

Amazing!News

JANUARY // 2020



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

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ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH 12 PM

Zoar's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th in the sanctuary immediately following the 11 AM Worship service. During the meeting, we will lift up and celebrate the many ways Jesus has moved among us in the past year. We will also approve a budget, elect council members, officers, and committee members.





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



LIVING YOUR FAITH

January has come upon us! Even though the Church began the New Year with Advent, our culture starts the year in January. Named after the Roman god, "Janus," the god of both endings and beginnings, January calls us to reflect on what last year has been, and what we can resolve to do/be in the new year.

So, how has this past year been for you? I look back, grateful for the leadership and ministries of Zoar, of the partnerships and blessings, of the ways God has guided this congregation. I look back, thankful for the months we had with Pastor Mike and now for the gift of Pastor Cindy. I look back, blessed.

Now it is the year 2020. What will you resolve to do/be in this year? How will your faith impact your days and our culture in this year?

As you make (and re-make) your resolutions, may I offer some guidelines: One is that, no matter what, God is God. Only God is the one who holds onto creation, onto governments, onto us – there is no other. You and I are not God, but there is only One to whom we bow.

This God is a God of love for all people. For me and for those who look and act like me, for me and for all those countless people different from me yet created in God's image who also receive God's love. No one is outside of God's boundaries. All are welcome.

You may know this, sisters and brothers, for you hear it from Scripture week after week: all that we will say and do this next year is predicated on the understanding of who God is, and what God is calling us to be. You may be the only Gospel someone is able to read!

Of course, we who have made resolutions in the past know how common it is that they are broken. Ah, that also points to the gift of our faith – you are forgiven! Without strings or requirements, you are forgiven. And in our forgiveness, we forgive, taking the burden off our heart, forgiving like God.

So, how will you live your faith in 2020? At baptism, we hear the words from Scripture, "Let your light shine, so that all may see your good works and give glory to your Heavenly Father." May this year be one in which your light shines with God's love and grace!

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

It is not very often that a month is so packed with special festivals and commemorations. This year, January brings to Zoar four exceptional liturgical celebrations: Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord, The Confession of Peter, and the Conversion of Paul.

January 4 and 5, Epiphany

The child Jesus is lauded as a king who is already showing himself forth to the nations. On this day, we celebrate that God's mercy is broader and deeper than we imagined and includes all people and all nations. All people—rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, straight or gay, male or female—are God's treasure, the precious ones for whom God is willing to die. What do we bring to honor our Lord before whom we bow? We bring the treasure of our lives poured out in praise of God and in service to others.

January 11 and 12, Baptism of Our Lord

Jesus' baptism gives us a clear indication of how Jesus will act for his entire life. The Son of God comes down with us, on our level, identifying with our needs. Jesus' baptism foreshadows how his life will end on the cross. In his death, Jesus experiences the worst we could ever experience as mortal humans. But, because Jesus united with us in baptism, we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God.

January 18 and 19, The Confession of Peter

We hit the fast-forward button in the chronology of the Gospel events. On the liturgical holiday known as the Confession of Peter, we will commemorate the life of this Saint. Peter, the rash, impulsive, choleric, and perhaps most human of all the disciples had some of the most intense experiences with Jesus, from walking on water, his evening of denial, and his being awarded the Keys. As always, we gather to honor the Son of the living God and like Peter, long to be recognized as Jesus' companions.

January 25 and 26. The Conversion of Paul

The Church celebrates the Conversion of Paul on Saturday, January 25. This weekend we will hear about the light Paul received on his way to Damascus, which turned him from the zealous prosecutor of Christians into an ardent believer and proselytizer of the faith for both Jews and Gentiles.



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings!

Greetings in the name of the God that makes all things new! Greetings in the name of the God who reminds us we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye! Greetings and welcome to the third decade of the 21st century after the birth of Christ! Congratulations on being a year closer to the New Jerusalem! I am glad we made it together this far. It is the spirit of festive renewal I share an anonymous 16th-century poem, something old to help us behold the new:

What Cheer? Good Cheer!

Be merry and glad this good New Year!

Lift up your hearts and be glad
In Christ's birth, the angel bade,
Say to each other, if any be sad:
"What cheer? What cheer?"

Now the king of Heaven his birth has
take, Joy and mirth we ought to make:
Say to each other, for his sake:
"What cheer? What cheer?"

I tell you all with heart so free
Right welcome, welcome ye be to me:
Be glad and merry, for charity!
What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

ZOAR YOUTH //



LOOKING BACK ON A BLESSED 2019



JANUARY SCHEDULE

January 5TH: Epiphany Party and Gift Exchange
January 12TH: Service Sunday: Tie Blankets
January 19TH: SkyZone Outing Time: TBA
January 26TH: HS Youth Group



LOCK IN/OUT HIGHLIGHTS

Last November, 19 Zoar youth and six amazing adults took part in Zoar's second annual Lock Out/Lock In. This year those who attended served together at Vision Kitchen in South Toledo, enjoyed a family meal together at Bob Evans, took on the challenge of cracking the code of Amanda's first handwritten escape room, enjoyed devotions and played late-night games. It was a wonderful evening of service and fellowship together. A HUGE thank you goes out to all who participated, volunteered and made the night a great success.

EPIPHANY PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH 4 - 6 PM

High School Youth are welcome to join us for our Epiphany Party on January 5TH from 4 - 6 PM. We will be playing some games and doing a \$5 gift exchange. Come celebrate the season of Epiphany with games and devotion.

SERVICE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH 4 - 6 PM

On January 12TH from 4 - 6 PM 5th -12th graders are invited to join us for Service Sunday! This month we will be making Tie Blankets to be given to some of our homebound members and friends of Zoar.

SKYZONE OUTING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH TIME TBA

Sunday, January 19TH 5th-12th grade youth are invited to join us in a trip to SkyZone. More information on cost and time of day will be coming soon. Please watch for an email or text from Amanda.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you all in this new year! I hope that your Christmas and New Year celebrations with family and friends were richly and deeply blessed this holiday season!

Just like that, we are at the start of a new decade! Can you believe it? I can't help but stop to think about where I was at the start of 2010. I would have been yet to turn 20 years old and finishing up my Sophomore year of college. Little did I know what beautiful things were in store in the next ten years. God provides. If someone would have told me then that in the next ten years I would: travel to sing in Germany, meet my favorite opera singer, visit the Metropolitan Opera, teach music to hundreds of students, move to Ohio, that I would serve full time in youth ministry, (AND OH SO MUCH MORE,) I am not sure I would have believed them. God paints each of us a beautiful picture full of blessings. Aren't the details amazing?

How did God bless you over the last decade? Can you even begin to imagine the picture God has painted for you in the next 10 years? I would love to hear about it!

Blessings,
Amanda Rich

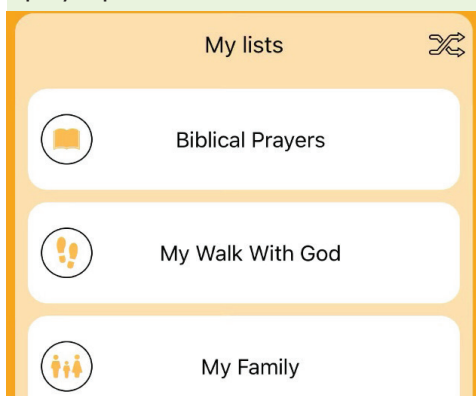
RESOURCES

Every Sunday, we gather together to worship and build our relationship with God and each other. Wouldn't it be nice to keep that connection going Sunday to Sunday? There are plenty of opportunities to connect with Zoar in small groups, bible studies, service opportunities and more. However, there are other small ways to build that faith each day. Below are some resources that may be useful to you throughout the week. Listed below are apps, podcasts, blogs and books that are great tools to stay connected with God in your everyday life.

APPS

PrayerMate

PrayerMate helps you be faithful in prayer for the people and causes you care about. Every day, PrayerMate will select a person or topic that you've entered from each of your main categories (perhaps "my family" or "my small group at church") and show them to you as a series of index cards - then just swipe between them to pray. It brings together prayer points you've entered manually, regular updates from a whole host of Christian charities and churches, PDF prayer letters and daily prayer pointers.



Bible

The Bible App has over 1000 Bible versions, in hundreds of languages. Hundreds of Reading Plans, in over 40 languages. Add your own Verse Images, highlights, bookmarks, and public or private notes. The Bible App lets you explore the Bible with your closest friends. Share honest conversations about Scripture with a community of people you know and trust. The Bible App also has a kid-friendly version that engages children with Bible stories on an age-appropriate level. Introducing children to 41 of the "big" Bible stories, the Bible App for Kids helps them understand the overall story that the Bible is telling.

K-Love

Take K-Love with you wherever you go and listen to music from your favorite contemporary Christian artists.

Daily Grace

The Daily Grace app is designed to equip women to know and love God's word. It has been created to help women cultivate their walk with God through intentional Bible study and community.

Men's Bible Study

The Naples Men's Bible Study app is a convenient way to learn more about the Bible. They integrate Biblical stories with the challenges of real life.



PODCASTS

The Vinyl Preacher

The Vinyl Preacher is a weekly podcast where they talk about the bible and make a playlist. Hosted by Matt Keadle (Southern Cal) and Zach Parris (Colorado), it's supported by LuMin, the Lutheran Campus Ministry Network and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Three Sides

Three Sides is a monthly podcast featuring stories from the ELCA. As a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together, Three Sides presents diverse voices from across the ELCA.

- From our members whose lives are grounded in faith, love of God and neighbor.
- From our congregations that work every day to share the love of Christ with all God's people.
- From our global companions and partners that join us as we work to build up Christ's church throughout the world.

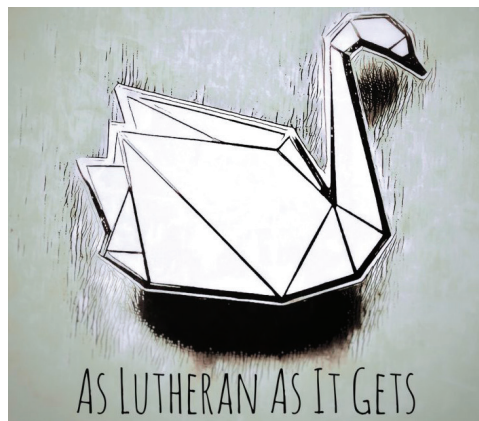


Just and Sinner

Just and Sinner is a weekly discussion of theology from a Lutheran perspective with Reverend Jodan Cooper. Jordan Cooper is an ordained Lutheran pastor, an adjunct professor of Systematic Theology, and a Ministry Fellow with Christian Union at Cornell University. He has authored several books, as well as theological articles in a variety of publications.

As Lutheran as it Gets

As Lutheran As It Gets delves into the deep tracks, B-sides, and basement tapes of our Lutheran fathers. This podcast is hosted by Rev. Donavon Riley with Rev. Christopher Gillespie interrupting the monologue and producing.



BLOGS

Living Lutheran

Living Lutheran is your source for news, reflections, and stories from the ELCA and its local and global companions. They cover religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org>



Faith Lens

Faith Lens is a weekly Bible study blog that engages youth and young adults in connecting world events with the Bible, faith, and everyday life. Popular posts include *Living Here and Now* and *End of the World as We Know It*.

<https://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/>

BOOKS

Little Steps, Big Faith

How do I raise my child in faith? This is the driving question behind Dawn Rundman's book, *Little Steps, Big Faith*. Utilizing the latest child development research, the book offers an array of biblically-based tips for introducing Christian faith to the littlest Lutherans among us.

Words of Faith

Coloring books for adults are the trend right now, so why not de-stress by pondering Scripture while you relax?

Words of Faith: A Coloring Book to Bless and De-Stress might provide just what you need to slow down and meditate on an uplifting word and verse from the Bible while you create something beautiful.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

ZOARS HISTORY

AS A NEW DECADE BEGINS LETS REMEMBER 170 YEARS OF HISTORY

Many of the people of Zoar have been a part of this congregation for years, decades, their whole lives. You've heard stories of how Zoar began and the ways it has evolved over the years. Whether it's your first year or your fiftieth there are probably parts of our history that are news to you. As we began the year 2020, let's take a look back at the past 170 years of Zoar. How we began, where we have been and begin to look forward to where we are going.

German settlers, hungry for a Christian home, began worshipping together in Perrysburg in the 1830s under the leadership of Rev. George Cronenwett. In February 1850, Rev. Cronenwett had formed a congregation called "The German Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession known by the name of Zoar." After a period of time, the group purchased a building in which to worship and also founded a sister congregation in nearby Maumee, St. Paul's.

In 1875, a building on the present site of Zoar Lutheran was purchased and renovated into a white-framed church. For many years, services were conducted primarily in German, but in the late 1800's Zoar also began offering some worship services in English. In 1917, a new brick church building was completed as the Zoar congregation continued to grow and serve their community.

During the 1920's Zoar Lutheran made the final switch to English-only services and Zoar's pastor, Rev. Peter Kluepfel, was instrumental in the formation of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1930. In 1938, St. Paul's in Maumee called its own full-time pastor and also joined the ALC.

Under the leadership of Rev. E. J. Melchert, Zoar's membership continued to grow in size and in mission and then added an educational unit in 1951. To better meet the needs of the congregation and the community, an associate pastor joined Zoar in 1955. Then two years later, a second mission congregation, Lutheran Church of the Master, also in Perrysburg, was launched. In 1976, to commemorate its 125th anniversary, Zoar Lutheran began Abundant Life, a facility that provides low-cost independent housing for senior citizens.

Rev. Timothy Philabaum became Zoar's senior pastor in 1993 and oversaw the expansion and renovation of the sanctuary, as well as the addition of new classrooms, a commercial kitchen, the Family Life Center, and new administrative offices. In 2000, in honor of Zoar's 150th anniversary, a second apartment building at Abundant Life was built.

Throughout its history, the congregation at Zoar Lutheran has been blessed by the leadership of wonderful laity and pastors. As we look forward to the future, we trust that God will continue to guide our ministry so that through our worship, our witness, and our outreach, we will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ for many years to come.

Discover Zoar and Be AmaZed!

CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP: THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

Altar Guild

Nadine Johnson
Susan Todt
Mary Ann Abke
Marcia Amstutz
Donna Besly
Connie Bricker
Elaine Cutcher
Denise Ehrmin
Linda Hagedorn
Lisa Hoverson
Nancy Jack
Vicki Karnes
Teri Laurer
Karen Lundholm

Pat McNutt
Connie Miller
Linda Miller
Donna Ohls
Andrea Rex
Sharon Schadek
Jane Schroeder
Jackie Springer
Carolyn St. Meyers
Jackie Taylor
Marianne Wagner
Stacy Ehrmin Warren
Tina Young



from
Pastor Cindy
Interim Associate Pastor
pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

Happy New Year...2020! Some folks say this is the year of GREAT VISION; the year that we will see things better than ever before. Vision... eyesight, perspective, ideas, daydreams and hopes anticipated for the future. My vision and hope for this year is for everyone to be nurtured into a closer and more loving relationship with our Lord through faith in God's grace and promises.

As we begin to embrace this new year of GREAT VISION here at Zoar and in other areas of our lives, we are with Jesus, who is Emmanuel...which means God is with us. These words were spoken to Joseph by an angel of the Lord in Matthew 1:23. In the last chapter of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

May the Lord bless you in 2020 by an awareness of His promises and presence...filling you with joy, peace, hope and love each day. Jesus is with you...share this precious gift from God with others.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS BEGINS ON JANUARY 5TH

DIGGING DEEPER

After reading through the Bible in the year, Pastor Tim's Sunday Adult class at 9:45 AM will focus in on the Gospel of Matthew, beginning in January. The new Church year began last December/Advent, and in this year the Gospel of Matthew will be our primary text. So, after the year-long whirl through Scripture, we will dig deeper into this Gospel, which centers us on Jesus the Messiah.

9:53 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join Pastor Cindy on Sunday, January 5TH, at 9:53 AM in the lounge for the new Sunday School session which will focus on Prayer...Jesus Prays and We Do Too! This will be a study of Jesus praying and the differing ways we pray.

This class will take place every Sunday at 9:53 AM from January 5TH through February 23RD. Some of the prayer practices we will discuss include: Praying the Psalms, Prayer Groups, Prayer Chains and Prayer Partners, Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, and Prayer Labyrinths. Praying for YOU to join this class. All are welcome.

SANCTUARY SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH 12:30 PM

The ELCA has declared itself a "sanctuary" Denomination. What does that mean here at Zoar? As we look at the documents this designation calls us into scripturally-appropriate care for the homeless and refugees. We will have an adult forum scheduled on Sunday, January 5TH at 12:30 PM to explore and discuss the documents that come from the ELCA and from our Bishop Daniel. Our member, Karen Mathison, who now works for the ELCA, will help us in our discussion.

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

JANUARY // 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Men's Breakfast Men's Cards Chancel Choir Donald Coffey Birthday	3 Book Club	4 Worship
5 Worship Epiphany Party	6 Book Club	7 Pickleball Men's Disciples Piece Corps Les Meier Birthday	8 Bible Study Confirmation	9 Men's Golf Men's Cards Chancel Choir	10 Solo Again	11 Faith Science & Technology Yarns of Love Worship
12 Worship Service Sunday	13 Popcorn Gang Ruth Circle	14 Piece Corps Pickleball Men's Disciples Ramona Abke Birthday	15 Bible Study Confirmation	16 Men's Cards Chancel Choir	17	18 Prayer Partners Worship
19 Worship SkyZone	20 Lois Hill Birthday	21 Pickleball Men's Disciples Council Meeting	22 Bible Study Confirmation	23 Men's Cards Chancel Choir	24	25 Worship
26 Worship Annual Meeting HS Youth Group	27 Donald Creps Birthday Paul Meyerholtz Birthday	28 Pickleball Men's Disciples	29 Bible Study Confirmation	30 Men's Cards Chancel Choir	31 Kitchen of Hope	

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 remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19