

Amazing!News

APRIL // 2020



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

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7:15 AM SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

After many years of an early Sunday morning worship, Zoar is discontinuing the 7:15 AM Service. People have prayed, families have been raised, commitments to God expressed, community developed, and grace was shared. But now it is time to end this service. The final Sunday for this 7:15 AM Service will be April 19TH, the 2ND Sunday of Easter. We encourage all of you who have been part of this service to come and share in the "send-off," and then to continue to find your home on Saturday at 6 PM, or Sunday at 8:30 or 11 AM.





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE CHANGE

There's something special about April. Even though I love winter and cold and snow, April arrives, and it is welcomed. God's paintbrush comes out with greens and reds and yellows and blues. Days are longer, and the sounds of birds ring through the atmosphere. April is awesome!

This year the beauty of creation is magnified by the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. We will have explored "jars" in Scripture, vessels through which God's mercy and grace have flowed. Now we journey up to the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, Calvary, and Joseph's tomb. As you know the story, Mary Magdalene comes then to the tomb on Sunday, prepared to complete the burial process. But she finds it empty and meets the risen Lord.

Nothing, not even death, is outside of God's love. So, as you come out of this mild winter into spring, how are things with your soul? I know that there are many things swirling around – changes in our climate, stress in our political system, brokenness in our families, and deep holes of need in our own spirits. It is into this very maelstrom that God has

chosen to dwell. From the beginning of time, emptied into the Babe of Bethlehem, crucified where I should have been, and then risen from the tomb – God embraces all God's people with love, with healing, and with grace.

Change is in the air. The world is changing. Our families are changing. Church is changing. Easter brings the biggest change of all, for we find out that what we thought was constant (death) is no longer constant. We will die, but it's not the end. We will go through struggles and changes and pain in our days, but they are not ultimate. What is ultimate is this amaZing love God has for you and for me, for all of God's people. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God!"

There's something special about April. It can be seen and smelled and felt. And this spring-i-ness is just a metaphor for the new things that God is doing – in creation, in the world, in history, and even in our own lives. I pray that in this spring, as well as the season ahead, you know the constant love of God in the midst of all that is changing!

WORSHIP IN APRIL

This month, the Common Revised Lectionary will take us through the central story of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday and culminates with Easter Sunday, and in between is the unpacking of the gift of faith, the most important three days in of the Church year. In Latin, it is called the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter, a liturgy so rich in meaning, it takes three days to explore its contours and to begin to plumb its depth. This year we may hear these stories at home, or later in the year, when we are able to meet again as a gathered community of faith.

April 5, Palm Sunday

On this Palm/Passion Sunday, we will begin our worship by singing Hosannas as we welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. A few moments later, during the reading of the Passion according to Matthew, we will shout "Crucify him!" As we hear Philippians 2:5-11, with join first century-Christians in a profound Credal statement. In Isaiah 50:4-9, we learn about the third Servant Song, in which we see a forecast about Jesus' humiliation despite his innocence.

April 9, 10, 11, Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil

On "Commandment" Thursday, Jesus tells his disciples that they are to love one another, "just as I have loved you." By this definition, love means compassion, mercy, and plenty of hard work. As we see in today's gospel, Jesus' love is active in service and, ultimately, sacrifice. On Friday, as we meditate on the consequences of God's sacrifice, the church proclaims the good news that the cross of Christ is not only necessary but also sufficient for our salvation. The Great Vigil is at the heart of our faith, a night where we connect with some of the greatest stories of our faith heritage unfurled in one sitting. Through the drama of Easter Vigil, our community of faith is invited to honest reflection and real renewal.

April 12, Easter Sunday

Theologian Gail Ramshaw has quipped, "Easter turns the whole world upside down. The incredible reversals of Easter offer the mystical possibility of transformation in every moment. In this season, what is dying, and what is being born? For our communities? For our families? For our world? What is breaking open like a seed to die (John 12:24) so that new life might thrive?

April 19, Second Sunday of Easter

Thomas wanted nothing more than the same experience of the risen Christ the rest of the disciples had. Jesus returns a second time and offers his body as living proof to Thomas. In the presence of Jesus, Thomas discovers he did not need the evidence he demanded. Thomas' story is our story: Jesus comes to us, seeking us out and giving us the gift of faith and teaching us what the words "Peace be with you" mean when lived out.

April 26, Third Sunday of Easter

On this Sunday, we hear about three thousand people who were baptized and about two disciples who were surprised to discover that they were eating a meal with the Risen Christ. We will celebrate our baptism, and we will pay attention to Christ, whom we find in the scriptures and recognize at our table.



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Once again, we arrive at that time of the year when we zero in on Jesus' supreme example of servanthood, loving self-sacrifice, and solidarity.

It is because of his death and resurrection that we can sing the words of hymn ELW 666: What wondrous love is this! That Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

It is because of his death and resurrection that we can join Paul when he says in 1 Corinthians 15: "Behold I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."

It is because of his death and resurrection that we can say, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Therefore, let us remember the prayerful words from Sigismund von Birken, who in the seventeenth century gifted the Church with the text from ELW 803: Let us gladly die with Jesus. / Since by death he conquered death, /he will free us from destruction, /give to us immortal breath. /...and the grave that shuts us in / shall but prove the gate of heaven. Jesus, here with you I die, / there to live with you on high. Peace and Joy!



HOW TO CONNECT WITH ZOAR AND ONE ANOTHER

Facebook

Page: Zoar Lutheran Church

Groups: Zoar Fellowship

Zoar Families

Zoar Young Couples

Zoar Youth

On Saturdays, visit our Facebook Page for a musical treat for the week from Omaldo.

Every Sunday at 8 AM, either Pastor Tim or Pastor Cindy will present the Gospel and a reflection of that Gospel on the Zoar Facebook Page. Be sure to share a picture of your family watching worship on your personal Facebook page. This is a great opportunity to connect new people with the church. On Wednesday April 1, Pastor Cindy will present a Lenten Meditation before we head into Holy Week.

Every Sunday at 9:30 AM, Amanda will have a Sunday School lesson on Facebook. Join her live for interactive activities.

Instagram

Like us at @ZoarLutheran and @ZoarLutheranYth

Text in Church

Sign up by texting the desired keyword(s) below to: (419)731-6533

Youth and Family Ministries - Keyword: ZoarYouth

5th & 6th Grade - Keyword: Zoar56

7th & 8th Grade - Keyword: Zoar 78

High School - Keyword: ZoarHighSchool

Young Adult (Ages 18 - 35) - Keyword: ZoarYA

Join in Community on Zoom

Contact Amanda at arich@zoarlutheran.com for Youth Group, First Communion Classes, Confirmation Classes, or a Zoar Parents Small Group.

Sundays at 11 AM on Zoom, Pastor Cindy will be holding her "9:53 Sunday School Class" with a focus on prayer. If you are interested in attending please contact her at pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com.

Sundays at 2 PM, Pastor Tim will be holding his "Digging Deeper Sunday School Class". If you are interested in attending please contact him at pastortim@zoarlutheran.com.

APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 1ST: Zoar Fellowship Hour on Zoom 1 PM
Confirmation Class on Zoom 6 PM
- April 5TH: Facebook Live: Youth and Children's Message 9:30 AM
First Communion Class on Zoom 10 AM
Youth Group on Zoom 4 PM
- April 8TH: Zoar Fellowship Hour on Zoom 1 PM
Confirmation Class on Zoom 6 PM
- April 12TH: Happy Easter, No Youth Group
- April 15TH: Zoar Fellowship Hour on Zoom 1 PM
Confirmation Class on Zoom 6 PM
- April 18TH: Global Youth Service Day Service Opportunity on Zoom 1 PM
- April 19TH: Youth Group on Zoom 4 PM
- April 22ND: Zoar Fellowship Hour on Zoom 1 PM
Confirmation Class on Zoom 6 PM
- April 26TH: Service Trip Meeting on Zoom 11 AM
Youth Group on Zoom 4 PM
- April 29TH: Zoar Fellowship Hour on Zoom 1 PM
Confirmation Class on Zoom 6 PM

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FACEBOOK LIVE: YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

You can join Amanda weekly at 9:30AM for a live Youth and Children's Message via Facebook Live! Don't have a Facebook account? NOT A PROBLEM! Type in the following link and no account is required: <https://www.facebook.com/ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg/>

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Last month several Zoar youth began First Communion Classes. Due to the current circumstances in our world, we have gone virtual by using the Zoom platform! First Communion students and parents should keep close watch on their email for the necessary links and more information.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 1 PM

We will be doing a digital service project together via Zoom! Stay tuned for more information!

2020 EASTER EGG HUNT - CANCELLED

In order to protect the safety of Zoar members and our community during the COVID-19 outbreak, our 2020 Zoar Easter Egg Hunt will be cancelled. However, Zoar Families with young Sunday School Children should expect a special surprise to arrive from Zoar on April 11th. If we miss you please contact Amanda at arich@zoarlutheran.com and be sure to make sure your family receives the special package.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

When Easter quickly approaches I can usually feel nothing more than pure JOY! I don't know about you, but Easter is my absolute favorite! It must be something about the combination of newly budding flowers, sunshine and other signs of Spring, the music and so much more. But most of all I know that this joy stems from my deep gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus so lovingly made for us on the cross. I find myself each Easter feeling the most spiritually connected to God, crying in worship (seriously...they are happy tears, so no need to worry) and feeling the most at peace. Do you have moments, activities, practices or certain times of year where you feel the most connected to Him? What makes these moments so special? Why is it that those moments are the ones in which we feel the most connected? Could it be the gratitude that we feel, when we are reminded JUST how much we are loved by our Lord and Savior?

Though our world looks much different this year I challenge you to find those beautiful moments and share them with one another this Easter season. I pray that you too are able to identify these special and touching moments between you and God. <3 I can't wait until we can all come together again in person to celebrate and honor this glorious day!

Blessings,
Amanda Rich



UPDATE ON LIFE AT ZOAR

Greetings, sisters and brothers.

Blessings to you in these uncertain times. But there are a few truths and items we hold onto:

Jesus is Lord! In Jesus God holds us in hands of grace. We are called to be wise, yes, but not to be in panic, even in change and despair. I do like the phrase, "Love like Jesus, wash your hands like Pilate!"

The Church is not closed! Just the building, including the Office during the week and the Sanctuary during the weekend. We are the Church, the Body of Christ, together even while separate, united by the Holy Spirit, reaching out to those in need. At this point we will be distributing Palms and Scripture readings April 5 (Palm/Passion Sunday). You may drive through the Zoar parking lot and receive your Palm branches from 10 – 11am. Also, on Good Friday (April 10) the Toledo Churches will post on Facebook a reading of the 2 chapters of the Passion of Jesus according to St. John.

Since we don't know how long this time will exist. We have made the decision to postpone Easter until a later date. Remember – Christ is Risen! (He is Risen Indeed!) It will be such a delight to worship together again! Please follow the Zoar Facebook Page and and join the Zoar Groups. We will have extra opportunities for worship digitally throughout Holy Week and on Easter.

Today's gift of technology is making a difference. Through a multitude e-mails, and e-blasts, through Facebook scripture and music, through phone, but mostly through God's love we stay connected. Bible Studies, Sunday School, committee meetings, and other get-togethers – both adult and youth - are available through the Zoom platform, as well as other methods. Volunteer Coordinator Shar Cook, Chuck Ackerman, and others are working to create a "Phone Tree," so that all our members/friends may be contacted by phone, making sure they are cared for.

If you know of someone who is in need, please see what resources you have to assist them, and/or contact the Church Office at 419-874-4346. Feeding children in our community (Tracy Rickman and her amazing cadre of workers!) and receiving donations of blood (Red Cross on Thursdays) will continue in our building, these small ways this place makes a difference. Offerings and donations are needed, partly because we have a need to give. Please visit zoarlutheran.com/give-financially/ for a list of ways to give at Zoar.



ZOAR

We continue to pray. Especially this week we lift up all health workers and first responders, as well as the leadership of our Church and of this community.

I'm writing this on March 25, the Festival of the Annunciation. On this day we remember that Gabriel came from God to announce to Mary that she was with Child, The Child, our Lord. So (I love this) it is only 9 months until Christmas! One reason to point this out is that life will continue, Covid-19 will be a memory, and life will come back. We hold onto the God who became human, who took our brokenness onto Himself on the Cross, and in whose resurrection God shouts love and life for all creation – even you and me!

Once again – remember that we are not cancelling Easter Worship, we will just postpone it until we can gather again to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, and the joy of being together.

Keep the prayers, sisters and brothers of the Body of Christ called Zoar! Keep the hope, keep the wisdom, keep the Good news of God's love!

Blessings & peace –

Pastor Tim Philabaum

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

ZOAR LIBRARY BOOKS BY ZOAR AUTHORS

Included in our collection in the Zoar Library are several books written by authors who are or who have been members of Zoar. A brief bibliography includes:

Accola, Lou, Rev.. "Spirituality: Aspects of Christian Life and Renewal." Pastor Lou, who was at Zoar 1984-1992, produced this pamphlet for the American Lutheran Church to "stimulate reflection (of spirituality) and action in congregations."

Georgeson, Michael, "Broken Record." 2020. Michael records several of his poems, mostly written in his high school years.

Kluepful, Peter, Rev., "Animals of the New Testament." 1939. Pastor Kluepful served at Zoar from 1916-1944 has chronicled the animals in the New Testament, presenting both a bit of explanation and then a poem/hymn for each.

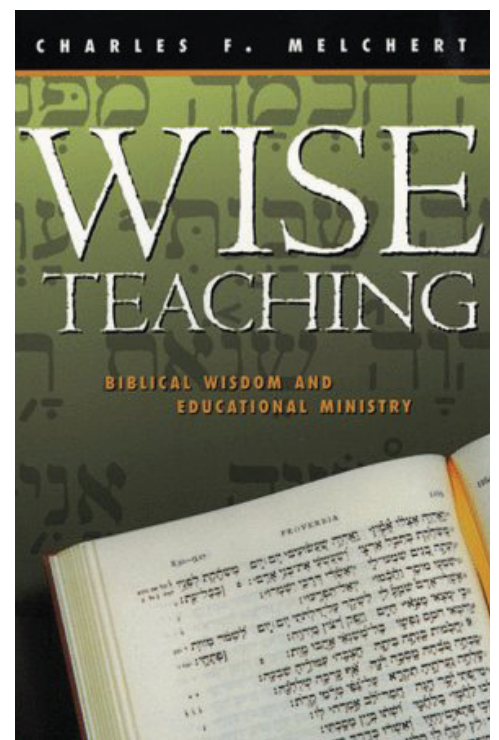
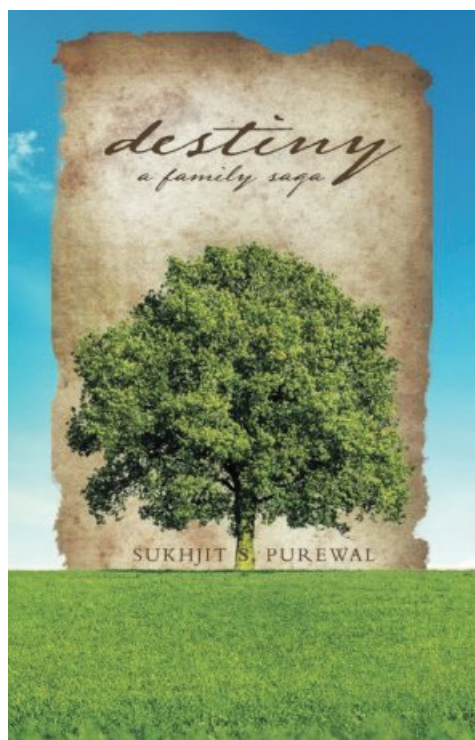
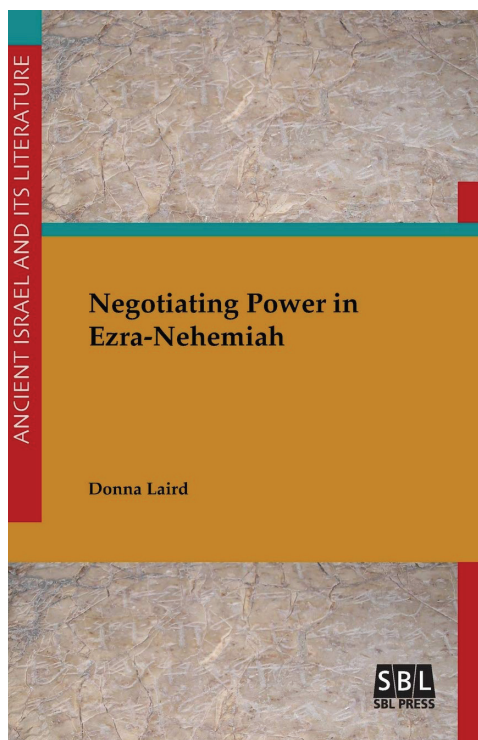
Laird, Donna. "Negotiating Power in Ezra-Nehemiah." 2016. This, Donna's Doctoral-Thesis-in-book-form is an excellent exploration of all that was happening in the post-exilic time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Melchert, Charles, "Wise Teaching: Biblical Wisdom and Educational Ministry." 1998. Charles, one of the sons of Pastor Melchert, weaves wisdom from the Scriptures with educational theory.

Murphy, Shawn, "A Bold Faith: Develop the focus necessary to lead a strong and active life of faith." 2011. Shawn, the host of The Strong Christian podcast, and a 1986 confirmand of Zoar, focuses in on growth and development in five key areas of faith.

Puerwal, Sukhjot, Dr. (Sarge), "Destiny: A family saga." 2015. Sarge chronicles his history from his grandfather in India and his coming to the US., complete with predictions of the future life of his grandfather and his family.

Richter, Glen & Mary, "Breakfast with Hummingbirds: Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage and Birding." Glen (photos) and Mary (narrative) explore the weaving of bird-sighting and marriage over these 50 years.



CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP:

THANKYOU ZOAR LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

This month Stewardship would like to thank the members of our congregation who attend church services at least once every month. In this complex world, which places so many demands on our time, it can be difficult to make attending a Saturday night or Sunday morning service a priority. Each member (family) must make an intentional effort to show up at least once a month and we want to thank you for that effort!

Humbly, we recognize you for listening to Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Prayerfully, we are grateful for you acting on Matthew 12:30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters."

Joyfully, we express our heartfelt gratitude to you for being dedicated as in Matthew 22: 37-39 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Thank you Zoar members for your time and effort in attending as many services as you do!!

SMALL GROUPS LEADERSHIP

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH 1 PM & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH 7 PM

Zoar Small Groups wants everyone to experience small group ministries at Zoar. We continue to add and develop groups that will meet your needs and interests. We also want to make sure that everyone who wants to be involved also has the chance to learn about how to lead and participate in small groups at Zoar.

In order to facilitate more people leading and participating in small groups, we are having two informal leadership training sessions. Even if you do not think you want to be a leader, we encourage you to come and find out more about small groups and how they function. Sessions will be held on Friday, April 17TH at 1 PM and on Wednesday, April 29TH 7 PM. If you have any questions please text Diane Ninke at 419-304-7976 or Carol Easterwood at 419-944-98810.

FAREWELL TO MOLLIE

Mollie Rauscher came to Zoar to work with our communications and design. In her time, work with the Communications committee was strengthened, the Zoar-Brand was established, Newsletters and a whole host (ie: platforms) of Social Media were developed, and we have grown from her gifts and her friendship.

At the end of March, Mollie left Zoar's staff to focus in on other priorities, one of which will be her third child. We wish God's richest blessings for Mollie, Phil, and the family, as they move into this next stage in their life. Mollie – you will be missed! Thank you!



from
Pastor Cindy
Interim Associate Pastor
pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

As Christians, we proclaim Jesus is Lord! We proclaim Jesus is Risen. On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and this is such Good NEWS!

Jesus is our best gift ever from God. Jesus is our Messiah. Jesus forgives us for our sins. Jesus is the example of how we should live our lives and as we live in this world may we share His peace as this peace prayer suggests:

Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek

to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Amen and Happy Easter!

ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL // 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Zoar Fellowship Hour Confirmation Class	2	3	4 Music Worship
5 Worship Youth and Childrens Message "9:53" Sunday School Digging Deeper	6	7	8 Zoar Fellowship Hour Confirmation Class	9	10	11 Music Worship
12 Worship Youth and Childrens Message "9:53" Sunday School Digging Deeper	13	14	15 Zoar Fellowship Hour Confirmation Class	16	17	18 Music Worship Global Youth Service Opportunity
19 Worship Youth and Childrens Message "9:53" Sunday School Digging Deeper	20	21	22 Zoar Fellowship Hour Confirmation Class	23	24	25 Music Worship
26 Worship Youth and Childrens Message "9:53" Sunday School Digging Deeper	27	28	29 Zoar Fellowship Hour Confirmation Class	30		

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

ZOAR STAFF

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

Cantor: Omaldo Perez
 Director of Youth Ministries: Amanda Rich
 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. 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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May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing, so
that you may abound in hope by
the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13