

Amaz^{ing}!News

DECEMBER // 2022



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

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Advent Midweek Services

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS AT 12 PM AND 7 PM

The Advent season is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ.

This year's Advent 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.



Join us for Advent Midweek Services on Wednesdays:

December 7 | December 14 | December 21

In-person services at 12 PM* and 7 PM each week

During the services, we will offer a time of prayer and reflection. We will sing our praise and offer times of scripture and silence. As you prepare for Christmas, may this time be one for you in which your spirit is revived by God's grace!

*12 PM service will also be livestreamed on @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook Page each week and then available to watch at your convenience.



Celebrate Christmas at Zoar!

We invite you to Celebrate Christmas at Zoar.
Come experience God's Love Breaking In!

THROUGHOUT ADVENT

Sunday, November 30 - Sunday, December 25 Nightly at 8PM Video
Devotions on our @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook page

ADVENT II

Saturday, December 3 at 6PM Worship Service
Sunday, December 4 at 8:30 & 11AM* Worship Service
Sunday, December 4 at 9:30AM Christmas with a Twist

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesday, December 7 at 12PM* Worship Service
Wednesday, December 7 at 7PM Worship Service

ADVENT III

Saturday, December 10 at 6PM Worship Service
Sunday, December 11 at 8:30 & 11AM* Worship Service
Sunday, December 4 at 9:45AM Sunday School

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesday, December 14 at 12PM* Worship Service
Wednesday, December 14 at 7PM Worship Service

ADVENT IV

Saturday, December 17 at 6PM Worship Service
Sunday, December 18 at 8:30 & 11AM* Worship Service
Sunday, December 18 at 9:45AM Sunday School
Sunday, December 18 at 2PM Blue Christmas

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

Wednesday, December 21 at 12PM* Worship Service
Wednesday, December 21 at 7PM Worship Service

CHRISTMAS EVE EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 23 at 7PM Worship Service

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24 at 2PM, 4PM, 8PM* and 11PM Worship Service

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

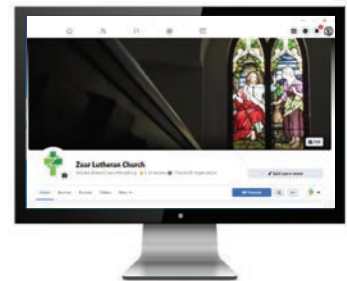
Sunday, December 25 at 10AM* Worship Service

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday, January 1 at 10AM* Worship Service

*Service will also be livestreamed on @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook Page

NIGHTLY ADVENT VIDEO DEVOTIONS



Advent is a season of preparing our hearts for the coming savior. Join us each evening during Advent (Nov. 27-Dec. 25) at 8PM on our @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook Page for a video devotion from Pastor Paul.



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or likes celebrating. To provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas, Zoar will hold a **Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 18 at 2PM**. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

Christmas IS A CELEBRATION

As I write this, we are starting to get ready for our big family Thanksgiving. It's a significant task because we are having somewhere between 20 and 30 people. There is cleaning, arranging, decorating and, of course, the cooking. People put so much pressure on themselves about Thanksgiving dinner that there are hotlines to call! And after Thanksgiving, we jump straight into preparing for Christmas. Truth be told, I have seen more than a few folks taking advantage of the warm weather we have had this November to put up their Christmas decorations already. And not only put them up, but light them to start enjoying them already. But not so many people decorate for Thanksgiving at the beginning of October. So what's the difference?

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas often have large family dinners. Both of those require cleaning, decoration and preparation. Both often feature a meal of foods that connect us to family traditions sometimes reaching back many generations. Both draw people together. But, in many ways, the similarities end there.

Getting ready for Thanksgiving has to happen in the midst of everything else. Christmas has a whole season, Advent, which helps us focus on preparing not only our homes but our hearts as well. While the meal is important for Christmas, and families want it to be just so, it rarely reaches the fever-pitch of Thanksgiving dinner prep because Christmas is more than a dinner. For Thanksgiving, some may gather together for a worship service; some may sing one of the harvest home songs; some may gather for the traditional after dinner football game nap. But at its heart, Thanksgiving is centered around the meal.

*Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Christ
our savior, redeemer and king.*

Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Christ our savior, redeemer and king. And yes, because Christmas comes in winter here in the Northern Hemisphere, it is often tied to winter festival themes, but even those are transformed by Christ. We light lights not against the growing darkness nor to encourage the sun to return; instead, we light our homes in celebration that the light of the Son has already broken into the darkness of this world. People who rarely make it to worship are drawn by the grace of God on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to come and worship the newborn king born in Bethlehem who would go on to give his life on the cross and rise on Easter. We worship the God whose love for us is so great that, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's only begotten Son, full of grace and truth."

At its heart, Thanksgiving is a celebration that we do; even when we remember to be thankful to the Lord. At its heart, Christmas is a celebration of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. And it makes all the difference.

Peace,
Pastor Paul



Pastor Paul

Senior Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

*"And the Word
became flesh and
lived among us, and
we have seen his
glory, the glory as of
a father's only son,
full of grace and
truth."*

JOHN 1:14



Children & Youth Ministries DECEMBER UPDATE

Sunday, December 4

Christmas with a Twist at 9:30AM

Sunday, December 4

Road to Confirmation, Catechism
Retreat from 3-6PM

Sunday, December 11

Youth and Young Adult Committee
Meeting at 6:30PM @ Panera

No Children or Youth Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1. Please join us for worship at 10AM!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas is probably my favorite holiday. Sometimes my love for this holiday is focused on the wrong things. I tend to pay attention more to buying presents, going to parties, making sure all the decorations are hung, baking cookies and staying very busy. Maybe it is the same for you. So this year I am going to:

Celebrate Advent — Join us on Wednesdays in December at 12PM or 7PM for a special Advent service. See page 1 of this newsletter for dates and more information.

Take a Census — Talk about what a census is. Use this as an opportunity to map out your family tree. Then open your Bible to Matthew 1 and show your kids the family tree of Jesus.

Watch A Charlie Brown Christmas — If your kids are able, help them memorize and recite the meaning of Christmas that Linus says in the movie: Luke 2: 8-14.

Bake a Birthday Cake for Jesus — Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and eat the cake!

Count my blessings — Sit around at home, drink hot chocolate and talk about the blessings that God has given your family this year.

Take a Family Hike — Pretend like you are Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. Ask your kids questions about what it must have been like for them as they prepared to have a baby and had to travel a long way.

What new traditions are you going to do this holiday season to focus on your family's faith?



Karen Mathison

Chair of Youth and
Young Adult Committee

Christmas with a Twist



**Please join us on
Sunday, December 4
at 9:30AM in the FLC!**

David Cain, also known as the Juggler for Jesus, has developed a Christian juggling and illusion program telling The Christmas Story. His routine uses a wide variety of props, hilarious comedy and lots of audience participation to remind kids of all ages that Jesus really is the reason for the season. We'll be serving a continental breakfast.

**All are invited to this
free community event!**



Help Feed Our Families Spread Christmas Cheer

Feed Our Families is hosting our 7th Annual Christmas Distribution on Saturday, December 10. From now until then, we are asking for donations to help our families have a brighter holiday season. We are in need of the following items:

For Children Ages 5-18: toys, board and card games, puzzles, books, outdoor play toys, art kits, LEGO® kits, earbuds, color changing lights, Funko Pops, model car/plane kits and glue, wireless headphones, wireless speakers, nail polish, bath bombs, slippers, body lotions, Zen garden items, oil diffusers, yoga/exercise items, makeup brushes, curling irons, face masks, eye masks, wallets, sports team ball caps, craft kits, baking kits.

For Moms: perfume, jewelry, fashion scarves, dish towels, dish cloths, coffee mugs, books, slippers.

For Dads: flashlights, tools, gloves, car scrapers, books, cologne, wallets, coffee mugs, socks, phone chargers.

We are also in need of volunteers! Please let us know if you are able to help the week of Tuesday, December 6 - Friday, December 9, or during the event on Saturday, December 10.

Please place your donated items in the marked bin in the Gathering Space by December 8.

If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Tracy Rickman at 419-206-7927 or Cynthia Sternberg at 419-376-1851.



Lee Rupert
Chair of Worship and Music Committee

December may rank high on your list of favorite months. Why? Because of Christmas if you are young. Because of snow if you are like our former Pastor Tim. Because of the beginning of bowl games if you are a football fanatic. Because of family gatherings, because of candlelight services, because of the music that brings joy to our lives. Much can be said for December. Better yet, more can be said because an ancient hope, the fulfillment of an ancient promise, did lead and will lead to the salvation of the world and to the reign of Christ.

December's calendar is messy this year. Advent began in November with its cry to wake and to watch. But we have three more Sundays of Advent in December with themes of preparing for, rejoicing about, and beholding what we celebrate on the fourth Sunday, Christmas Day. Even Christmas is messy as the very next Sunday, The First Sunday of Christmas is January 1, also known by the Church as The Name of Jesus and New Year's Day — bowl games not included.

Then there is December 6, remembering Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. Saint Nicholas was about giving. My favorite is December 7, commemorating Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, the author of "Savior of the Nations, Come," (ELW 263). This is our cry, our hope, in a blessed and messy December. Come, Lord Jesus.

Sharing the Holidays with Seniors



Pastor Rich
Visitation Pastor

Are you feeling hesitant, uncertain, even fearful about the upcoming holidays with your elderly relatives or friends? It's understandable! What do you get for them? Should you plan on including them for family celebrations at home? If that's not possible, should you make time in your already hectic holiday plans and just visit them wherever they live?

Here's my take on seniors and the holidays: Don't worry or stress. They'll appreciate it!

The truth is, most seniors don't really want more stuff (they've probably trying to get rid of what they already have!) Keep your holiday shopping simple. What they would really like is a little bit

of your time. Not necessarily on the holiday itself (they know you're busy), but the day before or after. Visit them, spend an hour with them, share with them what's happening in your life. If they have grandkids or great-grandkids, maybe bring them with you. If the children are real young, keep your visit to a reasonable length. We older types appreciate young children in small doses! If you'd like to bring a gift, keep that simple, too! Dig through that box of old photographs, and surprise them with pictures of themselves standing next to that brand new 1954 Chevy, or holding your older brother when he was a newborn. What you're really sharing is memories!

Like most folks, we older people can sense someone's stress level. And we'd like to help you de-stress as much as possible. I'm hoping these suggestions will make the holidays much more satisfying for everyone!

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

DECEMBER // 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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For more information on these events,
please see Announcements in Z-Blast email
or Events Calendar at www.zoarlutheran.com.

				1 7PM Chancel Choir	2 1PM Zoar Book Club	3 9AM Heritage Committee 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
4 ADVENT II 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:30AM Christmas with a Twist 3PM Catechism Retreat	5 5:30PM Property Committee Meeting 7PM Social Ministry Committee Meeting	6 Feed Our Families Christmas Setup 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff	7 Feed Our Families Christmas Setup 12PM Advent Service 3:30PM Abundant Life II 7PM Advent Service 7PM Uncorked Faith	8 Feed Our Families Christmas Setup 7PM Chancel Choir	9 Feed Our Families Christmas Setup 8AM Men's Breakfast @ American Table 1PM Solo Again	10 8AM Feed Our Families Christmas Distribution 6PM Worship
11 ADVENT III 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 6:30PM YAYA Committee Meeting @ Panera	12 6PM Communications Committee Meeting @ Inside the Five	13 9AM Quilters <i>Quilt Raffle Drawing!</i> 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM Stewardship Committee Meeting	14 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM Staff Meeting 12PM Advent Service 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1PM Rachel Circle 7PM Advent Service	15 9:15AM Naomi Circle 7PM Chancel Choir	16	17 6PM Worship
18 ADVENT IV 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 2PM Blue Christmas Worship Service	19 7PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting	20 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM Council Meeting	21 8AM Bible Study 9:30AM Staff Meeting 12PM Advent Service 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 7PM Advent Service	22 7PM Chancel Choir	23 Office Closed at 12PM 7PM Christmas Eve Worship Service	24 2PM, 4PM, 8PM, 11PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM Christmas Day Worship Service	26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday	27 Office Closed at 12PM 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff	28 Office Closed at 12PM 1:30PM Abundant Life I	29 Office Closed at 12PM	30 Office Closed at 12PM	31 6PM Worship

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ZOAR MEMBERS
CELEBRATING 85+ YEARS IN DECEMBER!**

December 3 Liz Kaczor
December 5 Arlene Knapp
December 23 Tom Downs
December 28 Ann Lieder
December 29 Jane St. John

ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Paul Reichert, pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com
Visitation Pastor: Rich Rentner, call Church Office at 419-874-4346 for home visit
Director of Church Operations: Tracy Jahns, admin@zoarlutheran.com
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Church Secretary: Brekke Ell, bell@zoarlutheran.com
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Feature birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms and more in the *AmaZing News* newsletter!

Email **communications@zoarlutheran.com** for pricing and availability.

DEADLINE IS THE 2ND OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



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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

ZOAR LUTHERAN INVITES YOU TO

CHRISTMAS WITH A TWIST

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 4
IN THE FLC
9:30 AM-10:45 AM

Enjoy Breakfast while David Cain, known as the
Juggler for Jesus, performs the Christmas Story

FREE EVENT!
Open to the Community!

ZOAR
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