

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

JUNE // 2021



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

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### ***"Holy greetings"***

BY KIMBERLY KNOWLE-ZELLER

Every time we worship, we practice greeting as Christ does—with love, grace and welcoming arms. Living the liturgy daily means we can teach our kids to meet, greet and welcome as Christ does, seeing everyone as a beloved child of God.

#### **PRACTICES**

\*Take a walk around your neighborhood and stop to talk with people. Ask them how they are doing and if they have anything you could hold in prayer for them.

\*In worship (whether in person or online) listen for the greeting offered by the pastor. When it's your turn to respond with "And also with you," extend your arms with palms up to physically express the greeting.

\*Leave greetings of hope and love in random places for people to find. As a family, write your own greetings (God loves you, Christ be with you, Peace be with you) and leave them on porches, on park benches or at a table in a restaurant.

#### **PRAYERS**

*We pray for neighborhoods, that they may be safe and welcoming.*

*We pray for summer camps and vacation Bible school programs.*

*We pray for friends near and far who need a word of encouragement.*

*We give thanks for water that nourishes our plants and helps crops grow.*

*We give thanks for conversations with friends and neighbors.*

*We give thanks for worship opportunities both inside and outside the church.*

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.*

#### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

As more and more places open in the coming months, see if your family can volunteer at a group home or nursing home to take a walk with residents. After months of limited visitors, they may appreciate the chance to tell stories and be outside greeting others.

*This article first appeared at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org) on May 28, 2021. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA*



from  
**Pastor Tim**

**Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastortim@zoarlutheran.com)

# Healing & Hope

June. Long ago this month for me was one in which I was freed from school (of course, I did love school!). But it was the late nights playing outside, the friends at the pool or the lake, the magic of fireflies, the summer picnics, the changed schedule that made summer special. There still is magic in the early summer, as flowers and trees continue to amaze me with color, and long days bring their own sense of refreshment.

Even in this year, with Covid just beginning to abate and with retirement around the corner, June brings a deep spirit of God's grace.

It looks like this is the month we will be making some changes to bring Zoar's community out of the Covid-hole we have been in. Yet even there, this past time of Covid has been one in which I am grateful for the Back-Again committee, for all those who helped Doug Williams and Vicki Karnes with sanitation and care, for the gracious way the Zoar family has lived into masks and distancing, for the patience of folks coming to worship, and for the joy of this community. I am honored to be with you!

I remember many Junes over these years: Sunday School would conclude for the school year; Vacation Bible School would be held, with kids all over this building, learning about Jesus; celebrations for Fathers; Synod Assemblies (one especially in 1985 when I met Pastor Lou Accola and plans began for me to interview here; weddings full of promise and joy; funerals of Zoar saints celebrated with resurrection; summer hospitality times; and...

God is good. All the time! The poet Laurits Andersen Ring wrote, "What is so rare as a day in June?" Indeed! And yet, each day brings its own reminder of God's goodness and grace. In the midst of Covid, or trials, or struggles, or fear, or disease, each moment is blessed with the beauty of God's presence, and God breathes through us, offering healing and hope.

Brothers and sisters, as we enter this summer month, set your heart to see and hear God's beauty; set your mind to know the grace and continuing purpose God has for you; set your strength to receive grace upon grace as the gift of Jesus; and the blessing of God's pallet of color will wash you in freedom. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Tim







from  
**Pastor Paul**  
Pastor  
[pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com)

# “Sing to the Lord **Psalm 147:7** with grateful praise”

The boxes are mostly unpacked; the artwork is mostly hung; and the initial project list is shrinking. After a few weeks, it is really beginning to feel like home. Now if I only knew what all the light switches did!

For my first Zoar newsletter article, I want to start with gratefulness. I am so thankful to my family for uprooting their lives once again for me. For all the planning, sorting, culling through years of accumulated things, packing, moving, and resettling in a brand-new place, thank you Beth, Moriah, Erin, and Isaac!

Thank you to PastorTim and Kate, the church staff, and the people of Zoar. Wow, just wow, what a welcome we have received. From the “magic cooler” filled with dinner for us for the whole of our first week, to the wonderfully bountiful gift basket, to the sharing of how things work here, to all of your patient introductions and reintroductions to us (which will probably need to happen all over again once our face-masking is less pervasive), to notes and gifts and your kind words, you have made our transition to Zoar such a welcoming time.

And to our God, who opens doors, makes a way in the wilderness, and continually surprises us with generosity and blessing. To our Risen Lord Jesus Christ who not only died and rose again for us but promises to be with us always in times of joy and sorrow and everything inbetween. To the Holy Spirit who connects us one to another so that those we just meet are not strangers but together with us in the family of God. To the only God be praise and glory forever amen.

This is a significant time of change: Changes in the way the pandemic has been affecting us for more than a year; changes in the faces; changes in worship location; changes in the way we will need to reach out to a changed world; upcoming changes with PastorTim’s impending retirement. Any one of these would be a significant event to adjust to, but we are getting them almost all at once! And though it is a little nerve wracking, I am grateful and excited that the Holy Spirit continues to lead us forward to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with Perrysburg, and the world.

I am grateful and AmaZed! Let’s get started!

Peace,

Pastor Paul

# RETURN FROM COVID

*A Report from Doug Williams, member of the Back-Again Committee*

## Where we have come from:

As the pandemic of 2020 set on the world, we at Zoar have been following guidelines set out by the ELCA, CDC and gov't officials to keep everyone as safe as possible

- Early on, we eliminated Face-to-Face meeting and use of the Church facilities
- After several weeks and a better understanding, we returned to In-Worship in the FLC with strict guidelines:
  - Correctly worn Face Coverings
  - Temperature Checks
  - Social Distancing
  - Sanitizing touch points between each service

## What we now understand

- The steering committee has been looking for direct guidance and has been having difficulty finding such directive, but we are now under the general understanding:
  - COVID-19 is a more aerosol transmitted disease than a touch point transmission.
  - That Vaccinations aid in stopping the spread of COVID
  - Hand Sanitizing and Hand Washing are more important than Touch Point Sanitizing (however, still important)
  - Use of Face Covering and Social Distancing continue to be a priority to aid in the elimination of spreading COVID

## Our present guidelines

- You may enter from Parking lot through glass doors or from Sandusky St entrance
- There will be areas to acknowledge your presence at church by signing in or texting in (no red pew pad usage)
- Recommended masking at all times in facilities
- Use hand sanitizer often
- Continue to use printed bulletin (no hymnal uses)
- Continue with Social Distancing with blocked off pews
  - Rotate used pews each service
- Prefer to exit out Rear of church (main doors) and down steps to keep flow in one door and out the other
  - Ramp and elevator still available for the few who need such
- Exit building and gather outdoors to allow the sanitizing that needs to take place between services.

By following these guidelines, we feel we are maintaining a safe worship environment and allow us to get back into the sanctuary for those who feel comfortable in the face-to-face worship.

With these new guidelines, **we are in need of WEEKLY sanitizing coordinators** at each service.

- Responsibilities following services would be:
  - Take a count and record the total number in attendance during the church service (each heartbeat) including Pastors, Organist and other lay-assistances
  - Change out Attendance Sheets
  - Change blocked off pews

If you are such a person to help us during these times, please reach out to Suzanne in the church office to be added to our list.



# WORSHIP IN JUNE

Logos (“the word” in Greek) is the name John uses in his gospel to introduce Christ. “In the beginning was the Word.” This expression somehow implies order. The connection is apparent to anyone untrained in biblical Greek when one realizes that the modern terms “logic” and “logical” share the same source with Logos. Logos suggests something accessible to the mind, intelligible.

Speaking of understanding, you may wonder why during worship—week after week—we revisit Jesus’ life and teachings. As it turns out, it is in the careful exposition of these episodes (as presented by the homilist, amplified by the singing congregation, and embodied by all in our liturgies) that we Christians “make sense” of God.

We study the bible and proclaim the gospel because we believe Christ is God’s self-revelation. The task of interpreting scripture (in proclamation and preaching) performed in the gathered assembly is one of the many life-sustaining gifts of the Holy Spirit for the faithful community. Through the careful exposition of scripture and the vigorous participation of the assembly in worship, we hope to catch a (new) glimpse of this self-disclosing God.

I trust you may find useful these thoughts by biblical scholar Gail Ramshaw as we prepare to inwardly digest the gospel this month.

## JUNE 5/6 LECTIONARY 10

Mark’s narratives proclaim that Jesus’ power comes, not from evil, but from God, for good. We are now those who become Jesus’ mother, brothers, and sisters as we hear the word, share the meal, and enact God’s will in the world. Mark 3:20-35 seems to be asking, “What is the power upon which we rely?”

## JUNE 12/13 LECTIONARY 11

With the mustard seed parable, Mark is not presenting the stereotypical image of the small-become-great. Instead, in Christ’s cross and resurrection, what looks to the world like an annual bush, is recognized by believers as the cosmic tree of life. We discover the good news hidden in parables, hidden in the cross, the bread, and the wine.

## JUNE 19/20 LECTIONARY 12

We continue going through Mark’s proclamation of Christ. We encounter in today’s gospel that it is we who are in the “other boats.” We are called to faith in God, who, hidden in Christ, is the creator of the earth who conquers our demons.

## JUNE 26/27 LECTIONARY 13

Christians interpret miracles as an in-breaking of the future resurrection into this world and time. Today’s double narrative (as found in Mark 5:21-43) includes several signs of Jesus’ earth-shattering ministry: Jesus ministers to a Jew outside his circle; he welcomes the petition of a religiously unclean woman; he touches a dead body. Yet his identity remains a secret to many. We, too, are bleeding our life away; we too are lying dead. At worship, we are healed by contact with the risen Christ.



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

[operez@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:operez@zoarlutheran.com)

I have always felt an intuitive correlation between the natural cycles of the earth and how we experience the Good News over time. Now that we are in June, I cannot help thinking that what the Church labels ordinary Sundays is also, for us Christians, an extended season of growth, of deepening roots and maturing greens.

As we all know, wonderful things happen when seed and soil find each other. After a long-dormant period, we are finally seeing and experiencing the mysterious power of life itself: nature taking advantage of every opportunity and fulfilling all its hidden potential. I take great delight in imagining Zoar as both the primed “soil,” enriched in joyful labor, and—now that we are past Pentecost Sunday—as the future-oriented “seed” which shows up everywhere in lush splendor with the unequivocal evidence of faithful growth in enthusiastic discipleship.

A couple of stanzas in the anonymous Czech hymn, God, My Lord, My Strength (ELW 785), seem to capture both my gratitude and current excitement for the inexplicable gifts of nature and divine indwelling.

*Christ in me, and I am freed for living  
and forgiving, heart of flesh for a lifeless  
stone;*

*Now bold to serve him, now cheered  
his love to own, never alone.*

*Up, weak knees and spirit bowed in  
sorrow! No tomorrow shall arise to beat  
you down;*

*God goes before you and angels all  
around; on your head a crown!*

Amen! And may we continue to grow and prosper confident in this knowledge!

Omaldo Perez

# JUNE YOUTH EVENTS

**June 6th** – Mini Golf Outing at Perry Falls 4PM

**June 13th** – No Youth Group!

**June 20th** – Service Sunday! VBS Decorating in the FLC 1PM

**June 27th** – Service Sunday! VBS prep/help/decorating 1PM

\*VBS will take place June 21st, 23rd, 28th, & 30th from 6-7:30PM

## Zoar Vacation Bible School 2021

We are gearing up for this year's 2021 Vacation Bible School. 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 a mostly outdoor family format. VBS will take place four evenings in June from 6-7:30PM: Monday, June 21st, Wednesday, June 23rd, Monday, June 28th and ending on Wednesday, June 30th. *Please remember all participants MUST attend WITH a parent or legal guardian.* Check-in will begin at 5:30PM on June 21st. Please reach out to Miss Amanda with any questions!

## Zoar Vacation Bible School 2021

Mark your calendars for this year's Zoar Summer Service Week! During the week of July 25th-July 29th Zoar youth, families and the WHOLE CONGREGATION will be invited to join in one service project per day. Stay tuned for specifics and how you can help!

## Summer Word Search!

Find the words in the grid below! Words can go horizontally, vertically, and diagonally in all eight directions.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | S | R | E | W | O | L | F | N | E | A | R | E | C | L |
| S | L | Y | S | U | N | S | H | I | N | E | U | A | E | J |
| R | U | N | E | Y | A | L | P | P | T | C | N | V | H | G |
| O | E | T | W | G | O | R | I | L | E | O | A | D | N | O |
| O | F | S | L | S | N | C | E | B | E | R | A | I | F | A |
| D | N | U | D | W | N | I | R | I | T | B | K | L | A | D |
| T | E | G | A | I | N | A | N | D | F | I | L | O | W | C |
| U | E | U | C | M | B | G | R | E | H | S | E | X | P | A |
| O | J | A | L | M | J | B | O | R | D | D | E | S | S | M |
| A | U | N | D | I | E | U | O | V | E | R | E | R | S | P |
| Y | L | S | U | N | N | S | N | A | E | M | A | T | A | I |
| I | Y | S | D | G | I | F | F | E | T | E | M | G | R | N |
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| B | A | S | E | B | A | L | L | E | N | T | N | T | S | T |
| N | G | M | H | H | O | L | I | D | A | Y | N | G | G | K |

August  
Barbecue  
Baseball  
Boating  
Camping  
Canoeing  
Flowers

Gardening  
Grass  
Hiking  
Holiday  
July  
June  
Outdoors

Picnic  
Play  
Summer  
Sunshine  
Swimming  
Travel  
Watermelon



from

**Amanda**

**Director of Youth Ministries**

[arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com)

Greetings Friends,

We have finally made it to SUMMER! We are gearing up for a new VBS experience later this month! We are so excited to take a mostly outdoor and family approach to this year's event. Together as families we will discover "Adventure Island." There is even a special surprise planned for the last day that I can't wait to share with each of you! I can't wait to be with you all safely to soak in God's love!

Sunshine, surprises, VBS and fun! It is going to be amaZing!

Blessings,  
Amanda Rich



# ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## JUNE // 2021

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY                         |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
|  |  | <b>1</b><br>9AM Quilters<br><br>3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff                                 | <b>2</b><br>8AM Bible Study<br>11AM Staff<br>1PM Men's Cards<br>5PM Cantorei Jr.<br>8PM Uncorked Faith           | <b>3</b><br>9AM Men's Golf<br>10AM Feed Our Families     | <b>4</b><br>9:30AM Blood Drive<br><br>1PM Zoar Book Club | <b>5</b><br><br><br>6PM Worship  |
| <b>6</b><br>8AM Virtual Worship<br>8:30, 9:45, 11AM<br>Worship<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.<br>4PM Youth Group  | <b>7</b><br><br>6PM Property<br>7PM Social Ministry<br>7:30PM Men's Basketball | <b>8</b><br>3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff<br>5:30PM Comm<br>7PM Stewardship<br>7PM LLL        | <b>9</b><br>8AM Bible Study<br>9:30AM MEBS<br>11AM Staff<br>1PM Men's Cards<br>5PM Cantorei Jr.<br>7:30PM YAYA   | <b>10</b><br>9:15AM Men's Golf                           | <b>11</b><br><br>11AM Solo Again                         | <b>12</b><br><br><br>6PM Worship |
| <b>13</b><br>8AM Virtual Worship<br>8:30, 9:45, 11AM<br>Worship<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.                    | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br>9AM Quilters<br>3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff<br>7PM Council | <b>16</b><br>8AM Bible Study<br>11AM Staff<br>1PM Men's Cards<br>5PM Cantorei Jr.                                | <b>17</b><br>9:06AM Men's Golf<br>10AM Feed Our Families | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br><br><br>6PM Worship |
| <b>20</b><br>8AM Virtual Worship<br>8:30, 9:45, 11AM<br>Worship<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.<br>1PM Youth Group | <b>21</b><br>6PM Zoar VBS<br>7PM Worship & Music Committee                     | <b>22</b><br><br>3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff  | <b>23</b><br>8AM Bible Study<br>9:30AM MEBS<br>11AM Staff<br>1PM Men's Cards<br>5PM Cantorei Jr.<br>6PM Zoar VBS | <b>24</b><br>9:10AM Men's Golf                           | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br><br><br>6PM Worship |
| <b>27</b><br>8AM Virtual Worship<br>8:30, 9:45, 11AM<br>Worship<br>1PM Youth Group                         | <b>28</b><br>6PM Zoar VBS<br>7PM Personnel                                     | <b>29</b><br><br>3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff  | <b>30</b><br>8AM Bible Study<br>9:30AM Blood Dr.<br>11AM Staff<br>1PM Men's Cards<br>6PM Zoar VBS                |  |  |                                  |

### OUR 85+ MEMBER JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

June 4 Mary Lou Meier  
 June 6 Shirley Cannon  
 June 12 Jim Lessig  
 June 16 Marcelle Hahn  
 June 26 Loujean Hazel  
 June 29 Don Carter

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

### ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum  
 Pastor: Paul Reichert  
 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](mailto:communications@zoarlutheran.com) for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!



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"The heavens are telling  
the glory of God, and the  
firmament proclaims God's  
handiwork."

Psalms 19:1

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Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum  
Senior Pastor

Pastor Paul Reichert

**Worship times:**

Saturday: 6 PM

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

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**

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