

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

AUGUST // 2022



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

## Looking Ahead to New Beginnings

Grace and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?"*

~ Isaiah 43:19

This is a big month ramping up ahead of us; a month of beginnings. In the church, the year begins with Advent; on the calendar, it begins with January 1st; but in many ways, August is the month of beginnings. Fall sports practices, marching band and choir camps, and back to school shopping all get going. By mid month, school begins, and that means Rally Day is coming up soon! (Sunday, September 11 to be exact, so mark your calendars!)

That doesn't mean that the summer has been a waste! For many, summer has provided a break in the routine, a chance to connect with family and friends, an opportunity to recharge. None of those things are a waste. They give us a chance to get restored from the routines that

*Looking Ahead continued on page 2...*



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



sometimes wear us down. But, that restoration prepares us for engaging in something new.

**Let us each live out the hope that is alive in us; the joyous hope that Christ makes all things new.**

On Sunday, August 14, we are inviting kids to bring their backpacks and teachers their bags and briefcases to worship as we offer a blessing for the great adventure of education for the coming year. It isn't something we've thought about during the summer, which makes it that much more exciting – to see how God will use these new things and experiences to further the Kingdom in the coming year. Jesus didn't give his life on the cross and rise again so we would be stuck in the same old thing; no, Christ gives us a spirit of courage to try new things. If we didn't believe that, we would all still be in Europe without our ancestors embracing the risk and adventure of growing and changing, and even immigrating to a new country.

In Christ, each day is a new beginning. In Christ, today is a new opportunity to embrace the faith that is in us and make a real difference. Why not choose now to be the time to grab ahold of your faith? Why not make today the day that you make room for God to touch people through your life? God is doing a new thing; not just in someone's life, in your life! Let us each live out the hope that is alive in us, the joyous hope that Christ makes all things new.

August is a month of new beginnings, so let's begin again.

Peace,

Pastor Paul

## ///// CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE ///// **ZOAR COMMITTEES**

My name is Julie Winder and I am serving in my second of two terms as a member of Church Council. Part of being on Council is serving as a liaison to our various committees. It has been during my time on Council that I have become familiar with the breadth of work that Zoar's members undertake on behalf of our congregation and in service to others through our many committees and the ministries they support.

Although the designation "committee" may seem formal and perhaps a bit boring, it really is not. Each committee provides the opportunity to help shape the ministry of Zoar, while enabling members to deepen relationships and build new friendships. I have found my time on the Youth & Young Adult Committee (YAYA) to be a great source of fun and fellowship.

If you are looking for a deepened sense of connection to Church or are interested in serving others, joining one of Zoar's committees or participating in the work that the committees undertake is an excellent way to begin. Many committees welcome members to join at any time with no formal commitment. This provides an excellent way to see if your interests and skills match what Zoar currently offers or opens an opportunity to develop new areas of service that you think Zoar may be able to undertake.

The Zoar website has a listing of most of our committees under the "Get Involved" tab and "Service



*Church Council member Julie Winder with her husband, John Lazor, their son, Jin, and Amelie, the family dog.*

Within." (<https://www.zoarlutheran.com/committees/>) These committees cover a wide spectrum: Altar Guild, Communications, Evangelism, Life Long Learning (Christian Education), Nominating, Personnel, Property, Social Ministry, Stewardship, Worship & Music, Youth and Young Adults and the Zoar Foundation. Some committees are elected annually at the Congregational Meeting while others are appointed by Church Council. If you would like to learn more about a particular committee, please feel free to speak with any of our Church Council members (on the Zoar website under the "About Us" tab) or contact the Church Office for more information.

**Church Council meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Zoar Lutheran members are always welcome to attend.**





# ZOAR VBS

We're On a Roll with God!



Zoar Vacation Bible School 2022 – Food Truck Party was a great success! During the week of June 26, several adult volunteers, youth and children joined us here at Zoar for a week filled with crafts, science, music, Bible adventures, games, tasty snacks, mission and fun. It felt amazing to be together again IN PERSON for Vacation Bible School.



The week kicked off with a Food Truck Party featuring local food trucks, Sundae Fundae and The Saucy Slamwich, right here at Zoar. During the week of VBS, participants were divided into crews led by youth volunteers. The crews were given a challenge to fill up their food truck piggy banks with loose change



(a craft from day one) and return them to their crews designated collection bin for a chance to pie Mrs. Amanda and Omaldo Perez. The crews took to the mission and exceeded our expectations by raising more than \$500! The proceeds of this challenge benefitted ELCA World Hunger.

New to our VBS this year was the science station. On day five of VBS, the older participants learned how to make homemade ice cream, making the science station a fan favorite.

It was a great week to walk in faith together, to see so many youth, children and adult volunteers together again and to share the story of Jesus' love.

## A Note From... HERITAGE Committee



The Heritage Committee is committed to preserving the history of Zoar Lutheran Church. When submitting photos or items for archival, please include dates, names, and any other pertinent information for reference. This will help us greatly with the archiving process. Thank you!

## Please join us!

There is so much happening at Zoar in August!

**Thursday, August 4 | 9AM**

Final Feed Our Families

**Sunday, August 7 | 11AM**

Youth Led Worship Service and Piano Dedication

**Saturday, August 13 | 5PM**

Backyard Bash at Meyer House  
885 Mulberry Ave., Perrysburg

**Sunday, August 14 | 11AM**

Blessing of the Backpacks

**Wednesday, August 17 | 6:30PM**

Back to School Blessing at  
Commodore on the Lawn

+ Committees, Bible Study, Men's Golf, Quilter's Group, Uncorked Faith, Bridge Club, Popcorn Gang and more!

Questions? Call the Church Office.

**Be AmaZed at Zoar!**

# YOUTH UPDATE for August 2022



**Sunday, August 7** Youth Led Worship at 11AM

**Sunday, August 14** Blessing of the Backpacks 11AM

**Sunday, August 21** Picnic Party at Woodlands Park 4-6PM

**Youth Volunteers Needed for Feed our Families** – A few youth are needed throughout the summer to help load groceries into vehicles for Feed our Families August 4 from 9AM-12PM. If this is a way in which you might be able to serve, please contact Tracy Rickman at [tracyrickman@hotmail.com](mailto:tracyrickman@hotmail.com) for more information.

**Youth Led Worship** – All Zoar Youth Grades 5th-12th are asked to help lead worship on Sunday, August 7, at 11AM. All who attended the Service Trip are especially encouraged to participate. Youth are asked to serve as greeters, lectors, ushers and communion assistants. In addition, youth and adult leaders will share about their experiences on the Service Trip. Please let Pastor Paul or Brekke know how your youth can help to serve that day via email: [pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com) or [bell@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:bell@zoarlutheran.com).

**Acolytes Needed** – We need YOU to help be an acolyte! Historically, the role of acolyte has been filled by our 7th and 8th grade catechism class. Due to the nature of the past few years, we have opened up this opportunity to all students entering 5th-9th grades this Fall for the Summer. Please note: upon the return of catechism class\* (Wednesday, September 14) our 7th and 8th graders will be assigned as the primary acolytes as a part of their class requirements and expectations.

**Blessing of the Backpacks** – Join us during our 11AM worship service on August 14 for Blessing of the Backpacks. Students and workers of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks and workbags to worship for a special blessing as we enter the new school year.

**Rally Day** – Mark your calendar and save the date for Rally Day 2022 Sunday, September 11! Come Home to Zoar in joining us for a picnic lunch immediately following worship for food, games and fellowship. A main dish will be provided and those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share. As an act of goodwill, we will also be collecting cans of soup to be donated to PCU. Please stay tuned for a SignUp genius link to RSVP and let us know what side dish you will be bringing. We can't wait to kick off the year together.

**Catechism Classes** – Catechism classes for our 2022-23 7th and 8th graders begin in September! Join us for our parent and youth meeting on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:30-7:30PM where information will be shared on the confirmation schedule, acolytes assignments and catechism requirements.



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

Dear Zoar Family,

Let me take this final newsletter article to thank you for all the memories we have made together over the past four years. While I am so excited to get back into the classroom teaching music in the town I live in, I will miss working with all of you and seeing you in and out of the church building. You have made a lasting impression on my heart that I will carry with me forever. Though I may be stepping down as the Director of Youth Ministries I will still be in the greater Toledo area. Don't be afraid to reach out or say hello! I am so blessed by the many wonderful people of Zoar and so grateful for the friendships I have made while being a part of the Zoar family.

This Fall at Zoar is packed with fun. Wishing you all a Fall filled with fellowship, fun, joy and love.

With Love and Gratitude,

Amanda Hoyles

**Register  
Now for  
Sunday  
School!**



Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/zoarsundayschool2022-2023>



# WORSHIP IN AUGUST

In August, the Gospel of Luke continues to present us with the teachings of Jesus. Some are familiar and comforting, others challenging and even strange.

## AUGUST 6/7: A KINGDOM FOR THE LITTLE FLOCK

There is a famous poem by William Blake called *The Lamb*. These lines make up the last portion of it: *Little Lamb who made thee/ Dost thou know who made thee/ Little Lamb I'll tell thee,/ He is called by thy name,/ For he calls himself a Lamb:/ He is meek & he is mild,/ He became a little child:/ I a child & thou a lamb,/ We are called by his name./ Little Lamb God bless thee.* Blake's poem connects us with today's gospel: our Paschal Lamb refers to us as his flock, one of his own! Jesus tells us: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little sheep, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity: the whole of God's kingdom! The Father's generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never known before: generosity of spirit, of disposition and of resources. *We are given the kingdom to know what true treasure looks like.*

## AUGUST 13/14: THE REALITY OF DIVISION

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, *Jesus calls on his hearers to turn from greed to generosity, from anxious self-preservation to faithful self-giving.* But such practice rubs against humanity's sinful impulses. Unfortunately, conflict is born out of Jesus' peace-filled activity. Jesus' words and actions had already pitted him against the religious leaders and will lead him to the cross. In today's gospel, Jesus speaks to the reality of that division. His words unsettle us, yet they are spoken for a reason. Although Jesus' words are incendiary and speak of broken relationships, they are meant to prompt the people's faithful response: *to lay aside anxiety and greed and turn their hearts to the treasures of God's promised kingdom, where Christ takes division upon himself on the cross.*

## AUGUST 20/21: GOD'S VERBS

Through the lens of the gospel, today's texts offer a clear identification of God's work. What is God doing? God is reaching out to proclaim release from captivity, lifting up the oppressed and satisfying the needs of the afflicted. God raises foundations. God restores and rebuilds, reconciles and sets free. Like yeast that's included in bread dough or the seed of a particularly stubborn weed sown in the garden (Luke 13:18-21), there's no going back when God speaks. The bread will be leavened; the garden will have a mustard bush, and precious daughters and sons of Abraham will be set free. God is defined here by God's actions. *De imitatione Christi: let us follow in Jesus' footsteps.*

## AUGUST 27/28: RADICAL LOVE TRIUMPHS

In the gospel reading, Jesus takes the time to pass on ancient wisdom from the proverbs of Solomon to a crowd of social climbers unfamiliar with such wisdom. More significantly, Jesus lifts the perplexingly gracious and life-transforming values of the kingdom of God. *Jesus acknowledges the humility required to take the lowest seat at the table, never hoping to be invited to a place of greater honor or status.* Jesus invites his followers to practice the hospitality that offers a banquet of the finest foods for people who cannot repay. Jesus invites his followers to embody the kind of radical love of Jesus himself. Both individuals and congregations can teach and model this radical love. *Communities of faith, by their practices of generosity, compassion and accountability, embody the love of Jesus in their communities.*

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from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

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

Hi! It's me again! I realized I had one newsletter left to offer a last meditation. You've heard this a thousand times before, and most likely by far more illustrious voices, but here it goes: keep practicing the Golden Rule, Jesus' summary of the Law and the Prophets, the focal point of his ministry. "Do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12). Friends, this teaching covers much more than being kind and considerate to others. It also implies that we should not reflect others' behaviors back to them. Or, as Immanuel Kant said in his original rephrasing: remember that people are ends, not means. And more to the point, remember what the Apostle Paul admonished the Galatians in his letter: *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not abuse your freedom; rather, serve one another humbly in love.* (5:13)

Again, thank you for the warmth and effusive love you have shown to Sonia and I. We hope you will keep in touch. We will be at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL. If you are ever in the Chicago area, do not hesitate to stop by and say hello; we'd love to see you. We are truly grateful for the growth, synergy, partnership and programming we were able to dream of and develop together. We will keep you in our thoughts and pray the transition period at Zoar is revitalizing and fruitful.

Peace and Joy,

Omaldo

# ZOAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## AUGUST // 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>  5:30PM Property Committee Mtg 7PM Social Ministry Committee Mtg	<b>2</b> 9AM Quilters  6:30PM Synod Global Mission 7PM LLL Committee Mtg	<b>3</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 3:30PM Abundant Life II  7PM Uncorked Faith	<b>4</b>  9AM Feed Our Families 9AM Men's Golf	<b>5</b>  12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	<b>6</b>  6PM Worship
<b>7</b> 8:30, 11AM Youth-led Worship & Piano Dedication	<b>8</b>  7PM Communications Committee Mtg	<b>9</b> 9AM Quilters  6PM Budget Finance Committee Mtg 7PM Stewardship Committee Mtg	<b>10</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club  7:30PM YAYA Committee Mtg	<b>11</b>  9AM Men's Golf 9:30AM Zoar Blood Drive	<b>12</b> 8AM Men's Breakfast @ American Table  12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	<b>13</b>  5PM Backyard Bash @ Meyer Home 6PM Worship
<b>14</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship, Blessing of Backpacks	<b>15</b>  7PM Worship & Music Committee Mtg	<b>16</b> 9AM Quilters  7PM Council Mtg	<b>17</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 6:30PM Back to School Blessing @ Commodore Lawn	<b>18</b>  9AM Men's Golf	<b>19</b>  12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	<b>20</b> 10AM Prayer Partners  6PM Worship
<b>21</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship	<b>22</b>  6:30PM Personnel Committee Mtg	<b>23</b> 9AM Quilters	<b>24</b> 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM Zoar Blood Drive 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1:30PM Abundant Life I	<b>25</b>  9AM Men's Golf	<b>26</b>  12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	<b>27</b>  6PM Worship
<b>28</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9AM Quilters	<b>31</b> 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club			

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS 85+ IN AUGUST!**

August 11 Barbee Fintel  
August 31 Barbara Ayers

### ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Paul Reichert  
Marketing Coordinator: Melissa Ellerbrock  
Church Secretary: Brekke Ell  
Custodian: Paul Cannon

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Member SIPC

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Email [communications@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:communications@zoarlutheran.com) for pricing and availability.

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**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**

Pr. Paul Reichert  
Senior Pastor

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

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

# Rally Day!

**Potluck | BINGO | Mission**

Sunday, September 11, 2022 • After 11AM Service



Sign-up to bring a side dish to share  
by scanning the QR code OR visiting:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A4A729A1FDC61-zoar1>

