

Amaz^{ing}!News

OCTOBER // 2020



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

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AUTUMN & REFORMATION

Way back, on October 31, 1517, Dr. Martin Luther tacked the 95 Theses on the Church door, hoping to have conversation. He was concerned about the sale of Indulgences, and the method by which people thought they could purchase their way out of purgatory. Now, 503 years later we are still celebrating the Reformation on the 31, as God has called The Church back into a clear following of Scripture and an unfettered belief that we are saved solely by the grace of God given in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Lutheran Church celebrates this day of Reformation on the last Sunday of October, this year the 24th and 25th. Not only do we remember the heritage and the centrality of God's Word in Jesus, but we also celebrate the strides made with our other Christian sisters and brothers in the unity of this Gospel. We live in gifted times, in which we can share in the Good News of Jesus with people of all denominations. Thanks be to God.

So, this year, as the beauties of October wind down, give thanks for the gift of Martin Luther and the reformation; wear red, whether you are coming in-person to Worship or worshipping with us on line; and offer your prayers for all Christians around the world, that God's love and grace and guidance be shared!



from
Pastor Tim
Senior Pastor
pastortim@zoarlutheran.com



GOD'S GRASP OF GRACE

What?! It's October and we're still in Covid? Really?! How long? I don't need to tell you this, but this has been the most unusual several months. Covid-19 has changed how we interact, how we shop/eat, and certainly how we worship. And it looks like we will be dealing with this pandemic for quite a while.

This time has also opened our eyes. Maybe we have learned that relationships are more important than the things that we have. Maybe we have learned that we can "do" community differently than we have been, but that we need to be together. And we have learned (or are learning) that not only do black lives matter, but certainly Black Lives do matter, and in these days we can make a difference to bring justice and equality to our nation.

Yet the months keep on coming. Summer is now behind us, and the shorter days begin to display the beauty of God's brushes of color. This is the month of pumpkins, of cooler nights, of singing cicadids, and of the Reformation. October brings its own blessings.

Yet, Covid continues, casting a pall over just about everything.

St Paul, writing to the Romans, tell us, "in all things, God works for good, for those who love Him." In all things. In Covid, in changing seasons, in growing older, in racial reckoning, in distancing and masks. God works – that's the promise. There is nothing outside of God's grasp of grace, nothing and no one outside of God's love.

Maybe this can be the time when you and I stop and just breathe in God's presence. Of course, God is already here, and there, and everywhere. But with the changes, and the separation, and the questions about the future, this could be for you just the right time to place yourself (and our county) in God's hands, knowing that those Hands are loving, and strong, and forgiving, and already there in the future.

Breathe. Thank God for what you have, and who you are. Ask God how you can make a difference today. Bless those who make a difference for you. Trust that God works for good, today and tomorrow and tomorrow... and again, thank God.

We live in crazy days, but we live in these days in the presence of an amaZing God. What a gift! Blessings to you in this time!

Pastor Tim Philabaum



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

It seems that every October, much like in December, we find ourselves pulled in different directions. The secular celebration this time of the year typically includes trick-or-treating, Halloween costume parties, carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, and lighting bonfires.

For Lutherans, this time presents us with the opportunity to reevaluate our tradition's contributions to the broader Christian world. October ends with the commemoration of the Reformation. While this date can provoke a sense of pride in our denomination, the readings in the last Sunday of October instead ask us to focus on knowing God and understanding who we are as people of faith.

As some observers have written: "Reformation Sunday is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. The law is like a mirror in a room with intense fluorescent lights; it shows us who we are with every flaw and wrinkle. But God doesn't look at us in that mirror. God shines a new light on us, where iniquities are forgiven and sins forgotten".

Friends, if there is something that we should never tire of remembering, is the truth about God's love for us. This gift is something worth remembering this and every season.



ADDITION TO COURTYARD

A colorful 5'-diameter tiled art piece has been installed as the final phase of the Zoar Courtyard and was dedicated on Sunday, Sept 19. The art piece was designed by Annette Fink of Lourdes College based on drawings left by the late Jeri Madsen. The Madsen family donated money to implement and complete the project.

Jeri's goals were to have something colorful and two-dimensional, that could be "touched". Her preliminary sketches included symbols from the Zoar sanctuary, as well as symbols representing the promise of the resurrection. The quatrefoil design around the perimeter of the piece represents the Trinity and can be found in the stained-glass windows, wooden ramp panes, altar and carpet in the sanctuary. Other symbols, such as the descending dove and waves of water represent the sacrament of baptism. The entire piece is anchored by the tree of life covered with hearts of love, with roots representing our foundation in Christ, as well as the deeply rooted history of Zoar in the life of the Perrysburg community. We are grateful to Annette Fink for her beautiful interpretation of Jeri's thoughts in this tile installation. The payment for Annette's labor on this project will be given to a local charity, per her request. The Courtyard Committee will make this determination in the near future. Printed material about Courtyard Guidelines and the burial of cremains is available in the Gathering Space. To pre-plan for burial in the Courtyard, please contact Pastor Tim.



OCTOBER YOUTH EVENTS

4th: Virtual Youth Group 4PM

11th: Service Project TBD

18th: Outdoor Pumpkin Carving 1-3PM





CURRENT SUNDAY SCHOOL OPERATIONS



As you are aware, activities change by the minute in the year of 2020. Below is more information on the current plan for Sunday School and what we anticipate a return may look like when it is allowed.

Current Procedures (as of October 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.

Future Anticipated Return Strategy:

When the decision is made to continue in person Sunday School we will resume as follows:

- We will return to a 9:45AM start.
- Sunday School will resume at 9:45AM for 5th-12th grade students (on rotation).
- Virtual Youth and Children's Sermon on Facebook will continue for those who cannot attend.
- Limit to specific grade level(s) on a Sunday (Grade rotations).
- Limit attendance to preregistration only and numbers that are obtainable with proper social distancing.

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 to Amanda with any questions you may have at 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>

from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it is already fall? I must admit October is one of my FAVORITE months of the year! I love the fall colors, apple cider, trips to the pumpkin patch, football, chili and cinnamon rolls (must be a Nebraska thing), fall scented candles and of course anything pumpkin spice! It is a great time to cozy up at home with a good book and your family, but most of all to stop and remind yourself of ALL OF YOUR BLESSINGS! In this crazy world we take SO much for granted. We fill our schedules to stay busy and forget to prioritize some time in prayer with our God. If this abnormal year has taught us anything, I hope that it reminds us what is most important. God, our families, time spent together and the simple things. Let us not forget to give our thanks to God every day and to love, love, love.

Peace,
Amanda Rich



from
Pastor Cindy
Interim Associate Pastor
pastorcindy@zoarlutheran.com

THE GOLDEN RULE

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these challenging times the "Golden Rule" taught to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is more important than ever before. Jesus shared these words to let us know that if we treat others the way we want to be treated we will be loving our neighbor as ourselves.

In Romans 13 Paul writes: *Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.* I heard one time in a sermon that when we follow the Ten Commandments our neighbor will have their best life ever! And I believe we will too!

So, in these times right now...these biblical teachings are so vital. Respect of health of others...by wearing masks and keeping socially distanced. Compassion and care for others by recognizing that "Black Lives Matter" and "Police Officers Lives Matter" are both important causes to support. I have close friends who are African American and relatives who are police officers. I love all these people! And let us not forget to care for heaven and earth created by our grace filled God. And then there is the current political climate that is so challenging. To this I say please VOTE. I care so much about people voting, that this year I have signed up and have been trained to work at the polls on election day. I believe this experience is a way to serve our Lord and our country and will be quite valuable in so many ways.

Also valuable is walking in others shoes occasionally. I have been helping family members with their "at home, on-line schooling" while their parents are working. This has been a learning experience and delightful at the same time. Two kindergartners from different school systems have had extremely wonderful, creative and patient teachers. I have learned with these little ones: basic Zoom computer skills like mute and unmute, joining break-out rooms, listening skills and reading, rhyming, writing, careful counting,

coloring, math, social studies, sharing, the calendar, music, shapes, the alphabet and more! Gym class, music class and art class are all part of the program too! I am so grateful for all our children's teachers, school administrators, parents and family members who are making this educational process possible.

I am reminded of the poem by Robert Fulghum called "*All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*". Attending kindergarten recently (and many more times in the future) has given me a re-look and greater appreciation of the importance of what we teach our little ones from the very beginning of their education. Kindergarten teachings and Jesus teachings are both so priceless. Two particular stanzas caught my eye in Fulghum's poem and they share very important words...related to our current situation of a global pandemic, racial injustice, climate change and a challenging November election:

And then remember the Dick and Jane books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK.

Everything you need to know is in there somewhere.

The Golden Rule and LOVE and basic sanitation.

Ecology and politics and sane living.

As Christians we are encouraged by God to LOOK. Look at others, observe their needs, respect their feelings and truly care about showing them loving kindness and giving them grace. Always know our God of GRACE is with us and we are able to call upon Him to help us follow the Golden Rule.

THANK YOU, GLORIOUS GOD!

**Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Cindy Ritter**

RALLY INTO SERVICE WEEK!

RALLY INTO SERVICE WEEK WAS SUCH A HIT!



September 8th-11th we were able to help so many different organizations and come together in socially distant and healthy ways to serve one another. We gathered a car load full of non-perishable goods for PCU, packed several personal care kits and school kits for Lutheran World Relief, helped to prepare materials for 10 beds for Let's Build Beds (in addition to collecting several sheet sets and pillows) and helped plant around 100 mums in Hood Park for the city of Perrysburg! It was such a blessing to be able to serve together from a distance. Thank you to all who donated your time and goods to the cause! We look forward to having a similar event again in the future.



ZOAR STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Pastor Tim Philabaum

War of the Roses by Dan Jones

Pastor Cindy Ritter

Made for Goodness by Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu

Amanda Rich

Daring Greatly by Brené Brown

Omaldo Perez

The Lost Art of Scripture
by Karen Armstrong

Sonia Krolak

Becoming by Michelle Obama

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

OCTOBER // 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | 1 9AM Men's Golf Group | 2 4PM Virtual Youth Group | 3 6PM Worship |
| 4 8:30, 9:45, 11:00AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School | 5 | 6 3:14PM Prayer with Staff | 7 6PM Confirmation Class | 8 9AM Men's Golf Group | 9 Youth Service Project | 10 6PM Worship |
| 11 8:30, 9:45, 11:00AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School | 12 | 13 3:14PM Prayer with Staff | 14 6PM Confirmation Class | 15 9AM Men's Golf Group | 16 1PM Youth Pumpkin Carving | 17 6PM Worship |
| 18 8:30, 9:45, 11:00AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School | 19 | 20 3:14PM Prayer with Staff 12PM Feed Our Families 7PM Council Meeting | 21 6PM Confirmation Class | 22 9AM Men's Golf Group | 23 | 24 6PM Worship |
| 25 8:30, 9:45, 11:00AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School | 26 | 27 3:14PM Prayer with Staff | 28 6PM Confirmation Class | 29 | 30 | 31 6PM Worship |

OUR 85+ MEMBER OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

October 5
October 6
October 6

Midge Bellner
Shirley Bettinger
Arline Cornelius

October 18
October 29
October 31

Elva Ault
Don Lieder
Merritt Higbie

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

ZOAR STAFF

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

Cantor: Omaldo Perez
Director of Youth Ministry: Amanda Rich

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

WE WISH TO 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 for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!

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Business Card Size

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|  <p>Chris Baroncini RE/MAX Executives #1 Company Sales Leader 2013 - 2015 3rd Year Straight! 13 Years Licensed Realtor Tel: 419-283-9752 baronsells@bex.net www.baroncells.com</p> | <p>Thinking of Selling Your Home?</p> <p>Save Time & Money with Chris Baroncini</p> <p>SAVE THOUSANDS on the sale of your home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 2.5% Total Comm. - I Find Buyer.◆ 5% Total Comm. - Any Realtor Brings Buyer. |
| <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>2.5% Total Commission!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ No Hidden Fees◆ No Surprises◆ FULL RE/MAX SERVICE!◆ Including Aggressive Marketing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multiple Listing Service- Dozens Of The Top Internet Sites- Paper Advertising (Blade + Others)- & Much More! <p><small>Different commission rates, fees, and listing & marketing services may be offered by other RE/MAX franchisees and sales associates serving this market area.</small></p> | <p>"Free Market Evaluation on your home"</p>  <p><i>Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.</i></p>  |

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE



"Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law."

— Romans 3:19-28

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Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum
Senior Pastor

Rev. Cindy Ritter
Interim Associate Pastor

Worship times:

Saturday: 6 PM

Sunday: 8:00am Virtual Worship,
8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM

Youth Sunday School at 9:45 AM

Be
AmaZed!

www.zoarlutheran.com

