

AmaZing!News

JANUARY // 2023



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

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Now Serving! KITCHEN OF HOPE RETURNS

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." — John 21:15b

Kitchen of Hope is Zoar's response to Jesus' call to care for our neighbors by providing nutritious free dinners served with generosity and love. **Open to everyone, we invite all those residing in the Wood County community and members of Zoar to attend.**

Kitchen of Hope has served hot, home-cooked dinners for more than 15 years. Dinners include a main entree, vegetable, starch, salad and fresh-baked dessert. There is no charge for the meal; however, donations can be made to the Kitchen of Hope ministry or in honor/memory of a loved one.

Dinners are held the 4th Friday of the month at 12noon in the Zoar Family Life Center. Please note, no dinners are offered June through August. **Reservations are necessary; please call the Church Office at 419-874-4346.** See the back cover of this issue for reservation deadlines and dates for dinners.

All are welcome! This is a time for everyone to come together in fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal.





Pastor Paul

Senior Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

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



Make it a Year of GRATEFULNESS

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

As difficult as it may be to imagine, here we are in the year 2023. The New Year always seems to take us a bit by surprise which is amazing because all of us who have physical calendars have to either turn the page or open the new one after December 31. It isn't as if some years we get a bonus post-December/pre-January month. We just get so caught up in getting through all the things we are working on that we forget to adjust our thinking.

But perhaps this year we can try to do just that, adjust our thinking to an attitude of gratefulness. I'm not talking about just another New Year's resolution where we try for a few weeks to do something to improve ourselves until we either forget or get tired of it. Instead, looking at our mission statement which calls us "A Grateful Zoar," let us embrace who we are called to be as God's people here in this place. So let me start.

*Powered by the Holy Spirit,
let us embrace this year of our Lord, 2023,
as a year to live out gratefulness.*

I am grateful for my family's amazing patience by my not being home very much, particularly over these past couple weeks. Their love and support make all I am able to do possible. I am grateful for Zoar's staff, Tracy, Melissa, Brekke, Paul and Pastor Rich, who have worked so hard to facilitate the mission of Zoar and its ministries. Most of us are going through our first holiday season together, and all the extra efforts are truly appreciated.

I am grateful for our committees and volunteers who have stepped up particularly during this extended season of understaffing. You have gone above and beyond, often in the background, making music, Christian education, administration and ministry possible, and, more than that, you've made it thrive as we keep reaching forward. There are far too many of you to name, but thank you for ALL you have done and are doing.

And I live in gratefulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ, who calls us imperfect disciples to follow Him and be His hand and feet in the world. Not only am I grateful for the gift of salvation that Christ won for us through His life, death and resurrection, but I am so grateful that Jesus promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Powered by the Holy Spirit, let us embrace this year of our Lord, 2023, as a year to live out gratefulness. ***AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus, A Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives.***

Peace,
Pastor Paul



Zoar Youth — *New Year's Resolutions*

Rumor has it that 64% of New Year's resolutions fail within a month. Those are not great odds, and yet hope is such a part of a New Year. A baby born just for us a few weeks ago. In a manger. Light of the world. Wise men sought Him out. So maybe we can, too. One of the best ways to seek out the presence of Jesus is by being together. Here are some ideas to get you started in the New Year. Try one for a week and then add another.

- We will have a family game night once a week.
- We will participate in a family volunteer activity that supports Zoar's many ministries.
- We will share our highs and lows of the day with one another every night.
- We will eat dinner together as a family and say table grace before we eat.
- We will attend worship service each week in-person or online.
- We will tell each other the qualities we admire most about them every week.
- We will participate in one physical activity together as a family once a week.
- We will make dinner together at least once a week.
- We will use less plastic; and be more eco-friendly.
- We will extend grace to others and ourselves.

May this New Year bring you plenty of great joy, faith-building, kindness, sharing and love. See you at church!



Karen Mathison
Chair of Youth and
Young Adult Committee

Worship & Music — *Celebrating Our Volunteers*

The Epiphany of our Lord on January 6 concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Epiphany means "showing up" and there are many hardworking and faithful church volunteers who are showing up to lead events at Zoar. One example is the organ concert held this past November with renowned organist Gail Archer of Barnard College, Columbia University. People still tell me how much they appreciated her performance, and I have expressed this with Dr. Archer.

This was a major event with lots of people who did a wonderful job planning, preparing and hosting the concert. In a recent Worship and Music Committee meeting I shared our thanks to all who assisted with the concert. Let me share with all of you how much the staff and volunteers at Zoar contributed to make this concert a success.

- Melissa Ellerbrock, Marketing Coordinator, provided the best in promotional materials and advertising on WGTE. Gail Archer was interviewed directly by *The Blade*.
- Brekke Ell, Church Secretary, set a new standard in producing a concert program.
- Karen Lundholm recruited a host of volunteers for the reception with cookies and fruit.
- Pastor Paul got the organ repaired Thursday before the concert. A repair person replaced a blown fuse in the windchest providing air to the pipes and changed out a control to prevent the problem from recurring.
- Paul Cannon, Custodian, was on duty much of Saturday as all the preparations were being done. Paul, Ken Meinecke and Michael Searle moved the altar and organ before and after the concert.
- We had greeters and counters and an offering of more than \$500.
- I provided transportation from Detroit airport to Perrysburg; Julie Buzzelli provided the return trip.

Thanks to everyone!



Lee Rupert
Chair of Worship and
Music Committee



Zoar Volunteers are Amazin

The church couldn't function without people from all walks of life and skill sets getting involved and making it happen. We've done so much as a church body, please know ALL of you are appreciated, and ALL of you are important to our mission. Thank you to ALL our volunteers!

We are part of an exciting congregation that aims to grow the reach of God's love. We share the common goals of helping each other on a path of grace and service. We carry the love and grace of God in our hearts to help build up others around us, with hopes for an even better church, a better community and a better world.

We thank you for being a vital part of our vibrant congregation at Zoar Lutheran Church, and we thank you for being a good steward of the gifts God has given to you. Thank you for your commitment to Zoar. Your gifts of time and talent have been such a blessing to the church.

Together we are on a mission that we can fulfill:

**Amazed by God, Energized by Jesus,
Zoar Lutheran Church Gathers, Grows and Gives.**



Are you ready to join our team of volunteers?



Zoar has many **AmAZing** opportunities for individuals of all ages to be involved with ministries that serve our congregation. Now's the perfect time to start! Here are some committees that need your help:

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- One meeting a month, usually 1st Monday at 5:30PM
- Open to anyone age 18+
- Help with maintenance of church and rental properties including general repairs; recommend contractors when needed

For more information, email doug.williams@maumeesupply.com.

COURTYARD COMMITTEE

- Meeting times to be determined
- Open to all ages!
- Help with the memorial garden including internment process and care of space; coordinate names for Tree of Life

Email admin@zoarlutheran.com if you're interested in joining.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- One meeting a month, usually 2nd Tuesday at 7PM
- Members are elected to this committee
- Help to encourage giving practices whether financial or talents to give back to God

Email info@zoarlutheran.com to let us know you would like to serve on this committee.

g!

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

JANUARY // 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEWYEAR'S DAY 10AM New Year's Day Worship Service	2 Church Building and Office Closed for New Year's Holiday	3 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM LLL Committee Meeting	4 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 3:30PM Abundant Life II 7PM Uncorked Faith 7PM All Things New Bible Study on Zoom	5 10AM All Things New Bible Study L1/L2 & Zoom 7PM Chancel Choir	6 1PM Zoar Book Club	7 6PM Worship
8 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	9 7PM Communications Committee Meeting	10 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 6PM Budget & Finance Committee Meeting 7PM Stewardship Committee Meeting	11 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1PM Rachel Circle 7PM All Things New Bible Study on Zoom	12 10AM All Things New Bible Study L1/L2 & Zoom 7PM Chancel Choir	13 8AM Men's Breakfast @ American Table 1PM Solo Again 7:30PM PSO Concert	14 10AM Yarns of Love 6PM Worship
15 8:30, 11AM Worship	16 7PM Worship & Music Committee Meeting	17 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 7PM Council Meeting	18 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 7PM All Things New Bible Study on Zoom	19 9:15AM Naomi Circle 10AM All Things New Bible Study L1/L2 & Zoom 7PM Chancel Choir	20 10AM-4PM PCU Blood Drive	21 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
22 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	23 4:30PM Deadline to make rez for KOH 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel Committee Meeting 7PM Small Groups Meeting	24 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff	25 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Zoar Bridge Club 1:30PM Abundant Life I 7PM All Things New Zoom 7:30PM BGSU Volare Concert	26 10AM All Things New Bible Study L1/L2 & Zoom 7PM Chancel Choir	27 12PM Kitchen of Hope	28 6PM Worship
29 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 12:15PM Zoar Annual Meeting	30	31 9AM Quilters 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff	For more information on these events, please see Announcements in Z-Blast email or Events Calendar at www.zoarlutheran.com .			

PLAN TO JOIN US!

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting
 Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 12:15PM

All are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting to reflect on events and programs of the past year, vote on the budget, elect leaders and celebrate life together in community.

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

January 2	Donald Coffey
January 4	Paul Smithers
January 7	Les Meier
January 27	Paul Meyerholtz
January 28	Marcelene Davis

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
 Marketing Coordinator: Melissa Ellerbrock, communications@zoarlutheran.com
 Church Secretary: Brekke Ell, bell@zoarlutheran.com
 Custodian: Paul Cannon, facilities@zoarlutheran.com

PHOTO CREDITS

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Email communications@zoarlutheran.com for pricing and availability.

DEADLINE IS THE 2ND OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



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CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Pr. Paul Reichert
Senior Pastor

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

Be
AmaZed!



www.zoarlutheran.com

Kitchen of Hope

All are welcome!

We invite all those residing in the Wood County community and members of Zoar to attend Kitchen of Hope dinners. Served on the 4th Friday of the month at 12noon, dinners include a main entree, vegetable, starch, salad and fresh-baked dessert. **Reservations are necessary; please call the Church Office at 419-874-4346.**

Reservation Deadline

Monday, January 23
Monday, February 20
Monday, March 20
Monday, April 24
Monday, May 22
Monday, September 18
Monday, October 23
TBD for Nov. & Dec.

2023 Dinners

Friday, January 27
Friday, February 24
Friday, March 24
Friday, April 28
Friday, May 26
Friday, September 22
Friday, October 27
TBD for Nov. & Dec.



Join us for a delicious dinner and
spend time in fellowship!



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