

Amaz^{ing}! News

JULY // 2022



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

Rejoice with Me WE'RE BETTER TOGETHER

"Or suppose a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'" (Luke 15:8-9)

As human beings, we celebrate better together. It isn't more efficient, it isn't necessarily a qualitatively better experience, but it is the way most of us were made. Think about football, for example. Many of us now have large high definition TVs (that are still measured in diagonal screen inches, but could just as well be measured in 3, 4 or 5 feet) with the game being covered by multiple cameras from many different angles that would be impossible to view no matter how "good" your seats are. Watching the game alone in the quiet of your room so you can easily hear all the play commentary is obviously the best quality and the most efficient experience of the actual game. But all Fall, millions (no, really it is millions!) of people gather in college and professional stadiums – not to mention Jacket's field – to watch the game. Between travel time,



from
Pastor Paul
Senior Pastor
pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com



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cold hard seats, inclement weather and marginal sound it is really much more difficult to actually see the plays that make up the game. So why do we do it? Because gathering together with family, friends or even total strangers is more valuable to us as human beings.

Jesus Christ came to save us human beings – less each one of us individually and more us together. Of course, there is a personal, individual component to salvation, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Acts 2:21) But how often do you use the word “everyone” to mean each individual as opposed to the larger collection of people? Jesus gave his life on the cross and rose again that we might be saved from all that separates us from God, each other and ourselves. And each week, we gather together to celebrate that gift of salvation.

We have several celebrations this month. We celebrate our nation's birth on the Fourth of July, so on July 3, we will share outdoor worship together with Lutheran Church of the Master at their yard. On July 16 and 17, we will have receptions to say goodbye to Omaldo who has been Zoar's Cantor for seven years and is moving on to a new position. We will celebrate together the gift that Sonia and Omaldo have been to Zoar. And, as we move through the summer, we will celebrate God's blessing of this church home, this church family and the gift of the ministries we share in Jesus' name. We will worship, fellowship and celebrate together as we marvel at this story of God's AmaZing love still unfolding.

I look forward to Being AmaZed together!

Peace,
Pastor Paul



Power of Prayer

**By Melissa Kocis,
ZOAR MEMBER**



The Prayer Labyrinth in the Courtyard was commissioned from artist Denis Bolohan in 2010. Labyrinths have been used for centuries to facilitate prayer and meditation.

In the fall of 2010, I was very pregnant with my first child. My husband Charlie and I were shopping for a good daycare and trying to figure out how to get him moved from a night shift position at work to a daytime position. I had this moment where I felt overwhelmed with how much change was coming. I went for a drive to clear my head and found myself driving by Zoar and noticed the labyrinth. I parked and walked over to it not knowing anything on how to “use” it. I sat and closed my eyes, running my finger through the labyrinth as I prayed to God about all the changes coming. It was amaZing how instantly my anxiety and fears calmed. I left there feeling at peace, knowing that God would take care of me and my family. Fast forward to about a month later, we were registered with a wonderful daycare program, I was scheduled to be induced and my husband received a call from his work that he could switch to



The Kocis family in 2022. Parents Melissa and Charlie with their two children Owen, on the left, and Grant, on the right.

first shift after his paternity leave. I have been back to the labyrinth many times since then and have loved every experience. But this first one has always been so special to me.

IN GRATITUDE

By Omaldo Perez,
CANTOR



The new Yamaha S6X Grand Piano was delivered on Wednesday, May 18. What a blessing to the music program at Zoar Lutheran Church!

I am very grateful for the blessing of the new Yamaha S6X Grand Piano that arrived at Zoar Lutheran Church on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. I want to share the story of how this all came to be and how we came to select it, mainly because this piano, much like our organ, is a legacy instrument. The piano will continue to enhance our worship services and concerts for years to come. It's a blessing to generations of Zoar members and the community of Perrysburg.

This piano purchase is the result of diligent research, including in-person visits to dealers in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Cleveland. Given the options available, the Yamaha S6X was the most attractive instrument in the region, considering its characteristics and value. Other name-brand instruments of the same caliber would have been 20 to 30 years old or much more expensive. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Since 2014, the Worship and Music Committee has had conversations about the declining health of the Baldwin Model R Piano, which was a generous

gift from Robert and Janice Stein and has been at Zoar since the early 1990s. The Baldwin's serial number places its manufacturing date circa the early 1940s, so at almost 80 years old, the Baldwin's sound had become brittle, and the instrument was showing its age by not holding pitch (mainly because of loose pins.)

Fast-forward to 2022. Zoar had received a sizeable financial gift in memory of Russ and Nancy Heckman, who were very involved in the church's life. After discussions with leadership, the family felt that a new piano for Zoar would be an excellent way to honor the memory of Russ and Nancy.

So, we were gifted with \$65,000 to get a new piano! I consulted with Lee Rupert, Chair of the Worship and Music Committee. We agreed the ideal person to lead the negotiations would be our very own Paul Dodge, to whom I will forever be grateful for enthusiastically doing extensive research and lending us his expertise without hesitation. With a team together and having identified the Yamaha S6X as the



ideal instrument for Zoar (originally priced at \$86,000), Paul Dodge and Mr. Solich of Solich Piano in Cleveland had some discussions. Upon hearing about Zoar's vibrant music program and concert outreach, Mr. Solich took it upon himself to successfully negotiate a discount from the manufacturer. With the \$15,000 discount and the Baldwin R as a trade-in, we were able to bring down the total price to \$65,000.

Friends, concert-level instruments are not cheap, but we got a fantastic, almost once-in-a-lifetime deal with this acquisition. So, I must say, again and again, that we have been richly blessed. My eternal gratitude goes out to the Heckman family, Paul Dodge, Lee Rupert and all of you who, over the years, contributed to the realization of this vision. This vision stems from the conviction that in everything we do, we always strive to give God our best. ***Soli Deo Gloria!***



<https://youtu.be/f4PjMhv5G2c>

**Scan the QR codes to
watch videos of the new
Yamaha S6X Grand Piano
being played by Omaldo!**



<https://youtu.be/JvHv5WXQYCE>

July Youth Update

JULY 3	4th of July Weekend – No Youth Group
JULY 10	Service Trip Prep Meeting 3PM Youth Group Cookout 4-6PM
JULY 15	Zoar Family Pool Party at Perrysburg City Pool 9-11PM
JULY 24-30	Service Trip to Columbia, South Carolina
JULY 31	No Youth Activities

Upcoming Service Trip Preparations – We are so excited to be traveling to Columbia, South Carolina to serve with Next Step Ministries July 24-30! The next preparation meeting for participants is July 10 from 3-4PM. Plan to attend to learn about the Columbia community, what to expect and pack, and more.

Youth Volunteers Needed for Feed our Families – Youth are needed throughout the summer to help load groceries into vehicles for Feed our Families July 7, 21 and August 4 from 9AM-12PM. Please contact Amanda at ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com for more information.

Youth Group Cookout – 5th-12th Grade youth are invited to join us for a cookout July 10 from 4-6PM. We will have burgers, hot dogs and chips! Come enjoy food, yard games, devotion and fellowship. Friends are always welcome! Adult grill masters/cooking assistants are needed to help with our meal and activities. Please email ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com if you can assist.

Zoar Family Pool Party – Join us at the Perrysburg City Pool for our Zoar Family Pool Party July 15 from 9-11PM! Bring the family for a late night swim and fellowship. RSVP by calling the Zoar office at 419-874-4346. **Please note:** This is NOT a drop off event; adults MUST attend with their youth/children to participate. We can't wait to share in the summer fun!

Youth Led Worship – All Zoar Youth Grades 5th-12th are asked to help lead worship on Sunday, August 7, at 11AM. All attending the trip are especially encouraged to participate. Youth will serve as greeters, lectors, ushers and communion assistants. In addition, youth and adult leaders will share about their experiences on the Service Trip. Please email ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com to sign-up.

Acolytes Needed – We need YOU to help be a summer acolyte! Historically the role of acolyte has been filled by our 7th and 8th grade catechism class. However, we have opened up this opportunity for the summer to all students entering 5th-9th grades. All volunteers will be trained by the Pastor and/or Amanda prior to the worship service they are serving in. Please contact Amanda for more information at ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com.

Blessings 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 work bags 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! More details to come!

Catechism Classes – 2022-2023 Catechism classes for 7th and 8th graders will begin Wednesday, September 14. Join us for pizza and open gym at 6PM followed by class time from 6:30-7:30PM. More parent information including confirmation schedule, acolytes assignments, catechism requirements and more coming soon.



from
Amanda
Director of Youth Ministries
ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com

Greetings Friends,

It has been THREE YEARS. Three years since the last time we have taken a summer youth trip. Our summer of hope continues this month with our Youth Service Trip to Columbia, South Carolina. We cannot wait to go and build community and accompany our South Carolina neighbors from July 24-30 alongside Next Step Ministries. Fourteen youth and four adult leaders from Zoar and Lutheran Church of the Master will be taking the trip. In addition, our friends from Hope Lutheran Church in Ottawa Hills will be joining us for the bus ride, and we will also be met by our friends from St. Mark Lutheran Church – Toledo when we arrive. Isn't it awesome that youth from four Northwest Ohio Churches will be serving alongside one another this summer? We cannot wait to see what God has in store for us. We ask that as we take this journey, you hold all of us and the people who we will serve in Columbia in your prayers.

With joy and gratitude,
Amanda

WORSHIP IN JULY

The lectionary serves a rich lineup of familiar biblical episodes: first, Jesus sends the 70 to proclaim the kingdom; then, the parable of the Good Samaritan; later, we see Jesus interacting with Mary and Martha; by month's end, we hear how Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray; and finally, we are reminded we are free in Christ from material concerns.

JULY 3: JESUS SENDS OUT 70 DISCIPLES

The first Sunday in July has an evangelistic focus. Jesus' disciples were sent out two by two to announce that the kingdom was near. As it turns out, sharing the good news is not a task that we can delegate to a few; on the contrary, it is to be done by the whole church. But consider the assignment Jesus gives to the ones he sends. In today's gospel text, we hear we must share the gospel with more than just words. We share the good news message by welcoming others, sharing bread with the hungry and offering compassion to the afflicted. Jesus taught his disciples to be good guests by graciously accepting what is provided, staying in one place without shopping around and accepting rejection without retaliating.

JULY 10: THE PARABLE OF THE MERCIFUL SAMARITAN

One of the impressive aspects of this famous parable is how it makes us re-evaluate how we fit in it. Some days we read the story through the eyes of the priest or the Levite. Some days we feel like the Samaritan. And then there are those days when we are the person in the ditch. It is easy to miss the shocking nature of this parable if we start to think that this story only teaches us to imitate the Samaritan. On the contrary, the parable says so much more about God, our relationship with God and the lengths to which God will go to reach out to us. This Bible passage gives us so much more than Jesus giving us a comfortable morality tale reminding us to be nice, helpful, generous people.

JULY 17: CHOOSING THE BETTER PART

Contemplation vs. action. Devotion vs. service. We tend to think in contrasting pairs. Mary and Martha seem to represent these opposites. This tension builds in our gospel as Jesus addresses Martha's busyness, worry and distraction, juxtaposed with Mary's contemplation, focus and desire to sit at the feet of the teacher. We moderns must consider what "quietly sitting" means to us in our age of distractions.

JULY 24: JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY

One of my favorite table blessings from our new resource, All Creation Sings, is God Bless to Us Our Bread (ACS 1056), which we got to sing for a whole summer in 2019. It goes, "God bless to us our bread, and give bread to all those who are hungry and hunger for justice to those who are fed. God bless to us our bread." It is, in my opinion, a model prayer. We notice a few themes in today's gospels: negotiation, persistence and expectation. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will always receive that for which we ask.

JULY 31: BE RICH TOWARD GOD, YOUR TREASURE

Jesus tells us, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." I want to share Gail Ramshaw's meditation on this passage: "In baptism, we are joined to Christ's death, and we die to all foolish chasing after more possessions. We have died, not alone, but with Christ. Our lives now are hidden with Christ in God, and in Christ, we share a fortune of true riches that also are good for our neighbors. Death will come, but our treasure is already secure. We have acquired abounding riches above, and by faith, we are freed from storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth.

Reprinted with permission from our online resource, Sundays and Seasons.



from
Omaldo

Cantor

operez@zoarlutheran.com

A colleague is fond of reminding others that after June 21, the Summer Solstice, it is all downhill: the creeping darkness gathers its strength as the days grow shorter. Upon hearing about this, a tinge of sadness enters my heart. For centuries, our physical and biological understanding of how days and nights affect us has been pressed into spiritual service – a documented practice in religion since the times the prophet Zoroaster first roamed and preached on the hills and valleys of Eastern Iran three thousand years ago. When presented with the light/dark pair, Christians tend to collapse the tension and resolve it by emphasizing light, even at the expense of a biblical witness that insists on a more nuanced view. In Isaiah 45:3, for example, we read: "I will give you the treasures of the darkness and riches in hidden places, so that you know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who called you by your name." More recently, writers in the tradition entreat us to approach God with a form of unknowing, as a great shadow under which we must sit. So let us sing Bryan Wren's Joyful is the Dark (ACS 1096):

*Joyful is the dark, coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight touched by
dread and gloom:*

*darkness was the cradle of the
dawning.*

Peace,

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

JULY // 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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For a complete list of events, please check announcements in weekly Z-Blast email.

					1 12PM OFFICE CLOSSES 1PM Zoar Book Club Off-site	2 6PM Worship
3 10AM Worship on the lawn at Lutheran Church of the Master	4 OFFICE CLOSED FOR 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY	5 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live 7PM LLL Mtg	6 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM Blood Drive 11AM Staff Mtg 3:30PM Abundant Life II 8PM Uncorked Faith	7 9AM Feed Our Families	8 8AM Men's Bfast Off-site 12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	9 6PM Worship
10 8:30, 11AM Worship 3PM Youth Service Trip Mtg	11 	12 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live 7PM Stewardship Mtg	13 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 7PM YAYA	14 	15 12PM OFFICE CLOSSES 9PM Pool Party	16 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
17 8:30, 11AM Worship	18 7PM Worship Committee Mtg	19 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live 7PM Council Mtg	20 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg	21 9AM Feed Our Families	22 12PM OFFICE CLOSSES	23 6PM Worship
24 8:30, 11AM Worship ////	25 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel Committee Mtg YOUTH SERVICE TRIP	26 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live	27 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1:30PM Abundant Life I	28 	29 9:30AM Blood Drive 12PM OFFICE CLOSSES TO COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA	30 St. Paul's Soup Kitchen 6PM Worship ////
31 8:30, 11AM Worship	<div> <div> HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS 85+ IN JULY! </div> <div> <div> July 1 Marilyn Brossia </div> <div> July 5 Nancy Smithers </div> <div> July 11 Charles Rinker </div> </div> <div> <div> July 22 Neil Thomford </div> <div> July 29 Marian Meyerholtz </div> <div> July 29 Betty Henry </div> </div> </div>					

ZOAR STAFF

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

Administrative Manager: Jen Milligan
 Marketing Coordinator: Melissa Ellerbrock
 Church Secretary: Brekke Ell
 Custodian: Paul Cannon

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Email communications@zoarlutheran.com for pricing and availability.

DEADLINE IS THE 2ND OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



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Senior Pastor

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

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on all the AmaZing things happening at Zoar!**



Weekly Z-Blast

For members and friends of Zoar.
Includes a spiritual message, and links
to announcements and bulletin. Sent
every Thursday. Scan to sign-up:



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zezjLx/zblast>



Zoar Youth Weekly Update

For parent(s) of youth/teen in the
5th-12th grade. Contains all dates
and times of youth events. Sent
every Monday. Scan to sign-up:



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jBqFs3E/youth>



Children's Ministry Update

For parent(s) of children from
preschool-4th grade. Features
upcoming children's events. Sent
every Monday. Scan to sign-up:



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Lbcl2Me/children>