

Amaz^{ing}!News

OCTOBER // 2021



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A powerful ritual:

What sharing the peace can teach us about faith

BY BENJAMIN M. STEWART

In many congregations, it looks like a simple, everyday greeting. People turn to one another and share a handshake, nod or hug while offering a few words about peace. To some, such gestures feel inappropriately casual, as if we're taking a break from worship. To others, navigating what we hope is the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, they may seem risky and require adaptation.

Nevertheless, for several early Christians, sharing the peace was one of the most profound—even radical—worship practices. Originally, sharing peace in worship was considered scandalous because in wider culture it was exchanged only between close family members in the privacy of a home. Early Christians understood the peace as a radical expansion of family ethics. Imagine a world today in which we sought the well-being of everyone as if they were beloved members of our family.

You've heard the slogan in movements for peace and justice: "We are the ones we've been waiting for." Early Christians must have felt the same way when they looked around in worship and saw members of their diverse assemblies sharing peace with one another. The peace Jesus shares is the peace of resurrection, a sign that peace will have the last word over violence.

In addition, early Christians saw that Jesus' gift of peace is like having the breath of life breathed back into us when terror has taken our breath away, like a re-creation of the good and fertile earth. Today, we may, like the first disciples, draw deeply on the peace of Christ that restores us for the work of healing and defending the earth.

For many of us it has looked quite simple: a little handshake, bow or hug, and peace, paz, salaam or shalom. But in it we can see a world of peace being born.

This article first appeared at livinglutheran.org on September 14, 2021. Length modified to fit page. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA.



Thank You.

from
Pastor Tim
A Message of Gratitude

Saints of Jesus at Zoar,

What a blessing! My last weekend with you was filled with blessing, and joy and grace. As St. Paul wrote, "I thank my God every time I think of you, remembering you in my prayers."

For the joy of the gathered assembly throughout the week - thank you!

For the presence of those who could not be present, but in the Body of Christ were with us - thank you!

For the cards, the gifts, the trip, the offerings - thank you!
(Kate & I are speechless!)

For the stories shared by my family, and by you - thank you!

For the music, food, and great conversations Saturday night - thank you!

For the Choir, the music, the singing, and even the attentiveness to masking - thank you!

For the blessings of all the years - thank you!

For the AmaZing gift of God who travels with us always - thank you!

For the honor to be your Pastor, in your joyous and serious times - thank you!

And, for the future, with God's hand, with Pastor Paul's leadership, with your discipleship - thank you!

I hold you in my prayers, giving thanks to God always!

In Christ,
Pastor Tim





from
Pastor Paul
Senior Pastor
pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

As we move through the month of October, we look forward to the celebration of Reformation Sunday which occurs on the final Sunday of October which, this year, is on Reformation Day, October 31st. I'm still waiting for kids to dress up as their favorite Reformer for Halloween! Reformation Sunday is a Festival celebrated almost exclusively by Lutherans. In this celebration, we don't only honor our heritage, but more importantly, we also try to keep learning the lessons of the Reformation.

First, Uncle Marty had no idea when he was tackling up 95 debate topics on a University campus that it would change the world. Sometimes, the impact of change is clear. When Henry Ford watched the first cars rolling off his automated assembly line in December 1913, I imagine that he anticipated that this would not only change his company but many kinds of manufacturing. On the other hand, how many of you have seen an advertisement for a debate in a newspaper or on a college campus bulletin board and thought, "I am definitely going to that because it will change the world for centuries to come." Not too many of you. We don't know how living faithful lives may change not only our life, but the lives of others.

Secondly, more often than not, we need reformation: to take a look at where we are and if what we do is still both meeting our needs and the needs of our community. Lots of the things that were the targets of the reformation didn't begin as impediments to people's lives of faith; quite the opposite, they had been done to enable people to be MORE

connected to their faith. For example, the Bible and worship being in Latin. In 382, the church commissioned St. Jerome to create a Latin translation of the Bible because many people could no longer understand the Greek that the New Testament and the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament were written in. That super helpful move in the 5th century that made worship and understanding easier was one of the main things the Reformers pushed against because after a thousand years, most people didn't speak Latin anymore. We don't only need to look at reforming ideas and practices that were a mistake to start with; we need to be open to constant reformation even of things that were fantastic ideas and practices when they started.

Finally, it is so important for us to have humility around the Reformation. Often in the past, Reformation has not only been an opportunity to celebrate our history and lift of God's grace, but it has been taken as an opportunity to tear others down. So, let us also keep in mind that Uncle Marty was a vicious anti-Semite whose views gave validity to Hitler's Nazi party which led to the deaths of 75 million people, and the BTK serial killer and the murderer of the Emmanuel 9 were both members of Lutheran churches. Though we are so thankful for the Reformation, we are also all sinners in need of God's grace which God offers us freely through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. So we look to our ongoing reformation as individuals, Zoar, our communities, and our world.

Peace, Pastor Paul

OCTOBER YOUTH UPDATE

October 3 – Youth Group: *Outdoor Paint Night* (4PM)
October 10 – Service Sunday: *Pumpkin Painting* (4PM)
October 13 – Confirmation Classes Begin! (6PM)
October 15 – ELCA Youth Gathering Deposit & Reg. Due!
October 17 – Youth Group: *Pumpkin Carving Event* (4PM)
October 24 – No Youth Group: *Trunk or Treat!* (Time TBA)
October 31 – No Youth Group: *Happy Halloween!*

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 by October 15th** to reserve their young person's spot!

Paint Night

Join us in painting pumpkin masterpieces during youth group Sunday, October 10th! Channel your inner Picasso or Bob Ross and join us for a night of fun from 4-5PM!

Service Sunday – Pumpkin Painting

Help us to bring joy to some of our Perrysburg neighbors. We will be painting pumpkins to give to our friends at Perrysburg Commons. Join us Sunday, October 13th from 4-5PM!

Pumpkin Carving

The fall festivities continue with our annual pumpkin carving event! Join us Sunday, October 17th to carve pumpkins together from 4-5PM!

Trunk or Treat

Save The Date for Trunk or Treat 2021, Sunday October 24th! Keep watch in your Z-Blast for more information as details begin to come together to create a safe event.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

Tis' the season for fall activities! This month we continue our programming with several festive fall activities. Please remember masks are required for all youth activities (indoors and outdoors). Due to the uncertainty of the times, please remember to remain flexible on all scheduled events as they could change at any time based on our current situation.

As we look ahead I hope that you too find joy in the beginning of a new season and by looking forward to the adventures, opportunities to serve and join in community together. So take a moment to sit back, sip on that pumpkin spice latte and take in God's blessings on this amazing day.

Peace,
Amanda Hoyles



WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

The Sunday previews below have been adapted from our online resources.

OCTOBER 2/3 – What Would Jesus Bless Today?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." We must remember that Jesus, by inviting children to come to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated as property and had few protections. Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times?

OCTOBER 9/10 – Fat Camels and Narrow Needles

One of the points this episode makes is that eternal life on the other side of the needle is a gift that only God can give, and it is a gift that claims the entirety of our lives and therefore reshapes our stewardship of whatever earthly goods we do have. For first and foremost, we are called to follow the Christ who gazes upon us in love. Since we are his, following him we will enter through the eye of the needle, leaving behind what cannot fit through with us. In doing so, we are promised that we will gain everything! (Mark 10:30).

OCTOBER 16/17 – Sharing in Your Glory: Success or Service?

Like James and John, we too are quick to assume that following Christ leads to success, power, and glory. Yet Jesus turns our lust for success, power, and glory on its head: "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." This servant leadership that finds power in self-giving is to be a hallmark of Christian community. For this servant-leadership is both modeled on and empowered by the living Jesus himself.

OCTOBER 23/24 – Restored by Grace

The word for today is restoration. The gospel tells the story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, restoring his sight in response to his faith. Today we do not have the same understanding of "clean" and "unclean" people; however, there are hospitalized people who need to be restored to the community. There are folks in nursing homes who long for connections. There are people in prison who are cut off. Yet God and life in community offer us the opportunity for this restoration, which is not through our own merit, but through the love of Christ and the faith we have been given.

OCTOBER 30/31 – Reformation Day: Not Ashamed

In the gospel reading from John, we are reminded that our freedom comes from Christ alone. We are neither bound to the past nor slaves to our anxieties of the present. The God we know in the person of Jesus is the one we can turn to in times of crisis, the one we call upon in times of fear, the one we trust to pour out mercy and forgiveness upon us. This Jesus is our solid foundation. In a world of chaos, confusion, and change, there is a constant: the enduring and life-giving grace of God.



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

One of the many gifts of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), the pattern of bible readings we use every Sunday, is its cyclical nature. Every year, we get to hear from one of the three synoptic Gospels—with John sprinkled in equal amounts in all three—with the idea that we will hear most of the New Testament on any three turns around the Sun. As we welcome the three last months in our calendars, just as the leaves change their colors and drop to the ground, the lectionary readings begin to shift away from the teachings and parables of Jesus and turn their accents gradually, but inevitably, toward final things.

As this happens, the bits of God's beloved dust that we are, can catch a glimpse of God's plan for the entire creation. I guess my enthusiasm comes as we hear the readings amplify what St. Paul tells us in his first letter to the Corinthians: "For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end." How exciting this promise sounds to my ears!

Dear friends, let us enjoy the rhythms of grace as we rest on God's promises!

*Celebrate him! His new creation rises great
with cosmic scope. Christ Jesus takes his
Father's world;
he hosts in joy the new humanity; he toasts
the whole new work, the resurrected
universe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

(Look, Now He Stands! LBW 152, St. 4,
written by George Utech)

Omaldo



ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER // 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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8AM Men's Breakfast 1PM Zoar Book Club	2 BLESSING OF THE QUILTS 6PM Worship
3 BLESSING OF THE QUILTS 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	4 6PM Property 7PM Social Ministry 7:30PM Men's Bball	5 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM LLL	6 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 3:30PM AL 2 8PM Uncorked Faith	7	8	9 10AM Yarns of Love 6PM Worship
10 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 4PM Youth Group	11 6PM Popcorn Gang 7:30PM Men's Bball	12 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 6PM Comm 7PM Stewardship	13 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 1PM Rachel Circle 6PM Confirmation 7:30PM YAYA	14	15	16 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
17 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 4PM Youth Group	18 7PM Worship & Music 7:30PM Men's Bball	19 9AM Quilters 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council	20 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards	21 9:15AM Naomi Circle	22	23 6PM Worship
24 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 6PM Trunk or Treat	25 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel 7:30PM Men's Bball	26 1PM & 6PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	27 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff 1PM Men's Cards 1:30PM AL 1	28	29	30 6PM Worship
31 8AM Virtual Worship 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School						

OUR 85+ MEMBER OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

October 5	Midge Bellner	October 6	Arline Cornelius
October 6	Shirley Bettinger	October 18	Elva Ault
October 29	Don Lieder	October 31	Merritt Higbie

ZOAR STAFF

Senior 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 for pricing and availability.

Deadline is the 2nd of the preceding month!

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Pr. Paul Reichert
Senior Pastor

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

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

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