

Amaz!ng!News

MARCH // 2023



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

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Zoar Foundation Grant Requests Due March 31

The Zoar Foundation invites committees, small groups, members and staff of Zoar to submit proposals for support of new or expanded ministries of Zoar Lutheran Church. **More than \$100,000 in grant money is available in 2023.**

The guidelines, application form and instructions for submitting requests are available on the Zoar website at zoarlutheran.com/zoar-foundation/ or paper copies are in the church office. **The deadline to submit grant requests is March 31.** To see a list of grants the Zoar Foundation has awarded since 2010 visit zoarlutheran.com/zfgrants/.

The Zoar Foundation was established in 2007. The Zoar Foundation oversees the Zoar Endowment Fund, Zoar Operating Fund, Kurfis Fund for Youth Ministry and the Kazmaier Fund for Theological Education.

Additional information about the Zoar Foundation is available on the Zoar website at zoarlutheran.com/zoar-foundation/ or by contacting Glenn Abke, Zoar Foundation President, at gabke71@gmail.com.





Pastor Paul

Senior Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

"...at its heart, that's what Lent is: a recognition of what Christ has done for us that we might have access to an intentional reset on our spiritual priorities."



May Christ be with you on your Lenten Journey



By the time you read this article, we will have already entered the season of Lent. It is the season of the church that comes just before Easter and is often seen as a penitential time of preparation for Easter.

But what does it mean for us to go through a penitential time when most of us see ourselves as pretty good as far as God and one another are concerned? Not very many of us are like Luther during his monk days when he tried to drive the unholiness from his mind by whipping himself to "discipline the weakness of his mortal nature." We see similar things in movies and don't say, "That looks like a good spiritual practice." Instead, we look, if we can manage to not turn away, with revulsion and pity.

The reality is that we are far more broken than we care to admit, but it is also true that no amount of beating ourselves or someone else will ever knock the bad out of us. Lent isn't about finding a way to eliminate our sinfulness so that we will be ready for Easter. Jesus came precisely because we fail so miserably at removing sin from our lives.

God gave the commandments; we broke them. God gave the Law; we twisted it to our own benefit. God sent judges, prophets, and kings; we ignored them and killed them if they annoyed us too much. Again and again, God calls us to be righteous – in right relationship with God, our neighbors, ourselves and our environment. But we either think we know better or can't wrap our heads around what God is asking us to do. Jesus even reduces the whole of the Law and the Prophets to two commandments: Love the Lord your God with all your strength soul and mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself. And still we ignore the simplicity of that task. So Jesus went to the cross, died and rose again that we might have a new chance each day to begin again. Our Midweek Lenten services this year look back to those who caught that vision of faith before us with the theme, "Sing with all the Saints in Glory."

And at its heart, that's what Lent is: a recognition of what Christ has done for us that we might have access to an intentional reset on our spiritual priorities. Not that we couldn't do that everyday, but, having a season when we all are working on doing that together and looking to those who have gone before us helps us to draw strength and focus from each other.

Some of the opportunities we are offering at Zoar this Lent to help in that reset are a return to meals on Sunday mornings and around the Midweek services and the chance to participate in a Lenten study for the book *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. Thanks to a generous Thrivent grant, the books are available for free in the office. May Christ be with you on your Lenten Journey.

Peace,
Pastor Paul

Holy Week



You're invited to join us during Holy Week and Easter Sunday as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

NIGHTLY DEVOTIONS ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Scripture and Reflections with Pastor Paul

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 PALM SUNDAY & FIRST COMMUNION

8:30AM and 11AM* | Worship Services

9:55AM | Meal & Conversation

MONDAY, APRIL 3 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 HOLY WEEK

12PM* and 7PM | Worship Services

THURSDAY, APRIL 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY

12PM* and 7PM | Worship Services

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 GOOD FRIDAY

7AM | Worship at the Cross at Saint Rose Catholic Church

215 E. Front St., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

12PM* | Worship Service

6:30PM | Community Service of Hope at Commodore Lawn

140 E. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

7PM | Worship Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

10AM | Easter Egg Hunt at Zoar

6PM | Easter Vigil Worship Service

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 EASTER

6AM | Worship in the Cemetery at Fort Meigs Cemetery

620 W. Indiana Ave., Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

7AM, 9AM and 11AM* | Worship Services

*Service will be livestreamed on our @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook page



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8 | 10AM
at Zoar Lutheran Church

- For toddlers to kids age 10
- Breakfast treat
- Games and prizes



A Service of *Hope*

Join us for a community

SERVICE OF HOPE

Good Friday, April 7

6:30PM | Commodore Lawn

(across from O-Deer Diner)

*Bring a lawn chair and a friend
who needs a little hope!*

Children's & Youth Ministries

"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

— John 6:12b

We have all heard the story of the five loaves and two fish. It is the gentle reminder that in our daily Christian lives nothing we face here on earth is too big for God. Jesus is big enough for any of our expectations, and he uses people to bless others. Now back to the story: Andrew said there is a boy with five barley loaves. When the disciples saw five loaves and two fish they were worried there wasn't enough. When Jesus saw five loaves and two fish, He saw potential. It is one of the many times bread is referenced throughout the Bible. People with means enjoyed bread made from wheat. The grain was finely ground up and the bran discarded. The boy in the story had barley loaves, which was coarse and eaten primarily by people who were poor. When the disciples asked, the boy was willing to share it with the others. It turned out there was so much food, they needed baskets to collect the leftovers!

In this month of March as we journey through Lent here's a fun activity for the whole family: When you think about your toys and games, do you see enough or do you think about something you wished you had? Can you name all the toys you have without looking at them? Grab a sheet of paper and pencil and start a list of your toys without looking at them. Now, go look. What did you forget about? What might that tell you? Have you outgrown some of them? Is it time to share some of them with others by donating them to a nearby organization? **From March 1 through March 26, Zoar will be collecting gently used games (with all of their parts and pieces) to be donated to Family House**, the 2nd largest shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Ohio. They have 110 beds and the capacity to serve 36 families. They are full. At any given time there are usually more than 100 families in Lucas County on a wait list. No stuffed animals please.



Karen Mathison
Chair of Youth and
Young Adult Committee

*From March 1-26,
Zoar will be collecting
gently used games*



Worship & Music

Standing in line at a funeral luncheon is a great place to have conversations. Long ago I was standing at the end of such a line, and the youngest son of the man in whose honor the luncheon was served came to talk. He was happy for all the people who had come. He said, "I'll bet Dad is looking down from heaven, really happy watching us here." And then he asked, "What do you think?"

Some questions are not to be answered. I knew that. But he also wanted affirmation that he and all who gathered were bringing joy to his father. He stood there waiting for my answer. "I am sure your father is happy, happy that we are gathered, happy that we remember him," I began my reply. "But when I die, I think I'm going to be busy gathered with the people who have gone before me." We talked much more, and he was content.

Scripture speaks of the multitude in heaven. At my age I joke – I just hope I remember their names.

Through the four Sundays in March, we have Gospel readings from John, three of them being among the longest readings in the lectionary. In the first and the fourth, we remember individuals by name: in John 3:1-17, Nicodemus, the Pharisee who came to visit Jesus by night, and, in John 11:1-45, Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead. Just as important are the second and third readings in which we meet the unnamed woman at the well in Samaria, John 4:5-42, and the unnamed man born blind, John 9:1-41. They all met Jesus. They all saw the beginning of God's reign in Jesus. They were all healed. They were given life itself.

I did not give you the name of the youngest son. I do remember his name. Scripture, full of names, drops some. The name is just a symbol of who you are. Who you are in Christ is more important. And Jesus remembers you.



Lee Rupert
Chair of Worship and
Music Committee

Communications CORNER

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

— Matthew 18:20



Over the past year, the Communications Committee at Zoar has focused on encouraging positive communications through messaging, design and presence. We have achieved this through press releases and advertising in local newspapers, and establishing a continuous and appealing presence on social media. Zoar has great visibility in print and online, but how can we as a church grow our presence in the Perrysburg community? We're glad you asked! One way to introduce our community to Zoar is by participating in local parades and festivals.

We have identified three parades and three festivals to participate in this coming year:



- Memorial Day parade in May
- Perrysburg Homecoming parade in September
- Home for the Holidays parade in December
- Perrysburg Farmer's Market in July
- City of Rossford Stroll the Streets in August
- Perrysburg Homecoming festival in September

At first thought all of this may seem daunting, but the Communications Committee is making it easy for members to lead and participate in events with our new “Zoar Community Toolkits.”

For parades, the toolkit will include banners, Zoar-branded T-shirts, a portable speaker and, of course, CANDY! Parades are a great way to engage with people all at once and show Zoar is a fun and welcoming church!

The toolkit for festivals includes everything needed for a respite station including our Zoar tent, portable chairs, information sheets, giveaways and a craft for the kids. Providing a shaded place to rest and refresh is a good way to show that Zoar cares for our neighbors and one another.



Sign up today!

Scan the QR code
or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/23MemorialParade>

Here's where we need YOU — Zoar members — to get involved. The first event of the year is the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29 in downtown Perrysburg. We need at least one member to take the lead. This will include being the point of contact on the day of the parade and transporting the toolkit to and from the church. Otherwise, the rest of the tasks will be managed through signups. It's really that easy! **Sign up today!** Scan the QR code with the app or camera on your smartphone or go to <https://tinyurl.com/23MemorialParade>.

All relationships, including the ones we are growing with our community, take patience, consistency and a welcoming presence! At the end of the day, the goal is to love our neighbors with the love we have received from God.

Join us as we showcase God's love in the community!

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

MARCH // 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
For more information on these events, please see Announcements in Z-Blast email or Events Calendar at www.zoarlutheran.com.			1 8AM Bible Study 12PM Lent Service 12:30 Lenten Meal 1PM Bridge Club 3:30PM Abundant Life II 5:30PM Lenten Meal 7PM Lent Service 7PM Uncorked Faith	2 7PM Choir	3 1PM Zoar Book Club	4 6PM Worship
			8 8AM Bible Study 12PM Lent Service 12:30PM Lenten Meal 1PM Bridge Club 1PM Rachel Circle 5:30PM Lenten Meal 7PM Lent Service	9 7PM Choir	10 8AM Men's Breakfast Off-site 1PM Solo Again 7:30PM PSO Concert	11 10AM Yarns of Love 6PM Worship
5 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 9:55AM Lenten Meal	6 11AM Staff Meeting 5:15PM Foundation 5:30PM Property 7PM Social Ministry	7 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 7PM Life Long Learning	15 8AM Bible Study 12PM Lent Service 12:30PM Lenten Meal 1PM Bridge Club 5:30PM Lenten Meal 7PM Lent Service	16 9:15AM Naomi Circle 7PM Choir	17 	18 9AM-3PM Zoar Blood Drive 10AM Prayer Partners 6PM Worship
12 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 9:55AM Lenten Meal 3PM Catechism Retreat	13 11AM Staff Meeting 7PM Communications	14 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 6PM Budget & Finance 7PM Stewardship	22 8AM Bible Study 12PM Lent Service 12:30PM Lenten Meal 1PM Bridge Club 1:30PM Abundant Life I 5:30PM Lenten Meal 7PM Lent Service	23 7PM Choir	24 12PM Kitchen of Hope	25 6PM Worship
19 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 9:55AM Lenten Meal	20 11AM Staff Meeting 4:30PM Deadline for Kitchen of Hope Rez 7PM Worship & Music	21 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 7PM Church Council	29 8AM Bible Study 12PM Lent Service 12:30PM Lenten Meal 1PM Bridge Club 5:30PM Lenten Meal 7PM Lent Service	30 7PM Choir	31 Zoar Foundation Grant Requests Due	
26 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School 9:55AM Lenten Meal	27 11AM Staff Meeting 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel	28 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball				

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

March 3 Vivian Corbin
March 6 Donald Underwood
March 7 Jan Odegaard

March 15 Jim Lager
March 21 Ella Kazmaier
March 24 Shirley Lardinais

ZOAR STAFF

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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

Join us for a Meal & Conversation!

Now through Sunday, April 2, there will be three opportunities each week to participate in a light meal and conversation. Using the Lenten study guide, *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, we'll consider stories such as the feeding of the multitude, eating with tax-collectors, and interrupted meals. Study guides are available in the Church Office. All meals will be held in the Family Life Center Lounge. There is no charge for the meals, but a freewill offering will be taken. **Open to everyone – so please join us!**

- **Sundays at 9:55AM**

Light breakfast will be served *between* morning worship services

- **Wednesdays at 12:30PM**

Light lunch will *follow* the noon midweek Lenten service

- **Wednesdays at 5:30PM**

Light dinner will be served *before* the evening midweek Lenten service

