

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

APRIL // 2022



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

## INSIDE

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Holy Week Schedule</b>      | Pg. 2 |
| <b>Letter from Pastor Paul</b> | Pg. 3 |
| <b>April Youth Update</b>      | Pg. 4 |
| <b>Worship in April</b>        | Pg. 5 |
| <b>April Events Calendar</b>   | Pg. 6 |
| <b>Thank You Sponsors</b>      | Pg. 7 |

## GOD'S SON WILL RISE AGAIN

BY KIMBERLY KNOWLE-ZELLER

Once, after a 4 a.m. wake-up with my son, I asked him why he had risen so early. He lifted his arms up, looked at me and sighed, "The sun was taking so long to come up!"

I know what he means. Perhaps you do too.

For many, the season of Lent can feel like a period of exasperated waiting – waiting for a sense of normalcy, a hopeful diagnosis, a positive pregnancy test, an answer, a new job or simply a moment of rest. Throughout Lent's 40 days, God calls us to remember our mortality, seek repentance and turn toward the cross. During Lent, we wait eagerly for Christ's resurrection.

"The sun was taking so long to come up!"

Some days, waiting feels impossible. We worry the sun may never come up and, like my son, we become impatient. At other times, waiting brings us to our knees in worry. We stay in bed, wondering how we'll muster the courage to face what the day brings.

Even when we face uncertainty and temptation, we can trust God will provide for us.

Lent begins in the wilderness, where Jesus is famished (Luke 4:2). He's been tempted over and over by the devil. With each temptation, Jesus responds with Scripture.

*Continued on page 2...*

Continued from page 1...

God's word provides Jesus assurance and hope during his hard waiting season.

God's word can strengthen us while we wait as well.

On the first Sunday in Lent, our lectionary texts take us to the wilderness but also to a place of refuge. We hear: "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2). The reading from Deuteronomy reminds us of God's generosity, inviting us to see the abundance of gifts before us and to return our gifts to God (26:1-11).

**Even when we  
face uncertainty  
and temptation,  
we can trust  
God will provide  
for us.**

Wherever you are, however you feel this Lent, know that you're not alone. As you wait, God is with you. Imagine God holding you or sitting with you in the wilderness. Let God's word be your shelter – words of comfort, healing and hope – when you feel worried or impatient.

Today and in the days ahead, stay hopeful. God is our refuge and strength throughout Lent and into the resurrection to come. The sun – and God's son – will rise again.

This article first appeared at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org) on March 3, 2022. Reprinted with permission.  
© ELCA

# Holy Week

////////////////////  
We invite you to come to join us as we celebrate Jesus, Risen to the New Creation!

## NIGHTLY DEVOTIONS ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Scripture and Reflections with Pastor Paul

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 LENTEN SERVICE

11:00am Lenten Service (Also on Facebook Live)

7:00pm Lenten Service

## MONDAY, APRIL 11 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 HOLY WEEK

11:00am Worship Service (Also on Facebook Live)

7:00pm Worship Service

## THURSDAY, APRIL 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY

11:00am Worship Service (Also on Facebook Live)

7:00pm Worship Service & First Communion

## FRIDAY, APRIL 15 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00am Worship at the Cross at Saint Rose Catholic Church  
215 E. Front St., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

11:00am Worship Service

6:30pm Ecumenical Service at Commodore Building - Lawn  
140 E. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service

## SATURDAY, APRIL 16

9:00am Easter Egg Hunt at Woodlands Park

429 E. Boundary St., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

6:00am Easter Vigil

## SUNDAY, APRIL 17 EASTER

6:00am Worship in the Cemetery at Fort Meigs Cemetery  
620 W. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

7:00am Easter Worship Service

9:00am Easter Worship Service

11:00am Easter Worship Service

Please continue to monitor your weekly Announcements for the most up-to-date information on our COVID-19 practices.

# Christ IS WITH US

A month ago, I looked out my Zoar office window, and there they were. In the shelter next to the building, there they were; little signs of hope breaking through the cold, almost frozen Earth, a whole bunch of daffodil buds poking up to say, hang on, hope is coming. It was one more confirmation, even with a dusting of snow on them the next morning, that spring was really on the way. The snow is melting; the birds are returning; and the seed packets are starting to show up in the stores. All of these are so reassuring because we know that they mean spring is really on the way.

But I took a picture of the front of our house a few days earlier, and it looked almost exactly the same as the one from the middle of January, AND the middle of February! Did anyone else start to feel like winter would never leave? I know that even though I really enjoy winter, that last big snowfall didn't give me very much 'kid at Christmas' excitement; just, "oookay, more shoveling." Sometimes life feels that way, like it is Lent forever and that Easter will never get here. Sometimes we seem to be in the darkness and pain of Good Friday, and we can't even imagine it going away. Or, we are stuck in Saturday between Good Friday and Easter, with nothing horrible happening right then but no real hope of getting out of it either.

But that is why the cross is such a sign of hope. Jesus knows our pains, our suffering, our sense of being all alone. Jesus knows and is with us in the middle of them. In giving his life on the cross, Jesus not only saved us from the power of sin; he joined us in the darkness where we feel so lost. So even in those ugly places of our lives, Christ is with us. In the, "I can't take it anymore!" places; Christ is with us. In the times that never feel like they will end places; Christ is with us, walking beside us and reminding us that Easter is coming; that hope wins the day; that God's love is greater than anything we can throw at it.

The second half of this month, April 17th, we will celebrate Easter; the great festival of Christ's Resurrection. It's the reason that we remember everything else. Not Jesus' death – lots of people were tortured and crucified. Not Jesus' teachings – lots of people have had great things to teach humanity. Not Jesus' birth – we all got here that way. No, it is Easter that changed how a tiny group of frightened disciples, who had been hiding for days, saw everything that had gone before. And that life transforming promise of Easter changed the world. Because of Easter, hope breaks into brokenness, divorce, depression, addiction and despair. Because of Easter, we reach out to those in need even when the needs of the world seem overwhelming. Because of Easter, we walk in hope even on the days when it is hard to see it. Like the coming of spring.

Peace,

Pastor Paul



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

He who testifies  
to these things says,  
"Surely, I am coming  
soon." Amen, **Come,  
Lord Jesus!** The  
Grace of the Lord  
Jesus be with all.  
Amen.

REVELATION 22:20-21



# APRIL 2022 YOUTH UPDATE



from  
**Amanda**  
Director of Youth Ministries  
ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

Happy April! I cannot wait for what this month has in store for all of us. Spring gives us so much hope and joy. I cannot wait for the days to continue to get longer, the tulips and daffodils to blossom and for the best part of all – EASTER! Easter is my absolute favorite holiday. This month we celebrate the season together by returning to Mr. Freeze for some delicious treats, we celebrate our amazing 4th graders as they partake in their First Communion, and we return to Woodlands Park for our 2022 Easter Egg Hunt! I can't wait to get started and join together in fellowship and faith.

With joy,  
Amanda

- //////////
- April 3** 5th/6th Grade at Mr. Freeze 4 - 5 PM
  - April 10** First Communion Celebration 12:30 PM  
7th-12th Grade at Mr. Freeze 4 - 5 PM
  - April 14** First Communion Celebration and Maundy Thursday Worship 7 PM
  - April 16** Zoar Easter Egg Hunt – Journey to the Cross!  
Woodlands Park 9 AM - 12 PM
  - April 17** Happy Easter! No Sunday School or Youth Group
  - April 24** No Youth Group

## First Communion 2022

Celebration of Holy Communion for those completing the course will be offered at two different times: Sunday, April 10th at 12:30 PM and Thursday, April 14th (Maundy Thursday) at 7 PM. We can't wait to break bread together with our newest to communion.

## Zoar Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Journey to the Cross! – April 16th, 9 AM - 12 PM

Zoar will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th at 9 AM at Woodlands Park in Perrysburg, OH. The festivities begin with family faith stations and a breakfast treat from 9 - 11 AM followed by an egg hunt for toddlers through 10-year-olds. The Easter egg hunt will be organized by age to allow our littlest hunters time to find an Easter treat!

To help us better prepare for this event we ask that you RSVP HERE:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948aeab2ca6f85-zoar3>

\* Should weather impact the event, the Zoar Easter Egg hunt will be relocated indoors to Zoar Lutheran Church. Stay tuned for the latest updates on social media.

## Confirmation Day

This year's Affirmation of Baptism for our 8th Grade confirmands is set for Sunday, May 1st at the 11 AM worship service. We look forward to celebrating our 8th graders and all of their hard work.

## Mr. Freeze Youth Group Dates

Youth and their friends are invited to join us for a time of fellowship at Mr. Freeze during the month of April! 5th/6th Grade will meet on Sunday, April 3rd at 4 PM, followed by 7th-12th Grade the following week April 10th at 4 PM. Come enjoy some of Perrysburg's favorite ice cream with us.

# WORSHIP IN APRIL

There are many lessons to be gained from having a close relationship with the lectionary gospels in this year's pericope. But in the interest of brevity, let us boil it all down and reduce our cauldron of insights to one tiny but delicious bowl of condensed wisdom: God's love is always extravagant, lavish, unstinting, and over the top (period-full stop!).

## APRIL 3, FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

As we enter the final week of Lent, we hear in clear terms that the perfume Mary uses on Jesus' feet is, in fact, a preparatory gesture for Jesus' own burial. As scholars have observed: "Mary's action in the face of death is bold. She anoints a corpse and, in so doing, honors Jesus' vulnerability and his life. Moreover, she models love for the other disciples and for us." As narrated by John, Jesus' impending sacrifice puts salvation ahead of us: love for God and love for others is the natural outcome of God's grace.

## APRIL 10, PALM SUNDAY

The whiplash we experience on this day is always shocking. The day begins with praise and excitement but quickly turns to denial and cries of crucifixion. Our annual reading of the Passion, where we read Luke together during worship this year, is a sober introduction to Holy Week. Viewed from another angle, the Passion is a meditation on the cost of discipleship, a reminder of how we are caught between faithfulness and betrayal. As one observer commented, "while Peter withholds everything for his own sake, Jesus, for the sake of others, withholds nothing. As disciples fail to claim their place with Jesus, Jesus' embrace claims them. From the cross, Jesus offers mercy wide enough to claim even those who do not know what they do."

## APRIL 14-16, TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter are indeed one liturgy spread out over three days. This three-day liturgy is at the core of our faith. On Thursday, we honor God's command, the "mandatum," that we love one another (as God has loved us). On Friday, we meditate on the meaning of God's death. On the Great Vigil, we light the Easter fire, hear the great stories of God's grace, remember our baptism, and finally, give thanks for the gift of salvation by celebrating the Eucharist – the "good gift" of God's meal.

## APRIL 17, EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of Our Lord is the most important day in the Christian calendar and the beginning of a whole season of festivities in the Church's calendar. We celebrate the "transfiguration" of the cosmos and how God has upended the "order of things." As pastor Jeffrey A. Merkel has said, "the resurrection of Jesus changed death. No longer can we look at death and see only death. Whether we whisper it in prayer before the darkness or dive in to grasp hold of it and pull it forth like a man drowning, we proclaim, Christ is risen! Moreover, we are called to go forth with the women from the empty tomb to all the places of struggle, all the greened-up tombs our culture makes, there to witness to the power of God."

## APRIL 24, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today we hear the familiar story of Thomas' doubt. But, more importantly, we also hear the most concise expression of our faith: Thomas comes up with one of the most concise creeds in all of scripture: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

*Quotes used with permission from our online resource, Sundays and Seasons.*



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

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

As we approach Bright Week, as our Eastern siblings in faith call it, I will skip over the first half of the month and refer you to our article on Worship in April for details regarding the fifth Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week. In this column, I will go directly to the Great Vigil and Easter Sunday out of a desire to share with you one of my favorite texts for this time of the year. This Easter Orthodox verse (usually called the Paschal Troparion) has been widely used since the sixth century, but it is probably of much older provenance. **Christos Anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos!** is its usual transliteration. "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs, granting life" is a text heard multiple times during the great feast, either spoken or in chant form, often as congregational response to verses taken from the psalms. Some translations of the Greek have striking associations: from the Hulk-flavored "Christ stepped into death and crushed it underfoot," passing through the swift and lean efficiency of "Christ died, and by his death, He killed death," to the Mobius logic of "Christ died, and by stepping into death, He stepped on it." Whichever translation appeals to your imagination, they all point to the same wonderful mystery of faith: death doesn't have the last word.

Peace and abundant Joy,  
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

## APRIL // 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|

For a complete list of events, please check Announcements in the weekly Z-Blast email.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   | 1<br>1PM Zoar Book Club   | 2<br>6PM Worship  |
| 3 <b>LENT V</b><br>8:30, 11AM Worship<br>9:45AM SS<br>9:45AM First<br>Communion Class<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.                                     | 4<br>5:30PM Property<br>Committee<br>7PM Social Ministry<br>7PM Communications<br>Committee | 5<br>9AM Quilters<br>3:14PM Prayer w/<br>Staff on FB Live<br>7PM Life Long<br>Learning    | 6<br>8AM Bible Study<br>11AM Worship<br>3:30PM Abundant Life II<br>5 PM Cantorei Jr.<br>6PM Confirmation<br>7PM Worship | 7<br>7PM Chancel Choir  | 8<br>1PM Solo Again   | 9<br>10AM Yarns of Love<br>6PM Worship  |
| 10 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>8:30, 11AM Worship<br>9:45AM SS<br>9:45AM First<br>Communion Class<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.<br>12:30PM First<br>Communion | 11<br>11AM Worship<br>7PM Worship   | 12<br>9AM Quilters<br>11AM Worship<br>3:14PM Prayer w/<br>Staff on FB Live<br>7PM Worship | 13<br>11AM Worship<br>1PM Rachel Circle<br>7PM Worship<br>8PM YAYA  | 14 <b>MAUNDY<br/>THURSDAY</b><br>11AM Worship<br>7PM Worship<br>7PM First Communion | 15 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>7AM Service at<br>Saint Rose<br>11AM Worship at Zoar<br>6:30PM Service on<br>Lawn at Commodore<br>Bldg.<br>7PM Worship at Zoar | 16 <b>EASTER VIGIL</b><br>9AM Easter Egg Hunt<br>at Woodlands Park<br>10AM Prayer Partners<br>6PM Worship |
| 17 <b>EASTER</b><br>6AM Worship at<br>Fort Meigs<br>7, 9, 11AM Worship<br>No Sunday School<br>or Youth Group                                      | 18<br>CHURCH<br>OFFICE<br>CLOSED  | 19<br>9AM Quilters<br>3:14PM Prayer w/<br>Staff on FB Live<br>7PM Council Mtg             | 20<br>8AM Bible Study<br>6:30PM Confirmation  | 21<br>9:15AM Naomi Circle   | 22  | 23<br>6PM Worship   |
| 24 <b>EASTER II</b><br>8:30, 11AM Worship<br>9:45AM SS<br>12:15PM Cantorei Jr.  | 25<br>6PM Popcorn Gang<br>7PM Personnel<br>Committee  | 26<br>9AM Quilters<br>3:14PM Prayer w/<br>Staff on FB Live                                | 27<br>8AM Bible Study<br>1:30PM Abundant Life I<br>5:30PM Cantorei Jr.<br>6:30PM Confirmation                           | 28  | 29  | 30<br>10AM St. Paul's<br>Community Center<br>6PM Worship  |

### OUR 85+ MEMBER APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

April 3 Robert Stein      April 14 Carol Blecke  
 April 5 Barbara Stewart      April 16 Jacques Everhart  
 April 8 Mary Hartman      April 19 Mary Monetta  
 April 12 Richard Hazle      April 23 Roy Lessing  
 April 30 Phyllis Belch – Happy 100th Birthday, Phyllis!

### ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Paul Reichert  
 Cantor: Omaldo Perez  
 Director of Youth Ministries: Amanda Hoyles

Administrative Manager: Jen Milligan  
 Marketing Coordinator: Melissa Ellerbrock  
 Secretary: Suzanne Delaney  
 Custodian: Paul Cannon

Photo credits:  
 Page 1: Bianca Garza  
 Page 3: Niklas Ohlrogge via Unsplash  
 Page 8: Rod Long via Unsplash

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Chris Baroncini  
RE/MAX Executives  
#1 Company Sales Leader  
2013 – 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Straight!  
13 Years Licensed Realtor  
Tel: 419-283-9752  
baronsells@bex.net  
www.baronsells.com

**Thinking of Selling Your Home?**

Save Time & Money with Chris Baroncini

**SAVE THOUSANDS** on the sale of your home

- ♦ 2.5% Total Comm. – I Find Buyer.
- ♦ 5% Total Comm. – Any Realtor Brings Buyer.

**Member Zoar Lutheran Church**  
Resident Perrysburg, Ohio

Why Pay More To Sell Your Home??  
Sell Your Home For As Low As...

**2.5% Total Commission!**

- ♦ No Hidden Fees
- ♦ No Surprises
- ♦ FULL RE/MAX SERVICE!
- ♦ Including Aggressive Marketing:
  - Multiple Listing Service
  - Dozens Of The Top Internet Sites
  - Paper Advertising (Blade + Others)
  - & Much More!

**"Free Market Evaluation on your home"**

Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.



Different commission rates, fees, and listing & marketing services may be offered by other RE/MAX franchisees and sales associates serving this market area.





**When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.**

To find out how to get your financial goals on track, contact your Edward Jones financial advisor today.



**Loren Odegard, AAMS®**  
**Aaron Arnold, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisors

215 Louisiana Avenue  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
(419) 874-8504  
edwardjones.com  
Member SIPC

**Frazier**

Machine & Production, Inc.

**F50**

**YEARS**

**Your ad could be featured here!**

Email for information and pricing:  
communications@zoarlutheran.com

**Would you like to place a birthday announcement, congratulatory message or advertisement in the Zoar monthly newsletter?**

Email communications@zoarlutheran.com for pricing and availability.

DEADLINE IS THE 2ND OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 49  
Perrysburg, OH

314 East Indiana Avenue  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551  
419.874.4346  
[www.zoarlutheran.com](http://www.zoarlutheran.com)

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**

Pr. Paul Reichert  
Senior Pastor

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

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



[www.zoarlutheran.com](http://www.zoarlutheran.com)

The next day he saw Jesus coming  
toward him and declared, "Here is  
the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world!"

JOHN 1:29

