

# Amaz<sup>ing</sup>!News

NOVEMBER // 2020



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH | [WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM](http://WWW.ZOARLUTHERAN.COM)

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## STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

Generosity is one of the chief attributes of God, the One God who has given in beauty through creation, in God's very self at the cross, empty grave, and in the bread & wine, and who breathes through us so that we too can be generous.

One of those who have received food and care from Feed Our Families has spoken that "without this generosity of food and support my family and I would not have made it through this week." And because of the giving of this congregation through the Church Building, the Red Cross received much needed donated blood this past summer.

God gave all for us. God's sacrifice was the way God's generosity reached its depth. Our sacrifice and generosity are examples of our love and thanks in return for God's awesome gift.

Much of church giving is only token giving, averaging about two percent of income. No wonder there is so little

joy or satisfaction in it! It requires no sacrifice! We have given only what we could easily afford, what we would not really miss.

Experience has shown that giving, to be meaningful and joyful, has to be sacrificial! Each will have to determine what amount or percentage is sacrificial for his or her circumstances. But experience again suggests that for most people sacrificial giving begins at five percent of income with proportions under five percent falling into the token giving category.

Church interest is often low, studies have shown, because investment is low. There is no sacrifice. It doesn't really cost anything. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." (Luke 12:34) Where is my treasure? That is where you will find your heart. May you find that your heart is in Jesus, and in care for God's people. Then your treasure will follow.



from  
**Pastor Tim**  
Senior Pastor  
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com

## ARE THERE BLESSINGS IN THIS PANDEMIC?

**What?** Why should I even ask that! Because of Covid-19 people all over the world have died, are recovering (slowly), have had their lives changed. Businesses are closing, and many have lost their livelihood. Doctors and nurses have put themselves into harm's way to care for the sick and dying. We are now becoming more familiar with masks, distancing, washing. Families live far away (or close), and visits may be too risky. Churches that are open in-person only see a portion of the people we used to see. More happens on-line. The political polarization and upcoming election have become even more concerning as we deal (or not deal) with this disease. And, in the midst of this, the murder of George Floyd (and countless others) have put racial inequity and disparity on center stage. Lord have mercy!

Maybe the first question could be reframed to, "What have I learned in this pandemic?" So, I offer some possibilities for our conversation:

- First and last – where is God in all of this? I do not believe that this bringer of death and disease is a punishment that God inflicts on humanity, but rather, that God in love is present. Always. And God is working for good. I'm not always sure how, but I hold onto the promise in these tough times that God continues to do God's work – through doctors, nurses, first responders, through neighbors, through scientists, as well as through God's unseen hands. God, in unconditional love, is here!
- This pandemic has awakened in many a call to hold onto what is important: family, community, hope, hygiene, justice/respect/love for people of all colors, all stations, all orientations, all gifts, all histories. Human life is sacred, because God is there in our midst.
- The church is not a building, but a people. Whereas I am grateful for modern technology – for Zoom, social media, facetime – I miss physical connections with God's people. But WE are church, both in-person and online. We are church where Jesus moves in us to forgive, to love, to pray, to give, to help, to praise. We are church, because we have

been washed and grafted into the Family of God. Connected forever. Loved forever.

These are just a few of my thoughts at this point, knowing that there will be months ahead with more thinking and praying, and mourning, and trusting, and waiting, and Covid-izing, and brokenness. But we will come out of this stronger, because God is already there, always here, and holding us in hope and promise.

Brothers and sisters, may you, in these months ahead, see God's hand visibly, and may your love for the neighbor shine each day. Blessings & hope in Jesus!

Thanksgiving Eve Update (not sure how to format these plans and updates, but they're just important info from PT that we should include in some way)

"Come, ye thankful people come!" We will come together on Wednesday, November 25, at 7pm to give thanks! Even in the midst of this pandemic we have much for which to be grateful! The harvest is in, the beauty of autumn is all around, the presence of God's love fills everyone and everything, Covid-19 seems to be in charge, but in reality God's love is stronger, now and in the end. St. Paul has said, "Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again, I say, 'Rejoice!'" (Philippians 4:4). Even now. Especially now!

Because of Covid we will not be asking you to bring boxed or canned food goods for our Perrysburg Christians United Food Bank, but rather a special offering will be taken for PCU.

For this holiday we will hold worship up in the Sanctuary, with a service similar to what we use on the weekends. We also will be recording a special Thanksgiving service for YouTube for those who will not join us on the 25th. God is so generous. All we have is God's. And the best we can do is to say, "thank you!" Come.

**Pastor Tim Philabaum**

**"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;  
I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,  
I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH."**

(PSALM 46:10)

### **Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ.**

As I write these words I am thanking God for the blessings I feel serving in ministry here at Zoar with you. This is a place where God's presence is truly felt among the people as together we... worship, serve and love the Lord and our neighbors. There is much joy, generosity and sharing of time, talents and treasures. God is surely pleased!

As you are reading these words it is hard to believe that we have all experienced eight long months of living differently due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Each person has been impacted in some way. Every family has had change in routines, a loss of some kind, and challenges they have never anticipated. Might you be sad or weary? Or maybe just longing to get back to old familiar routines? Are you ready to embark on something new?

The answers to the questions above may be Yes, Yes, and Yes. In the meantime, hear what a wise and wonderful person here at the church shared with me, "The Coronavirus is here with us and we need to learn to walk safely beside it." I agree. And I want to say "Thank-you everyone for your good-natured spirits and the willingness to wear masks, have your temperatures taken, sanitize as we go and to be intentional about carefully socially distancing. Other things I am so grateful for are online worship, music, prayers and Zoom. Thank-you God! Our worship services, Bible studies, book studies and important church meetings have continued regularly and Zoar is blossoming in an amazing way. Our amazing God has been with us, by our side, every step of the way on this unpredictable journey in 2020. Maybe some of us have been more aware of God's presence than ever before. This is encouraging because God surely desires to have a personal and very close relationship with each of us.

What might be some of the spiritual practices that you are embracing during this time? I would love to hear about them to share with others. When I think of spending time with God



from  
**Pastor Cindy**  
Interim Associate Pastor  
[pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com)

myself...I know that being still with God brings peace. There are so many ways to spend time with God. I love to sit in a quiet place to pray and read the Bible or various devotional books. A few devotionals I truly am enjoying are: Daily Guideposts, Jesus Calling by Sarah Young, Live in Grace Walk in Love by Bob Goff. Praying with the Psalms in the Bible are also comforting. Walking and taking in the blessings of nature and praying thanksgiving for these blessings is also a wonderful way to spend precious time with our loving Lord. "God is our refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)

**May God Bless you  
and Bring you Peace!**

**In Christ,  
Pr. Cindy Ritter**





# GATHER/GROW/GIVE

## CHRISTMAS PLANS

Soon, the joy of Christmas will be upon us. We at Zoar are working on events and services that will both be safe and be able to share the good news of Jesus' birth.

One new event this year will be a Christmas Walk Through. At 6pm each of the four Sunday evenings before Christmas families and individuals will be invited to gather outside at the Zoar Nativity. The Christmas Story will be told. Then in family groups or in "friend-pods" you will walk through a darkened Sanctuary, stopping at different stages of the Christmas stories. Children and youth will carry electric candles, talking to their families about what Christmas is all about. This time will be great for children and parents, and for all people, to experience the gift of Jesus.

Several services will be planned for both December 23 and December 24. Some will be appropriate for young children and their families. All of them will be shorter, as our weekend worship has been designed. But in all of them we will give thanks for the birth of Jesus, hear the Word, light our candles, and receive Holy Communion. "Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!"



## STEWARDSHIP PLANS

This congregation, Zoar Lutheran Church, is one amazingly generous congregation! We give so that others may be fed, we give so that the Gospel of Jesus may be shared around the world. We give so that this community has space to worship, to quilt, to learn, from which to project. Of course, this is just a reflection of the generosity of our Loving God, but it speaks of the level of discipleship and care in this part of the Body of Christ.

Early in November you will receive an Intent Card, designed for you to prayerfully reflect on your generosity for 2021. These Intent Cards will also be handed out at Worship on November 7/8. You may return them by mail, or given to the Office, or brought into worship on the weekend of November 14/15. The goal of the Stewardship committee is not a financial goal, but rather that you plan your intent for the next year. So, as an incentive, one of our generous families has donated \$15,000 to be given to Zoar when we have received at least 100 Intent Cards (Yea!) This is workable!

Even in these Covid-crazy days we are called to give out of our love for Jesus. May you know God's amaZing giving and hope as together we work our way ahead.



# ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Once again we come to the beginning of November, when we give thanks for those who have died in the Lord. These “saints” have been claimed and named by Jesus as one of His own, and now rest in his grace. We will give thanks for these saints on October 31 & November 1. “For all the saints, who from their labors rest, to thee, O Jesus, be forever blessed!”

Those who have died since last All Saints Sunday include:

Laura Lager	Dan Pless	Carolyn M. Daso
Paul Richard Guest	Roger Lichtenwald	John S. Rakay
Joyce C. Dudley	Thomas A. Bettinger	Patricia Tanya Susdorf
Wilma Jimison	Carol Anne Slaman	Jessica Koperski
Thomas St. Meyers	John D. Woolley	Sharlene Vincent
Georgia Loebrich	Jack Hart	Ronald E. Schramm
Robert E. Artz	Colleen (Mickey) Cichy	Richard M. Williams
Thomas A. Seeman	Dzidra Shllaku	Don G. Thornton
Lloyd ‘Larry’ Lusher	Mary E. Stuckey	Shirley A. Fischer
Andy Lyke	Debra Buker	Dean W. Mabus
Dorothy Ann Whitacre	Helen Dimick	Phyllis Eleanor Forster
Arthur Watson	Joan Mae Artz	Linda Sue Sworden
Evelyn F. Clark	Margaret Lina Lusher	Hazel M. Deuble
Mary Ann Kopp Wolfe	Neil Andrew Englehart	James Robedeau
Gerald Moser	Marilyn B. Cotner	Kenneth Dale Moser
Paul H. Sargent	Gilbert Melvin Davis	William M. Ault
Mary A. Lepper	Joan Kay Myers	
Steven Baronovich	Renate Graubart	



## All Saints in the Courtyard

The Courtyard at Zoar is now complete — flowers have been planted, the bench and cross in memory of Dale Henline have been resurfaced, the mural inspired by and donated by Jeri Madson is in place, and the gift of six members of Zoar now interred there has been received. This is a beautiful place to visit, in which to meditate, and to remember.

So, what if you have ashes of one of your loved ones yet in your home? On All Saints Sunday (November 1) at 1pm there will be a time for interment of such ashes. We will gather, hear the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, give thanks for our loved ones, and place the ashes in the ground.

Even if there are no ashes to be placed this year we will have a time of thanksgiving and remembrance for those present at this time. Please contact Pastor Tim for more information.

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In addition to those who have died this past year, we give thanks for those who have become saints through their baptism. In this sacred washing, Jesus claims us as His own, part of God’s family. As we give thanks for them also at our All Saints weekend, we ask that you keep them in prayer, that they may grow strong in the love and grace of our Lord!

Those baptized since last All Saints Sunday include:

Conner Matthew Deal	Felicity Jane Burleson
Shane Daniel Moorman	Sullivan Joseph Decker
Karter Jonathan Moorman	Arie James Dollar
Jackson Scott Kroger	Jada Grace Campbell
Rylee Jean Zartman	Kenzie Jae Tucker
Lydia Kristine Williams	Larkyn Louise Damman
Kyler Mae Sipp-Paris	Charlotte Jean Friedley
Zoey Drew Caris William	Maizey Belle Fairbanks
Bruce Heilman III	Logan Paige Sebring
Ethan Kenneth Hieber	Gwendolyn Grace Naveaux-Parker
Layne Michelle Falter	Brooke Alexandria Beaber



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

November has always felt like a month of goodbyes. Nature, having regaled us with exuberant beauty, goes to sleep in gray and dark hues. The warm weather we enjoyed just weeks earlier moves south, and in its absence, hyperborean winds begin to impose their frosty economy on everything. Time itself seems to accelerate as the days increasingly shrink from lack of sunlight. We would not be surprised if a vague sense of melancholia begins to bubble up from deep within us. Sadness, after all, is how the body lets us know that we have lost something.

It is in the context of vanishing colors and our uneasiness with the passage of time, that we, people living in the Northern Hemisphere, experience the end of the Church year. Therefore, it is our great fortune that November begins by anchoring us with an act of thanksgiving, a grateful celebration where we commemorate the saints who have gone before us. In Feast of All Saints, our liturgies echo the sentiment Paul, the Apostle, shared in his letter to the Thessalonians: "...we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first-fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).



Perhaps, as we give thanks to God for the example and witness of those who have gone before us, we discover that November entreats us to reflect on our place -as children of God- in the great cloud of witnesses we read about in Hebrews 12. I suspect it also invites us to think about what it will mean to be caught up in the beholding of the beatific vision that awaits us all.

I have no doubt, the "song" in the third stanza of the hymn, Holy God, We Praise Your Name (ELW 414), is hinting at the mystical union, a foretaste of the feast to come, the experience of divine contemplation and adoration: "Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain, the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on." I pray, dear friends that, buoyed by gratitude, one day, we may join the Church triumphant in giving God blessing, honor, and glory for all eternity.

Peace,  
**Omaldo**





# NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS



- Nov. 1 Youth Group Thankfulness Challenge 4-5PM**
- Nov. 8 Youth Group via Zoom! 4-5PM**
- Nov. 15 Service Sunday! Details TBD 4-5PM**
- Nov. 22 Youth Group via Zoom! 4-5PM**
- Nov. 29 Happy Thanksgiving Weekend! No Youth Group!**

## Youth and Children's Ministry Operation Update

Current Procedures (as of November 1st, 2020): Zoar sponsored events including but not limited to (youth events, committee meetings, etc.) are allowed to be held in the building with restrictions outlined by the Back Again Committee. Youth Group events will be held outdoors until the weather no longer allows. Please expect announcements soon about a safe in person return to Sunday School and Confirmation Class.

## Safe Return to in person Sunday School Survey

If you have not already, parents are strongly encouraged to fill out our survey (link below) regarding in person Sunday School as we continue to adjust during this time. **Click HERE for the survey link.**

As we mentioned in October, as plans continue to adjust we will make sure you are up to date! We are so grateful for your dedication to your child's faith journey and participation in Sunday School. Please feel free to reach out to Amanda with any questions you may have at [arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com).

## Sunday School Registration Continues

Didn't get a chance to sign your child(ren) up for Sunday School? Registration will be open ALL YEAR! Join us when you feel comfortable. To sign up visit this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/70dc53>

## Youth Event Recap

Our outdoor youth events continued in October and will continue to do so until our weather no longer allows. This past couple of months have we enjoyed an afternoon picnic and walk at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve, Popsicles in the park, Trunk or Treat, and more! As we look ahead to November we have our first ever Youth Thankfulness Challenge! Stay tuned for more details!

from  
**Amanda**

**Director of Youth Ministries**  
[arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com)

### Dear Friends,

Happy November! I hope that this message finds you all well. Over the past few months, I have found tremendous amounts of joy spending time with the youth and children of Zoar. Whether it be on Zoom for Sunday School, at the park or in the parking lot of Zoar it has been so meaningful. I find myself thanking God repeatedly for the gift of these safe moments in which we can come together to learn about him and for the time we are gifted together. If nothing else, 2020 has forced us to STOP, to review what it is gives us joy, what brings us life and what is most important. During this season of gratitude, I challenge you to take a few moments to thank God for these things! Include the small things in your prayers. How blessed are we to have a creator who paints the beautiful colors of fall and gifts us with time to slow, pause and count our blessings?

Peace,  
**Amanda Rich**

# NOVEMBER // 2020

## OUR 85+ MEMBER OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

November 15	Dorothy Beyer
November 27	Rosalie Moser
November 30	Joyce Grimshaw

for a complete list of events, please check  
the Z-Blast for weekly announcements

Administrative Manager: Dale Nordahl  
Secretary: Suzanne DeLaney  
Custodian: Paul Cannon  
Communications Assistant: Sonia Krolak



# WE WISHTO **THANK** OUR SPONSORS

Would you like to place a birthday announcement or congratulatory message in the Zoar monthly newsletter? Send an email to [communications@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:communications@zoarlutheran.com) for pricing and availability.

**Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!**

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<p>Member Zoar Lutheran Church Resident Perrysburg, Ohio</p> <p>Why Pay More To Sell Your Home?? Sell Your Home For As Low As...</p> <p><b>2.5% Total Commission!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ No Hidden Fees</li><li>♦ No Surprises</li><li>♦ FULL RE/MAX SERVICE!</li><li>♦ Including Aggressive Marketing:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Multiple Listing Service</li><li>- Dozens Of The Top Internet Sites</li><li>- Paper Advertising (Blade + Others)</li><li>- &amp; Much More!</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>"Free Market Evaluation on your home"</p> <p><i>Outstanding agent. Outstanding Results.</i></p>  
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**Psalm 107: "**  
**"O give thanks to the**  
**Lord, for God is good,**  
**and God's steadfast**  
**love endures forever!"**

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**[www.zoarlutheran.com](http://www.zoarlutheran.com)**

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

**Worship times:**  
Saturday: 6 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM Virtual Worship,  
8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM  
Youth Sunday School at 9:45 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**

**[www.zoarlutheran.com](http://www.zoarlutheran.com)**

