

Amaz^{ing}!News

AUGUST // 2021



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

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"Look toward the light"

BY KIMBERLY KNOWLE-ZELLER

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I grew up loving fireworks. I loved the bright red, green and purple illuminating the night sky; the anticipation I felt as I waited for darkness to descend; that first robust note from the "1812 Overture"; the final boom of the grand finale.

Every year on the Fourth of July, my dad and I traveled to watch fireworks with family. Together we planned the best spots to lay our blankets, how to time our arrival to secure our patch of grass, and what to pack in the cooler. With each burst of color, I'd turn to my dad in delight and see his equally bright smile.

There's something sacred about bearing witness to the bright array of colors streaked across a dark, night sky. It's a reminder that, even in the darkness, light can shine.

Just as I had hoped my children would delight in fireworks, I also have dreams for how they'll live out their callings. I pray that they use their gifts to benefit others. I pray they'll know just how beautiful and needed it is to bear witness to God's light. I hope their light will dim the darkness.

God calls us to let our light shine before others, but sometimes fear inhibits us from taking action. I believe being a light for Christ means acting in faith even when we feel afraid, embarrassed or unsure how to move forward.

Like my children watching fireworks, we're not alone. We're being held too. God's arms encircle us in love and nudge us to step forward in faith.

This article first appeared at livinglutheran.org on July 3, 2021. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA



from **Pastor Tim**

Senior Pastor

pastortim@zoarlutheran.com

Oh my. This will be my last Newsletter article. How do I account for 36 years? I am reminded of the Rent song, "Seasons of Love," in which all the events of a life find value in the love that was present in those moments. So, here is just a short listing (in no order) of a few of those moments of love for which I am extremely grateful:

- The high school youth that I met three days after my installation (August 1985), who took me to the Denver Youth Convention
- The amazing leadership at Zoar over all these years – committees, Council, planning sessions, and those who led by example and faithfulness
- The way worship and music has shaped this community of Christ, and the gift of all those who read, sang, prayed, danced, acted, and played instruments
- The laughter and support of all connected to this community
- The nurturing care given by Zoar members to Kate, Aaron, Matt, & Allison
- Pastors Lou, Rod, Bob, Jim, Ann, Sharon, Jen, Mike, Cindy, and now Paul – colleagues I have had the honor (and yes, sometimes struggle) to work with
- A building so well maintained and cared for that it gives glory to God
- The gift of Zoar to comfort the community after 9/11
- Rick, Sharon, Adam, Ed, Jessica, Scott, Kevin, Cindy, David, Todd, & Kevin - the eleven interns who enriched my life as well as the life of Zoar
- The awesome support and love I have received in tough years and in joyous years. As for Lot and his family (Genesis), Zoar has been both a refuge and a starting point.
- Rhoda, Debbie, Julie, Linda, Eric, and now Omaldo – all the musicians who blessed me and us with the beauty of God's heart
- Dancing at Old Zim's, Holiday parties, Reformation events, Chinese, Italian, & German dinners, Youth Ski trips and retreats in the Zoar Bus, Church Anniversaries, fellowship events, laughter...
- The gift of the youth of Zoar throughout all the years
- 6am Easter Worship in the Cemetery
- Confirmation classes – yes, "the best hour of the week!"
- The blessing of Kate and her creative partnership in this ministry
- The faithfulness of Zoar members exhibited through giving of time, talent, & treasures
- The present staff, full of grace and gifts, whose daily community I will miss: Pastor Paul, Suzanne, Omaldo, Jen, Amanda, Sonia, & Paul
- The openness of Zoar to celebrate weddings of same-gendered couples
- Christmas & Easter, full of returning youth and relatives
- Faithfulness of Zoar members during and now after the Pandemic, especially Doug, Vicki, & Susie, and those who served continuously so that Zoar could be safe
- For Connie and her crew, and the long-serving Kitchen of Hope, and for Tracy and her crew who have faithfully fed Perrysburg's children and families for years, especially in these difficult Covid-days
- Pastor Lou, LouJean, Lois, Lola & Glen – the first staff to welcome me to Zoar, when I was just a kid
- Walking through Ft. Meigs Cemetery, at which there are so many people that I know who "talk to me"
- A congregation so gracious that I could be involved in Rotary, Ecumenical work, Synodical work, trips to Europe, an amazing Sabbatical, and the completion of a Doctor of Ministry Program
- The gifts of those who support Redeemer, PCU, mission trips, Honduras, New Orleans
- The joy of adding onto the Zoar Sanctuary, adding offices and the Family Life Center
- The blessing of being present (with Jesus) at the most important times – births, Baptisms (holding babies!), confirmations, weddings, hospitalizations, anniversaries, funerals (placing Saints into the arms of God), Bible Studies...
- The many, many ways Jesus was present through you!

This is just a start. And now, as I retire, I am also grateful and excited that Pastor Paul and Beth are here with you, the good people of Zoar. I leave Zoar in God's amaZing hands, and in Paul's, looking expectantly to see how the Holy Spirit will continue to move through Zoar.

Wow! Thank you!

Tim

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Romans 12:2

Grace, Mercy, and Peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

August seems like it should be the slowest month.

Traditionally, it is the hottest and one of the driest. The dog days of summer call to mind resting on the front porch, trying to catch a bit of breeze, and drinking a cold lemonade. But instead, August has become one of the most frantic months of change.

Parents are on the hunt for the best deals on school supplies, and while they are at the store, also gathering items for Lutheran World Relief kits. Fall sports and activity practices are kicking off with a flurry of two-a-days and camps. Those who are heading off to college and the military are busy making their last-minute preparations and wondering if they are up to the challenge. And communities are preparing for the big return to school – this year into school year two and a half of the pandemic with all the uncertainty that brings. And here at Zoar, we are in the midst of unrolling our pandemic restriction, preparing for a return to Sunday School after a year and a half without, and preparing to wish Pastor Tim Godspeed in his retirement the first week of September.

When going through so many changes, it would be only natural to be overwhelmed and feel we are simply rushing from one thing to the next. We have three involved kids; I get it! Some days we have needed to do so much divide and conquering that I've wished there a couple more copies of us to handle the details that got away from us. The busy-ness of the world's schedule can shape not only our activities but how we are thinking about the world and each other.

The Apostle Paul's charge to, "be transformed by the renewing of your mind," is not apart from the rest of our lives. Instead, it is recognizing that our Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and taught, suffered, died, and rose again for us, is with us always. Not only in a fleeting quiet moment in worship, but just as much in the standing in line at the store



from
Pastor Paul

Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

while your cell phone is ringing and the beleaguered cashier is telling you that the coupons that you so diligently hunted and cut out...expired yesterday. Jesus Christ knows how compressed you feel in all these changes and unknowns, and by the wondrous Grace of God, loves you all the more.

So beloved of God, knowing Christ loves you wherever you are, let that promise and hope transform and renew you: in line at the store, waiting in the hospital room, sweating on the field, hunting for your classroom, marching during drill, learning a new job, facing whatever change life is bringing you. You are not alone, and by God's grace, we will get through all this together.

Peace, Pastor Paul





SUMMER OKTOBERFEST RETIREMENT PARTY

honoring Pastor Tim Philabaum

SATURDAY
at 7:00pm

SEPT
4

RSVP to Suzanne
419.874.4346

Dinner provided by Zoar Foundation. Reservations appreciated.

IDENTICAL FESTIVAL SERVICES

Saturday, Sept 4 6:00pm

Sunday, Sept 5 8:30, 11:00am

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 EAST INDIANA AVENUE
PERRYSBURG, OH 43551



WORSHIP IN AUGUST

This month's lectionary readings help us re-discover what is in a loaf, as we knead vigorously into the nature of bread (both metaphorically and as the graceful reality of eucharistic living). On August 15, we press the pause button on bread to commemorate the feast of Mary, Mother of Our Lord, which always takes place on this date but seldom falls on a Sunday. Following, Lutheran biblical scholar Gail Ramshaw provides some insightful notes on our scripture selections, supplemented with local worship plans.

JULY 31/AUGUST 1 – From Hunger To Living Bread

Today's texts move us from rumbling tummies and flaring tempers refocusing us on unexpected blessings and the Giver. Today we think about the gifts of God, which come in many ways: it is Christ we are believing in, in whom we place our life's trust. Both the manna and the barley bread of the feeding story become metaphors for Christ and the life he gives. I am the Bread of Life (ELW 485) will serve as our vehicle to proclaim the Gospel.

AUGUST 7/8 – Christ, The Bread of Life

The reading from Ephesians includes a profound interpretation of Christ's ascension: Christ has not left us, but now fills all things. That is, Christ ascended into the cosmos, infusing all the earth with himself. Such an understanding of Christ's resurrection and ascension leads us to a green Christianity: Christ is not away, up in heaven somewhere, but rather Christ fills the earth, its vegetation, its countless species, pouring into all that is God's grace. Our Hymn of the Day will be Soul, Adorn Yourself in Gladness (ELW 488).

AUGUST 14/15 – Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Today we remember Mary, mother of Jesus. The haunting words of the Magnificat remind us that the child who grows in Mary's womb comes to change everything. No longer will some starve while others feast. These words come to us as both hope and challenge: hope for those in need, and challenge, at least, for those of us who live in comfort. How do these words from Mary challenge us? How can these gospel words be good news for our community?

AUGUST 21/22 – The Bread of Eternal Life

Jesus' teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood isn't something we can figure out and accept on our own. In his explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed, Martin Luther writes these words: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him." The good news of Jesus is too radical, unsettling, and illogical for us to accept. This weekend, the hymn Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup (ELW 492) will cap the Word portion of our service.

AUGUST 28/29 – Authentic Religion

After a few weeks of John, we return to Mark to delve into the meaning of true religion. Or we may get a lectionary surprise. Stay tuned!



from
Omaldo
Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

Dear Zoar Family,

All Creation Sings, the most recent hymn collection to grace this Lutheran musician's bookshelf, introduced me to "Faith Begins by Letting Go," (ACS 1104) a meditative musical offering that speaks eloquently to what ought to be the Christian attitude toward life. Written by Carl P. Daw Jr., this hymn recasts ancient knowledge (Paul and several others) regarding what it means to be a follower of The Way. It reminds us to mind our disposition (or attitude) by casting them with the intentionality of simple actions (letting go, holding on, reaching out) that have important implications for how we think about our past, present, and future. As we continue to wade forward in the waters of change (with their attendant hellos and goodbyes), I commend this sage advice to each one of us.

*Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem'ry's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.*

*Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.*

Peace and Joy,

Omaldo

AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

August 1 – Youth Group: *Picnic at Sidecut Metropark* (4PM)
August 8 – Youth Group: *Minute to Win It Night* (4PM)
August 15 – Blessing of the Backpacks (11AM Service & 1PM)
August 22 – No Youth Group
August 29 – Youth Group: *Mr. Freeze* (4PM)

Sunday School Registration 2021-22

It is with great joy and HOPE that I can officially announce the opening of Sunday School Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year. As we look ahead to fall we are cautiously optimistic about returning to in-person Sunday School. More information on safety procedures and expectations for our kids as we near our return. Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/zoarsundayschool2021-2022>

Blessing of the Backpacks

Students and workers of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks and workbags to church for a special blessing as we enter the new school year. Join us during our 11AM Worship Service OR outside the church from 1-2PM on August 15th for a special backpack blessing.

Acolytes Needed!

With the gradual reopening of worship and church procedures we are in preparation for the return of acolytes, lectors and other worship assistants. In doing so we are in need of volunteers for Sunday worship times **beginning August 15th through October 10th**.

Historically the role of acolyte has been filled by our 7th and 8th grade catechism class. Due to the nature of the last year, we would like to open up this opportunity to all students entering 5th-9th grades this fall. Please note: upon the return of catechism class* (Wednesday, October 13th) our 7th and 8th graders will be asked to be the primary acolytes as a part of their class requirements and expectations.

All volunteers will be trained by the Pastor and/or Amanda prior to the worship service they are serving. Please contact Amanda for more info at arich@zoarlutheran.com.

ELCA Youth Gathering 2022

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering is scheduled for **Sunday, July 24 – Thursday, July 28, 2022**. It will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

All youth who **begin 8th – 12th grade** this fall are eligible. Early bird registration begins mid-September and saves us money. We ask families to contribute the \$150 non-refundable registration to reserve their young person's spot!

If you missed the first Interest Meeting you can catch the second! Mark your calendars for **August 29th at 12PM** and join us for our hybrid 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting (in person or on Zoom).



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
arich@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

Happy BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH!

This month we are gearing up for a return to Sunday School with continued Sunday School Registration and our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on August 15th. There are so many fun things to look forward to together and I can't wait to get started!

Praying for a safe and stress-free return to school for all of our students and school teachers and staff.

Peace,
Amanda Rich

RALLY DAY 2021

Join us in kicking off the Sunday School year **Sunday, September 12th!**

The congregation is invited to join us in packing care kits for Lutheran World Relief during the Sunday School hour. In addition, students will be able to complete their Sunday School Registration, mingle with their Sunday School Teachers and JAM Time will finally make its safe return. Stay tuned to your Z-Blast for the latest information on how to be involved and our safety protocols.

ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST // 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 9:45, 11AM Worship 4PM Youth Group	2 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6PM Property 7PM Social Ministry	3 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM LLL	4 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 3:30PM AL 2 8PM Uncorked Faith	5 9AM Men's Golf	6 9:30AM Blood Drive 1PM Zoar Book Club	7 6PM Worship
8 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 9:45*, 11AM Worship 4PM Youth Group *Final 9:45 Service	9	10 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 5:30PM Comm 7PM Stewardship	11 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards	12 9AM Men's Golf 10AM Feed Our Families	13 11AM Solo Again	14 6PM Worship
15 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 11AM, 1PM Blessing of the Backpacks	16 7PM Worship & Music	17 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council	18 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM Blood Drive 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards	19 9AM Men's Golf 10AM FOF	20	21 6PM Worship
22 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship	23 7PM Personnel	24 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	25 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 1:30PM AL 1	26 9AM Men's Golf	27	28 6PM Worship
29 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 12PM ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting 4PM Youth Group	30	31 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	for a complete list of events, please check the Z-Blast for weekly announcements			

OUR 85+ MEMBER AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

August 13 Mitzie Jameson
 August 31 Barbara Ayers

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 for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month!



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"I pray that you may
have the power ...
to know the love of
Christ that surpasses
knowledge, so that you
may be filled with all
the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:18-19



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Page 2: Tim Mossholder via Unsplash
Page 3: Kyle Glenn via Unsplash
Page 4: Kate Philabaum
Page 9: @moino007 via Unsplash

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

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

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