

Amaz^{ing}!News

MARCH // 2020



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

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GROOVE APPARATUS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH 3 PM

On Sunday, March 8TH at 3 PM Zoar will bring together the members of the east coast ensemble Groove Apparatus for a unique live performance of saxophonist and Jazz icon John Coltrane's A Love Supreme Suite. Recorded in 1964 and released the following year, many critics and enthusiasts fervently believe the Suite is Coltrane's towering achievement as an artist, one that grew out of an intense quest for spiritual connection and a desire for musical transcendence. This event will be of the not-to-be-missed kind: an opportunity like this one seldom happens twice in a lifetime.





from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



MY CUP OVERFLOWS

All sorts of things come in jars – pickled herring, mayonnaise, peanut butter, monkeys (the old game Jar of Monkeys), pizza sauce, etc. This Lent we will look at six specific jars in Scripture and learn from them of God's generosity and grace. You will also receive a small jar to keep in a special place, one in which you will daily remember your prayers and blessings.

These jars and their accompanying scriptures are designed to help you on your journey to the Cross and Empty Grave. This 40-day journey, from Ash Wednesday to Easter, helps us to re-tune our spirits to walk to the Upper Room, see the agony in the Garden, weep at the cross, and rejoice with Mary on Easter.

The jars in March include the Jar of Sacrifice (1 Kings 17:8-16), the Jar of Preparation and Fasting (Matthew 25:1-13), the Jar of Blessing (John 2:1-11), and the Jar of Abundance (Matthew 26:6-13). How will the "jar" of your spirit be blessed and filled during this season?

I have been blessed with the jars of abundance and grace here at Zoar. Back in January I announced my retirement from full-time ministry. After 40 years in ministry, 35 of

them at Zoar, it's time for a change. August 9TH will be my last Sunday, and I am most grateful for ministry with you throughout these years. I have been blessed to share good news, to baptize, to offer Holy Communion, to be with you in the most joyous and most painful moments, even the "best hour of the week (Confirmation)!"

David, in Psalm 23, sings, "my cup overflows." So has my cup/jar here at Zoar. And the best promise is this: the large "jar" of the tomb is empty -- Christ is risen from the dead! The gift of Easter is the promise that in the midst of all that is happening God still has the last word, and that word is a word of grace, of life, of hope.

I know that our loving God will continue to bless the people of Zoar in the years ahead, and that there are even better blessings in the future. On the last day we will join around God's Throne in glory, but until then, God's amaZing love guides us through all change and all days, and fills our "jars" with grace. What a gift!

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 1, First Sunday in Lent

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

March 7 and 8, Second Sunday in Lent

This weekend, we set off along with Abram, the great Patriarch, and Nicodemus, the Pharisee. In the person and example of Abraham, we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. With Nicodemus, we find out Jesus' mission and the reason behind his divine ministry. Psalm 121 is a song of assurance and trust: I lift up mine eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord.

March 14 and 15, Third Sunday in Lent

Our lectionary journey continues drawing parallels between the Old and New Testaments. Moses draws life-saving water from the rock at Mount Horeb. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman and reveals himself to be the water, Christ himself. Psalm 95 is a celebratory poem of praise for the rock our salvation. The most prolific writer of the New Testament one of the most profound truths about our situation, "for while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." That is all of us, even the worst of us.

March 21 and 22, Fourth Sunday in Lent

While salvation is represented by water on the third week of Lent, on the fourth, light stands in as an image for God's mercy. The story of the anointing of David, paired with the story of Jesus curing the blind man, brings into focus the gift of spiritual discernment, or the lack of it. While the new testament reading encourages us to seek the light that is Christ, Psalm 23 gives us the affirmation we need: "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

March 28 and 29, Fifth Sunday in Lent

This week we hear two of the most iconic and memorable images of the bible: Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones and Lazarus' resurrection, Jesus' greatest miracle. Psalm 130 poses a desperate and somber note of death, yet the apostle Paul reminds us, "he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Our Lenten journey is one long exposition and exploration of Baptismal identity.

As in baptism we focus on a few images and ideas: water (thirst, sustenance), enlightenment (light), anointing (the reception of the Spirit, a personal Pentecost), death and resurrection (both spiritual and bodily).

As I prepare for this Lent, I am aware that, as Christians, we are to remember our baptismal vows as an opportunity for re-evaluation and stock-taking. We must ask ourselves: what must die, so we can facilitate new growth in our lives and in the lives of our community of faith?

I am sure these questions will solicit a myriad answer from all of us. But as demanding or unpleasant as that task may be, it is our duty to exercise introspection. Copping out is not an option.



ZOAR SUMMER FUN APPROACHES! VBS 2020 JUNE 15TH - 18TH

Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine!

VBS registration for participants and volunteers is now available online at zoarlutheran.com/vbs/ Registration deadline is May 25TH, All participants MUST register before the May 25th deadline, absolutely no walk-ins or late registrations will be allowed.



2020 ZOAR YOUTH SERVICE TRIP



Sixteen youth and four adult leaders will be heading to Lexington, SC through Next Step Ministries for a week of service this summer.

On July 19TH - 25TH they will experience daily devotions, service projects, community building and worship. In Lexington, Next Step Ministries partners with local churches, organizations and ministries and look to them in order to know how to best serve this community. Community partners are The Scooter Scott Project, Mission Lexington, Turner AME Church, Mt. Horeb UMC, and the Iglesia Del Nazareno Taller De Jesus Church.

Please keep the Service Team in your prayers as we continue to mindfully prepare for our week of service.

MARCH SCHEDULE

March 2ND: High School Youth Group
March 14TH: Just Pancakes at Salem Lutheran Church 7 AM - 12 PM
March 15TH: Service Trip Meeting Immediately following 11 AM worship
March 22ND - 29TH: Perrysburg Spring Break
No Youth Group - Sunday School will go on as usual

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JUST PANCAKES

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH 7 AM - 12 PM

What is Just Pancakes?

Is an all-you-can-eat sit-down breakfast ministry for anyone who walks through the door, focused on developing relationships with people living in our neighborhood.

How can you help?

Sign up to volunteer during the event! This includes making pancakes and socializing with local community members. Volunteers of ALL AGES are strongly encouraged! Volunteers are encouraged to bring board games to play, coloring books, etc. to help socialize with members of the community. Donate goods for the meal by Sunday, March 8TH (Pancake mix-best value can be found at Costco and syrup- best value can be found at the dollar store).

How do I sign up/donate?

Visit the Youth Bulletin Board located in the gathering space to sign up or contact Amanda by email: arich@zoarlutheran.com. All food donations may be dropped off in the office prior to Sunday, March 8TH.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Join us for our 2020 First Communion Classes! Is your child currently in 4th grade or older and has yet to receive their First Communion? Make sure to attend our classes in the 4th grade room during the Sunday School Hour (9:45AM - 10:45 AM) as outlined below:

Sunday, March 8TH
Sunday, March 15TH
Sunday, March 22ND (Tentative)
Sunday, March 29TH (Tentative)
Sunday, April 5TH
Thursday, April 9TH: Celebration of First Communion at 7 PM with a reception following.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH 9 AM - 12 PM

Join us for Zoar's Annual Easter Egg Hunt in its new location: Woodlands Park, Saturday, April 11th from 9 AM - 12 PM. A light pancake breakfast will be served from 9 - 10 AM followed by a journey through the Easter Story and the main event! Please note: the hunt will take place by age groups to ensure you don't miss it join us for the events entirety!



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com
Greetings Friends,

As we enter this Lenten season, I invite you to reflect upon how you practice your faith at home. Do you: read scripture daily, enjoy a small devotion with your coffee, pray before dinner, share a bible story with your child before bedtime, enjoy christian literature, sing worship music in the car, serve alongside your neighbor in need or something similar?

Most often in Lent we hear about the things people give up, such as chocolate or pop. Rarely do we hear about the things that can add such as a faith practice or spiritual discipline. This year I challenge you to do something more, discover a spiritual practice that you enjoy and dig deep or consider implementing another faith practice into your home. How your faith is lived out within your home directly impacts that of all God's children. When we lead by example, we instill a deep love of God in even the smallest of disciples. How special is such a gift?

Blessings,
Amanda Rich

LENT

GIVING UP OR TAKING ON

The end of February marked the beginning of Lent. A period of 40 days leading up to Easter focused on reflection and prayer. These 40 days reflect on Luke 4:1 - 2 *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished."*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and for the next 6-weeks are typically marked by some form of fasting or abstinence. In the Catholic tradition, fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and obtaining from meat on Fridays during Lent. In modern times, people are known to give up their favorite vices or unhealthy habits for Lent. According to the OpenBible Lent Tracker the top five things participants gave up in 2019 were: social networking, alcohol, twitter, chocolate, and meat.

Another approach to Lent is the act of taking something on. Attending worship every Sunday in Lent, attending Lenten Wednesday worship, participating in a bible study or reading scripture with your family every night at dinner. Perhaps you followed Pastor Tim on Twitter in 2017 when he did 40 days of tweets.

In the months of February, March and April there are many opportunities at Zoar to take on. Every week at Zoar there is Sunday school for all ages, Worship three days a week during Lent, Bible study on Wednesday and multiple special interest groups to join full of faith and fellowship. Consider this Lent "taking on" a deeper relationship with not only your faith but your church.

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance, of sacrifice and self-examination. But Lent is also, a season of hope – hope in the work God is doing in the world, even in the most challenging times. As you consider your place in this Lent season, if you struggle to decide what route to take in your discipline. Giving Up or Taking On. Consider joining ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving in hope for a world where all are fed.

In last month's newsletter we introduced the concepts of 40 Days Giving: Worship, Study, Reflect, Give, Pray, Hear and Sing. To the right is the calendar for the 40 Days. This is also available online at <https://community.elca.org/40days>. Print this calendar off or save the page to the right, put it on your calendar or add the calendar in your phone. Additionally, follow along on Zoar's social media accounts as we explore this calendar.

Each Sunday will focus on Worship with the reading of the Gospel. Pair this with attending church each Sunday in Lent. Each Monday will focus on Study, also available online at <https://community.elca.org/40days> is a study guide. At the beginning of the week explore themes such as Safety and Stability, Livelihoods, Justice for All, Leadership, and Renewal of Earth. On Tuesdays, we will be moved to reflect. A statement or quote and a question on your thoughts can be used to drive focus to your day. On Wednesdays, we will focus on Giving. Real life examples are shown of how your gifts impact the world around you. On Thursdays, there is a focus on prayer. Prayers for our earth, prayers for peace. Our weekly Thursday eblast will feature these prayers in our "Grow" section. If you are not enrolled in the eblast sign up on our website at <http://www.zoarlutheran.com/contact/> Fridays, we hear God's word. Similar to the days of reflection consider reading these verses aloud to your family at dinner. Consider what they mean for you personally, your community and the world as a whole. Finally, on Friday, close your week by examining the verses of that day's hymn text. All of these hymns are also available online in different variations on YouTube.

GATHER/GROW/GIVE

ZOAR COURTYARD EASTER INSTALLATION

DEADLINE MARCH 15

Zoar congregation has designated an area where cremains of loved ones may be placed below ground in a biodegradable linen bag, to become part of the soil, giving life to the garden's many perennial plants and trees. This serves both as a final resting place for Zoar members, as well as a multipurposed place where the living can reflect spiritually, loved ones can be remembered, special occasions can be celebrated, and small services held. It is a "living" place promoting reflection and enrichment.

The purchase of engraved bricks for the Courtyard is ongoing. Orders will be submitted seasonally. Preplanned funerals may be discussed with Zoar pastors at any time. The Courtyard Board maintains this space for the benefit of the congregation. To learn more, contact the church office. Order forms are available in the Gathering Space.

Courtyard bricks are an excellent way to not only support the Courtyard and its longevity but also to commemorate a special occasion. Jeff and Sundae Artz purchased an engraved brick honoring their daughter Allison's wedding day.



CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP:

THANKING THOSE WHO SERVE

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Tom Easterwood - Vice-President

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Allison Reve - Financial Secretary

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Roger Geffe

Derek Meyer

Julie Winder

Tom Iserman

Alice Coy

Tom Haar

Pat Siebold

Charlotte Keller - Youth Representative

Dale Nordahl - Staff Advisor

Pastor Tim - Senior Pastor

Pastor Cindy - Interim Associate Pastor



from **Pastor Cindy**

Interim Associate Pastor

pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

A favorite book of mine is "Prayer" by Richard J. Foster. A few special quotes are:

"Do not worry about 'proper' praying, just talk to God."

"He delights in our presence...we will discover that by praying we learn to pray."

"Jesus reminds us that prayer is a little like children coming to their parents."

As we grow in our faith we have the desire to spend more time with God...especially through prayer. Naturally over time we become aware of many ways to pray.

Over the past couple of months the "9:53" Sunday School class has focused on praying in differing ways to enhance our prayer life, such as Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, the Prayer Labyrinth and praying the Psalms.

We are also creating a "Zoar Prayer Book" for everyone. Do you have a favorite prayer you would like to share with others? Please participate with our class and submit a favorite prayer to the church office, include your name and the author's name. Thank you everyone for sharing your favorite prayers.

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 8 AM - 2 PM

Zoar's annual blood drive is March 21ST from 8 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers who would help set up/take down, bake cookies, work the tables, or donate blood should contact Karen Charles at 419-878-5366 or Karen Schlatter at 419-666-8677. Help us meet our 60-unit goal!

ZOAR FOUNDATION GRANTS

REQUESTS DUE MARCH 31ST

The Zoar Foundation invites committees, staff and individual members of Zoar to submit proposals for support of new or expanded ministries of the church. More than \$77,000 in grant money is available in 2020.

Guidelines, application form, and instructions for submitting proposals are available on the Zoar website at zoarlutheran.com/zoar-foundation/ or in the church office. Application deadlines are March 31 and September 30. A list of grants the Zoar Foundation has awarded over the past five years is also available on the website.

The Zoar Lutheran Church Foundation was established in 2007. The Zoar Foundation oversees the Zoar Endowment Fund, Kurfis Fund for Youth Ministry, and the Kazmaier Fund for Theological Education.

Additional information about the Zoar Foundation is available online or by contacting Jameson Czech, Foundation President at jamesonrczech@gmail.com.

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

MARCH // 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Pastor Paul Hoffman HS Youth Group	2	3 Piece Corps Pickleball Vivian Corbin Birthday	4 Bible Study Lenten Worship Confirmation	5 Men's Breakfast Men's Cards Agape Bells Chancel Choir	6 Book Club Donald Underwood Birthday	7 Worship Jan Odegaard Birthday
8 Worship Groove Aparatus Concert First Communion Classes	9 Ruth Circle Popcorn Gang	10 Pickleball	11 Bible Study Lenten Worship Confirmation	12 Men's Cards Agape Bells Chancel Choir	13	14 Faith Science & Technology Yarns of Love Just Pancakes Worship
15 Worship Service Trip Meeting First Communion Classes	16	17 Piece Corps Pickleball Council Meeting	18 Bible Study Lenten Worship Confirmation Colleen Cichy Birthday	19 Naomi Circle Men's Cards Agape Bells Chancel Choir	20 Solo Again	21 Prayer Partners Blood Drive Worship
22 Worship No Youth Group First Communion Classes	23 Popcorn Gang Yarns of Love Dorothy Etue Birthday	24 Pickleball	25 Bible Study Lenten Worship Confirmation	26 Men's Cards Agape Bells Chancel Choir	27 Kitchen of Hope	28 Worship Margaret Lusher Birthday
29 Worship No Youth Group First Communion Classes Betty Orendoff Birthday	30	31 Pickleball				

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!



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Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:11 - 12