?

"Because as a community, we are in this ministry together," said Pastor Tim, "and Jesus calls us to connect with each other within this community and the greater world." The intent of the EXPLORE ZOAR Ministry Fair is to allow everyone to find a place within Zoar's ministry offerings, no matter their reason for getting involved.

Ministry Leaders:

If you have not been contacted yet about EXPLORE ZOAR or need help with your booth please contact Mollie at communications@zoarlutheran.com as soon as possible.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



WRAPPED IN GRACE

Ah, September. It seems that normal life has come back. Youth are in school, Confirmation at Church has begun, vacations have been completed, the days are a bit cooler, summer has come, given us its blessings, and has now gone into the past. Thank you, Summer! Thank you, God, for the blessings of this season, and for Your Presence in the midst of all that is!

One of the gifts our Loving God has given us is the gift for us to grow, to expand our mind & experiences, to learn. Not to grow is to become stagnant. God's grace is not diminished when we are not learning, but as we grow our eyes are made more open to the joy of Jesus in creation, our hearts are made more tender in the midst of our neighbor's need, our minds are made more aware as we learn truths nestled in Scripture, and our hands are made more ready to work for God's Kingdom.

So, adult disciples of Jesus, jump into the fresh waters of God's Word! At this time of the year several groups are reading the Old Testament prophets as we work our way through "Bible in A Year," Jesus' words and actions as recorded in Luke continue to be the center of our worship

through November, Circles & young adult small groups, Bible discussion groups & Prayer Warriors, quilters & knitters, and those who offer food and care all are growing in knowledge and thanksgiving to the God of love.

But I must acknowledge that if your faith is only "exercised" here in the Zoar building, your faith-muscle will become flabby! Sisters and brothers: open your scriptures and spend time in thought and prayer each day; speak to other believers about the grace of God in your midst; share your heart and your blessings with the neighbor in need; be the love of God to those unaware of God's presence. "Let your light so shine, that others may see your good works and give glory to your heavenly Father."

The truth that is pre-eminent is that no matter what, we are loved! God's grace from before the beginning has been given to the world, and you are wrapped in grace. Like fresh water, may that grace nurture you and this community that all grow in the healing, peaceful presence of Jesus!

Blessings to you this September!

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

The lectionary themes during September speak both of comfort and challenge. Our readings this month are full of weighty reminders and enlightening instruction. Altogether, these texts bring us to a better understanding of what it means to live a God-loving, God-fearing life. It is in this spirit of mutual growth in faith and Christian solidarity that we offer this summary of the highlights in our worship life.

September 1

The life of blessing is one of Jesus' recurring concerns. In the Gospel of Luke, we learn about not seeking honor. Good deeds are to be done for their own sake and not as the result of "tit-for-tat" calculations. As Christians, we are called to be a blessing by extending the invitation and sharing the gifts we have received from God. We begin this outward expansion at the communion table, from where it radiates to the whole world.

September 8

On this day, we hear warnings about distractions: "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." We have an inborn tendency to idolize. We tend to form strange and pernicious attachments and forget about God. The way of discipleship calls us to vigilance against these proclivities.

September 15

On this weekend Zoar will celebrate the Festival of the Holy Cross. Holy Cross Day originated with the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335. This festival provides the Church an opportunity to remember the victory of the cross with a spirit of celebration would be out of place on Good Friday.

September 22

On this Sunday we hear Jesus say, "And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." Why is Jesus telling the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is praised by him for having acted so shrewdly? Could it be that Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship, given that they are managers of a far more valuable household?

September 29

Today we hear another reminder of our duty to those less fortunate than us. As Christians, we know we are not coerced into ethical behavior, not by fear of punishment (Hell), or bribed by the pursuit of reward (Heaven). Good works and generous actions flow from grateful hearts. We cling to God's promises because eternal salvation has already been procured for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Thus we are free to be generous and confident that God will continue to provide for our needs.



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Friends,

The French call the month of September the month of the re-entry. "La re-entrée," is a time for wrapping up vacations, going back to school and plunging back into the hustle and bustle of work with renewed vigor. The idea of a new beginning and a re-launching is something not unfamiliar to people who follow The Way. We Christians have new beginnings every time we remember our baptism and every time we die to the old self and embrace the promise of a new life. Our baptismal promises are the reason why here at Zoar, we delight in offering new ways to Gather, Grow, and Give!

It is my pleasure to invite you to the first event in our 2019-2020 concert series. On Sunday, September 15TH, at 4 PM, our music program will celebrate Holy Cross Day by presenting a Hymn Festival led by yours truly. In this particular occasion, we will take a look at the richness of the Christian tradition by singing hymns old and new. We will bring to Perrysburg music and meditations that represent the universal message of Jesus and the truly global character of the faith we share.



LUTHEROCK TESTIMONIALS

In July, 19 youth and three adult chaperones travelled to Newland, North Carolina where they spent a week at Camp Lutherock exploring God's creation in new ways! Our High School youth spent a week white water rafting and our Middle School hiked FIFTEEN MILES of the Appalachian Trail before joining our older youth and chaperones for a day of white water rafting! Here is what many of them had to say about their adventures:

"I liked my counselor and white water rafting."

- Anna Patnode

"I survived hiking 14.9 miles of the Appalachian Trail, the views were awesome."

- Claire Schroeder

"It's really hard to pin what made Lutherock so special. All I know is that there were some special moments with special people that I will never forget!"

- Jacob Benington

"Camp was one of the best weeks of summer for me and i'll never forget everyone I met and got to go with!"

- Emma Erlenbusch

"At Lutherock I got to meet some really rad people from different places in the country who I became friends with and still stay in touch with. I got to raft the river and saw so many things God created in beauty. It was an experience I will never forget. I will definitely attend next year."

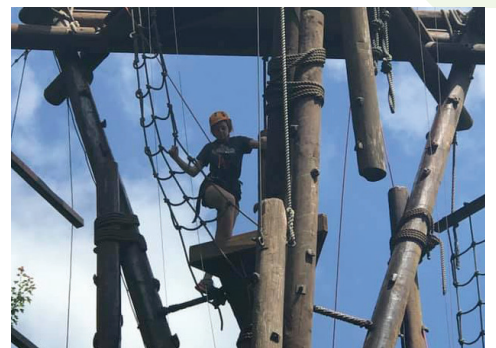
- Jakob Rickman

"I loved rock climbing and getting together for campfires and songs. But honestly all of it was fun and I loved it all. I met a lot of people from a lot of different places. We did so many fun activities like rock climbing, white water rafting, hiking, crafts, singing and celebration was definitely one to remember! Lutherock is definitely one for the books."

- Lauren Cline

"Lutherock was so, so much fun because we got to experience and explore in ways I hadn't done before including white water rafting and hiking the Appalachian trail. My favorite part was just all the laughing, mainly at me, and getting to know new people from different places in the country. Definitely need to go next year."

- Carley Milligan



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

September 4TH: Confirmation Parent Overview 6:30PM
September 8TH: Explore Zoar Event
September 14TH: Pointfest (All Day)
September 21ST: Harrison Rally Day! (Parade)
September 22ND: HS Youth Group 4 - 6PM
September 29TH: Lutheran World Relief Stuffing 4 - 6PM

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CONFIRMATION PARENT OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 6:30 PM

Parents of 7th and 8th grade youth are highly encouraged to join us for our Confirmation Parent Overview on Wednesday, September 4TH at 6:30 PM. Come and see what exciting things this year has in store and what is to come for your confirmand in the coming year.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: CARE KIT STUFFING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 4 - 6 PM

On September 29TH from 4 - 6 PM 5th - 12th grade youth are invited to join us in stuffing care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Youth and their families are asked to donate new bath towels and large bars of soap to be included in the care kits.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

FALL INTO LAKESIDE

OCTOBER 4TH - 6TH

This event is a first time fall retreat for youth sponsored by the Northwest Ohio Synod. It will include large group worship, break out sessions, devotions and worship all in beautiful Lakeside, Ohio. This year's inaugural event will serve as Zoar's fall confirmation retreat. All 7th and 8th graders are strongly encouraged to attend. Interested High School Students are also welcome.

Please let Amanda know if you are interested ASAP.



from

Amanda

Director of Youth Ministries

arich@zoarlutheran.com

It is hard to believe that when this newsletter hits your mailbox the school year will be well underway! What a year it has been so far! I have really enjoyed spending so much time with our youth and families over these past few months. One of my FAVORITE things about the summer months has been hearing all of the wonderful stories about our time together at Vacation Bible School and our adventure trip to Lutherock. Many of our youth took on challenges greater than they imagined this summer. These experiences have been faith forming and spiritually fulfilling not only for our youth, but for me as well. Hiking mountains, being leaders for younger youth, white water rafting and serving the greater Toledo community! I am so proud of all of you! Through those "I can't do it," statements to the "I did it," endings, our youth have made faith bigger than all their fears!

As we look to the year ahead, our calendar is filled with opportunities to share together both in faith, love and service. Let us continue to make faith bigger than our fears as we grow and serve together surrounded by God's undying love.

Happy September,
Amanda Rich

2019 - 2020



It is common knowledge that, when it comes to the breadth and variety of its music programs, Zoar Lutheran Church has a distinguished record. It is in the context of this decades-long commitment to robust music-making that, four years ago, Zoar started a new chapter: the launching a Concert Series under the direction of Omaldo Perez. This new venture in Zoar's musical life soon evolved to include Music-with-a-Mission charitable events. Proceeds and donations at Music-with-a-Mission concerts are designated to help service organizations at the local, regional, and even international level.

Between February 2015 and August 2019, Zoar has held 35 concerts. In that same period, it has also raised more than fifteen thousand dollars for benevolent causes. Past recipients have included Perrysburg Christian United, Mom's House, the Cocoon Shelter, projects for building houses in Haiti and supporting music education in Peru. While we feel very fortunate that we have been able to help other institutions, we plan to temporarily commit future free-will offerings to the acquisition of a new concert grand piano. This will allow us to further expand our programing in years to come.

We would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to acknowledge our gratitude to all the supporters who have made these projects possible. Zoar's Concerts are self-sustained and rely almost exclusively on donations. Our patrons' presence, financial gifts, as well as their time and talents, have made it all possible. This generosity of

spirit is exemplified by Zoar's legendary hospitality team, which has admirably put forth many memorably themed receptions.

We look forward to bringing to Perrysburg many more exciting programs. We believe these concerts are a unique form of outreach and artistic ministry to the community. Furthermore, we hope our events become a significant and vibrant contribution to the greater Toledo area. Finally, we pray our concerts allow Zoar Lutheran Church to continue to live into the Church's historical role as a vehicle for the transmission of the musical treasures which are everyone's cultural inheritance and spiritual patrimony.

The 2019 - 2020 concert series launches on September 15, at 4 PM with *Dancing Around the Cross: A Hymn Festival*. Join us as Omaldo Perez teams up with Zoar's music ministry and guest musicians in bringing to our community hymns from around the world interpreted in a variety of styles ranging from Jazz to Salsa. On this day, we may recall how, as the bible tells us, King David, "danced before the Lord with all his might." This event will be part of Zoar's commemoration of Holy Cross Day. So, come and sing with us, as we celebrate, meditate, and tap our feet to the global rhythms of today's Church.

In October the concert series continues with *Manz and Company: An Organ Recital with Daniel Schwandt*. On October 11 at 7:30 PM, On this memorable evening with organist Daniel Schwandt, Zoar's audiences

will be treated to sounds both majestic and intimate from Zoar's Rogers Infinity console. Making a special appearance in Northwest Ohio, Mr. Schwandt's musical offerings will include jewels spanning four hundred years: from the Bach family, Jean Langlais' *Te Deum*, to modern spirituals by Calvin Hampton, Bob Hurd, Daniel Gawthrop, all the way to George Shearing. We will also remember Paul Manz's legacy as formidable organist and Cantor in the Lutheran tradition on this, the centenary year of his birth.

Join us as Zoar brings a cast of musicians to Perrysburg to perform two rarely heard masterpieces under Omaldo Perez' baton in *Milestones and Anniversaries: Caldara's Dies Irae and Debussy's The Prodigal* on November 1 at 7:30 PM. . 2019 marks the 350th anniversary of Italian composer Antonio Caldara's birth, and we will remember him by presenting his major work, *Dies Irae*, a requiem. 2019 is also the 134th year Claude Debussy winning the coveted first place at the Prix de Rome in 1886 with his *L'Enfant Prodiges*. This concert will pair captivating ideas about God's grace as rendered in these masterpieces. All Saints' Day, 2019!



CONCERT SERIES

Come and join the spirit of the season with the musical ensembles of Zoar! December 13 at 7:30 PM in *Advent Gladness and Christmas Tidings*. We will bring musical tidings from three continents and lots of Christmas cheer. *Laufte ihr Hirten allzugleich*, (Come, Ye Shepherds to the Light), written by Austrian composer Johann Michael Haydn, will be our main fare, along with Georg Philipp Telemann's advent cantata *Hosianna dem Sohne Davids* (Hosanna, Thou Son of David). Advent and Christmas music from many traditions will fill the sanctuary on this night of light and charm, brought under the direction of Omaldo Perez.

On February 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM, award-winning concert organist Jillian Gardner will dazzle us with her brilliant playing in *Fireworks: An Organ Recital with Jillian Gardner*.

Ms. Gardner, a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and Baylor University in Waco, Texas, is well-known for adapting major orchestral works for the organ and her renditions of the great works in the organ repertoire. Ms. Gardner is also one of *Diapason's* magazine inaugural "Top 20 under 30" organists in the nation. So, join us at Zoar and bask in the heat as you hear the King of Instru-

ments on a night of electrifying renditions.

Released in 1965, *A Love Supreme Suite* is considered by many critics and music lovers to be saxophonist John Coltrane's masterpiece, and one of the most influential works of jazz of the twentieth century. This monumental work is also believed to be the iconic jazz musician's most personal and spiritual statement: an expression of faith in God's love for all humankind. On Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 4 PM the entire suite will be performed by the adventurous Groove Apparatus, in *Groove Apparatus presents John Coltrane's A Love Supreme Suite*. Groove Apparatus is an east coast jazz ensemble founded by Scott Robert Avidon (Sax), Steve Swanson (Bass), and Edward Taylor (Drums).

In 2020, Holy Week at Zoar will begin with a rare presentation of *Dietrich Buxtehude's Membra Jesu nostri* (or The Limbs of our Jesus) BuxWV 75 on April 5 at 4 PM. As a set of seven short cantatas, each a meditation focused or addressed to a part of Jesus' crucified body, *Membra* is believed to be the first Lutheran oratorio, written in 1680. The work is based on an ancient medieval

poem (ca. 1240) and is an episodic journey honoring the sacrifice on the Cross. The ensembles will be brought together under Omaldo Perez's direction.

Now in its fifth year, Zoar continues its celebrated Easter tradition: our devoted ensembles will share their musical gifts with the community. We feel very fortunate: 2020 also happens to be a touring year for our music ministry, and we will be in the final preparations for a ten-day tour of Costa Rica. In *Musical Postcards: Send-Off Concert*, on May 17 at 4 PM singers, bells, soloists, and guest musicians will give our audiences a musical odyssey of their own. Zoar's choirs will showcase the diverse array of selections we'll unpack in the vibrant Central American nation.

We hope that you join us this concert series as we celebrate the musical gifts that God has given our community. If you feel called to support the 2019 - 2020 Zoar concert please contact Omaldo Perez at operez@zoarlutheran.com or the church office at 419-874-4346. We continue to be thankful for the support given to the music ministries of Zoar and look forward to continuing them in the years to come.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

KITCHEN OF HOPE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 12 PM

You are invited to a birthday celebration! Kitchen of Hope is turning 15! Join Kitchen of Hope for a very special celebration on Friday, September 27TH at 12 PM. A special meal, bingo with prizes and of course birthday cake make this a party you don't want to miss. If you would like to donate a prize for Bingo please place them in the KOH Cabinet and mark as gift for KOH Birthday by September 20TH. Reservations are required for the birthday party and can be made by calling the church office at 419-874-4346.

HISTORY OF KITCHEN OF HOPE

Over the past 15 years, Kitchen of Hope has served over 10,000 hot, home-cooked meals. Kitchen of Hope occurs on the last Friday of each month beginning in September and ending in May. Typically dates for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals change due to the holidays.

Meals are shared in the Zoar Lutheran Family Life Center. There is no charge for Kitchen of Hope Meals. Zoar offers this opportunity to all residents of Wood County, regardless of age, income, race or church affiliation.

Donations can be made to this ministry in honor or in memory of a loved one.

KITCHEN OF HOPE 2019 - 2020 DATES

September 27 - Birthday Celebration

October 25

November 22

December 13

January 31

February 28

March 27

April 24

May 29



CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP:

THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

Lectors

Glenn Abke
Mary Ann Abke
Alice Coy
Jim Kwasniak
Tom Dayton
Chuck Elvers
Nancy Elvers
Heidi Meyer
Derek Meyer
Brian Tomko
Jane Tomko
Carole Welling
Joyce Williams
David Sudman

Dan Bartels
Melissa Miller
Linda Miller
Marie Obrock
Rick Rettig
Mary Richter
Lee Rupert
Jason Scasny
Judy Schult
Michael Searle
Roger Shoffner
Janis Stein
Brian Tomko
Scott Williams
Pam Young

Sound System Crew

Chuck Ackerman
Martha Amstutz
Russ Baker
Peter Cooper
Carl Habekost

James Jaqua
Vince Krolak
Dave Sudman
Tom Trimble
Doug Williams
Ryan Williams

Funeral Luncheon Committee

Sandi Ball
Deb Buker
Carol Easterwood
Tom Easterwood
Sue Dauer
Denny Dauer
Carole Everhardt
Jeanette Gleason
Linda Hagedorn
Margie Iserman
Tom Iserman

Dee Miller
Linda Miller
Lori Nilsson
Kim Nilsson
Sandy Peinert
Roger Peinert
Sharon Schadek
Karen Schlatter
Joe Schmidt
Carolyn St. Meyers
Tom St. Meyers

We thank you for volunteering and serving Zoar and the community. If we have missed anyone in this list, we humbly apologize and ask your forgiveness. Please contact the church office so that your name and service can be recognized.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 12 PM

Save the date for October 20 from 12 – 2 PM. Zoar is made up of wonderful people who give willingly of their Time and Talents every week to support the mission of Zoar. We will be celebrating all of you in October with a special luncheon in the FLC. Everyone is invited, please join us in Celebrating Stewardship, Time and Talents.



from
Pastor Cindy
Interim Associate Pastor
pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com
Greetings!

As your "Interim Associate Pastor" I've already enjoyed many new things here. I'm so grateful for your welcoming ways and support. I've begun to enjoy your congregation through Worship, Bible Studies, meetings and mission focused events such as Zoar's ministry "Feed Our Families." God's presence is surely felt in our midst.

I'm especially excited for the upcoming Ministry Fair happening on Rally Day, September 8th. What an AWESOME way for all of us to learn about the many ministries that are occurring at Zoar to participate in.

I invite YOU to attend the "9:53 Sunday School Class" in the lounge beginning September 15TH. Our first 7-week session will be the Study "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" by Professor Mark Allan Powell.

As a pastor, wife, mom, grandma, retired Radiological Technologist and cancer survivor I know how precious a relationship with our Lord is.

Thank you, God, for your love and blessings!
Peace, Pr. Cindy Ritter

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 // 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship	2 Labor Day Holiday	3 Piece Corps Pickleball	4 Phyllis Spoerl Birthday Confirmation Parents Overview	5 Men's Breakfast Men's Golf Men's Cards Bible Study Chancel Choir	6 Zoar Book Club	7 Worship
8 Worship Explore Zoar Bowling Harold Wolf Birthday	9 Ruth Circle Popcorn Gang	10 Pickleball Men's Disciples	11 Bible Study Rachel Circle Confirmation	12 Mary Cremer Birthday Men's Golf Men's Cards	13 Solo Again - Widow Support Group	14 Pointfest Volunteer Training Ruth Alteneder Birthday Worship
15 Worship First Sunday School Dancing Around the Cross: Hymn Festival	16	17 Sharon Guest Birthday Council Meeting	18 Bible Study	19 Naomi Circle Men's Golf Men's Cards Bible Study Chancel Choir	20 Blood Drive	21 Harrison Rally Day Prayer Partners Worship
22 Worship HS Youth Group	23 Popcorn Gang	24 Pickleball Men's Disciples Altar Guild	25 Bible Study	26 Men's Golf Men's Cards Chancel Choir	27 Kitchen of Hope	28 Worship
29 Worship Lutheran World Relief Stuffing Bowling	30					

For a complete list of events, please visit:
zoarlutheran.com/calendar

ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum
 Interim Associate Pastor: Rev. Cindy Ritter

Cantor: Omaldo Perez
 Director of Youth Ministries: Amanda Rich
 Director of Communications: Mollie Rauscher

Administrative Manager: Dale Nordahl
 Secretary: Suzanne DeLaney
 Custodian: Paul Cannon

WE WISHTO THANK OUR SPONSORS

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. Cindy Ritter, Interim Associate Pastor

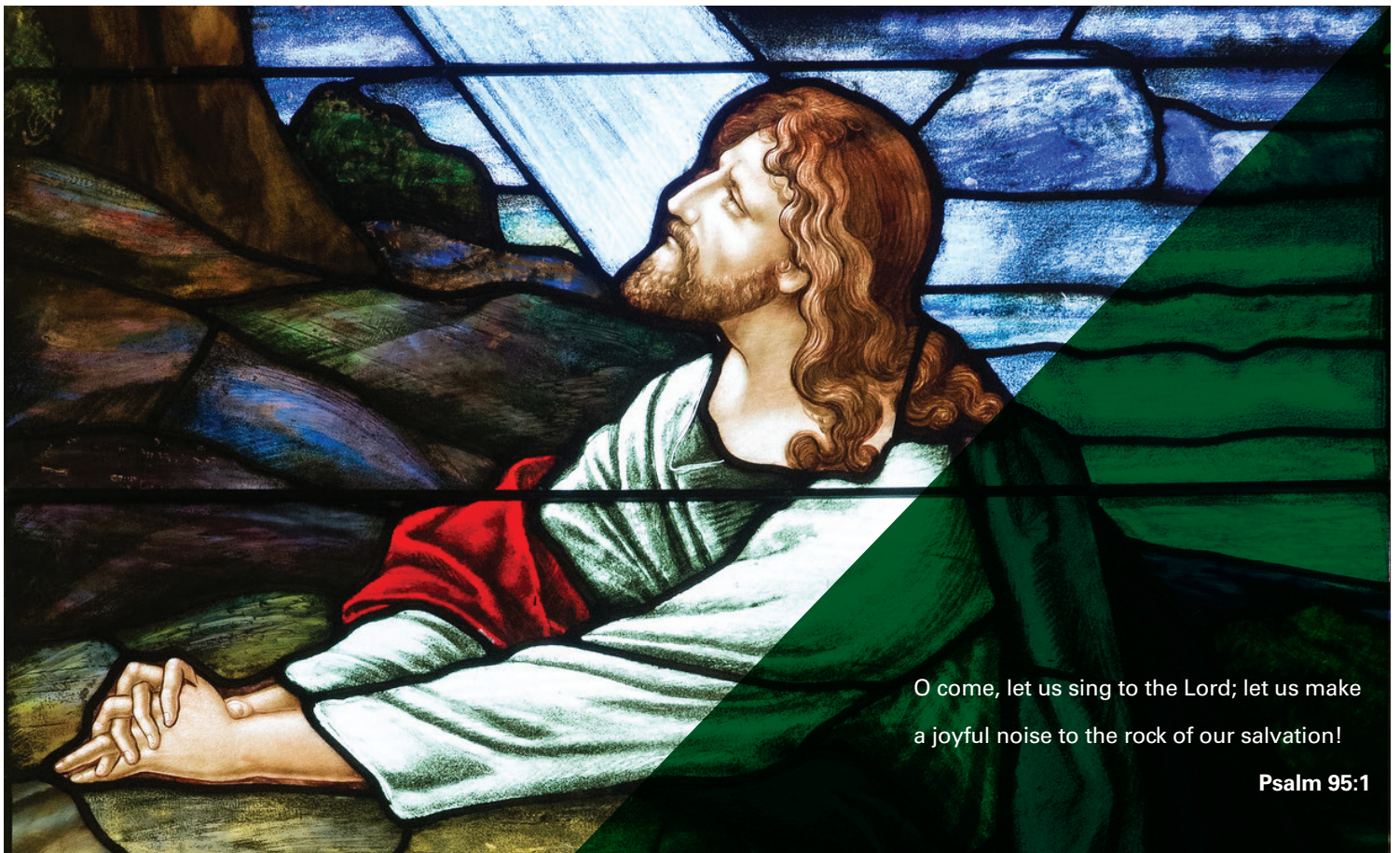
Worship times:
6 PM Saturday,
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

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AmaZed!



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O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make
a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Psalms 95:1