

AmaZing!News



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

INSIDE

Gratitude	Pg. 2
Worship in November	Pg. 3
Youth Leadership Summit	Pg. 4
Youth Lock IN/OUT	Pg. 5
All Saints Day	Pg. 6
Explore Zoar	Pg. 8
Celebrating Stewardship	Pg. 9

SMALL GROUP POTLUCK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 11 AM WORSHIP

Zoar Small Groups will be hosting a potluck on Sunday, November 11, following the late service in the FLC for all those currently involved in small groups and for those who would like to know more or are interested in joining or forming a small group. Our small groups are designed for different age/interest/family/life event/or whatever else might be a special need or interest. Join us for some good food, good conversation, and information about how to be involved in a small group. Keep an eye out for a food sign up!





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



GRATITUDE

November is one of my top 12 months! (actually, all are good, with blessings and beauty.) The warm summer months are long over, the harvest is in, and it's time to hunker down for the holidays.

There are two festivals that bookend the month, framing these days with import. At the beginning is All Saints. Here a marvelous group of faithful disciples have taught us about God's love! Some of these were Zoar folk, but many have been in our lives with their special gifts of grace. Some are ancient, like Mary Magdalene, or Martin Luther, or Zoar's first pastor, George Cronenwett. Some have just entered into heaven this past year, and we remember them with grace. The author of Hebrews reminds us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."

These saints ultimately bring us to gratitude, for it is through their life and ministry that we are enriched. Thank you, Eternal God, for the saints who have taught us about You!

Then we come to the end of the month, and the whole cultures stops to give thanks. We sing, "Come, ye thankful

people, come," and gather in praise and blessing. Of course, this holiday is not just worship (although that is the primary purpose behind the holiday), it is also family getting together, traditional foods, remembering the saints, and gratitude.

Gratitude is the key for me in November. I am thankful for what the summer has been, and for the bounty of God's creation. I am thankful for the gift of family and friends, and for the love that unites us. I am thankful for those saints who gave me strength and now sing with the angelic choir. I am thankful for the gift of another year in the Zoar community with all its diverse ministries and gifts of the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for beauty, for music, for creation, for brains and bodies and hearts. I am thankful for the blessings of this country even while I pray for our leadership and for mercy. I am thankful for Church, for time to worship, for an amaZing God who loves us. And, of course, I am thankful that winter is coming.

Sisters and brothers make your list this year. Let that "thank you" word be uttered on your lips every day, in all circumstances, at all times. For our God is AmaZing!

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

During November we are asked to contemplate endings. And as we ponder together, we hold on and trust in God's promises.

November 2 & 3 All Saints

On the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus addresses us directly in a congratulatory manner: "Happy are you!" who endure for the sake of the Gospel. The hymn, Behold, the Host Arrayed in White, ELW 425, gives a clue regarding this "happy" yoke of the saints: "On earth their work was not thought wise, / but see them now in heaven's eyes; / before God's thrones of precious stone / they shout their victory cries. / On earth they wept through bitter years; / now God has wiped away their tears, / transformed their life to heavenly life, / and freed them from their fears...."

November 9 & 10

Today we hear some of the most confident readings outside of Easter. Job testifies: "For I know my Redeemer lives... and my eyes shall behold, and not another." In the Gospel, Jesus says, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living...." The hymn, Jesus is My Sure Defense, ELW 621, admonishes us, "Take comfort and rejoice, / for his people Christ will cherish. / Fear not, you will hear his voice; / dying, you will never perish..."

November 16 & 17

Things we deem valuable may not last. In 2 Thessalonians we are encouraged to live in the here and now, always doing what is right. We are to look after each other and must lend a helping hand when others face life's troubles. The hymn, Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow, ELW 327, casts a wide net: those who are under the shadow of "doubt, sorrow, darkness, gloom, terror, conflict, peril, and the shame of the cross," are those whom we must offer help.

November 23 & 24 Christ the King

Today we encounter the King of creation in the bitter throes of his Passion, and we ask ourselves, "Who is Jesus?" Luke makes a case for a King who reigns from the cross. Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth, ELW 727, states, "O awesome love which finds no room in life where sin denies you, / and, doomed to death, shall bring to doom the power that crucifies you..."



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Our liturgies in November revolve around God's future and the proper response to God's promises, which is trust. We commend ourselves to God's eternal love and care. We learn that much like our possessions, our lives are not ours but on loan and temporarily under our management. Lastly, we come to terms with the life of service as the model Jesus gave us.

For me, musical self-expression has always been a form of rejoicing. I find joy in creating and sharing music. Perhaps this is the reason why Martin Luther spoke so eloquently about music: music can hint at the extravagance of God's blessings and approximate the overwhelming richness of God's grace.

But ultimately, music is a means. The end is life! And life abundant at that! I want to invite us all to connect with those activities that make our cups overflow. Then, at last, we too will become deliverers of good news and bringers of joy to the world: vessels for the great work of the Holy Spirit. I pray we all remain filled with the gift that brings us the most joy.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving Worship

"Come, ye thankful people come!" On the night before Thanksgiving, November 27, we offer a time of worship, during which we offer our thanks for God's bountiful blessings. Our thanks are not just for the ingathered crops, but for our relationships, our lives, this country, all of creation, all of God's people, God's continuing grace, and on and on. We are truly blessed. Join us at 7 PM for this time of thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Meal

You are invited to a home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, at 12 PM! This meal is offered for all who wish to gather with others for a traditional meal with great fellowship. Please call the Office at 419-874-4346 to make a reservation for this free and delicious meal!



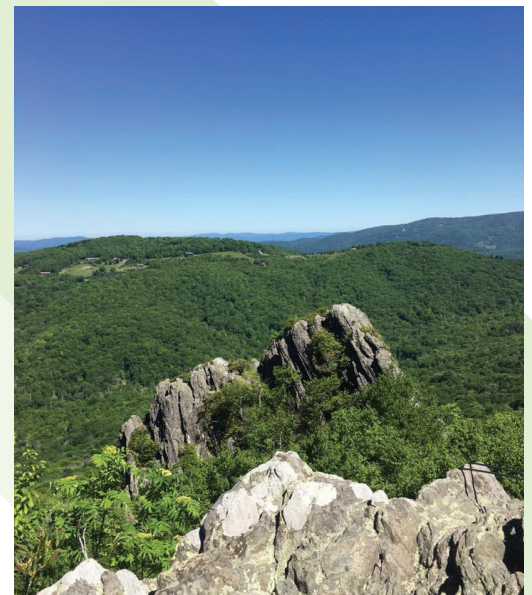
ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 22 - 24

This November I am honored to be traveling for a second year to the ELCA National Youth Leadership Summit. Each year the ELCA invites two youth from each Synod to travel with an adult leader for a weekend of leadership training. I am happy to be traveling with the two chosen individuals from the Northwest Ohio Synod to Lutheridge Camp in Arden, North Carolina. There the youth will be given training in Peer Ministry Leadership by the writer himself, Lyle Griner. As an adult I am given the opportunity to network with other youth workers from across the country and the ability to learn from what other synods are doing for their youth.

As a result of my experience at the summit last fall, I along with some of my colleagues in our synod, have started our own Northwest Ohio Core Youth Leadership Team. This group of fine youth is composed of high school students who have applied to attend the summit in recent years or who have volunteered their time to Synod Day during the National Youth Gathering. This group includes our very own Jacob Benington and our dear friend and servant Nathalie Rawlins of Lutheran Church of the Master. Together this group will work together to create future events for youth in our synod and also to give youth a voice in Northwest Ohio.

It has been a pleasure representing both Zoar and the Northwest Ohio Synod at this amazing gathering. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you from my upcoming trip.



THEME VERSE

The Theme verse for the ELCA National Youth Leadership Summit is
EPHESIANS 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

While Amanda is away November 22 - 24 please be thinking on this verse and praying for her, the other leaders, and the youth as they learn from one another and plan the future for our Synod Youth.

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

November 10TH: FOCUS Gift Shopping & Wrapping
November 15TH - 16TH: Zoar Youth Lock IN/OUT
November 15TH: Vision Kitchen Toledo 5:30 - 6:45 PM
November 24TH: Youth Group Deck the Halls!
Decorating the Sunday School Wing for Christmas



ZOARYOUTH LOCK IN/OUT NOVEMBER 15TH - 16TH

For the second year our youth grades 5TH - 12TH are invited to join us for a night of service, prayer and fellowship. November 15TH - 16TH Zoar Youth will enjoy their second annual Youth Lock In/Lock Out. The event will start with serving at Vision Kitchen in Toledo, followed by prayer stations, pizza, late night games and MORE!

MISSIONTRIP 2020

The youth have spoken and our 2020 Mission Trip will be to Lexington, South Carolina through Next Step Ministries. 6-12th grade youth and college age young adults are welcome to attend. Adults are needed as well! Please let Amanda know if you are interested in joining us!



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER ADVENT WORKSHOP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 9:45 AM & 12:15 PM

Children of ALL AGES are invited to join us for Advent Workshop, December 1st 9:45AM - 10:45AM and/or 12:15PM - 1:15PM. This year's event will be a compilation prayer practices designed for you-the congregation, friends and families to explore, reflect and share. Bring your friends and families and join us for a time of hands on prayer, exploration and reflection as we await the birth of Jesus.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Friends,

November greetings to you! I hope that you are enjoying the change of seasons and taking a moment to look back at the wonderful year we have had so far. I can hardly believe it is almost time to gather around the table for Thanksgiving! With that, we will soon be collecting items to donate to Leading Our Families Home (formerly known as FOCUS). Keep your eyes peeled for the tree popping up with requested items we can purchase to bless families in need this Christmas.

When mentioning Thanksgiving, I can't possibly conclude my message without sharing my gratitude to YOU! It is so much fun to look back at the past year and the fun we have had together. From Irish dancing, Monthly Mingle, Vacation Bible School to white water rafting the blessings abound. However, my favorite part of it all? Spending time in community with all of you and those we serve. Thank you for all you do! May the coming year be a time of service, growth and connection!

Blessings,
Amanda Rich

ALL SAINTS

There is a lot of meaning packed into the word all in All Saints. Let's explore the day through this simple word.

All includes those most beloved to us. All Saints calls to mind specific individuals: particular beloved faces, names and memories. On All Saints, we will name in worship our loved ones who have died in the past year. We may be all too aware of the particular names we are now carrying with us toward All Saints this year—names of those who have died in the past months.

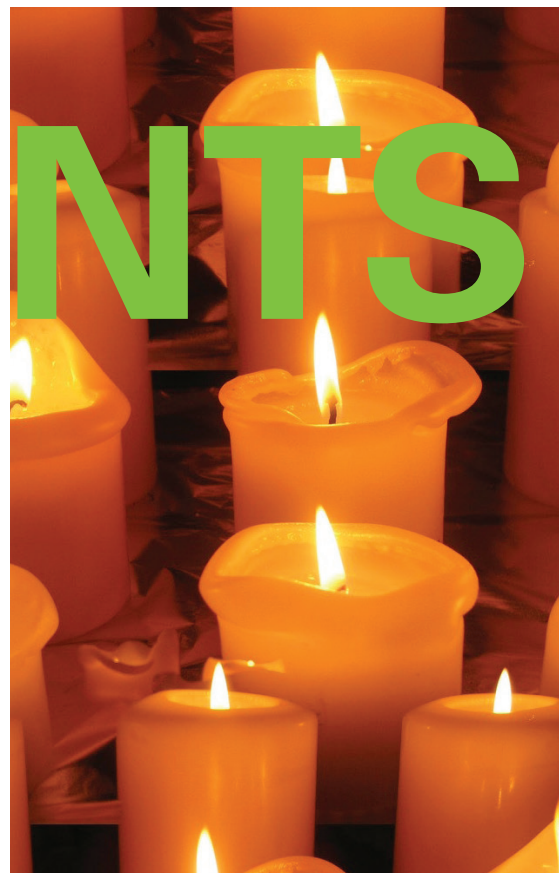
All includes those beloved by others. All Saints creates a space that embraces with honor the multitudes of individuals among the beloved dead. We see their faces, say their names, and recognize in the worshipers around us others who carry their own memories and litanies of saints. All Saints sets out a place for all of them—an assembly the book of Revelation describes as “a number no one could count” with saints “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (7:9). All Saints brings into focus our own beloved dead while also stretching our imagination toward the whole company of saints, more diverse and populous than we can fully comprehend.

All are saved by grace. The festival originally honored those who were considered especially holy: heroic figures from the Scriptures and martyrs who had given their lives nonviolently in witness to the faith. However, it is an especially Lutheran accent for the feast to honor not only those who lived exemplary lives, but all who have

been baptized into Christ's death. For Lutherans, All Saints resonates with the conviction that in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint, *simul justus et peccator*. Lutherans especially remember on this feast that it is God's grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. We find lasting rest only in the mercy of God.

We share a mortal, earthy nature with all humans and all living creatures on the planet. Death is an inevitable part of life for all of us. It is part of our citizenship as earth creatures. In the Bible's wisdom literature, the word all is like a bell ringing to remind us of the lesson of Ash Wednesday: The fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again (Ecclesiastes 3:19-20). John's Gospel uses seed imagery: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (12:24). All Saints proclaims a mystery. We remain in communion with those who have returned to the earth ahead of us.

We wait with all creation. All Saints is commemorated when much of the North American landscape appears to be dying down. Days are shorter, tree branches are becoming bare, the air is colder and fields have been stripped of their harvest. November begins a cycle of readings extending through Advent in which the themes of death and danger are in dialogue with our deepest hopes. As the sun sinks lower in the sky each day, our Scripture texts help



us seek answers to a searing question: “How can we live in hope and integrity when it looks like the end of the world?” All Saints begins a season in which we contemplate the hopes and fears of all creation, watching and waiting for signs of a new day dawning for all of us.

The themes of All Saints extend into all of Christian life. We call to mind every Sunday the great company of saints as we join their unending hymn around the communion table. We bear witness to new saints being born from the baptismal waters. Perhaps we visit a cemetery on the anniversary of a death or on other church festivals. And every time we see the sign of the cross or trace it on our bodies, we remember the one whose death and resurrection has formed this company of all the saints, hallowing all our lives and deaths.

All Saints reimagines the world—all of it. Even in death, God is making all things new.

- An Excerpt from LivingLutheran.com



ALL SAINTS

Charles Fansler
Elsie A. Hetman
Richard Dale Royce
Margaret Ruth Miller
Carol Jeanne Keller
Pastor Thomas A. Wolfe
Lucille Mae Wood
Nancy Phillips
Sonia Ione Fisher
Patricia Buenting
Joseph Schnittker
Robert J. Naveaux
Betty Rose Grolle
Frank Semersky, Jr.
Eileen M. McMullen
Miriam Fansler

Raymond Norkowski
Marilyn Greunke
Phyllis Morton
Mearl Finch
Jacqueline Reno
Jeri Lynn Madsen
Linda Ruetz
Debra Uhde
H. Lawrence Albon
Heather Williams
Sue Grames
Marilyn Kreger
M. Gaye Dauer
Richard Cox
Charles Lundholm
Denise Tinney-Rowley

Catherine King
Kenneth Vajen
Lois Widdel
Matthew Hudson
Joan Moulton
Ruth E. Emch
Kathleen Heath
Thomas L. Haar
Donald L. Knox
Thomas C. Rex
Arnold J. Kreger
William H. Kahlenberg
Larry Jon Handley
Barbara France
Elaine Stiff

BAPTISMS

Owen Edward Hahn
Reagan Margaret Beckman
Bristol Raine Okoneski
Jessa Diane Brown
Gunner Tonello Lichtenberg
Rowen Edward Thornton
Cameron John Tazzi

Charlie Elizabeth Swoap
Margaret Clover Philabaum
Kaiden Neel Shah
Lillian Margaret Mannasmith
Nathaniel Arnan Vogt Laforet
Caroline Frances Kohler
Logan Michael Hentges

Elise James Martin
Gwen Joy White
Genevieve Karen Munson
Lucy Ann Adams
William David Gogel
Lucas James Allard

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

EXPLORE ZOAR

OVER 80 CONNECTIONS MADE!

The Explore Zoar Ministry Fair was held in the FLC on September 8, both continuing and refreshing the long-held tradition of Rally Sunday. The purpose of the fair was to connect all the people of Zoar, from first-time visitors to long-time members, with the multiple ministry opportunities within Zoar and to also connect with one another. Over fifty-five groups held interactive, engaging booths, giving visitors a taste, sometimes quite literally, of what they do and provide information on how to get involved. Booths contained information and sign-up sheets as well as anything from snacks to games to science demonstrations. The fair generated over eighty new sign-ups for Zoar ministries.

Linda Miller signed up to join three groups at Explore Zoar. When asked why, she replied with a smile, "I think I'm qualified because, I know I can cook, I can serve food and I can pray." Though she serves on Altar Guild and has previously sung in the choir, she was searching for a way to get more involved, in response to recent life changes. "I have a lot of free time and I'm trying to get busier and keep myself busy."

Interim Associate Pastor Cindy Ritter found the ministry fair helpful and exciting, especially as a newcomer to Zoar. "To go around and to meet the people who were in charge of all the different ministries and to be able to ask them questions and to be able to sign up for a few things I'm interested in learning more about, I thought was wonderful," she said. "It is exciting that there's so much going on. For me I witnessed that there's something for everyone, whether you're a man a woman or a child ...things of faith, things of fellowship, things of mission, things of fun, and I am going to say the food was delicious."



Fairgoers overwhelmingly and consistently mentioned how encouraging it was to see the FLC come alive with the energy of so many people excited about becoming involved at Zoar. "Walking in and having not only everybody interacting with what was going on but with each other...there was an electricity in the room," said Pastor Tim. "There was an excitement with all the stuff here, but even more so, with all the people, and that's what made the day for me."

Carol Henschen, of Rachel Circle, echoed Pastor Tim's sentiments. "I was impressed by how much electricity was going through [the room]," she said.

Miller agreed. "It's very nice in there...very welcoming, very energetic."

Those who were unable to attend Explore Zoar can still find information on Zoar Groups by visiting the Groups Finder on the Zoar web site: : <http://www.zoarlutheran.com/groups/>. The new Groups Finder makes it possible to search all of Zoar's Groups by topic, type, day or time. With over 60 groups at Zoar there is something that matches everyone's interests and availability. If you have any questions about the Groups Finder or Zoar Groups contact Mollie at communications@zoarlutheran.com

CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP:

THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

Worship Greeters

Judy Cooper

Dave Gogel

Sue Gogel

Becky Hoge

John Hoge

James Lynch

Darlene Lynch

Heather Michael

Kim Nilsson

Lori Nilsson

Gloria Odeggaard

Dave Richard

Lisa Richard

Karen Schlatter

Janet Smith

Bill Smith

Janis Stein

Ken Vajen (deceased)

Carolyn Vajen

Cheryl Williams

Ellen Williams

Glenn Abke

Mary Ann Abke

Chuck Ackerman

Claire Ackerman

Marcia Amstutz

Dorothy Beyer

Connie Bricker

Ray Bricker

Marilyn Brossia

Les Buker

Deb Buker

Sharla Cook

Carol Easterwood

Tom Easterwood

Marilyn Halbert

Doris Henline

Scott Heslup

Karen Heslup

Arlene Hustwick

Tom Iserman

Margie Iserman

Kelly Johnson

Michael Johnson

Terry Jones

Rhonda Jones

Vicki Karnes

Larry Karnes

Karen Lundholm

Leigh Ann Meinecke

Linda Miller

Connie Miller

Rick Rettig

Lida Ryan

Cindy Silvis

Paul Smithers

Nancy Smithers

Brian Tomko

Jane Tomko

Ted Weaver

Shannon Weaver

Ruth Alteneder

Daniel Bartels

Lisa Hoverson

Tom Berkebille

Cynthia Blubaugh

Rodney Clark

Laura Clark

Tom Downs

Ann Downs

John Henzler

Elizabeth Emmert

Tricia Fleming

Richard Hazel

Beth Krolak

Linda Lemon

Karen Mathison

Dave Matthews

Denise Matthews

Jim Ninke

Diane Ninke

Donna Ohls

Keith Robeson

Lee Rupert

Kathi Saleh

Jordan Saleh

Sharon Schadek

Ann Schroeder

Lean Schroeder

Claire Schroeder

Pam Shoffner

Roger Shoffner

Connie Teare

Nancy Wilbur

Jeff Wilbur



from
Pastor Cindy

Interim Associate Pastor

pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."
(1 Chronicles 16:34)**

As I think about Zoar and "Thanksgiving Day," I am reminded of the many things, to be grateful for...family, friends, delicious food and having faith in our loving God... Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At Zoar during worship I have witnessed many folks sharing their gifts of music, prayer, and loving kindness to one another. God's grace is felt among us, especially through the sacraments.

At Zoar folks show their faith by studying scripture, praying and leading devotions. Staff and volunteers participate in many ways to serve the folks in Perrysburg and beyond!

At Zoar caring, sharing and serving define this place, some examples: our youth participating in serving events to help others, quilts being made for Lutheran World Relief and the "Kitchen of Hope," a welcoming event with a scrumptious meal and a time of fun and loving fellowship. For all these things I give thanks!

Blessings,

Pr. Cindy Ritter

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.

THANKSGIVING DECORATING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

Thanksgiving time is near. Altar Guild will be decorating the chancel for Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 19th. We are in need of non-perishable canned and boxed food items. We could also use harvest decorations such as Indian corn, gourds and pumpkins. Please place the items in the Sacristy before Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The food items will be donated to Perrysburg Christians United. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

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

NOVEMBER // 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Milestones & Anniversaries	2 Worship
3 Worship All Saints Mac & Cheese Cookoff Ash Internment	4 Universal Worship	5 Piece Corps Pickleball Men's Disciples	6 Bible Study Confirmation	7 Men's Breakfast Men's Cards Chancel Choir	8 Solo Again	9 Worship Faith Science & Technology Yarns of Love
10 Worship Small Group Potluck Focus Gift Youth Group	11 Ruth Circle Popcorn Gang	12 Pickleball Men's Disciples	13 Bible Study Confirmation Rachel Circle	14 Men's Cards Bible Study Rachel Circle	15 Youth Lock In/Out Dorothy Beyer Birthday	16 Worship Prayer Partners Youth Lock In/Out
17 Worship Sunday School	18	19 Pickleball Last Men's Disciples Council Meeting Altar Guild Decorating	20 Bible Study Confirmation	21 Men's Cards Bible Study Naomi Circle	22 Kitchen of Hope Fall Family Retreat	23 Worship Fall Family Retreat Property Clean Up
24 Worship Fall Family Retreat Youth Deck the Halls Marcelyn Moser Birthday	25 Yarns of Love Popcorn Gang	26 Pickleball	27 Bible Study Thanksgiving Worship Rosalie Moser Birthday	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving Lunch	29	30 Worship St Paul's Soup Kitchen Joyce Grimshaw Birthday

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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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!



www.zoarlutheran.com



Do not be conformed to this world, but
be transformed by the renewing of your
minds, so that you may discern what is the
will of God—what is good and acceptable
and perfect.

Romans 12:2