

AmazIng!News

MARCH // 2021



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

INSIDE

One Year Later	Pg. 2
Lenten Wednesdays	Pg. 3
Gather/Grow/Give	Pg. 4
Message from Omaldo	Pg. 5
March Youth Events	Pg. 6
Events Calendar	Pg. 7

From the ELCA's Living Lutheran February issue:

FAITH PRACTICES FOR THE SEASON
by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

Deep breaths. It sounds so simple. It is simple. Yet too often I fail to take my own advice. This Lent, remember to breathe deeply. While doing so, perhaps you could meditate on a mantra such as I breathe in peace. I exhale worry.

Light a candle. Sit by its glow. Watch the flame or smell the scent. Repeat as often as needed, whether aloud or silently: Jesus is the light of our world.

Pay attention. Commit to noticing what's around you. You can take as little as one minute to stop what you're doing and look. What do you see? What do you smell? What is one thing right in front of you that you didn't notice before? Name it and give thanks to God.

Sit with a story. Pick a book of the Bible (or one chapter, such as Exodus 16 or Matthew 10) and read through it as many times as you can during Lent. Don't worry about how much you read or if you miss a day. The practice is about sitting with one text and listening for how God is speaking to you.

Connect. Be intentional about connecting with others. Take a few minutes each day and send a text or write a letter. Pick up the phone and call someone you haven't seen for a while. Whenever you connect, thank God for friendship.

Finally, maybe most importantly, give yourself grace. Lent is not about achieving or doing but about resting in the God who calls us and walks with us through life, death and beyond.

*This article first appeared at livinglutheran.org on February 17, 2021. Reprinted with permission.
© ELCA*



from
Pastor Tim

Senior Pastor

pastortim@zoarlutheran.com

ONE YEAR *Later*

////////////////////

Well, what a year it has been! Due to the growing pandemic, Zoar closed worship services on March 11, 2020. All became virtual. Online worship, online Good Friday, online Easter, online meetings, small, distanced weddings and funerals, in-person worship eventually in the FLC (but not until June), online... Who would have believed that we would still be in this pandemic a year later!

I must say, as much as I really want "back-to-normal," I am so grateful for the ways we can get together, safely, online, in-Zoom, and in-person. Electronic media and platforms have been a gift in this Covid-time!

But, change is in the air. As March progresses, we come closer to the joy of the Resurrection; we will leave the beauty of snow and enter the awesomeness of spring; Covid seems to be reducing; I will receive my 2nd vaccine; and maybe, just maybe this summer will be different.

I grieve for how this pandemic has affected our people! Those who live alone are even more isolated, and for many families/couples the sense of community has changed. We are the Body of Christ at Zoar – trying to connect, but still fragmented.

So, what am I still learning in these days?

- God is good. Always at the top of my daily learning is that we are held by an awesome God, who travels with us, even in Covid.
- The Church is not the Building, but the People! We learn to connect with phone, Facebook, YouTube, in-person safely, and, of course, in prayer.
- We need each other. Well, that's a given, but the gift of this community is in the community together.
- Awesome people have given deeply of themselves in this time – health care workers, first responders, technicians, and scientists – and I am grateful!

- Family is really important. The nuclear unit with parents working from home, students either on computers or hybrid learning, "bubbled" together. I'm finding that this being-together is a gift for many families.
- From before the murder of George Floyd there is a need to redress the injustices in our blessed country, so that all may be blessed.
- This too shall pass. Even though it's been a year, we will come through and life will begin a new normal. God is already there in the re-opening!
- God is good (Did I say this already?). Always! Always!

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

At this time, Zoar is hosting an in-person Lenten worship service every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the FLC. Masks and social distancing are required, and your temperature will be taken upon arrival. The final Lenten Wednesday worship will take place on March 24 before the following Palm Sunday. Each Wednesday evening, a virtual worship service is premiered on YouTube at 7:00 pm.

READINGS AND SCRIPTURE

During this Lenten Journey we focus on God's faithfulness, which is as strong as a stone. Along with the Imposition of Ashes on the first Wednesday we reflected on both actions of gathering and casting away stones. The stone of our focus on February 24 was the one from which Moses brought water in the desert for the traveling Israelites.

When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, he had the priests hold the Ark of the Covenant in the River Jordan, through which the Israelites walked on dry ground. Then the river stones under the priests' feet were gathered into a cairn, a memory marker, so that the people would not forget. This story from Joshua 3, will be the focus on **March 3**, and calls us to witness to where God has been present.

On **March 10** we delve into John 8, where the story is told of the woman caught in adultery was presented to Jesus. Since the crowd was about to stone her, Jesus told them that the sinless one would be the first to throw their stone. Realizing their guilt, all of them let the stones drop harmlessly at their side. We too hear of forgiveness and mercy. Two saints that will be remembered on this day will be Harriet Tubman (1913) and Sojourner Truth (1883)

St. Peter, in his First Letter, calls us to be built up as a living sanctuary, connected to Jesus, the "living stone," serving with acts of love and kindness. This text will center our discussion on **March 17**. Of course, the saint remembered on this day will be St. Patrick (461)

The final Wednesday Lenten Worship service will be held on **March 24**. We turn our eyes to the last days and the Revelation to John. Saints will receive the gift of the hidden manna and a white stone with a new name written on it, as we are called to be God's children forever. We will also witness the martyrdom of Bishop Oscar Romero (1980), who died during worship, speaking truth to the power in El Salvador.

So, find your stone. Carry it with you and remember God's faithfulness.



GATHER/GROW/GIVE

The ELCA provides daily prayer ventures for each month of the year. From the ELCA:

“These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the elca, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church”.

1 Women’s History Month Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership in the church and society, raised and cared for us, taught us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equality and healing. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

2 Give thanks that we can trust completely God’s promises, love and forgiveness, especially when we feel unlovable, unfaithful or uncertain.

3 The Spanish word amparo means protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. Pray for the ELCA’s Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy, and pray that we will join in serving the most vulnerable children and their families as they seek safety and the opportunity to live in welcoming, humane communities and congregations.

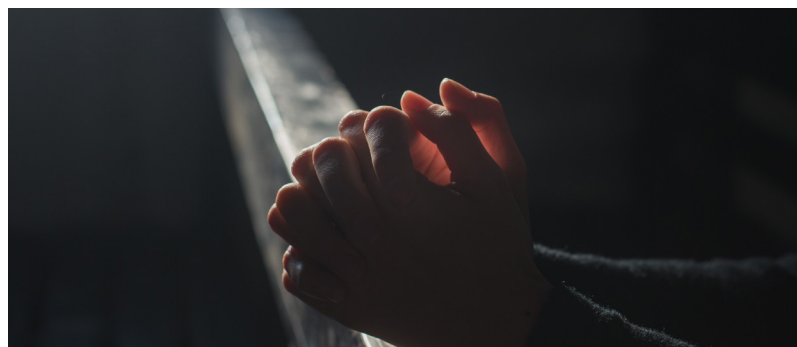
4 Pray for our synod bishops, the presiding bishop and the secretary, who are meeting online for the Conference of Bishops. Ask that the Spirit guide and inspire their discussions, prayerful

deliberations and decisions, which impact the ELCA, the work we do together and the Future Church goals and structure being implemented in the churchwide organization.

5 During our Lenten journey, pray that God will help us reflect on aspects of our life and faith that we find difficult to examine and confess, and that we will remember we are always loved and made new through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, redeemer and source of hope.

6 Ask God to bless and guide our efforts to worship, commune, study Scriptures, socialize and care for each other online, and to find safe ways of gathering in person. Give thanks for the inspiration of the Spirit and the creativity of our siblings in Christ, who help us envision and practice new ways of being church together.

7 Pray that the theology, values, traditions and practices of our church and congregations will be centered in the good news of Jesus Christ and the ways of God, and that God will guide us back to this center when we are distracted or drawn away from our purpose and identity as the body of Christ.



The rest of February 2021’s Prayer Ventures can be found on the ELCA website or by clicking [here](#).



ZOAR FOUNDATION GRANT REQUESTS

The Zoar Foundation invites the boards, committees, staff and individual members of Zoar to submit proposals for support of new or expanded ministries of the Church. More than \$100,000 in grant money is available in 2021.

Guidelines, application form and instructions for submitting proposals are available on the Zoar website or in the church office. Application deadlines are March 31 and September 30. To see a list of grants the Zoar Foundation has awarded over the past five years visit our page on the Zoar website at zoarlutheran.com.

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 on the Zoar website (tinyurl.com/zoarfoundation) or by contacting Jameson Czech, Foundation President at jamesonrczech@gmail.com.

INVITATION TO VESPERS

A group of Zoar members meet on Zoom to pray Vespers, the Evening Prayer of the Church, weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We extend an invitation to all who may be interested in praising God using this ancient pattern of devotion. During our time together, we will sing a hymn, chant the psalms, and pray for the world, deliberately stepping away from the demands of life and work. If you would like to attend these Zoom services, please send an email to the office stating your interest. We hope to see you there.

ZOAR LAWN MOWING CREW

Spring is near and the Zoar lawn mowing team is looking for additional volunteers. We work in teams of two and rotate approximately every 8 weeks April thru November. We typically mow on Thursdays or Fridays to keep the church lawn looking good for the weekends. We are looking for another 6-10 women & men to join us this year. Come as a team or we will pair you with another person. We use a riding John Deere Tractor as well as a walk behind mower and various power trimming tools. If interested, please contact Paul Dodge at 419-356-3654 or pdodge@bex.net



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

In the last three months, ELCA congregations have witnessed the introduction of the exciting hymnal supplement All Creation Sings. This publishing landmark comes after more than six years of preparation and development intended to bring congregations closer together in song while providing richer fare for worship and increased flexibility of use. This collection reflects ecological concerns and comes fourteen years after the launching of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), our primary denominational worship resource.

One of the many gifts to our hymnody in this collection is the evocative "As Your Spirit in the Desert," a profound Lenten meditation written by Susan Palo Cherwien and inspired by the biblical episode known as The Temptation of Christ.

All three of the synoptic gospels speak about this critical time in the wilderness before anyone knew him as the Messiah—Mark's account is a lot sparser than Matthew's and Luke's, who present us with the specific tests the Tempter put before Jesus—but all three coincide in the main details: Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness right after John baptized him.

In 2021, as we go ever deeper into our forty-day journey and move closer to the holiest of weeks, I would like to invite us to hold these words close to our hearts:

"As your Spirit in the desert led the Christ to dust and stone, so instill our hearts with courage now to cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross into the wilderness so to walk where Christ has gone."

Omaldo Perez

MARCH YOUTH EVENTS

7th – Youth Group at Mr. Freeze (4PM)

14th – SERVICE SUNDAY: Pen Pal Project w/ Perrysburg Commons (4PM)

21st – SPRING BREAK! No Youth Group

28th – PALM SUNDAY: Youth Cooking Challenge! (Time TBD)

Current Sunday School Operations

Life Long Learning and Youth and Young Adult Committees have decided to continue operations remotely through the month of March. Sunday School for PK-4th Grade students will continue at 10AM via Zoom and 5th-12th grade Sunday School will take place in conjunction with youth group via Zoom at 4PM.

March Youth Group Events

All March Youth Group events will be held remotely or outdoors, but that can't stop us from growing in our faith while having fun together! These events are open to all 5th-12th Grade Youth and will be held via Zoom at 4PM on Sundays (Outdoor event times may vary)! Several hands-on activities have been planned! Registration is required. You can learn more in your Weekly Update emails from Amanda! Wish to be added to this list? Please email Amanda at arich@zoarlutheran.com.

First Communion Classes

It's that time again! Our 2021 First Communion Classes will begin Sunday, February 21st-March 28th. These classes are open to all 4th graders and youth in higher grades who may have missed or may desire to participate in the class. Due to current precautions our classes will be held via Zoom from 10:30AM-11:30AM. Specifics for our First Communion Worship Service will be announced at a later date.

Annual Zoar Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Zoar Easter Egg Hunt WILL take place this year, Saturday, April 3rd at Zoar. The event will be much smaller scale to help with social distancing and Covid-19 protocol. The event will include the egg hunt, a creative retelling of the Easter Story and to go craft! Families will be asked to sign up to participate in designated time slots. Stay tuned for more details on how to participate.

Confirmation

Our 8th Graders are quickly approaching their Affirmation of Baptism! This monumental worship service is currently set to occur Sunday, April 11th at the 11AM Worship Service. Updates and protocol will be given as we get closer to the event.



from

Amanda

Director of Youth Ministries

arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy March! If you are anything like me you are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Spring and ready to leave this nasty cold and snow behind us.

With the promise of a new season we find hope in the beautiful new birth of blooms around us, the warmer temperatures and the spring rain. Now having officially reached the one year mark of our virtual events, I am reminded by these beautiful pieces of nature that there is hope and a new beginning!

Found within this hope is the promise of MORE OUTDOOR socially distant activities to remove us more from zoom and safely foster a safer connection among our youth, kids and families. I am excited to take this journey together.

What is bringing YOU hope?

Peace,
Amanda Rich

ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH // 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5PM Foundation 7PM Property 7PM Social Ministry	2 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM LLL Committee	3 9:30AM Staff 11AM Worship 5PM Cantorei Jr. 6PM Confirmation 7PM Virtual Worship	4 7PM Evening Vespers	5 1PM Zoar Book Club	6 6PM Worship
7 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper	8	9 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 5:30PM Comm 7PM Stewardship	10 9:30AM Staff 11AM Worship 5PM Cantorei Jr. 6PM Confirmation 7PM Virtual Worship 7PM YAYA	11 7PM Evening Vespers	12 1PM Solo Again	13 9AM Zoar Blood Drive 6PM Worship
14 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper	15 7PM Worship & Music	16 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council	17 9:30AM Staff 11AM Worship 5PM Cantorei Jr. 6PM Confirmation 7PM Virtual Worship	18 7PM Evening Vespers	19	20 6PM Worship
21 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper	22 6:30PM Personnel	23 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	24 9:30AM Staff 11AM Worship 5PM Cantorei Jr. 7PM Virtual Worship	25 8AM Social Justice Book Club 7PM Evening Vespers	26	27 6PM Worship
28 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper	29 HOLY WEEK BEGINS*	30 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	31 11AM Staff 5PM Cantorei Jr.	OUR 85+ MEMBER MARCH BIRTHDAYS: March 3 Vivian Corbin		

*The Holy Week schedule, including Easter Worship plans, will be released as we get closer to April.

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

ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum
 Cantor: Omaldo Perez
 Director of Youth Ministry: Amanda Rich

Administrative Manager: Jen Milligan
 Secretary: Suzanne Delaney

Communications Director: Sonia Krolak
 Custodian: Paul Cannon

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!

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
3.5" x 2"
Business Card Size

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
3.5" x 2"
Business Card Size

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
3.5" x 2"
Business Card Size

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE
3.5" x 2"
Business Card Size



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.baronsells.com

Thinking of Selling Your Home?

Save Time & Money
with Chris Baroncini

SAVE THOUSANDS
on the sale of your home

- ◆ 2.5% Total Comm. – I Find Buyer.
- ◆ 5% Total Comm. – Any Realtor Brings Buyer.

Member Zoar Lutheran Church
Resident Perrysburg, Ohio

Why Pay More To Sell Your Home??
Sell Your Home For As Low As...

2.5% Total Commission!

- ◆ No Hidden Fees
- ◆ No Surprises
- ◆ FULL RE/MAX SERVICE!
- ◆ Including Aggressive Marketing:
 - Multiple Listing Service
 - Dozens Of The Top Internet Sites
 - Paper Advertising (Blade + Others)
 - & Much More!

"Free Market Evaluation on your home"

*Outstanding Agents.
Outstanding Results.*



Different commission rates, fees, and listing & marketing services may be offered by other RE/MAX franchisees and sales associates serving this market area.

Edward Jones[®]

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact your Edward Jones financial advisor today.





Loren Odegaard, AAMS
James Fugett
Aaron Arnold
Financial Advisors

215 Louisiana Avenue
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(419) 874-8504

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC



"For everything there
is a season, and a
time for every matter
under heaven"

Ecclesiastes 3:1

314 East Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419.874.4346
www.zoarlutheran.com

Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum
Senior 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