

Amaz^{ing}! News

FEBRUARY // 2020



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

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PASTA, PINOT & PISTOLS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 6:30 PM

You are invited to an interactive murder mystery dinner on Saturday, February 15TH, at 6:30 PM. At La Speranza, New York City's most popular Italian eatery, wealthy restaurateur Pepi Roni has been shot in the back with his own pistol. His family and friends will gather to pay their respects, but one of the guests won't be shedding any tears. Your table will attempt to solve the murder while enjoying salad, pasta and assorted Italian inspired desserts.

We begin the evening in the Lower Level. Meet the characters, while sampling olives, meats, cheeses and drinks from the Scarfazzi Vineyards in Italy. Rocco Scarfazzi, the twin brother to the deceased, will be present with his bimbo fiancée Tara Misu. At 7 PM salad will be served in the FLC, followed by La Speranza's famous Pasta Bar. Your table will have the opportunity to interview suspects, and the wait staff will be happy to share clues they have found on the premises (for a small price!). During dessert, accusations will be made and the truth about the murder revealed. As the late Pepi was often heard saying, "I'm not a rich person. I'm just a poor person with money." Let us see where ze money trail leads us!

Tickets are \$20 per person and are available in the Gathering Space after services, or through the church office (419-874-4346). Seats are reserved.



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



LOVE FOR ALL CREATION

Ah, February. This is the month in-between. It's not really winter, although winter usually hangs on. It's not spring either. It's the end of the Sundays-after-Epiphany, and the beginning of Lent. We're done with our New Year's Resolutions, What's next?

One surprise this year is that there is a "Leap Day." The marvel for me is this: God has so created the universe with so much complexity, longevity, and beauty, and still so much that we cannot grasp. We have struggled to control time and the passage of the seasons. But with all our good intentions, a day needs to be added every fourth year, or not added if the year ends in "00." The movement of the earth around the sun and the wobble of the earth are all part of God's amaZing glory that cannot be put in a box.

One response to God's glory is evident right smack in the middle of the month. Because of his love for Jesus, St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith, and was martyred. On his way, he wrote a note to his loved one. Valentine's Day is so much more than the giving of notes, chocolate and flowers, but it is the day to respond to the awesomeness of the God whose love for all creation is endless.

With so much trouble and strife in our culture and world we are called to respond as to how this love of God is for all people, and how, as disciples of Jesus, we too love – not only the good people we know, but the neighbor, the one in need, the outcast, the stranger, even the enemy. This is what makes our faith so important in these days – no one is outside of our love!

At the end of this month, we will enter Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 26TH). There we will journey to the cross where God, having entered into our humanity, gives God's very self for the world, for the sake of you and me. Here is love personified, wrapped in flesh, gifted freely. At the cross we find the reason for St. Valentine's faith, we find the purpose of God, we find our calling.

May this in-between month with an extra day of joy be one for you in which you expand your response to this great Love, as you too are wrapped in grace!

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

In February, Zoar will continue exploring the themes of the season of light, and on the 26th, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The following are some theological perspectives based on the writings of Gail Ramshaw.

February 2, Presentation of Our Lord

On the fortieth day after Christmas, the medieval Western church celebrated the story in Luke 2, which conflates two rituals: the presentation to God of one's firstborn son, who was then bought back—redeemed—with the offering of animals destined for sacrifice; and the purification of the mother after childbirth. In keeping with the liturgical practice of forty-day observances, this celebration concludes the Incarnation cycle.

February 9, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

To be light in the world, we must reflect the Light who is Christ. Light is an image on many Sundays. However, the Sermon on the Mount speaks also speaks of the lampstand. Paul would remind us that, contrary to the wisdom of the world, our lampstand is the cross.

February 16, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

In Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, Jesus cited the commands of the Jewish law and then intensified and interiorized them. This narrative accords with the evangelist's sense that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Israelite tradition by moving the focus of the law from outward behavior to interior attitudes.

February 23, Transfiguration of Our Lord

Jesus' divinity shows forth on the Mount of Transfiguration, and by next Sunday, we are in Lent, when his humanity fully present as he goes to die upon Mount Calvary. Historically the Transfiguration was celebrated on August 6, a date now marked by the memory of the bombing of Hiroshima.

February 26, Ash Wednesday

The Old Testament tells of a ritual in which persons in great sorrow sat in ashes or poured them on their head. Since early medieval times, ashes were distributed on the fortieth day before Easter as a sign of individual and communal penitence. At the Synod of Benevento in 1091, the ritual was recommended for all Western Christians. The twin emphases of the day are sin and death: in sorrow for sin, we join with ancient peoples to put ashes on our head; and in honesty about death, we remember that, like Adam, we are made of dust and will return to dust.

March 1, First Sunday in Lent

Each year, Lent begins with a synoptic account of the temptation of Jesus. Jesus was truly human, suffering from the devil's temptations no less than we, and so he can stand by us when we are tempted. We too, conquer evil with the power of God's word: and that word for us is Christ. On this weekend, our guest preacher will be the esteemed writer and Pastor Paul Hoffman.



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

As our motto states, Zoar is a place where we Gather, Grow, and Give, and our music ministry is happy to continue to search for ways to expand these goals in 2020.

As we embark on the second leg of our concert series, we would like to solicit your prayers, presence, and advocacy. We have four great concerts in our series in the next four months. These events are great opportunities for soft evangelism in our community. If you have never been to one of our concerts, I would like to invite you to check out the exciting musical events that will be happening at our church. If you have been to our concerts, you already know we aim to offer a variety of musical expressions connected to the great tradition of Sacred Music. If you have an introverted disposition, perhaps asking others to "come and see" one of our musical events might be one of the easiest ways to foster conversation and create community.

Our next concert is *Fireworks: An Organ Recital* with Jillian Gardner. Friday, February 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM. For more information on Jillian, please visit <https://www.jillianguardner.net/>



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

MARCH 8TH - APRIL 5TH, 9:45 - 10:45 AM

Calling all Zoar 4TH Graders and Families! This year's First Communion Classes will be held on the following Sunday's from 9:45 - 10:45 AM: March 8TH - April 5TH. First Communion will be held on Thursday, April 9TH at the 7 PM Maundy Thursday worship service.

Did you miss your first communion in a previous year? Not a problem, contact Amanda for more information.



YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ELCA

Did you know that the ELCA provides opportunities for youth long after their high school years? Several opportunities are available through the ELCA including Young Adults in Global Mission, otherwise known as YAGM. Young adults ages 21-29 have the opportunity to partake in a year of service internationally. Applications are open from November 1ST - February 15TH.

For more information visit: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Young-Adults-in-Global-Mission>



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

February 2ND: No Youth Group
February 7TH - 9TH: Great Lakes Gathering
February 16TH: Youth Cooking Challenge 4 - 6 PM
February 23RD: Service Trip Meeting 12:30 - 1:30 PM
Monthly Mingle 4 - 6 PM



YOUTH COOKING CHALLENGE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 4 - 6 PM

On February 16TH, from 4 - 6 PM all 5TH - 12TH grade youth are invited to join us for our first ever Youth Cooking Challenge! Do you ever find yourself sitting on the couch watching the Food Network? Well this event is the one for you! We will be enjoying a "Chopped" style competition with baskets of mystery ingredients! Bring a friend and sign up your team of 2 - 4 people on the youth bulletin board by Monday, February 10TH.



SERVICE TRIP MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Our second HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Service Trip Meeting will be held immediately following worship on February 23rd from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. All trip participants are strongly encouraged to attend. We will be learning more information about the people we will be serving and more. Please let Amanda know ahead of time if you have a conflict.

MONTHLY MINGLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 4 - 6 PM

It is that time again! On February 23RD from 4 - 6 PM we will kick off our 2020 Monthly Mingle events. Join us for a time of fellowship with our friends from Woodlane, Sunshine and more. Adult and youth volunteers should sign up on the youth bulletin board by to assist by Sunday, February 16th.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST 4 - 6 PM

Join us for High School Youth Group Sunday, March 1ST for 4 - 6PM. We will share a meal, devotions and other activities to be announced.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

We have reached the month of Valentines, greeting cards, chocolate and hearts! There is no better time than now to account for all the things you LOVE.

When asked what I love, I would start by saying my family, my friends, my church and how each of those come together, connection.

Connection: how two things become one. Do you ever stop and think what a blessing it is to be in community with one another? God lives in each of us through the Holy Spirit and when we give that love to others we can begin to show love in the way Jesus did. Love and light is contagious.

Just what is it that you love? How do you show your love the way Jesus has shown us? How can you be driven by the Holy Spirit which dwells in you during this season of love?

Go out and share the love of Jesus. Can you even begin to imagine the unconditional, agape love he has for us?

Blessings,
Amanda



Clay jars are fragile, breakable, delicate. They break or crack easily even though they are made solid through one of the most destructive forces on earth, fire. Although clay jars are so delicate what a beautiful story they tell. Clay can be found in creeks and river banks, dirty and unnoticed but with time and care and heated by fire they become beautiful works of art. It's not surprising that there are over 40 references to clay or clay jars in the Bible. It's not surprising that the Bible describes us as jars of clay.

Our Lenten Wednesday worship services will be centered on "jars." On Ash Wednesday, February 26TH we will each receive a small jar. That container will be one in which you may speak your prayers throughout these 40 days. The Jar we will remember at the Wednesday services is the one in which the ashes are contained, ashes that will be "imposed" on you and me, reminding us of our mortality, as well as calling us to hope in the God who continually forgives. Ash Wednesday worship will commence with a service at 7 AM designed for those going to work or school. We also will offer worship at 11 AM and 7 PM. Come and begin the journey into God's amaZing love.

LENT SCHEDULE

February 26TH 7 AM, 11 AM & 7 PM
Ash Wednesday

March 4TH 11 AM & 7 PM

The Jar of the Drink Offering in the Tabernacle (Numbers 4), a jar to remind us of the call to praise the God of all creation, and to continually pray to this God of love.

March 11TH 11 AM & 7 PM

The large stone jars at the wedding banquet in Cana (John 2), from which Jesus changed water into wine. This will bring to our remembrance the amazing generosity of our God.

March 18TH 11 AM & 7 PM

Matthew 26 is the scene of another jar, which held the ointment with which the woman anointed Jesus, preparing Him for His burial. This is a jar of mercy and great love.

March 25TH 11 AM & 7 PM

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4 that "we have this treasure in clay pots." In the midst of our brokenness and call to humility, God brings extraordinary grace & power in our lives. Here we are truly amaZed by God!

April 1ST 11 AM & 7 PM

Elijah was sent to care for a woman and her son (1 Kings 17). They had no more to eat, and were preparing to die. Elijah brought God's promise to her that her jar of oil would not run out, and the container of meal would not cease. God's promise was fulfilled, and the woman and her son survived. God's promises continue still to guide us.

LENT

LENTEN MEALS

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Lenten season, we will have meals served for lunch.

However, we need your help. We are asking individuals, groups, or committees to prepare and serve the meals. Lunch will be served at noon following the 11 AM service. If you are interested in serving Zoar or need additional information, please contact Margie and Tom Iserman at iserprsn@bex.net or 419-874-5215. There is no charge for these meals, however, donations will be accepted.

LENT IN THE ELCA

This Lenten season the ELCA invites you to study, pray and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world. Follow along on Zoar's social media or download the 40 days of giving calendar at <https://community.elca.org/40days> as we worship, study, reflect, give, pray, hear and sing.



WORSHIP: Begin your week with the Word of God, preparing your heart and mind to learn more about what it means to hope during the season of Lent.

STUDY: Use ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving weekly Lenten study at home or at church to dive deeper into stories of hunger and hope this Lent.

REFLECT: Use these days to revisit and reflect on the weekly study readings, either in small groups or individually.

GIVE: As you journey through Lent, consider the ways in which your own gifts to ELCA World Hunger can create hope throughout the world.

PRAY: Use the prayers of intercession shown throughout the calendar this Lent as, together, we humbly ask for God's care and blessing over all creation. Prayers adapted from Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress, 2019).

HEAR: Read and reflect on the selected Bible verses for each week on your own, with your family or with a small group to hear the word of God this Lent.

SING: To close each week — and to remind yourself of the hope to come in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — read the included hymn text, either to yourself or out loud as a group, or consider singing the full hymn in your prayer group, Bible study or worship service.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

ZOAR HOSTS GUEST PASTOR PAUL HOFFMAN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 AND SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Since 1982 Paul has served the Lutheran Church as an ordained pastor, fully immersed in the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the lives of those he's served.

Paul has been called by the Synod Council of the Northwest Washington Synod as a writer and teacher and shares his gifts throughout the country and world as a keynote speaker, workshop leader, teacher and clinician. While primarily teaching and writing about faith formation for adults, Paul is comfortable leading on a wide range of pastoral ministry topics related to baptismal theology and practice.

Paul is a widely sought teacher about parish renewal and bringing new Christians into the faith as disciples of Jesus. Faith formation for adults is a pathway to preparing those who have never (or at least not recently) had a relationship with Christ as a disciple. Using the tools of the ancient Catechumenate, Paul has a long history of helping congregations prepare to welcome new adults to the baptismal font and into a life of faith in Christ.

He has keynoted and led workshops in Seattle, in parishes and leadership conferences of many denominations across the country and in Oxford, Paris, St. Petersburg and, this November, Sweden.

Paul has also developed a process of mentoring newly ordained clergy in small cohorts, assisting them to find a place to study the scriptures

with colleagues, pray together, and strengthen their gifts for ministry in the years of their first call.

Paul's latest book is in the Augsburg Fortress Worship Matters series and is a manual for Ministers of Hospitality (ushers, greeters, and others) in a parish setting. This volume joins a distinguished set of similar resources that Augsburg Fortress is offering for Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Intercessors, and now – Ministers of Hospitality.

Paul is preaching at Zoar in conjunction with Hearts, Hands, and Voices occurring at Zoar on February 29TH. This all day workshop is geared towards Pastors and Church musicians, but it is open to anyone who is interested.

Registration is \$45 per person with lunch included and payment will be handled online from the website

<https://alcm.org/2020-events-by-date/>



CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP: THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

2019 OUTGOING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Council - Beth Krolak, Curtis Recker, Jeff Artz, Vicki Karnes, Pam Kwasniak

Nominating Committee - Sarah Flores, Matt Obrock

Life Long Learning - Lynn Cooper, Kristen Scasny, Sue Todd

Social Ministry - Jim Kwasniak, Leigh Ann Meinecke, Gay Miller

Stewardship - Ken Meinecke, Derek Meyer

Worship/Music - Julie Buzzelli, Roger Geffe

YAYA - Jason Scasny, Stephanie Schuppenies, Marianne Wagner

Vision for Ministry - Diane Ninke, Chuck Ackerman

2020 INCOMING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Council - Tom Easterwood - VP, Allison Reeve - Financial Secretary

Pam Kwasniak - Secretary, Alice Coy, Tom Haar, Pat Siebold, Charlotte Keller (Youth)

Nominating - Jeff Artz, Beth Krolak, Paul Dodge, Jason Scasny

Social Ministry - Leigh Ann Meinecke, Judy Cooper, Raleigh Fontaine

Worship/Music - Michael Searle, Anne O'Brien, Julie Buzzelli

Stewardship - Scott Loehrke, Brian Tomko, Les Buker

YAYA - Jen Milligan, Kristy Lichtenberg

Life Long Learning - Sarah Ellis, Kim McElroy, Laura Hood

Vision for Ministry - Cheryl Lauer, Chuck Ackerman, Derek Meyer

Heritage - Annette Sipp



from
Pastor Cindy
Interim Associate Pastor
pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings!

February is always a special month for my family. We celebrate many birthdays and this year we are going to Frankenmuth for a day of fun and special moments together.

Spending special moments with someone shows that you care. Caring is the focus of the "Caring Companions" Ministry at Zoar.

We have 17 members visiting our homebound folks to share conversation, scripture, prayers and Holy Communion with them. As we trust in Him...our God of HOPE works through us. Precious relationships are formed with those who are not able to come to church very often. They feel cared for by our Lord and our congregation.

Are interested in becoming a part of this ministry? Do you know someone who could benefit from having a "Caring Companion"? Call the church office and let us know.

May the God of HOPE fill you with JOY and PEACE.

SCAM EMAILS, BEWARE!

Dear Zoar Congregation,

I wanted to make all of you aware of an issue I was involved in a few weeks ago. I received an email from a person posing as Pastor Tim asking for gift cards for another Zoar congregation member. This was the second occurrence of this type of scam. The first time was via a text. I wanted to share this with you to make you aware that these types of communication from any staff member from Zoar are not real and not to be fooled by these criminals.

I wanted to also share with you some statistics about this type of fraud called "Phishing". The definition of **Phishing**: Act of attempting to acquire (sensitive) information by posing as a trustworthy entity.

Statistics:

Phishing attempts have grown 65% in the last year.

- 1 in 25 branded emails is a phishing email
- 76% of organizations have been targeted by phishing
- In 2018 there were 26,379 victims of phishing fraud

How to Prevent Phishing:

Below are several clues that can indicate that a message is a phishing attempt.

- The message uses misspelled email domains. Such as ZaorLutheran.com
- The message is written to invoke fear or sense of urgency
- The message includes a request for money, password, or other personal information
- The message is poorly written and has spelling or grammatical errors.

- Dante Flores, Council President

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

FEBRUARY // 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Worship
2 Worship No Youth Group LaDonna Kossow and Lee Odegaard Birthday	3	4 Piece Corps Pickleball Small Group Leaders Meeting	5 Bible Study Confirmation	6 Men's Breakfast Men's Cards Chancel Choir	7 Great Lakes Gathering Book Club	8 Worship Great Lakes Gathering Exchange Club Breakfast
9 Worship Great Lakes Gathering New Member Class	10 Ruth Circle Popcorn Gang	11 Pickleball Janis Higbie Birthday	12 Bible Study Confirmation Paul Sargent Birthday	13 Men's Cards Chancel Choir New Member Class	14 Solo Again	15 Worship Pasta, Pinot & Pistols
16 Worship Youth Cooking Challenge New Member Class	17	18 Piece Corps Pickleball Council Meeting	19 Bible Study Confirmation	20 Naomi Circle New Member Class William Ault Birthday	21 Fireworks: An Organ Recital	22 Worship Altar Guild
23 Worship New Member Welcome Service Trip Meeting Monthly Mingle	24 Popcorn Gang Yarns of Love	25	26 Bible Study Ash Wednesday Confirmation Helen Dimick, Jed Hazel and Carol Henschen Birthday	27 Men's Cards Chancel Choir	28 Kitchen of Hope William King Birthday	29 Worship Hearts, Hands and Voices Paul Hoffman - Guest Preacher

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

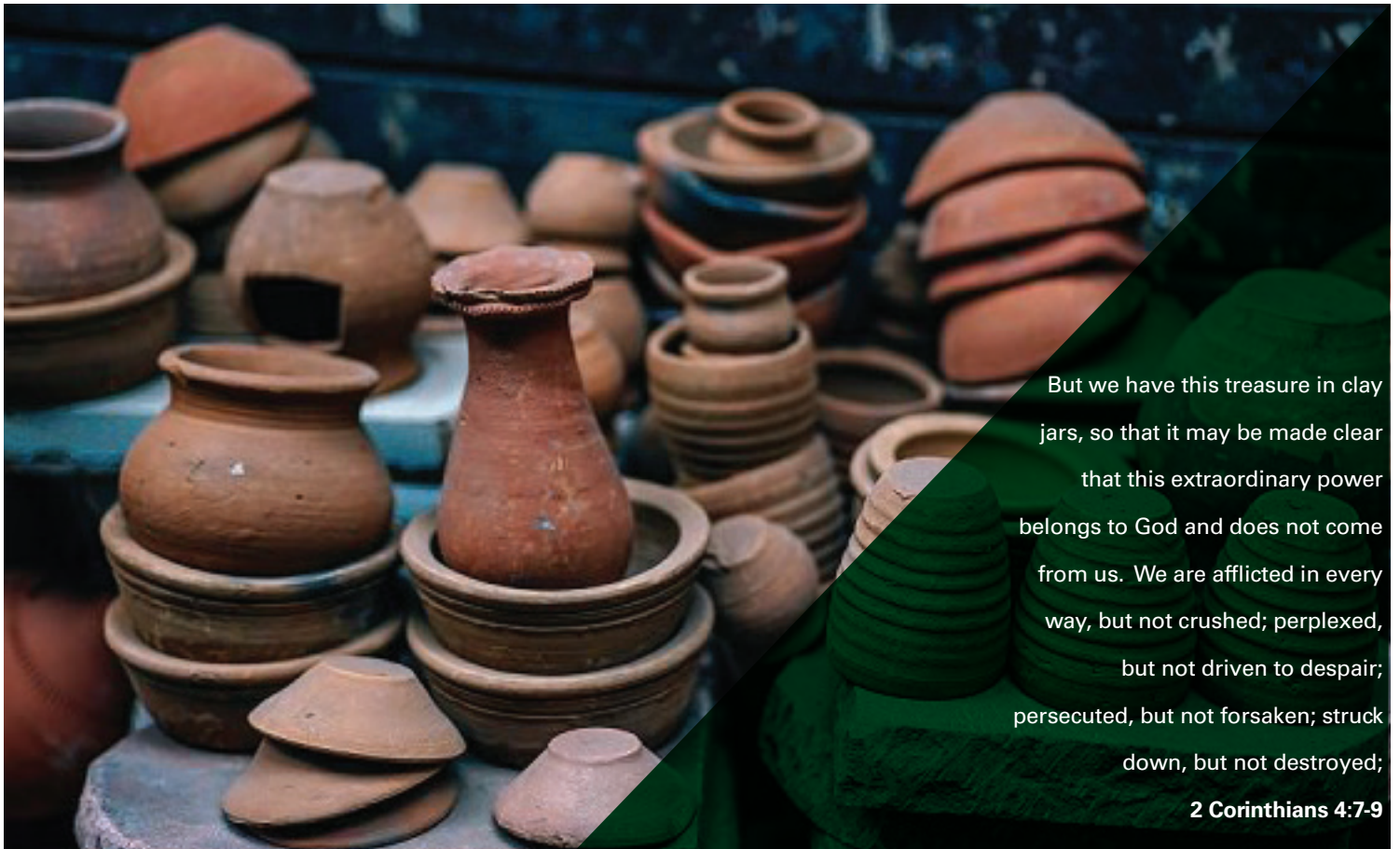
Worship times:
6 PM Saturday,
7:15, 8:30 & 11 AM Sunday

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

Be
AmaZed!



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But we have this treasure in clay
jars, so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power
belongs to God and does not come
from us. We are afflicted in every
way, but not crushed; perplexed,
but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed;

2 Corinthians 4:7-9