

Amaz^{ing}!News

MAY // 2021

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"The joy of not-knowing"

BY JORDAN MILLER STUBBENDICK

As an adult, I am used to thinking that I should have much of life figured out, that I should have more answers than questions. When I was a child, my parents seemed to be inexhaustible sources of wisdom. In my experience, though—as a person in general and a parent in particular—I am constantly discovering new things and encountering questions I don't instantly know how to answer.

Maybe that's how it was meant to be. After all, God is the creator of questions and answers, snails and surprises. In Isaiah 43:19, God proclaims, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" I can't know all there is to know about the natural world, or parenting, or anything else for that matter. No one can, and that is a gift.

Realizing that we are not meant to know all the answers—that only God does—can liberate us. In those places of not-knowing, which are part of being human, there is space for God to do new things, to bring healing out of hardship, to cultivate delight out of ordinary moments.

If I let it, this not-knowing can be part of my joy as a parent, a friend, a person who's starting something new, a human being who seeks to live this life authentically. Not knowing everything means that I can be surprised in delightful ways.

The same God who created miniature teeth in the mouth of a tiny snail can bring about healing, life-giving surprises in my life, too. Even now, in this season of Easter, God is dreaming up, working on and bringing into being these unexpected delights.

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from
Pastor Tim

Senior Pastor

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Change.



Ah, change. Sometimes it's great – like grey winter into sunny spring bursting with color and song. Sometimes we wish it would never come, like the death of a loved one. Sometimes we know change is for our good, such as the growth of a child, or a new job or a new location. But one "always" we can always hold onto is that God never changes in God's love! God always is present, always abounding in grace, always already there in the future, always molding us into the form of Jesus.

It has been my honor to share in ministry with you, the people of Zoar. There have been multitude times of laughter, blessed baptisms & confirmations & marriages & funerals, some times of conflict, deep times of caring and support, and lots of love. There has even been a crazy, unprecedented 1½ years of Covid! My life and that of my family's has been richly blessed. But my retirement, now scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, September 4/5 creates a change that I believe God is calling us all to experience.

As part of God's amaZing hand moving Zoar into the future (where God already is), Pastor Paul Reichert will be joining us on the weekend of May 8/9 and will be installed by our Bishop Daniel Beaudoin at worship on May 29/30. I count myself fortunate to work with Pastor Paul throughout the summer, knowing that God holds all of us in hands of grace and hope.

Throughout May the Church celebrates the best change of all. To show how much God loves the world, Jesus Christ, both God and human, was crucified for the sake of the world. But God did not let death have the final answer – Easter came, and with the resurrection of Jesus all the world is renewed/changed. Hope, peace, love, which have always been God-attributes, are now shared with all people.

Then, with one more brush stroke of joy, the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, and the disciples were filled with power to speak of love and to forgive. That power continued onto today, as the Holy Spirit breathes through us so that we too speak, love, and forgive.

Change. Brothers and sisters, as we move into this next stage of the year, let the power of the Holy Spirit breathe through you, that you may know the power of love, the grace of forgiveness, and the strength of God who is changeless.



NEW BEGINNINGS

We are excited to welcome Pastor Paul Reichert to Zoar Lutheran Church this month! His installation will take place at services on May 29 and 30. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the Northwest Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will preside over the installation.

BEFORE ZOAR

Pastor Paul was born and raised in Ottawa Hills. He attended Cornell University and graduated from the University of Toledo. For several years he worked in his family's metal stamping business, until receiving the call to ministry. Pastor Paul has a love of history and longtime passion for astronomy and genealogy. While at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, he met wife Beth (a story he loves to tell) and was ordained in 1993. He has served at Calvary Lutheran (Northwood), St. Martin's Lutheran (Archbold), and is very excited to continue his ministry at Zoar. Pastor Tim Philabaum has served at Zoar for 36 years and will retire Labor Day weekend. The two men have known and respected each other for many years, and look forward to transitioning together throughout the summer, as we look to the future and activities resume in a post-Covid climate.

FAMILY

Pastor Paul and Beth have been married for 30 years and hope to celebrate with a European River cruise this fall. Beth has been a mental health therapist for twenty years. She currently works for Lutheran Social Services and the Sauder Employee Assistance Program. She has been doing tele-therapy due to the pandemic and has loved meeting her clients pets in sessions. The Reicherts have three children. Moriah is finishing a Masters of Arts in Religion at



Yale Divinity School and will start a PhD program in religion and popular culture at Indiana University in the fall. Erin is graduating from Ohio Virtual Academy and will attend Wittenberg University as a political science major. Isaac is a sophomore at Ohio Virtual Academy and looks forward to attending Perrysburg High School in the fall. The Reicherts own and enjoy a cottage on Devil's Lake, which is their favorite get-away. They are excited to explore Perrysburg and sample the many great food options they have heard about. Pastor Paul, Beth, and children look forward to getting to know their new Zoar family, even though that will be more challenging with masks and other Covid precautions. They joyfully anticipate being able to worship and work in ministry with the people of Zoar.

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”.

10 Ask God to grant an extra measure of faith, strength, hope, resourcefulness and resilience to those recovering and rebuilding after natural disasters and severe weather. Pray that we will listen carefully to them and respond helpfully to their immediate and long-term needs.

11 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises,” for God has done amazing and wonderful things!

12 Pray that we will not forget nations or regions where conflict, civil war or other turmoil spread violence, displacement, suffering and despair; pray that leaders will seek just and peaceful solutions and reconciliation and attend to people needing safety and relief. Ask the Spirit to help us respond to these crises, especially through supporting Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

13 Ascension of Our Lord Give thanks that we have not been left alone in the world to fend for ourselves, but that Jesus gives us purpose and that the Spirit equips and guides us to participate in God’s work in the world.

14 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Wisconsin, Southwestern Washington

and Saint Paul Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God’s work in an everchanging world.

15 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington, North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God’s work in an everchanging world.

16 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Set aside time each day this week to join Christians around the world as we pray for unity. Let this year’s theme verse, from the Gospel of John, inspire you: “Abide in my love, and you will bear much fruit.”

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



WORSHIP IN MAY

How marvelous it is that Easter is not just one Sunday but a whole season of fifty days! We believe the Church has wisely appointed a week of weeks for us: during Easter, not only do we continue to celebrate the resurrection, but we recommit and are strengthened in faith by God's new creation. Post-Easter living points us to the vision of the New Jerusalem but in the here and now. After Pentecost, we will continue our life-long attempt to further our understanding of God's grace from this side of eternal life. To put it briefly, in May, we complete the Easter cycle, celebrate the birthday of the Church on Pentecost, and wrap up the month by marking a theological mystery (the Holy Trinity).

MAY 1 & 2, FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

On Easter V, we reacquaint ourselves with the power of community: Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches, and as one author puts it, "connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear." The tender hymn, O Blessed Spring (ELW 447), will give embody to the Gospel in the congregations' voice.

MAY 8 & 9, SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We may be surprised to hear on Easter VI that God chooses to call us friends. As one scholar put it, the New Testament reading for this Sunday presents us with the "countercultural idea that love of God, obedience to God's word in Christ Jesus, and love of neighbor are inexorably bound together." How may we understand that we are "friends" and also "children" of God? On another note, Easter VI will be Pastor Reichert's first weekend with us.

MAY 15 & 16, SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

On the forty-second day of Easter, Easter VII, we read how Jesus asked for the disciples to be protected so that they may not be lost. He prays for the disciples (that's us too!) to have their joy completed and live what they have seen and understood from their teacher. This Sunday also concludes the semicontinuous reading of 1 John. If believers already have eternal life, it is other than life after death: it is the joyful communal sharing in Christ's truth now.

MAY 22 & 23, PENTECOST

The portion of the gospel of John appointed for this Sunday reports on Jesus' last conversation with his disciples: "it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment." The apostle Paul (in Romans 8) complements Jesus' words: "And God, who searches the heart, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

MAY 29 & 30, HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

On this Sunday, the Church focuses on the teaching of the Triune nature of God. And while we may struggle to make sense of this doctrine, we remember that we are heirs with Christ by receiving the Spirit of adoption: nothing less, nothing more. A favorite hymn, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (ELW 413), will be our principal musical proclamation. Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will be presiding over Pastor Reichert's installation at all of our services.



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

There is a dynamic to the Easter season that implies outward movement. This centrifugal direction in the Gospel readings seems to be amplified in the church's calendar as we move toward Pentecost and beyond — what some refer to as "ordinary" Sundays or the "green" season (referring to the worship paraments used in this time). As we transition out of the Incarnation/Redemption cycle, my invitation to us all is to think about what this outward movement means at the personal and communal levels.

The Easter hymn — written by Nigel Weaver for the 1993 gathering of the North American Hymn Society — The Risen Christ (ELW 390), speaks pointedly about this outward, other-oriented concern that spills over into social justice as a natural extension of our Christian living.

The Risen Christ

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.*

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded
side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe; new
grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.*

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded
hand the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.*

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and
stand with those oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored in
Christ to true humanity.*

May we indeed!

Peace and Joy!

MAY YOUTH EVENTS

MAY 2: ICE CREAM AND WALK to O Deer Diner! 4PM

MAY 9: Mother's Day and Pastor Paul's First Sunday!
(NO YOUTH GROUP)

MAY 16: SENIOR DAY! Baccalaureate Service at 11AM

MAY 23: Youth and Families Parking Lot Party! Bring a picnic lunch and join us for some socially distant fellowship celebrating the end of the school year at 12PM

MAY 30: Memorial Day Weekend – NO YOUTH GROUP

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. The last day of PK-12th Grade Sunday School for the 2020-2021 School Year will be Sunday, May 23rd. Youth Group will continue on Sundays at 4PM for 5th-12th grade students. We hope to return to in person Sunday School for the 2021-2022 school year if it can be deemed safe by church council in the fall. Stay tuned for updates!

Honoring Zoar's Seniors - Baccalaureate Service

We will be honoring our Seniors in a worship Baccalaureate Service on May 16th at 11AM. This year Zoar will also be honoring our High School Graduates via Social Media (Instagram and Facebook) during the month of May and by delivering a special package towards the end of the month. We are so proud of all of our 2021 Graduates and their parents. Help us congratulate our Seniors by engaging in posts on Social Media and attending worship May 16th at 11AM.

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. In an effort to remain our distance and adhere to local and federal health guidelines this year's VBS will be presented in an outdoor family format. VBS will take place four evenings in June 6-7:30PM: June 21st, 23rd, 28th, and 30th. Families will be asked to register for 1-4 days of the program with each evening introducing a new bible story on Adventure Island! Registration is open! Click [here](#) to register.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

May brings with it a slew of people, achievements, and things to celebrate! We celebrate our Mothers, our friends on honor roll, the end of a challenging school year and so much more.

This month I would like to send a HUGE shout out to our 2021 Zoar Seniors! You have been so resilient through the changes that you have faced due to the pandemic in addition to the usual challenges of Senior year. Here at Zoar we want you to know that we are SO PROUD of you!

Whether you find yourself attending college in the coming year or joining the workforce, please know that we will always be here to cheer you on and be a part of your journey of faith. Keep reaching for the stars and using your faith in God to light the way.

Congratulations to you and your parents!

Sincerely,
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

MAY // 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

1

8:30AM Mulch Day
6PM Worship

2

8AM Virtual Worship
8:30, 9:45, 11AM
Worship
10AM Sunday School
1:30PM Cantorei Jr.
2PM Digging Deeper

3

7PM Property
7PM Social Ministry

4

9AM Quilters
3:14PM Prayer w/
Staff
7PM LLL

5

8AM Bible Study
11AM Staff
3:30PM AL 2
5PM Cantorei Jr.
7PM Ephesians
8PM Uncorked Faith

6

9AM Men's Golf
10AM Ephesians
7PM Choir Zoom

7

1PM Zoar Book
Club

8

6PM Worship

9

8AM Virtual Worship
8:30, 9:45, 11AM
Worship
10AM Sunday School
1:30PM Cantorei Jr.
2PM Digging Deeper

10

11

9AM Quilters
3:14PM Prayer w/
Staff
5:30PM Comm
6PM Budget Finance
7PM Stewardship

12

8AM Bible Study
11AM Staff
12PM Rachel Circle
5PM Cantorei Jr.
7PM Ephesians
7:30PM YAYA

13

9AM Men's Golf
10AM Ephesians
10AM Feed Our
Families
7PM Choir Zoom

14 NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

1PM Solo Again

15

6PM Worship

16

8AM Virtual Worship
8:30, 9:45, 11AM
Worship
10AM Sunday School
1PM Baccalaureate
1:30PM Cantorei Jr.

17

7PM Worship &
Music Committee

18

9AM Quilters
3:14PM Prayer w/
Staff
7PM Council

19

8AM Bible Study
10AM Men's Cards
11AM Staff
5PM Cantorei Jr.
7PM Ephesians

20

9AM Men's Golf
10AM Ephesians
7PM Choir Zoom

21

12PM PCU Blood
Drive

22

6PM Worship

23

8AM Virtual Worship
8:30, 9:45, 11AM
Worship
10AM Sunday School
12PM Picnic in PL
2PM Digging Deeper

24

7PM Personnel

25

9AM Quilters
3:14PM Prayer w/
Staff

26

8AM Bible Study
9:30AM MEBS
11AM Staff
1:30PM AL 1
5PM Cantorei Jr.
7PM Ephesians

27

9AM Men's Golf
10AM Ephesians
7PM Choir Zoom

28

29 INSTALLATION

6PM Worship

30 INSTALLATION

8AM Virtual Worship
8:30, 9:45, 11AM
Worship
10AM Sunday School

31

CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED

OUR 85+ MEMBER MAY BIRTHDAYS:

May 8 David Cremer May 21 Betty Hoffmann
May 14 Shirley Cousino May 27 Bob Shank

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 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 for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!

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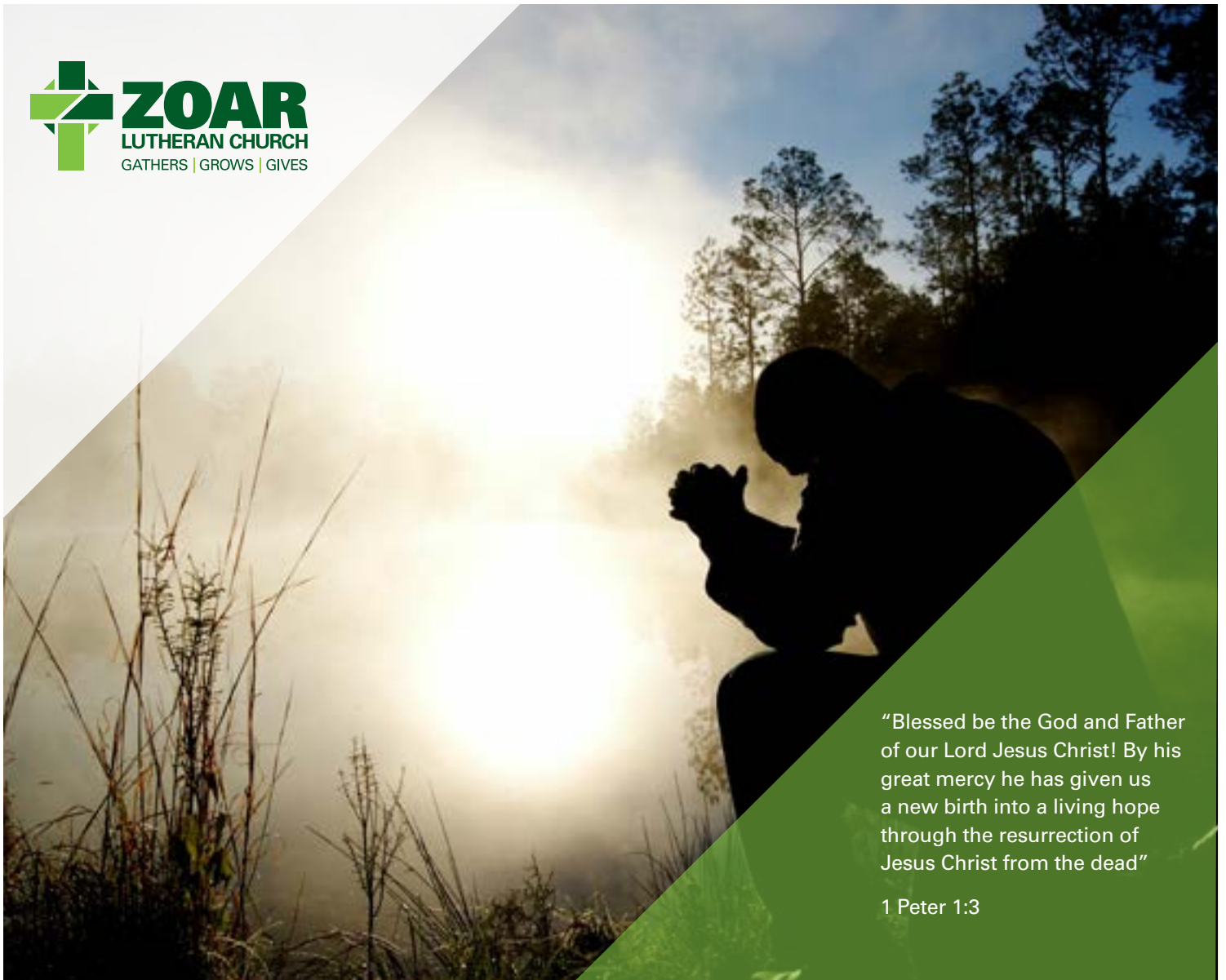
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"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

1 Peter 1:3

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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 10:00 AM

Be
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