

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

MAY // 2022



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

## INSIDE

<b>Letter from Pastor Paul</b>	Pg. 2
<b>Service Opportunities</b>	Pg. 3
<b>Congratulations Confirmands</b>	Pg. 3
<b>May Youth Update</b>	Pg. 4
<b>Worship in May</b>	Pg. 5
<b>May Events Calendar</b>	Pg. 6
<b>Thank You Sponsors</b>	Pg. 7
<b>Register for VBS</b>	Back cover

## The Very Presence of Christ in this Place

BY JOHN POTTER

As of March 27, the United Nations estimates that 275,439 Ukrainian refugees have crossed the border into Slovakia. Drahus Oslik knows that border well.

A pastor of Evangelical Lutheran in Waynesboro, Pa., Oslik has been given a two-week humanitarian leave by the congregation council to travel to his native Slovakia, where he is providing pastoral counseling and translation services to war refugees at the border with Ukraine.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Partizánska Ľupča, a small town in northern Slovakia, currently houses 82 Ukrainian refugees, Oslik said—some in its parsonage but most in members' homes. He remembers the congregation's pastor, Jan Molcan,

telling him, "These times are the test of our faith. Now we'll be able to see whether we'll live through our deeds and what we say with our lips. Many do—they are here to help their brothers and sisters in need."

"I am inspired by what I have seen," Oslik said. "The most beautiful people—the brave and courageous Ukrainians, whose stories are too many to share—and the caring and selfless volunteers, working nonstop to take care of the most vulnerable before them."

These people are the very presence of Christ in this place," he continued. "I'm humbled by the incredible love, cheerful spirit, hard work and selflessness to which I am bearing witness."

*This article first appeared at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org) on March 31, 2022. Reprinted with permission. © ELCA*



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

“When (Jesus) had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’”

LUKE 24:40-41



# Following JESUS DAILY

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

“When (Jesus) had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’” Luke 24:40-41

Easter services are always a joy. The sanctuary is full of people: regular attenders, infrequent attenders and visitors. Special decorations, special music and an air of anticipation all come together to lift us up, out of ourselves to catch a glimpse of the Lord who loves us so much that he went through suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection for our sakes. The angels announce, the disciples are transformed from terror to disbelieving joy and the gates of heaven are opened to all believers because (is everybody ready?) **Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Amen!**

And like the disciples, sometimes it takes a bit for us to get there. Maybe it's the tiredness of getting up early to come to the sunrise service; maybe it's the lack of familiarity with all the folks who aren't usually sitting around us; or maybe it's that without so many surrounding things like we have at Christmastime (lights, trees, carols, cookies, snow, wreaths, etc.) we just have a tougher time grabbing ahold of the mood. But we usually get there. Seeing (and smelling) the flowers, hearing some Easter Hymns (Jesus Christ is risen today...), hearing all the children; whatever it is for each one of us, we find an, “Ahh, it's Easter” moment. For the disciples it was Jesus eating a fish sandwich, which sounds more like Good Friday at the K of C hall to me, but it's different for everybody.

But then what? After the last service, after all the flowers are taken out, after the Easter dishes are just leftovers in the fridge and the rest of life comes knocking on Monday morning. Was that it? A nice sort of happy feeling that we hope to find each first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox? (That really is the formula for when Easter Sunday falls!) Or, to appropriate Dr. Seuss, it's Easter, perhaps just a little bit more?

Really, it's A LOT more! The Good News of Christ's Resurrection changes everything. Christ has conquered sin and death for us, so we no longer need to live in fear that one misstep will blow our chances to see heaven. No more panic that we aren't good enough for God; we aren't good enough, but Christ is, and Christ has claimed us. The real question for us each to ponder is, “How do I respond to the Grace of God shown to me in the love of Jesus?” I don't believe there is one answer, but I do believe that is the right question to wrestle with and to try to live that out as Christ's Easter people each day.

I love a good Easter worship service! I love following Jesus daily, more.

Peace,

Pastor Paul





## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

With the unrolling of COVID precautions here at church, the Back-again Task Force has welcomed the return of Acolytes, Lectors and Ushers. Training is available and we would appreciate the help. **Contact the church office at 419-874-4346.**

### ACOLYTES

All youth in 5th-12th grades are asked to volunteer through the month of July to help us return to this practice during worship. Service Trip participants can earn covenant points for acolyting and 7th and 8th grade students are especially encouraged to help.

### LECTORS AND USHERS

Lectors are needed to do readings during worship service. Zoar is asking for Ushers to help serve during worship with offering and communion.

**Rise to be of service to Zoar – we need you!**

# Congratulations CONFIRMANDS

Confirmation is about exploring what a young person believes, what it means to be a Christian and getting to know God better. At the rite of Confirmation, students recognize and affirm their baptism. As an adult member of Christ's family, Confirmands are encouraged to worship and serve in the church and beyond. They are greatly supported by family and the church community in their walk of faith and in fulfilling the promises they make to God at their rite of Confirmation. Congratulations to:

Kennedy Boze  
Mary Collins  
Lily Danford  
Austin Hinesman  
Karson Klapper  
Augustine LeBoutillier  
David Lenz  
Brooklyn Milligan  
Avery Rettig  
Ryan Rettig  
Olivia Scasny  
Megan Skrzyniecki



**SATURDAY, MAY 14  
@ 9 AM**



### HELP MULCH FLOWERBEDS AND GROUNDS

Please come and help with the Spring clean-up of Zoar property. Please bring a rake if you can. We appreciate those who have helped in the past and hope for a good turnout this year.

## JOIN US FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**May 22 | 9:45-10:45 AM**  
**Family Life Center**

The congregation is invited to celebrate a successful Sunday School year with pancakes, sausage and orange drink during the Sunday School hour!

# MAY 2022 YOUTH UPDATE



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

Greetings Friends,

May is such an exciting month with so much hope and celebration! This month we celebrate our 8th graders and their affirmation of baptism, the women in our lives, our 2022 graduates and FINALLY the end of a successful Sunday School year with our first big party since EARLY 2020!

I find such joy in celebrating our graduating seniors each year, but this year is SUPER special as the 2022 class were some of the first youth to welcome me to Zoar. This year's senior class was confirmed just after my arrival in March 2018 and since then we have served alongside one another, attended the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, went whitewater rafting and EVEN supported one another during a pandemic. I am so proud of each of you and so honored to have been a part of your faith journey. We at Zoar cannot wait to see you make a HUGE difference in the world. You are amazing!

All of this followed by our End of the Year Pancake Breakfast featuring Chris Cakes on May 22! All are welcome! Come join us for some pancakes and fun!

I just can't wait to share it all with you!

With joy,

Amanda Hoyles

- May 1 Confirmation Day! 11AM Worship
- May 8 Happy Mother's Day! (No Youth Group)
- May 15 Baccalaureate Honoring our 2022 Graduates at 11 AM Worship
- May 22 End of the Sunday School Year Pancake Breakfast! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
- May 29 Happy Memorial Day Weekend! (No Youth Group)

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

**May 15, 2022 Baccalaureate:** It is that time of year again to honor our 2022 Graduates! We will be honoring our Zoar Graduates in a Baccalaureate Service Sunday, May 15 at the 11 AM worship service. Graduates and their families are asked to RSVP to let us know you plan to attend. In addition, Zoar would also love to feature our graduates during the month of May on the youth bulletin board and our Zoar Youth Instagram! To help feature your senior please send a baby picture, current picture, short bio/future plans. To RSVP and help us feature your graduate please email [ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:ahoyles@zoarlutheran.com).

**May 22, End of the Sunday School Year Pancake Breakfast:** Join us in bringing back one of the best events of the year! Zoar's Annual End of the Sunday School Year Pancake Breakfast: this year featuring Chris Cakes! All are welcome Sunday, May 22 from 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM in the Family Life Center.

## **June 26-30, Vacation Bible School Food Truck Party:**

Registration is now open for Zoar's 2022 Vacation Bible School for children entering Pre-K - 6th grade. This year we will be using the Cokesbury Publishing Theme "Food Truck Party." VBS will take place during the following times:

June 26 12 PM - 2 PM: VBS kick-off for participants and their families will join us for lunch and Day 1 activities.

June 27-30 9 AM - 12 PM: Participants only.

To register, visit: [tinyurl.com/zoarvbs2022](https://tinyurl.com/zoarvbs2022)

# WORSHIP IN MAY

After April, we continue to luxuriate in the Easter season and celebrate God's wonderful gift of salvation. Gail Ramshaw explores these intersections in the following synopses, which have been adapted for our use.

## MAY 1, EASTER III: DO YOU LOVE ME? FOLLOW ME

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in the blinding light, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things – bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness – to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process – a change that comes again and again, like Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. Conversion sets each of them and us on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth and leads us into eternal life.

## MAY 8, EASTER IV: THE SEARCHING SHEEP

As the church, we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home – of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today's texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is – and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, doubt and faith, simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

## MAY 15, EASTER V: GOD'S BEAUTIFULLY MESSY COMMUNITY

Through the depth of the day's texts, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. Like any other human organization, the church is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). However, unlike other human institutions, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection, we are welcomed and called to invite others.

## MAY 22, EASTER VI: OUR HOME-MAKING GOD

Jesus promises that though he is going away, he will come to his disciples in the power of an advocate, the Holy Spirit and that he and the Father will make their home in all who believe. The gathering of the faithful assembly to receive Christ's word and sacrament is a foretaste of that New Jerusalem, where God will finally and ultimately be at home with us, even as the Holy Trinity makes a home now in the hearts of all who believe. Into the anxieties and uncertainties of life, we are offered a vision of a glorious future--when God will be at home with us, and we will be at home with God – a living foretaste of that same future: "We will come to them and make our home with them... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

## MAY 29, EASTER VII: PRAYING FOR YOU

Today's gospel reading is, first and foremost, a prayer. It is Jesus' prayer, and we are given the privilege of listening in as he prays on behalf of his disciples and people of all times and places. Here is the astoundingly good news: Jesus prays for you and the communities in which we find ourselves. Whether your cup is empty or full, whether your community is in crisis or experiencing joy, Jesus loves you deeply, and your life is bound to the God who loved you before the foundations of the world. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusted your life, and the church's, to the Father. What glorious good news that the future rests in the care of the Triune God and that we, the church, are set free to make God known to the world!

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



from  
**Omaldo**  
Cantor

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

People living in the northern hemisphere marvel at the magnificent spectacle of a blossoming nature. As we all bask in the natural wonders of the season, we Christians also celebrate the miracle and mystery of the resurrection. Double rejoicing! The renewal of nature coincides with the renewal of spirit we experience during the fifty days when we revel in God's grace and salvation.

One side of this excitement can be glimpsed in the opening lines of "The Sovereignty of May" by William Wordsworth: *"While from the purpling east departs / The star that led the dawn, / Blithe Flora from her couch upstarts, / For May is on the lawn. / A quickening hope, a freshening glee, / Foreran the expected Power, / Whose first-drawn breath, from bush and tree, / Shakes off that pearly shower."*

In the hymn Christ is Living (ACS 934), written by Nicolas Martinez and translated by Martin Seltz, we find the other side of our seasonal joy: *"Death is swallowed up in vict'ry; / sin has lost its poison sting. / Life will blossom from the grain sown, / Christ the first fruits of the spring. / For the sureness of salvation / let us sing, 'Thanks be to God!' / Christ is risen! We are living! / Spread the word of grace abroad."*

Dear Friends, there is so much for which to be thankful! May we continue to grow in peace, joy, and gratitude sure in the knowledge of Jesus' resurrection.

Easter Blessings,

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

## MAY // 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 EASTER III</b> 8:30, 9:45AM Guest Speaker, Leah Schade  11AM Worship, Confirmation	<b>2</b>  5:30PM Property 7PM Social Ministry	<b>3</b> 9AM Quilters  3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live 7PM Life Long Learning	<b>4</b> 8AM Bible Study  3:30PM Abundant Life II 5 PM Cantorei Jr. 8PM Uncorked Faith	<b>5</b>  7PM Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>  1PM Zoar Book Club  7:30 Spring Concert	<b>7</b>  6PM Worship
<b>8 EASTER IV</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM SS	<b>9</b>  7PM Communications	<b>10</b> 9AM Quilters  3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live	<b>11</b> 8AM Bible Study  12PM Rachel Circle  7PM YAYA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  1PM Solo Again	<b>14</b> 9AM Time to Mulch 10AM Yarns of Love  6PM Worship
<b>15 EASTER V</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship & Baccalaureate 9:45AM SS  4 PM Youth Group Service Project	<b>16</b>  7PM Worship & Music	<b>17</b> 9AM Quilters  3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live  7PM Council	<b>18</b> 8AM Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:15AM Naomi Circle	<b>20</b>  12PM PCU Blood Drive	<b>21</b> 10AM Prayer Partners  6PM Worship
<b>22 EASTER VI</b> 8:30 Baptism, 11AM Worship 9:45AM End of Sunday School Celebration	<b>23</b>  6PM Popcorn Gang 7PM Personnel	<b>24</b> 9AM Quilters  3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live	<b>25</b> 8AM Bible Study  1:30PM Abundant Life I	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6PM Worship
<b>29 EASTER VII</b> 8:30, 11AM Worship	<b>30</b>  OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVATION OF MEMORIAL DAY	<b>31</b> 9AM Quilters  3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff on FB Live				

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

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

May 8     David Cremer  
 May 14    Shirley Cousino  
 May 21    Betty Hoffmann  
 May 27    Bob Shank

### ZOAR STAFF

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

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

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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  
Sunday School: 9:45 AM

*Be*  
**AmaZed!**



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

**YOU'RE INVITED TO VBS AT ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**June 26 • 12 PM - 2 PM // June 27-30 • 9 AM - 12 PM**

**For children entering Pre-K - 6th grade // 314 E. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg**

**REGISTER BY MAY 27 AT: [tinyurl.com/zoarvbs2022](https://tinyurl.com/zoarvbs2022)**