

Amaz^{ing}!News

APRIL // 2021



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

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"And then...."

BY CORY DRIVER

Even as the Gospels were being recorded, the Roman stranglehold on the Holy Land was tightening until Jewish revolts were put down with overwhelming force in 70 C.E. and 136 C.E. Thousands of people— men, women and children— were massacred by the proud and terrible invaders. Josephus relates that the Romans lined the walls of Jerusalem with thousands of crosses in 70 C.E. in order to crucify the 500 Jews captured daily (Jewish Wars, Chapter 11). The Christian community, which was hardly distinct from the Jewish community in the Holy Land, must have seen hundreds, if not thousands, of their siblings in Christ murdered in the same way as Jesus.

In the face of this terror, they recorded that even though they were scared, Mary, Mary and Salome went to share the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead. At a time when so many of their neighbors were being executed, the early Christians dared to hope, dream and believe that the empire

didn't have the final word, and that God was redeeming humanity from sin and death. Even in the darkest of times, when our friends and siblings are dying, when politics and rulers are unsettling and frightening, when prophecies are not being fulfilled (yet), our central claim remains that Jesus rose from the dead.

Would the Prince of Peace triumph over the power of the empire? Isaiah 25 argues that it will certainly happen! The Gospel of Mark doesn't say. What we know from Mark is that Jesus was raised from the dead. The powers of sin, death and the empire couldn't hold him. He wanted his disciples to know that he was going ahead of them. **And then**

The great hope of Jesus' resurrection isn't the end of the story, but the beginning of triumph of the kingdom of heaven over the forces of sin and death. We are blessed to be called into Jesus' victory and continue the story of what happens next.

This article first appeared at livinglutheran.org on March 29, 2021. Reprinted with permission.

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from
Pastor Tim

Senior Pastor

pastortim@zoarlutheran.com

Holy Week

Holy Week is one of my favorite church-times of the year. Yes, Christmas is awesome with its beauty and joy. But Holy Week brings together all the story that makes a difference in our lives. And, as this is my final Holy Week at Zoar, I am approaching it with great expectation.

So, walk with me. We take our cloaks and palm branches and join the crowds singing, "Hosanna to the Son of David.!" Thursday we take the steps up to the 2nd floor room. There Jesus takes on the task of the servant, washing our feet, and then, in the midst of the Passover Meal He takes the bread, gives thanks, blesses it, breaks it, and we eat, having heard Him say, "This is my body, given for you." Same with the wine. After the meal we head out to the Garden for prayer.

Into the late evening Jesus prays while we fall asleep. He keeps waking us, asking that we pray with him. Then, from the bottom of the hill, comes Judas with soldiers and officials. They arrest Jesus, and we, with the disciples, run away in fear.

Throughout the night Jesus is at the home of Caiaphas and Annas. The Jewish leaders try to pin blasphemy on him, and false witnesses speak out against him. By early morning he is taken to Pilate, the Roman Governor. One gospel writer notes that Jesus was sent by Pilate to Herod, who then sent Jesus back.

The soldiers mock him, beat him, whip him 39 times, place a crown of thorns on his head, and then by 9am he is taken to Calvary. Nails through his wrists and feet, he hangs until 3pm. To breathe he has to lift his body up by his hands and feet, with great pain. Most people ultimately die by suffocation at crucifixion. Darkness covers the land from Noon – 3pm. After his final "word" Jesus dies.

Friends and his mother take him down from the cross, place him in a borrowed tomb, and plan to come back on Sunday to finish the burial process.

But here's the twist – he isn't there on Sunday. He has risen! Not only Good News, but Great News! He meets with disciples at different times for the next forty days. Death is destroyed, and the new age has come.

Blessings, brothers and sisters, in this week and in the years ahead. All of this comes out of God's great love for you and for all creation. We are truly blessed!

Pastor Tim



HOLY WEEK AT ZOAR LUTHERAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00am Holy Week Devotion with Pastor Tim Facebook Live

Tune into our Facebook page to hear prayers, a Holy Week Devotion, and a short Maundy Thursday message from Pastor Tim.

11:00am Maundy Thursday Worship Service Family Life Center

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service Family Life Center

At each of these Maundy Thursday services, we will gather in person to hear of our Lord's Last Supper with His disciples. Since we are still in the pandemic and not ready to "wash feed," you are encouraged to bring a pair of white socks to worship, which will then be given to one of our homeless shelters. If you do not wish to attend in person, you are welcome to either bring in socks at another time or donate \$4 through Zoar's online giving webpage – this way our act of service will be of benefit to others in our community.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00am Worship At The Cross Zoar Parking Lot

The Perrysburg Churches will gather in-person outside at Zoar's Cross by the Front Steps. As we have in the past, we will hear again the Good Friday story, and be reminded of God's amaZing love!

12:00pm Virtual Good Friday Worship Service Zoar YouTube Channel

In collaboration with several area churches, Zoar will host a Good Friday service on YouTube. The Perrysburg Churches will each take a piece of the Passion Reading and offer additional music and messages, so that you may be present and witness the story of Jesus on the Cross.

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service Family Life Center

We will offer a Covid-appropriate time of worship to center ourselves in the mystery of our Lord's death on the cross.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

6:00pm Easter Worship Service Family Life Center

Our weekend Easter services begin Saturday evening in the Family Life Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 EASTER SUNDAY

6:00am Worship in the Cemetery Fort Meigs Cemetery

Join us at sunrise at Fort Meigs Cemetery as we hear the amaZing story of Mary Magdalene and the empty tomb.

7:00am Easter Worship Service Family Life Center

8:00am Virtual Easter Worship Service Zoar YouTube Channel

Online Easter worship will include readings, messages, music, and a special hymn courtesy of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (including some of Zoar's very own musicians!). This service can be viewed at any time after 8:00am on Zoar's YouTube Channel.

8:30am Easter Worship Service Family Life Center

9:45am Easter Worship Service Family Life Center

11:00am Easter Worship Service Family Life Center

Easter Sunday Worship in the building will commence with an additional service at 7am, followed by our now traditional 8:30, 9:45, and 11am.

Masks and social distancing are required at all in-person events.

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 As Paul said, our faith in Christ may seem like foolishness to some people but we can always trust in God’s love for us through Christ because it is real, trustworthy and life-giving. Pray that God will embolden us to share our faith without hesitation or embarrassment and to invite others to believe even when doing so seems foolish.

2 Good Friday Remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God, for our sake and salvation. Give thanks that God looks upon us with concern, gracious love and mercy.

3 Lift up prayers of humble gratitude that through baptism our lives are conjoined with the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which enable us to “walk in newness of life” and be “alive to God.”

4 Easter Sunday He is risen! Praise God! Give thanks that through Jesus’ resurrection we are no longer constrained by sin and death but can celebrate salvation, new life and God’s wonderful grace, which reclaims and changes us.

5 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Look around and give thanks for the people, community, world, wonders of creation and signs of God’s presence and work that surround you.

6 Arab American Heritage Month Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ’s church in the world. Ask God to bless and further the work, witness and advocacy of Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries in the ELCA and the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage of the ELCA.

7 Give thanks for the generosity shared from across our church, which helps us respond to the needs of the world, live out our faith in service to our neighbors and proclaim the gospel everywhere.

8 Jesus continues to walk with us daily and to make his loving presence known when we gather with bread and wine, remembering the sacrifices he made for our sake and for the restoration of our relationships with God. Give thanks and praise to God for being in our lives!

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





WELCOME PASTOR PAUL REICHERT

We have amaZing news!
We are thrilled to welcome Pastor Paul Reichert, his wife Beth, and their children to Zoar! The congregation's vote to welcome him was unanimous, and we are excited! He will join the Zoar community on Mother's Day: May 9, 2021. We are so blessed!



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

"Happy Easter!"

With this compact phrase, I want to convey my wishes to all of you in this season of renewal. While I wish you a happy Easter, I am also flummoxed that the entire history of salvation can be and is summed up so casually. When I think about what this most Christian of greetings encompasses – God's Incarnation, earthly ministry, Passion, and Resurrection – I imagine those two little words doing a lot of heavy lifting: they are perhaps our shorthand, or the language that we use to tame this colossal and mind-shattering believe that the Creator of the universe – out of love for and solidarity with us – came to Earth and suffered a pauper's death so that we may, in return, receive and be vested in divinity.

How can one capture lightning in a bottle? The Church felt it necessary to declare a Jubilee of fifty days! How can words relate the excitement of this day? It seems we may exhaust all of language's resources and not be done exploring an Easter happiness that calls for singing, dancing, and merry-making. In the meantime, I will leave you here with some of my favorite words: Happy Easter!

"Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end."

- Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (ELW 383)

Omaldo Perez

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 11, at 1pm, our 8th graders will stand before their families and affirm their baptisms, taking on the task of learning how to be a disciple of Jesus. This task was first given to their parents and sponsors, but now they are ready to walk the journey – not alone, for we are with them – but walk it with their responsibility.

We ask that you keep these young people in your prayers:

Dylan Blubaugh
Lauren Cline
Katherine Cromly
Isaac Klapper
Brooklynn Okoneski

Roman Cady
Bryson Collins
Allison Danford
Gradin LeBoutillier
Raina Springer

Lydia Clark
Tessa Coutcher
Lily Drummond
Dylan Moll

THANKYOU, BOB!

Zoar would like to acknowledge and thank Bob Stein for his 30+ years of service as part of our financial management team. His knowledge and expertise are truly appreciated.

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

APRIL YOUTH EVENTS

4th – HAPPY EASTER! NO YOUTH GROUP!

**11th – CONFIRMATION FOR OUR 8th GRADERS at 1PM!
(No YOUTH GROUP)**

18th – Service Sunday Flower Planting! 4PM

**25th – Tacos in the Park! Join us for a meal and fun at
Woodland Park! 4PM**

Current Sunday School Operations

Life Long Learning and Youth and Young Adult Committees have decided to continue operations remotely through the end of the school year. 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.

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 a to-go craft! Families will be asked to sign up to participate in designated time slots. When signing up please only reserve one spot for your family and mention the number of youth participants in the note section. Sign up HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948aeab2ca6f85-zoar>

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.

End of the Year Parking Lot Party

All Sunday School Families are invited to join us Sunday, May 23rd at 12PM for a celebration of the end of the school year! Bring your foldable chairs and a sack lunch to join us in some outdoor, socially distant fellowship! More information to come soon!

Zoar Vacation Bible School 2021

This summer our children and youth will enjoy Cokesbury Publishing's "Adventure Island" VBS. As we quickly approach the summer months Life Long Learning Committee and Youth and Young Adult Committee continue to assess the situation in regards to in person activities. At this time, we are continuing to assess the situation and how we will present this year's VBS. Please stay tuned for the latest details as decisions are made.



from

Amanda

Director of Youth Ministries

arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

Happy April! This month is a month of milestones for our youth! This month we celebrate our fourth graders First Communion and our eighth graders Affirmation of Baptism. I am so excited to stand along these youth and their families as they journey together in faith.

In these times we still have SO much to celebrate: First Communion, Easter, Confirmation, Graduations, modern science, the school year and so much more! What are you looking forward to celebrating in the coming months!? I invite you to find hope in the promise of growth, the blooms of spring and the fruit of your hard work!

Blessings,

Amanda

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

APRIL // 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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for a complete list of events, please check
the Z-Blast for weekly announcements

				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7AM Facebook Live w/ Pastor Tim 11AM Worship 7PM Worship 7PM 1st Communion	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7AM Worship at the Cross 12PM Virtual Worship 7PM Worship	3 10AM Easter Egg Hunt 6PM Worship
4 EASTER SUNDAY 6AM Sunrise Service 7:00, 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 8AM Virtual Worship	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 6PM Property 7PM LLL	7 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 3:30PM AL 2 7PM Ephesians 8PM Uncorked Faith	8 1PM Book Club	9 1PM Solo Again	10 6PM Worship
11 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 1PM Aff. of Baptism 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper	12	13 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 5:30PM Comm 6PM Budget Finance 6:30PM Stewardship	14 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 5PM Cantorei Jr. 7PM Ephesians 7:30PM YAYA	15 10AM Feed Our Families 7PM Choir Zoom	16	17 6PM Worship
18 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper 4PM Youth Group	19 7PM Worship Committee	20 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council	21 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 5PM Cantorei Jr. 7PM Ephesians	22	23	24 6PM Worship
25 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 1:30PM Cantorei Jr. 2PM Digging Deeper 4PM Youth Group	26	27 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	28 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 5PM Cantorei Jr. 7PM Ephesians	29	30	

OUR 85+ MEMBER APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

April 3	Robert Stein	April 16	Jacques Everhart	95 Years!
April 4	Barbara Stewart	April 19	Mary Monetta	
April 8	Mary Ellen Hartman	April 23	Roy Lessing	95 Years!
April 12	Richard Hazle	April 30	Phyllis Belch	99 Years!

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!

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"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her"

John 20:18

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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
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