

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

SEPTEMBER // 2021



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

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### **Looking at the 'long now'**

BY ELISE SEYFRIED

*"He brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'" (Genesis 15:5).*

I remember first reading the verse above, then going outside to look at the starry night sky. I imagined the Lord's conversation with Abram under that very same sky, and God's promise that Abram's descendants would be too numerous to count.

In the thousands of years since, those descendants have indeed numbered in the billions, including me. But then I look ahead, to Abram's descendants still to come. I realize that I too am their ancestor, and that realization fills me with sadness. What am I leaving for my children's children? Even as a person of faith, I sometimes wonder if there's reason to be hopeful about the future.

But after learning about the 10,000 Year Clock and speaking with a prominent Lutheran theologian, I anticipate the future with optimism. Inventor Danny Hillis wanted to build something that would last as far into the future as human life extends into the past (approximately 10,000 years).

So, at night, whether we stand atop a mountain in the desert or in our own backyards, we can look up at the multitude of stars and give thanks for the exciting possibilities ahead, for us and for our descendants—possibilities we can help make realities. Our Adventum future with our loving God can be as bright as the night sky and as beautiful as the chimes of an incredible clock. Let us plant our acorns now, so that someday there will be majestic oaks. We have the vision, the resources and, with God's help, the will to make the next 10,000 years glorious.

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

# Images of Summer



Youth families took part in a Vacation Bible School this summer that included outdoor games, dancing, bible stories, and a Kona Ice treat on the final day! This year's main message came from Isaiah 60:1... *"Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you!"*



Our very own Omaldo Perez played some live music (twice!) for the monthly Slow Roll around the city of Perrysburg.



Pastor Tim enjoyed some "Cold Brew Slammers" at Maddie & Bella's Coffee in downtown Perrysburg with their staff.



We welcomed Pastor Paul Reichert and his family to Zoar with his Installation in May and several "Meet and Greet" at the Philabaum residence throughout the summer!



**“...they wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of weeping...”**

**Ezra 3:12-13**

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

This scene from the Book of Ezra takes place as the foundations of the new second Temple are finished and dedicated. The first Temple, the Temple of Solomon, had been destroyed along with the city of Jerusalem decades before and so there had been no worship or sacrifice. Then, after years of prayer and work, the foundations of the Temple are laid. And the people have lots of feelings. While some of the people are celebrating because the Lord has provided a way to return to living out covenant worship, others are weeping because they can so easily see what has been lost and what a long road is ahead of them.

As difficult as it may be to believe, as of your reading this article, the time for Pastor Tim to retire is coming up this week. After decades of service to the Lord in the ministry of Word and Sacrament, most of that time here at Zoar, and after a more than year long pandemic-caused delay, the date of Tim's retirement is here. And many will be weeping at the loss of his presence in leadership here after so many years, some may be quietly lifting shouts of joy. And while many people at Zoar have gone out of their way to be welcoming to me as the still pretty new pastor; certainly, some are weeping that I'm not Pastor Tim.

But isn't that way in many things in life. We come to these events with our perspectives and our understandings, and those so often shape our response more than the event itself! Even with things that everyone is going through like the pandemic. Even amid the sorrows of loss and limitations, there have been joys of more close time with immediate family and a more focused recognition of our need to care for one another.

The returning children of Israel knew that whether they were among those weeping or among those shouting for joy the God who had claimed them was with them. And whether we find ourselves in joys or sorrows, no matter what event



from  
**Pastor Paul**  
Pastor  
pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

has brought those feelings to us, our Lord Jesus Christ is with us. Because of his life, death, and resurrection for the sake of the world, Jesus is able to assure his disciples that he is with them always. And by God's amazing grace, Jesus Christ is with us always too. Jesus with us through the years of Pastor Tim's leadership; Jesus with us at Pastor Tim's retirement; Jesus with us as we move into the future where he is also, calling us forward to share God's grace with the world.

So, in our weeping, in our shouts of joy and everything in-between, Jesus Christ goes with us.

**Peace, Pastor Paul**



# SEPTEMBER YOUTH UPDATE

**September 5** – No Youth Group: *Labor Day Weekend*

**September 12** – RALLY SUNDAY: *Lutheran World Relief Packing Event (9:45AM)*

**September 19** – Youth Group: *Sidecut Metropark Hiking/ Scavenger Hunt (4PM)*

**September 26** – Youth Group: *Tie Blanket Day (4PM)*

## Sunday School Registration 2021-22

Sunday School Registration is STILL OPEN. If you have not registered yet, you have not missed out. 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 will come as we near our return. Register HERE: <https://vbspro.events/p/zoarsundayschool2021-2022>.

## Rally Sunday!

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 JAMTime 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.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 two Interest Meetings, contact Mrs. Amanda as soon as possible for information about the Gathering!



from  
**Amanda**  
**Director of Youth Ministries**  
[arich@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:arich@zoarlutheran.com)

Greetings Friends,

We have finally made it! I am so excited and grateful to be able "RALLY" together this month as we return to in person Sunday School. This year we will be exploring the theme, "God calls us to BEE holy." Our kids will journey into our Sparkhouse Curriculum while also learning what it means to "BEE" a holy child of God.

As we approach this time together, I am filled with joy by being renewed in hope as we continue to learn to journey together as we are.

Peace,  
**Amanda Rich**



# WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

We begin the month by celebrating Pastor Tim's thirty-six-year ministry at Zoar. On the fourth, Zoar will have a party in the parking lot at seven p.m., but we will continue with our farewells and best wishes for Pastor Tim on Sunday. On Saturday 9/11 (at the six o'clock service), Zoar will hold a service of mourning and lament marking the tragedy of the 2,996 lives lost twenty years ago, the nearly 610,000 lives lost in the last eighteen months, as well as the social and racial inequities that grip our country. On Sunday, 9/12, we get back on year B's saddle: Peter's confession; the following weekend, we hear about the paradoxical nature of Christian discipleship: it is by being humble that we can achieve greatness. Finally, on the last weekend of the month, we are admonished to work for peace and to stop trying to get in the way of God's work in the world.

## SEPTEMBER 4/5 – Celebration of Ministry and Farewells

Pastor Tim has hand-picked the readings and hymns for this memorable weekend. For our services, we will sing the liturgical setting by Steven Janco, the Mass of Angels and Saints, as well as several hymns connected to his life in ministry and reflective of our shared journey and mission. Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712), Pastor Tim's ordination hymn, will be the vehicle through which we, the congregation, proclaim the Gospel.

## SEPTEMBER 11/12 – Service of Lament/Peter's Confession

The readings on Sunday come to us in the form of admonitions: The prophet Isaiah calls himself a teacher, one whose words sustain weary people. James warns about the foolish and hurtful use of our tongues, which often are used to "curse those who are made in the likeness of God." Finally, Jesus keeps the disciples quiet about his identity, and speaks openly about his own suffering, death, and resurrection. Peter tries to counsel Jesus, but Jesus responds that Peter has lost sight of what is most important in life and teaches the disciples that they will lose their life for the sake of the gospel. These selections refer only to Sunday since we will hold a stand-alone service of lament on Saturday.

## SEPTEMBER 18/19 – Jesus predicts his passion

Of this Sunday's gospel, Gail Ramshaw writes: "Jesus keeps describing what is going to happen to him, but his followers can't understand and don't want to understand. So instead, they argue about who is greatest. Putting a quick end to that line of argument, Jesus brings a child into their circle. Embracing the child, Jesus invites disciples into humble service—this is how we draw near to God and God to us." All are Welcome (ELW 641) will be our Hymn of the Day.

## SEPTEMBER 25/26 – Jesus warns those who obstruct faith

In Mark 9:38-50, the disciples—at least John—are upset because they saw somebody, not a disciple, "casting out demons" in Jesus' name. Scholars like to point out how "John sounds like the Pharisees, who became upset when someone out of their control, Jesus, healed a person on the sabbath (Mark 3:1-6)." The words of our hymn of the day, "Keep me from saying words that later need recalling; guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling" (O God, My Faithful God ELW 806 St. 3), will echo the Gospel's themes.



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

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

September brings for many a reentry into the excitement of learning: another opportunity to give free rein to our imaginations in the pursuit of knowledge, an attempt at expanding the surface area of what is casually referred to as "our knowledge base."

Here in the Northwest of Ohio, the intricate choreography of education is now in full swing with many households practicing the exacting ballet of routines and responsibilities that— if not settled by now— is, at the very least "well-rehearsed."

Friends, young and not-so-young, wherever you happen to be on your educational journey—be it excited or tired, at peace or struggling—I hope we can all take some time to pray and echo the sentiments of assured confidence, gratitude, and trust we read in the second stanza of the hymn *All Depends on Our Possessing* (ELW 589):

*God, who hitherto has fed me  
and to many joys has led me,  
is and ever shall be mine.  
God, who did so gently school me  
and who daily guides and rules me,  
will remain my help divine.*

May you find it so!

Grace and constant blessings be with you,  
now and always,

Omaldo





# 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

## SEPTEMBER // 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

			<b>1</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 3:30PM AL 2  7PM Pat's & Mat's	<b>2</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10AM Pat's & Mat's	<b>3</b> 8AM Men's Breakfast  1PM Zoar Book Club	<b>4</b>   6PM Worship* 7PM Retirement Party for Pastor Tim
<b>5</b> 8AM Virtual Worship* 8:30, 11AM Worship*  *Pastor Tim's Final Weekend	<b>6</b>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>7</b> 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff  7PM LLL	<b>8</b> 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 1PM Rachel Circle 7:30PM YAYA	<b>9</b>  10AM Pat's & Mat's	<b>10</b>  1PM Solo Again	<b>11</b> 10AM Yarns of Love  6PM Worship
<b>12</b> 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship  RALLY DAY 2021	<b>13</b>  6PM Popcorn Gang 7:30PM Men's Bball	<b>14</b> 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 6PM Comm 7PM Stewardship	<b>15</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards  7PM Pat's & Mat's	<b>16</b> 9:15AM Naomi Circle 10AM Pat's & Mat's	<b>17</b> 9AM-2PM PCU Blood Drive	<b>18</b> 9:30AM - 3PM Positively Pburg Fest 10AM Parade  6PM Worship
<b>19</b> 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 12PM ELCA Youth Gathering Info Mtg	<b>20</b>  7PM Worship & Music 7:30PM Men's Bball	<b>21</b> 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council	<b>22</b> 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM MEBS 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 1:30PM AL 1 7PM Pat's & Mat's	<b>23</b>  10AM Pat's & Mat's	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  6PM Worship
<b>26</b> 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship  4PM Youth Group	<b>27</b>  6PM Popcorn Gang 6PM Personnel 7:30PM Men's Bball	<b>28</b> 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Altar Guild Mtg	<b>29</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards  7PM Pat's & Mat's	<b>30</b> 10AM Pat's & Mat's		

### OUR 85+ MEMBER SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

September 4 Phyllis Spoerl

September 8 Harold Wolf

September 12 Mary Cremer

September 14 Ruth Alteneder

September 17 Sharon Guest

September 18 Marilyn Halbert

### 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

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# 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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Rev. Dr. Tim Philabaum  
Senior Pastor

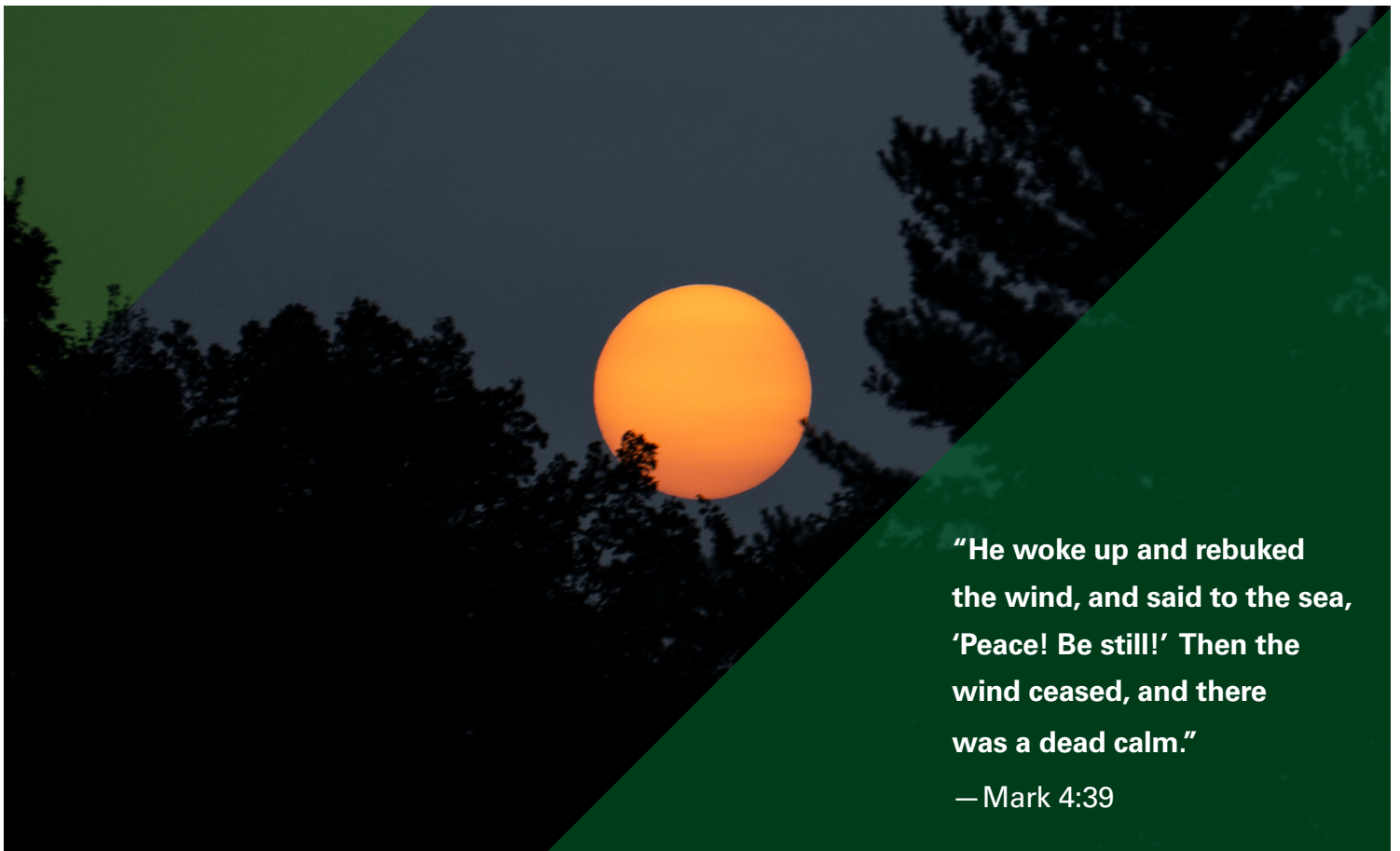
Pastor Paul Reichert

Worship Times:  
Saturday: 6 PM  
Sunday: 8 AM Virtual Worship,  
8:30 & 11 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



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"He woke up and rebuked  
the wind, and said to the sea,  
'Peace! Be still!' Then the  
wind ceased, and there  
was a dead calm."

— Mark 4:39