

# AmazIng!News

OCTOBER // 2019



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH | [WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM](http://WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM)

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## ZOAR COURTYARD - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 4 PM

On Sunday, November 3, at 4 PM, Zoar members in possession of ashes, have the opportunity to place the cremains in the Zoar Courtyard. We understand that often families are in the care of ashes for many years, for many reasons. This is not a funeral service, but the cremains of each individual will be placed in a biodegradable linen bag and placed in the ground with a prayer of committal and scripture offered by Pastor Tim.

Those who are buried in the Zoar Courtyard will have their names placed on the Tree of Life, and burial records maintained through the church office. For more information, contact Pastor Tim or a member of the Courtyard Committee. The suggested donation for this All Saints Sunday disposition of ashes is \$400. We will need copy of a death records for Zoar's record as well as for ancestral records.



from  
**Pastor Tim**  
Senior Pastor  
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



## GIFTS

Gifts are always great to receive. Some come at Christmas, some at birthdays, some at unexpected times. But when given with love and generosity, they are precious. Of course, the best gift you/we have ever received is the gift of God's love wrapped up in the Babe in Bethlehem, who took the cross for us, and rose from the grave that we might have life in Jesus forever. Best gift! Thank you! So, because of this gift we say at Zoar that we are: AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus, this grateful Zoar gathers, grows, and gives.

When I receive such a gift from someone I know/love it is really easy to offer my thanks. I even wish to reciprocate. But what if that giver is God. To whom do I offer my thanks?

So, sisters and brothers, that's where the concept of stewardship comes in. We have been blessed with a life, with a living-space, with family and friends, with treasures and talents, and the way we "steward" those gifts are the ways we offer our thanks to our bountiful God.

We show our gratitude through the use of our gift of time, a precious commodity in our society. Time to gather for worship, time in prayer, time caring for a neighbor in need, time working for justice and peace.

We show our gratitude through the use of our gift of our talents. From musical gift to mechanical gifts, from baking gifts to sit-and-care gifts, from a multitude of God-inspired gifts we are moved to offer our thanks. Of course, all these gifts may be used without giving God thanks, but our gratitude is multiplied when they are used for God's glory.

We show our gratitude through the use of our gift of our treasures. Money and the accompanying resources are blessings through which we offer our thanks. It's not so much that Zoar needs your offering (although your offering supports the amaZing ministries of this congregation). Rather, each of us has a "need to give," a means through which our thanksgiving is expressed.

So, this October, as Zoar explores stewardship may your eyes be tuned to examine how you are enriched as you give thanks through your time, your talents, and your treasures. The Commitment Card, may help you in your discernment. Open your heart to see where God is leading you!

# WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

If you have been at Zoar, the month of October in the year of Luke (year C in the three-year series of bible readings our church follows), brings us to familiar territory. It is perhaps not a coincidence that these familiar parables and stories happen to be heard at a time when most churches focus on stewardship and seek to reenergize their membership through engaging visions for ministry and dynamic action plans. Perhaps some of these themes will be known because of their practical and down to earth character. Some of these readings shed profound light on our baptismal vocation, a place where we are called to die to the self every single day.

## October 5 & 6

The oft quoted and somewhat baffling parable of the mustard seed is at the heart of the Gospel. The disciples demand, "increase our faith," and yet Jesus seems to suggest that, as disciples and followers of The Way, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," is already part of our spiritual DNA. We are reminded by the psalmist to, "commit your way to the Lord, and see what God will do," while on 2nd Timothy we hear that the treasures already given to us are faith and love of the Lord.

## October 12 & 13

The idea of the divine gift in the form of prevenient grace (literally grace "that comes before" or, in other words, freely given and unmerited grace) has been at the center of reform movement from the very start. Naaman was cured from his leprosy, and the Jesus cures ten lepers. So it is with us: we awake in in grace every day we open our eyes and do not even realize it. Which brings us to gratitude, the proper response and attitude for us who call ourselves children of God. The psalm refrain encapsulates the message of the day: "I will thank the Lord, with my whole heart."

## October 19 & 20

Prayer can be a funny thing. In modern times, when we imagine people praying, we picture individuals quietly "bowing their heads." Yet in ancient times people would lay face down on the floor, spread their arms and make loud intercessions in a pose that signaled complete surrender. We do not typically think Jacob's WWF-style throw down with the angel as a form of prayer, or, for that matter, the nagging insistence of the widow before the judge. However, this week's readings teach us about the different form and powerful forms we can embody the life of prayer.

## October 26 & 27, Reformation Sunday

Perhaps we have been brought under the notion that Reformation Day is a time to rally around in support our own denominational garrison. In recent decades, and considering the landmark 1999 document, The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, Catholics and Lutherans now share "a common understanding of our justification by God's grace through faith in Christ." This agreement essentially resolves the 500-year-old conflict which was at the root of the Protestant Reformation. Therefore, on this weekend, we will honor our tradition by fervently praying for unity among all Christians.



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

[operez@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:operez@zoarlutheran.com)

The month of October is always an exciting time for us at Zoar. By the time you read this column, ministries will be in full swing, and we will be seeing the familiar sights of Fall: cooler weather, falling leaves, and perhaps, a corn maze or two. Zoar has its patterns for October too, which you, if not new to this community, may have seen: Discipleship, and Reformation Day.

As we think about Discipleship in 2019, let me offer a bit of perspective. Built 1850 by the grace of God and the dedication of generations of leaders, Zoar stands today at the breaking crest of the wave we call history. I would like us to consider what God's open future looks like, this magnificent dawn from on high which we hear about in scripture, sermons, and hymns. What does that look like to you? For me, it means more joy, more smiles, and more musical engagement with the community.

So, if you are free on Friday, October 11 at 7:30 PM, would you come to a concert and help me make a joyful noise? Invite a friend to our sanctuary to hear my dear and gifted colleague, Daniel Schwandt.





## FALL FAMILY RETREAT NOVEMBER 22 - 24

The Annual Fall Family Retreat is back for its fourth consecutive year! Thanks to a grant from the Zoar Foundation, the Fall Family Retreat will be held this year at Mohican State Park in Loudonville, Ohio. Taking place the weekend before Thanksgiving, families will enjoy a weekend filled with swimming, hiking, worship and fellowship. The Zoar Foundation has graciously approved a grant to help offset much of the cost of the retreat. Although there is no required cost for families to attend, a suggested donation of \$100 to the Zoar Family Camping Retreat can be made for anyone wishing to make a contribution.

If you are interested in attending this fun and faith filled weekend please RSVP to Sarah Flores by call, text or email at 419-356-9842 or [sflores@hgisteel.com](mailto:sflores@hgisteel.com). If you have any questions please contact Sarah or the church office for more information.



# OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>: Fall Into Lakeside Event  
October 13<sup>TH</sup>: Monthly Mingle 4 - 6 PM  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Downtown Toledo  
October 20<sup>TH</sup>: Laser Tag  
Q-Zar-Time: TBA  
October 27<sup>TH</sup>: Trunk or Treat 6 PM

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## FALL INTO LAKESIDE

OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>

Zoar will be sending many 7th and 8th grade catechism students to the first ever Fall Into Lakeside Event (sponsored by the Northwest Ohio Synod) in beautiful Lakeside, Ohio. Participants will enjoy large group worship, recreation, devotions, bible study, break out sessions and more! For more information check out: [fallintolakeside.com](http://fallintolakeside.com)

## MONTHLY MINGLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 4 - 6 PM

Join us for this month's monthly mingle at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Downtown Toledo! We will have a meal and celebrate all things fall with our friends from Woodlane and more! If you can volunteer for this event please sign-up on the youth bulletin board or let Amanda know ASAP!  
Adult and youth volunteers are needed! All are welcome!

## LASERTAG

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

Mark you calendars and join us for an afternoon of Laser Tag at Q-Zar Sunday, October 20th! Please stay posted for the cost and the time of the event! 5th - 12th Grade youth are invited to attend!

## TRUNK - OR - TREAT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> 6 PM

On October 27th, 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 out candy for all the kids. Festivities begin at 6 PM.

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## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

## YOUTH LOCK IN / LOCK OUT

NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>

SAVE THE DATE- 2nd Annual Zoar Youth Lock IN/Lock OUT- November 15<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>!  
Come for an evening of service, fellowship, worship, prayer and more!  
All 7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> grade youth are invited to attend!



from

**Amanda**

**Director of Youth Ministries**

[arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com)

Greetings Friends,

Fall is HERE and it is time to celebrate! As the leaves begin to fall, we at Zoar are picking up our boots and enjoying the season. Our youth events will kick off this month with a lovely weekend confirmation retreat in Lakeside, OH where we will serve, worship and grow in faith together with other youth from all over Northwest Ohio. In addition, we will continue with our Fall Monthly Mingle Celebration at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo, Laser Tag and finally Trunk-or-Treat! Are you costume ready for the occasion? We can't wait to see the awesome costumes and trunks!

Sending you all prayers for a warm, cozy, pumpkin filled October!

Blessings,  
Amanda Rich





# TIME | TALENT

During the weekends of October 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, and 20<sup>TH</sup>, Zoar will celebrate the gifts God has given us. Gifts of Time, Gifts of Talent and Gifts of Treasures. During this stewardship emphasis, held at each of our four worship services on these three weekends we will explore these gifts, and how our loving God blesses us abundantly.

At the center of Zoar's DNA is the concept, "AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus, Zoar Lutheran Church gathers, grows, and gives." This is who we are, aware of God's bountiful gifts, surrounded by the love of our God, and called by the Holy Spirit to gather in celebration, grow in faith, and give as generous disciples.

Even when we talk about our generosity, or our giving, it's really all about God and God's abundance. Everything is centered in the One who created the blessings of this world, who gave God's self for us on the cross and out of the empty tomb, and who continues to breathe through us in love. All we can do is give thanks and show that gratitude in our use of our time, our talents, and our treasures.

During October 5<sup>TH</sup> and 6<sup>TH</sup>, the call is to examine time, that precious commodity. There are a set minutes in each day, and in each life. How are these minutes given for us to live as people of grace, of joy, of service, of gratitude? And from the very beginning God gives the gift of "sabbath," a time to rest, to re-encounter God's grace, to hear God's Word. How are you using the gift of time?

On October 12<sup>TH</sup> and 13<sup>TH</sup>, we will discuss the gift of talents and abilities and God's call to share the talents with others. What is it that makes you different than others? Where do you see God working in your life? How can you use the Holy Spirit's gifts of music, or forgiveness, or leadership, or baking, or handiwork, or hard-work, or clerical work, or...for God's glory?



# TREASURES

Then during October 19<sup>TH</sup> and 20<sup>TH</sup>, the gift of our finances comes into play. In our culture and time money is a symbol of success. Yet even that which we “earn” is truly a gift from God. In the bottom of all of this is the concept of gratitude. How do you express your thankfulness to our loving God through the way you keep, invest, and give of your financial resources?

You should be receiving an envelope in the mail soon from Zoar’s Stewardship Committee containing a commitment card, a letter and a return envelope. We ask that you prayerfully examine your stewardship and giving through Zoar and reflect that on the commitment card.

On October 19<sup>TH</sup> and 20<sup>TH</sup> we will hold an in gathering of commitment cards during Worship. After Worship on the 20<sup>TH</sup> we will be Celebrating Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasures. All are invited to a catered meal from 12 – 2 PM. We are planning to have the congregation gather for this meal to give a joyous celebration for God’s gifts. So, there will be a magician with us, who will provide entertainment. You are welcome to come at no cost for meal, magician, celebration, and conversation.

Please RSVP to this celebration by October 13<sup>TH</sup>, reservations can be made by calling the church office at 419-874-4346, stopping by during office hours Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, or there will be a volunteer collecting reservations during worship on October 6<sup>TH</sup> and 13<sup>TH</sup>.

An additional emphasis we will have will occur during the Sunday School hour on these three Sundays, as we explore our stewardship of our own bodies, and our end-of-life decisions. It’s all connected and wrapped in God’s grace and love!



# GATHER/GROW/GIVE

## THE JOURNEY TO THE END OF LIFE

Faith, Science and Technology is a group that meets to discuss a variety of topics of mutual interest that touch on the intersection of faith and scientific inquiry. Over the past year these have included genetic engineering, beginning and end of life issues, cosmology, and how to integrate faith and science. The group generally meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month 8 AM at the Bob Evans Restaurant on Route 20. In October, Faith Science and Technology will be holding a 3-week series in October on End of Life issues. Three of the four sessions will be held at Zoar.

### END OF LIFE DECISIONS: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

PASTOR TIM PHILABAUM AND SHAR COOK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 9:45 AM

In what ways does our faith inform and guide us in approaching personal and public decisions about death and dying today? This session will introduce some of the challenges around end-of-life decisions. We'll hear the stories of those who have grappled with these challenges and acquaint ourselves with the ELCA statement on end of life decisions.

### ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AT THE END OF LIFE

JAN C. HELLER, PHD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 9:45 AM

We may find ourselves facing unexpected challenges when the time comes to make end-of-life decisions in an ethically responsible way for ourselves or for our loved ones. These unexpected challenges stem from several sources: first, many of us in our culture find it all too easy to deny death, and the highly-touted medical technology often used at the end-of-life often feeds this denial; second, the increasingly industrialized and impersonal environment (hospitals, nursing homes) in which most Americans die can be very foreign, intimidating, and hard to negotiate, especially when we are feeling particularly vulnerable; and, third—and perhaps surprisingly—our traditional ethics may leave us inadequately prepared for the decisions we may have to make, especially in the face of medical uncertainty often associated with the end-of-life. In light of these challenges, we will discuss some of the ethical “tools” available to guide decision makers in the face of such challenges.

Prior to his retirement in 2015, Jan Heller served as a bioethicist and as a priest in the Episcopal Church. He holds an AB in Chemistry from The King's College, an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Ethics and Society with a specialization in bioethics from Emory University.

A second session of *Ethical Decision Making at the End of Life* will be held at Way Library on Tuesday, October 15 at 7 PM.

### PLANS FOR THE END OF LIFE

DEACON CAROLE BOHN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 9:45 AM

Given that death will come to all of us, how do you want to die? What a scary thought. What most of us fear is not so much death itself, but rather what we might have to go through as we approach our death. Most of us would prefer to die peacefully at home; yet two thirds of us will die in a hospital. When do we have the right to say enough – let me go? In this session, we will talk about making out a living will and durable power of attorney for health care. We will discuss what each document means, and when that document takes effect. We will also discuss having the necessary conversations with our family as to our wishes.



# CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP:

## THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

### Social Hour Food Donations

Mary Ann Abke  
Marcia Amstutz  
Deb Buker  
Elaine Cutcher  
Sally Dupke  
Carol Easterwood  
Cindi Fish  
Jeanette Gleason  
Linda Hagedorn  
Margie Iserman  
Maureen Jacoby  
Nadine Johnson  
Kathie Kleinfelt  
Anne O'Brien  
Karen Mathison

Robin Maxwell  
Leigh Ann Meinecke  
Heidi Meyer  
Connie Miller  
Linda Miller  
Rick Rettig  
Lida Ryan  
Sharon Schadek  
Jane Schroeder  
Carolyn St. Meyers  
Sandy Toeppe  
Jane Tomko  
Cheryl Tremblay  
Carolyn Vajen  
Jennifer Wideman

### Social Hour Set Up & Clean Up

Marcia Amstutz  
Arlene Hustwick  
Shar Cook  
Jennifer Wideman  
Carol Easterwood  
Tom Easterwood  
Margie Iserman

Tom Iserman  
Vicki Karnes  
Sue Todt  
Pam Kwasniak  
Jim Kwasniak  
Leigh Ann Meinecke  
Ken Meinecke

### Nursing Home Volunteers

Joyce Grimshaw  
Linda Hottinger  
Margie Iserman  
Jo Moulton (deceased)  
Jane Schroeder

Shannon Weaver  
Sandi Hawk  
Karen Lundholm  
Connie Teare  
Carolyn Vajen

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.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 8 AM

Once again, the Perrysburg Exchange Club will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at Zoar on Saturday, October 26. Please join us for all-you-can-eat pancakes, 2 sausage links, orange juice, coffee, and milk. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to help us fund projects that prevent child abuse and promote our community. Serving is from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. The cost is still only \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children age 3-12, and children under 3 are free. You are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Perrysburg Christians United food pantry.



from  
**Pastor Cindy**  
Interim Associate Pastor  
[pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com)

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# 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 // 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Piece Corps Pickleball Men's Disciples	2 Bible Study Confirmation	3 Men's Breakfast Men's Golf Men's Cards Bible Study Chancel Choir	4 Lakeside Retreat	5 Worship Lakeside Retreat  Midge Bellner Birthday
6 Worship Lakeside Retreat Shirley Bettinger Birthday Arline Cornelius Birthday	7 Book Club	8 Pickleball Men's Disciples	9 Bible Study Confirmation	10 Men's Golf Men's Cards Chancel Choir	11 Solo Again Manz and Company Organ Recital	12 Worship Faith Science & Technology
13 Worship Monthly Mingle	14 Popcorn Gang	15 Piece Corps Pickleball Men's Disciples Council Meeting	16 Bible Study Confirmation	17 Men's Golf Men's Cards Bible Study Chancel Choir	18 Elva Ault Birthday	19 Prayer Partners Worship
20 Worship Laser Tag	21	22 Pickleball Men's Disciples	23 Bible Study Confirmation	24 Men's Golf Men's Cards Chancel Choir	25 Kitchen of Hope	26 Worship Pancake Breakfast
27 Worship Trunk or Treat  Bowling	28 Thomas Seeman Birthday	29 Pickleball Men's Disciples  Don Lieder Birthday	30 Bible Study Confirmation	31 Men's Golf Men's Cards Chancel Choir Merritt Higbie Birthday		

For a complete list of events, please visit:  
[zoarlutheran.com/calendar](http://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](mailto: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. Cindy Ritter, Interim Associate Pastor

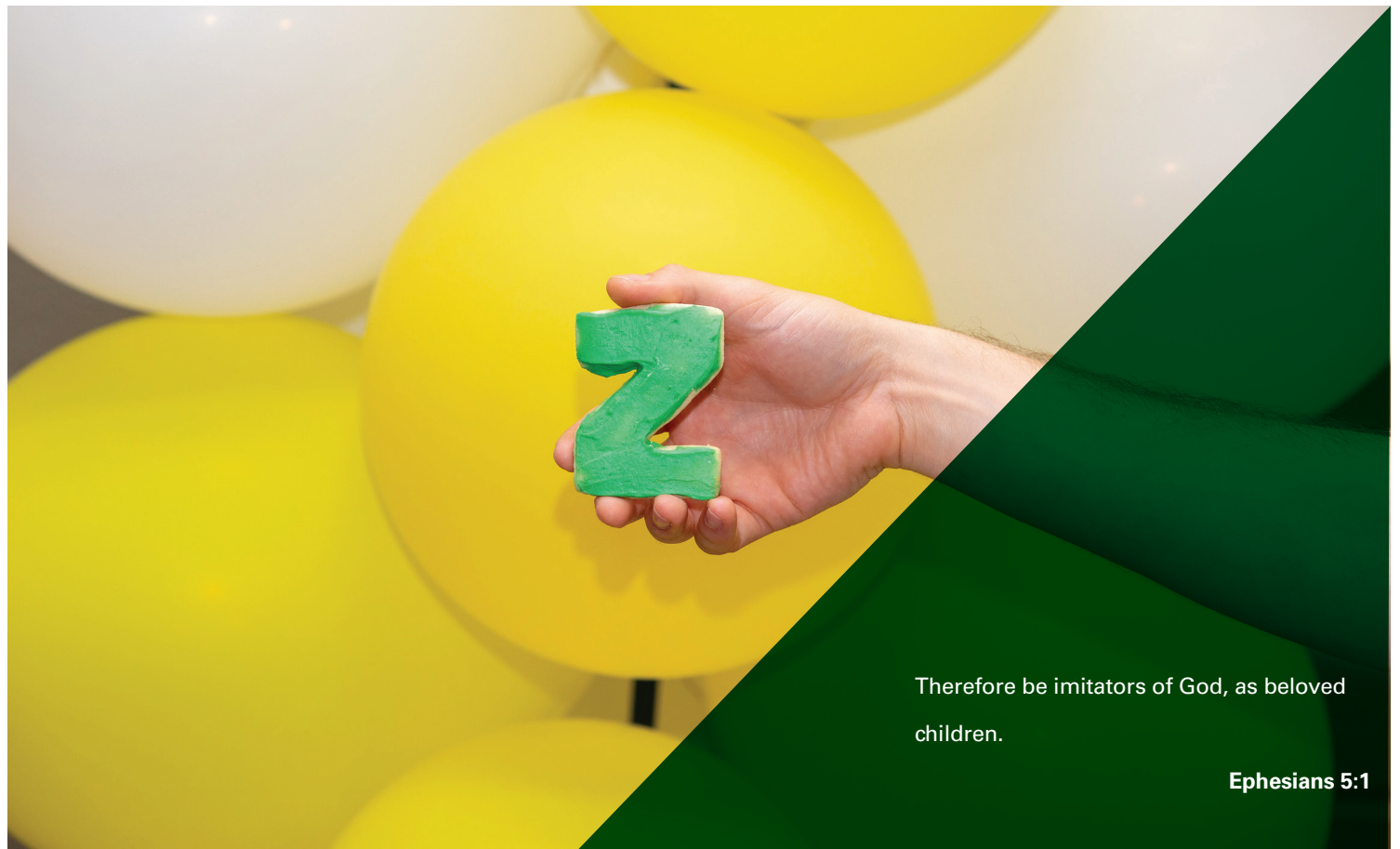
Worship times:  
6 PM Saturday,  
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



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Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved  
children.

**Ephesians 5:1**