

Amaz^{ing}!News

NOVEMBER // 2022



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

A GRATEFUL ZOAR Gathers, Grows and Gives

*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

~ Romans 15:13

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

The days are growing shorter; the leaves are falling, and even though it has been a mild fall there have been a couple mornings with frost on the pumpkin. November inspires gratefulness for us. We are thankful for the beauties and joys of the change in the seasons; we are grateful for the harvest – particularly this year when in so many places fires, floods and droughts made the thought of harvest seem so dire. We are grateful as

A Grateful Zoar continued on page 3...



from
Pastor Paul

Senior Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com





All Saints Weekend

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2022

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest!*

On All Saints Weekend, November 5-6, we remember the beloved individuals who have died in the past year*. We also honor the faithful martyrs and servants who died long before us. These "saints" have been claimed and named by Jesus as one of His own, and now rest in His grace.

We give thanks for these saints now in God's arms:

William Lieder
George M. Pauwels, Sr.
Carolyn Marie Reitzel
Janis Marie Higbie
Patti J Seibold
Mary Ellen "Mitzie" Jameson
Marvin E. Keller

Danny J. LaDuke
William Jay Ohls
Donald R. Creps
Harold W. Uhde
Alicia E. Cadalso
Betty Orendorff
Marlee J Knox
Dave L. Sudman

Esther Louise Speck
Michael Besly
Sharon D. Smith
Ralph L. Debbe
Cheryl Schmidt
William E. Brooks
George Shepherd

In addition, we recognize those who have become saints through their baptism in the past year*. In this sacred washing, Jesus claims us as His own, part of God's family. We ask that you keep them in prayer, that they may grow strong in the love and grace of our Lord.

We give thanks for these new saints in Jesus:

Brooklyn Renea Kennedy
Kwinn Joyce Michelsen
Hudson Robert Haylett
Julia Kathryn Allard

Carson Robert Moser
Chloe Ann Liebrecht
Collin Patrick Deal

Avery Sara Caris
Evelyn Thea Seambos
Eli Benjamin Reeve
Josie Pauline Kohler

*Due to the production schedule of the newsletter, these are the deaths and baptisms as of October 16, 2021 - October 15, 2022.

///// CHURCH COUNCIL MESSAGE /////

Meet Council President, Ken Widdel

We had a chance to visit with Council President, Ken Widdel, for a quick Q&A. Here is what Ken shared with us:

Zoar: Hi Ken! Thank you for serving as Council President this year! Can you share with us what you enjoy about serving as Council President?

Ken: I enjoy giving back to a church that has served me for 54 years. I have been a member since 1968, and it feels very good to help the church as it plans for the future.



Ken Widdel
Zoar Church Council President

Zoar: We love that you have worshipped and served with us for 54 years! Do you have a favorite memory of Zoar that stands out to you?

Ken: You know, the blessing of baptism is what stands out to me. My three daughters and eight grandchildren have all been baptized at Zoar!

Zoar: That is a wonderful blessing indeed! We love that your entire family has been able to grow in faith here at Zoar! Do you and your family have a favorite service time, or do you like to mix it up?

Ken: My wife Debbie and I can usually be found at Saturday night 6PM service or the 8:30AM service on Sunday depending on our busy schedule.

Zoar: Thank you for finding a way to worship with Zoar amidst a busy schedule! We are glad that our various services offer you the flexibility to worship as your weekend allows. If someone were to come up to you after service and ask you how to get involved with Council, what would you say?

Ken: I would say: Let's get you involved! Anyone who is interested in serving next year can contact the church office or myself directly at 419-340-4248. I have served on council three separate times. Twice as Vice President and now doing my 2nd stint as President. My opinion is that your commitment is about 3-5 hours per month. You will feel good about yourself and be a big help to Zoar.

Zoar: Thank you for that information! We are so grateful for our volunteers, and we appreciate your commitment to Zoar, Ken. Do you have any final comments that you would like to share with our readers?

Ken: I would just say that our readers should know that you meet such wonderful and caring people while giving back to ZOAR. My philosophy is to give back, help others and have FUN doing it.

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

A Grateful Zoar continued from page 1...

we look back over the year that it has been, for the blessings we have received, for the strength to endure hardships and griefs, and for the joys that have enriched our lives.

In that way, we echo the genesis of our national Thanksgiving holiday. By remembering the Plymouth pilgrims who endured so much and were thankful for their new Native American friends and the bountiful harvest that would carry them through the next winter. And their thankfulness was not simply a feeling of general gratitude but a prayer of thanksgiving to God who had blessed them so abundantly; a gratitude they felt all the more keenly after having been through such difficult times.

It would be easy to stop there – to be appropriately grateful to the source of every blessing. But as we look to the scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments we see story after story of a God who keeps caring even when we turn away or forget. All of these remind us that we have a God who loves us so much that despite our sins and failings, Jesus Christ was born, lived, taught, did signs and wonders of the kingdom, suffered and died on the cross for our sake and rose again. All of these flowed out of who God is, a God of steadfast love, a God of mercy and forgiveness, the great I AM. God is a God of grace.

So this Thanksgiving, either when we take some time around the holiday table, or even better daily, let us truly give thanks to God; not only for the blessings we have received over this past year – which we know are beyond our imagining – but even more for who God is. And then perhaps, that spirit of thankfulness will overflow from feeling to action that we might show the love of God to our fellow human beings and to the world God has given us. That way, instead of celebrating a day of Thanksgiving; we might live lives of thankfulness each day.

Peace,
Pastor Paul

Zoar Youth — *Center for Youth Ministry Training*

Sometimes we feel a nudge by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes there's a "God wink" that you can't help but notice. That has happened. For the past few months, members of the Life Long Learning and Youth and Young Adult Committees have been exploring possibilities and data about our young people within Zoar Lutheran Church. While at the same time, filling important roles as Sunday School leaders and reshaping Catechism to better meet the needs of our students and families. In the course of all this, one thing remains clear... Zoar Lutheran's children, youth and young adults need staff devoted to engage with them, form and build their faith and equip them to lead.

Here's where the "God wink" comes into play. We have learned about CYMT – four letters that until recently we hadn't heard of together. They stand for the Center for Youth Ministry Training. An organization that equips youth ministers and communities of faith to develop innovative, effective and theologically informed ministries so youth may experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

CYMT partners with congregations and individuals representing the theological views and diversity of mainline Protestant Christianity. They partner with the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, ELCA Lutheran, Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, American Baptist and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is their theological partner. Zoar Lutheran has applied to be a partner in their Ministry Program to equip Zoar with up to two graduates in residences who are pursuing their Master of Arts degree in Youth Ministry. More to come. For now, we invite your fervent prayers for where God may be leading us to staff our children, youth and young adult ministries. Watch for an Adult Forum on Sunday, November 6 to learn more! Be AmaZed!



Karen Mathison
Chair of Youth and
Young Adult Committee

*Watch for
information to
come on an Adult
Forum on Sunday,
November 6 at
9:45AM to learn
more about CYMT!*

Worship & Music — *Living the End and the Beginning*

Did you know that November only has three Sundays this year? What? No, I haven't misread the calendar. But in the liturgical calendar three Sundays in November bring us to the end of the church year, a Day of Thanksgiving intervenes, and then comes the First Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a new church year. The calendar and its appointed readings reflect the ends and the beginnings we live through as individuals, as families, as congregations or as the whole assembly of the people of God.

Three times in Lectionary Year C, our present year, Jesus proclaims, "I am the Alpha and the Omega...." These are readings from Revelation on the 2nd, 5th and 7th Sundays of Easter. You know what words you expect to follow: "...the beginning and the end." The language varies a bit, but the meaning is just that. Check it out in Revelation 1:8, Revelation 21:6 and Revelation 22:13.

Now, however, we are at the end of the year, and our lives are turned around. Now we live the end and the beginning, for "... [God] is not God of the dead, but of the living" In our readings we hear about death (Luke 20:27-38) and destruction (Luke 21:5-19) and crucifixion (Luke 23:33-43), about living the end of life to awake in Advent (Matthew 24:36-44). We are living the end and the beginning. If you have a copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship at home or have time to look at church, check hymn 780, Marty Haugen's hymn paraphrase of Psalm 23, Shepherd Me, O God, as the refrain carries out this theme, "from death into life."

Noted on the back cover of this newsletter is the organ concert by Dr. Gail Archer on November 12 at 7:30PM. Music enthusiasts will want to view her web page at www.gailarcher.com. She is amazing. This past summer she was the artist in several concerts in Germany.

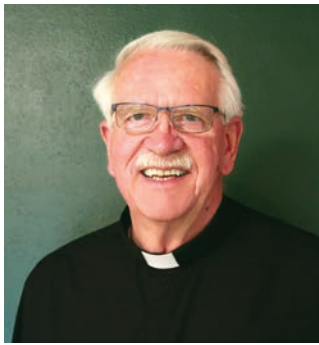
Blessings in ending and beginning.



Lee Rupert
Chair of Worship and
Music Committee

*Join us
November 12
at 7:30PM for an
organ concert with
Dr. Gail Archer. See
back cover for more
information.*

In Praise of Caregivers...



from
Pastor Rich
Visitation Pastor

Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus (remember: the man Jesus raised from the dead) have been in my thoughts a lot lately. What the Bible doesn't tell us about them is that they were most likely the caregivers of their brother. They took care of him during his illnesses. They did what so many of you do for those you love. They gave up a portion of their time, and expended no small amount of energy, to make their brother comfortable when he was unable to care for himself.

I mention this for two reasons. First, as I meet with many of our older members (and a few not-so-old), I hear stories of illnesses and injury, and powerful stories of family members and friends

who have been like Mary and Martha in caring for them. Praise God for such sacrificial love! And praise and thanks to the caregivers themselves, who choose to become loving servants, as Christ calls us to be for each other.

Second, I mention a particular caregiver whom I have benefited from these past few weeks, my wife, Sue! You may know that I had a second knee replacement August 1, and while I am slowly healing, there were complications. A blood clot behind the knee, and an infection in my body made recovery slower than expected. But I am on the mend...thanks in large part to the ministrations of my wife. She jokingly reminds me that I owe her, big time...and I do!

So, who are the caregivers in your life? Who has sacrificed to help you heal? Have you thanked them? I'm sure you have!

And if you are a caregiver, putting the needs of a family member or friend ahead of your own plans, to you I say thanks! Thank you for being like Mary and Martha. Thanks for making God's love and care concrete in another person's life. This is your ministry, your mission right now. Thanks be to God!

Midweek Advent Services

Make Ready for Holy Disruption

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. This year's theme is **Make Ready for Holy Disruption**. When we engage in spiritual practices, we disrupt the everyday pattern of our lives in order to make space for God. You are choosing disruption because you know that the Holy Spirit so often works through disruptions, teaching us, revealing our need for God, helping us to walk with Jesus in new ways.

Plan to join us each week of Advent for a midweek service at 12PM and 7PM.

Wednesday, November 30

BREATHING

Wednesday, December 7

RELEASING

Wednesday, December 14

RECEIVING

Wednesday, December 21

REJOICING

A look back at... Thanksgiving 1987

As we enter the holiday season, the Heritage Committee is taking a look back at a Thanksgiving worship service from 1987 during the time when Pastor Louis W. Accola was officiating. The sanctuary looked a bit different then than it does now. Here a few interesting things to note:

- Arches used to enclose the altar area, whereas it's now a much more open space.
- The reredos was down near the altar and now it's hung high above in the sanctuary.
- Baptismal font was in the center, now it's to the right.
- Choir was seated to the left of the altar, now they are centered behind it.
- Organ was to the right of altar, now it's on the left.

While the architecture and placement of things have changed over the years, **Zoar has always been a place where all are welcome. Please join us for this year's Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7PM.**



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

NOVEMBER // 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM LLL Committee Meeting	2 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 3:30PM Abundant Life II 7:30PM Uncorked Faith	3 7PM Chancel Choir	4 1PM Zoar Book Club	5 ALL SAINTS WEEKEND STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND 6PM Worship - <i>Wear your Zoar Spirit Wear!</i>
6 ALL SAINTS WEEKEND STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School <i>- Wear your Zoar Spirit Wear!</i>	7 5:30PM Property Committee Meeting	8 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM Stewardship Committee Meeting	9 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1PM Rachel Circle	10 7PM Chancel Choir	11 8AM Men's Breakfast @ American Table 1PM Solo Again	12 10AM Yarns of Love 6PM Worship 7:30PM Gail Archer Organ Concert
13 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 3PM Catechism Retreat 6:30PM YAYA Committee Meeting @ Panera	14 4:30PM Deadline to make reservation for Thanksgiving Dinner 7PM Social Ministry Committee Meeting	15 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff 7PM Council Meeting	16 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club	17 9:15AM Naomi Circle 7PM Chancel Choir	18 	19 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
20 CHRIST THE KING 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	21 7PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting	22 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/ Staff	23 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1:30PM Abundant Life I 7PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday 12PM Thanksgiving Dinner - Reservations are required	25 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	26 6PM Worship
27 ADVENT I 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	28 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel Committee Meeting	29 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM Stewardship Mtg. for Mailing	30 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Mtg 12PM Midweek Advent 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 7PM Midweek Advent	For a complete list of events, please check announcements in weekly Z-Blast email.		

COME GROW WITH ZOAR

Stewardship Talents and Treasure Campaign

Remember to return your completed Statement of Intent card and Talents Offering form during any of the worship services the weekend of November 5-6, 2022, or mail to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ZOAR MEMBERS CELEBRATING 85+ YEARS IN NOVEMBER!

November 15	Dorothy Beyer
November 24	Marcie Moser
November 27	Rosalie Moser
November 30	Joyce Grimshaw

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Pr. Paul Reichert
Senior Pastor

Worship Times:
Saturday: 6PM
Sunday: 8:30 & 11AM
Sunday School: 9:45AM

Be
AmaZed!



www.zoarlutheran.com



Organ Concert

BY GAIL ARCHER

**November 12
at 7:30pm**



FEATURING

A mixed program including Bach, Brahms and Ukrainian selections by Goncharenko, Ostrova and Kolessa.

Ms. Archer, an international concert organist, is also college organist at Vassar College, director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University and a faculty member of Harriman Institute, Columbia University.

Photo credit: Stephanie Berger