

AmaZing!News

APRIL // 2023



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

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New Members Sunday!

Are you looking for a place of worship? Are you wanting to be more active in the community and world around you? Have you been thinking about becoming a member of the church? Well, if you want to be part of something amaZing, then Zoar Lutheran Church may be just the place for you! We are delighted when people come to worship and participate at Zoar. ALL people are welcome to join in our activities at any time, and there is always an open invitation to become a member of the Zoar congregation.

- ▶ During worship services the weekend of **Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, we will welcome our newest Zoar members!** After finishing New Member classes, they will call Zoar their church home.
- ▶ Following the 11AM service on **Sunday, April 23, please join us for a New Members Reception in the FLC!**

At Zoar Lutheran Church, our members feel empowered to work at making a difference in the world and enjoy helping to make it a better place. We invite you to discover what Zoar Lutheran has to offer and how you can help us Be AmaZed by God's wondrous gifts!

If you want to know more about joining any of our activities or membership, please contact Pastor Paul at pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com.





Pastor Paul

Senior Pastor

pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com

Christ is Risen

HE IS RISEN INDEED

Alleluia!



“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.’”

— Mark 16:6

“Don’t be alarmed,” the angel said. How were they to not be alarmed?? The women had gone early Sunday morning to the tomb to finish the final things they could do for their Lord and Teacher – to complete the burial rituals that had to be cut short because of the sabbath Friday at sunset. And arriving, they were not met by a cold, silent tomb with the body of their Lord; instead, an angel in white, sitting in the open tomb. That was certainly startling enough, but, even more upsettingly, Jesus’ body was gone as well. And to top it off, the angel told them that what they and the entire human race before them knew – that alive was alive, and dead was dead – didn’t apply here. No wonder they ran in fear. No wonder they were filled with terror; their entire understanding of the world had just been turned upside down!

We who have almost two thousand Easters behind us are less likely to be alarmed and terrified, but Easter is no less shaking today. Easter speaks to us down through these long ages through the Holy Spirit and says that we shouldn’t be so sure that the world is the way the world is or has always been. A lot of times that’s true. On the whole, we aren’t terribly surprised by another murder, another tragic death, another example of people being more concerned about themselves than the plight of their neighbors. But the hope of Easter, of God’s unconquerable love, still breaks out into life and surprises us. When people stand up for those who are bullied, pushed to the outside or forgotten; when people choose to care for their neighbors even when it makes their own lives more difficult; when people live in hope even though the situation around them seems hopeless, the hope of the Resurrection is breaking into our world all over again.

Jesus’ abandonment and suffering, his death and burial just seemed like the way things had always been, but Christ’s rising on Easter speaks this amazing word to us that is always shockingly new.

God loves us and has won the battle against all the things that would divide us from that love. We can be shocked (and obviously be in good Easter company), but even more, we, like the disciples who were so full of fear, can be transformed by the Good News into loving action; we can be Christ’s hands and feet carrying forgiving love out into a world in need. All because one morning, there was the incredible news that he was not there in the tomb. **Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!!**

Peace,

Pastor Paul



Celebrating Lent & Easter at Zoar!



Tower Brass to perform at Zoar on Easter Sunday

Tower Brass will perform and accompany some hymns at 9AM and 11AM on Easter Sunday.

Founded in 1979, the Tower Brass Quintet has performed more than 500 performances in 25 states and collaborated with several of the world's other premiere brass ensembles, including the London, Budapest, Annapolis and American Brass Quintets.

A 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!*

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES AND MEALS & CONVERSATION

We hope you were able to join us at one (or more!) of our Lent Midweek Services and Meals & Conversation! We had great participation with the book study *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. Here are some highlights:



Thank you to the team who decorated the tables each meal! It was lovely!



Pastor Lori and Pastor Paul led each of the Lent Midweek Services.



Zoar members and friends enjoying a delicious meal and time in fellowship.



Thanks to Beth Reichert for sharing her musical talents at each of the 12noon Midweek Services!



Young Adults Small Groups leaders prepared one of the Lenten meals. Look at those happy faces!!



Shoutout to Pastor Paul for leading and serving throughout this busy season!



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group prepared a yummy meal of soups, salads and desserts!



Members and friends of Zoar enjoying one of the Midweek Services.



We are so thankful for the many groups, committees and Church Council for providing and serving meals.

Worship & Music at Zoar



Lee Rupert
Worship and Music
Committee Member;
Karen Lundholm, Chair

Three in one! Three in one! No, that's not the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government. It's not your credit report from Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. It's not 3-IN-ONE™ Oil which "lubricates, cleans, and prevents rust®." Is it Snickers® with peanuts, caramel and nougat? Of course not.

Three in one could be the Holy Trinity, the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity is certainly involved in Easter. But at Easter, the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are seen as one day, the Triduum. We say we are an Easter People. Indeed we are. But our Easter is more than resurrection alone. It's the meal, Jesus' last discourse, the great high priestly prayer, Gethsemane's garden, the betrayal, the arrest, the denial, the trial, the crucifixion, the burial, the empty tomb and our risen Lord. All the events of Three Days from Thursday evening until Sunday evening, all in one liturgical day. The liturgies of the Triduum properly have one greeting on Maundy Thursday and no benediction until Easter Sunday. It's one service, not three.

I know. You come to church on one of those days. Maybe two of those days. Hey, wait. We have four days of services counting the Easter Vigil on Saturday in our modern calendar. But from the calendar of Jesus' time it's only three days, evening to evening, Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a lot of services. Pastor Paul will be at all of those services. I'll try for four. We have wonderful things happening at all of our services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday and the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday.

WORSHIP IN APRIL

The following synopses and introductions have been adapted from our online resource, Sundays and Seasons.

Sunday, April 2 | Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

To grasp something fully, we need to look at both sides. Today is both Palm Sunday and the Sunday of the Passion. We join in the joy of the palm procession, and we gather in sorrow at the foot of the cross. Come to sing both "Hosanna!" and "Lord, have mercy upon us."

Sunday, April 9 | Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

What does it mean to be Christian? Christians are those who believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and that he continues to enliven his people with his Spirit. On every Sunday we remember Christ's resurrection, but once a year we have a blowout celebration of this central mystery of the faith. ***Come to celebrate with us!***

Sunday, April 16 | Second Sunday of Easter

This Sunday is often called "low Sunday" because in many churches attendance is so low. Yet also this Sunday we gather to celebrate the resurrection. Come and rejoice with the disciple Thomas, for now in one another we encounter the Risen Christ.

Sunday, April 23 | Third Sunday of Easter

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.

Sunday, April 30 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

When in the early centuries of the church Christians first began to draw pictures of Jesus, they depicted him as the good shepherd. Today we hear part of John 10, a chapter that elaborates on the image of Jesus as the shepherd. Come to worship, and join the rest of the sheep to honor our shepherd.



Zoar Children's & Youth Ministries

- April 2** 1st Communion at 12:30 PM
April 8 Egg Hunt at 10AM
April 30 Senior Baccalaureate at 9:30 & 11AM
May 7 Confirmation Sunday at 11AM
May 14 Last Day of Sunday School at 9:45AM

1st Communion 2023

Celebration of Holy Communion for those having completed the course will be offered on Sunday, April 2 at 12:30PM. We can't wait to break bread together with our newest to communion. Please look for emails to come from Pastor Paul about future classes and 1st Communion days and times.

Zoar Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Zoar will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 10AM. Please note, the event will be held at Zoar Lutheran Church this year. Festivities begin with a continental breakfast, craft and Jesus BINGO followed by an egg hunt for toddlers through 10-year-olds. Please RSVP to help us better prepare for the event:

<https://tinyurl.com/23zoaregghunt>

Senior Baccalaureate

Zoar will be recognizing all 2023 graduates on Sunday, April 30. We will have a reception at 9:30AM in the Gathering Space with cake, fruit, punch and coffee for members to extend their congratulations. Followed by recognition by Pastor Paul during the 11AM worship service. Please RSVP to help us better prepare for the event: <https://tinyurl.com/23zoargrads>

Zoar would love to feature your graduate in a display at the church! Please bring in a baby and senior picture along with a typed sheet with the following information: Name and high school/college of graduate, any academic/athletic/performance awards, plans after graduation, favorite memories of Zoar. The deadline to submit information is Monday, April 3.

Confirmation Day

This year's Affirmation of Baptism for our 8th Grade confirmands is set for Sunday, May 7 at the 11 AM worship service. We look forward to celebrating our 8th graders and all of their hard work.

Last Day of Sunday School Celebration

The Zoar congregation is invited to celebrate a successful Sunday School year with a pancake breakfast featuring Chris Cakes! The meal will be held on Sunday, May 14 at 9:45AM in the FLC. Please join us as there will be lots of food! Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, milk and orange drink – yummy!

By the end of May our average temperature will approach 78 degrees! Who is ready for that? ME! ME! ME! Anyone else? For believers, spring is a reminder that God is all about making things new. In fact, Jesus promised to make everything new one day (Revelation 21:5). In the meantime, He gives us glimpses of the coming attractions through spring.

Spiritually
Promising
Renewing
Inspired
Noticeable
Growth

Spring is a time for growth. In nature, that comes from the right combination of sunlight and water. For our spiritual lives, it comes from the right combination of time with God in His word and time with other Christians in fellowship. The alternative is to be chaff that blows away and comes to nothing.

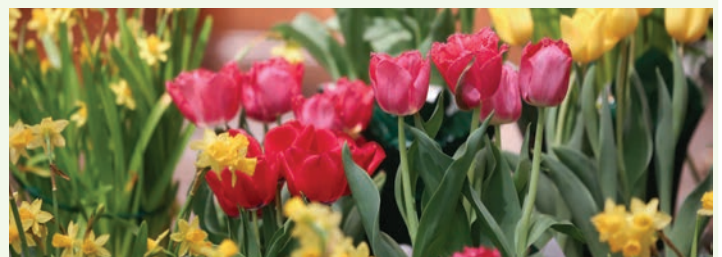
In the coming weeks, we will celebrate TOGETHER Holy Week and the walk to the cross, Good Friday and the promise of EASTER! We'll celebrate our children receiving 1st communion, young people declaring their faith through confirmation and our high school seniors soon graduating at Zoar! It will feel like spring inside and outside Zoar. I love spring! There's the walleye run, the Toledo Mudhens opening, Mr. Freeze will have already been open for a month and flowers will be popping through the dirt to feel the warmth of the sunshine to grow. We can learn a lot from the flowers. They don't worry their way to awesomeness or greatness. We can't either. This spring let God carry your worries and fears (1 Peter 5-7) and just grow into your spring time! Soak up all the blessings of spring with your littles, youth and young adults! Let this new season bring to life something new in you. And while you're at it find a puddle to splash in after an April shower!

See you at church!



Karen Mathison
Chair of Youth and
Young Adult Committee

Staying
Praise
Read
Invested
kNowing *the K
is silent anyway, lol!
God!



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

APRIL // 2023

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 6PM Worship
2 PALM SUNDAY 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:55AM Lenten Meal 12:30PM 1st Communion	3 HOLY WEEK 12PM Worship 5:15PM Foundation 5:30PM Property 7PM Social Ministry 7PM Worship	4 HOLY WEEK 9AM Quilters 12PM Worship 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 7PM Life Long Learning 7PM Worship	5 HOLY WEEK 8AM Bible Study 12PM Worship 1PM Bridge Club 3:30PM Abundant Life II 7PM Uncorked Faith 7PM Worship	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12PM Worship 7PM Worship	7 GOOD FRIDAY 7AM Worship at the Cross 12PM Worship 12PM Office Closed 6:30PM Service of Hope at Commodore 7PM Worship	8 EASTER VIGIL 10AM Easter Egg Hunt 6PM Easter Vigil
9 EASTER SUNDAY 6AM Worship at Fort Meigs Cemetery 7AM Worship 9AM Worship 11AM Worship	10 Office and Building Closed	11 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 6PM Budget & Finance 7PM Stewardship	12 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Bridge Club 1PM Rachel Circle	13 7PM Choir	14	15 10AM Prayer Partners 10AM Yarns of Love 6PM Worship
16 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	17 11AM Staff Meeting 7PM Worship & Music 7PM Communications	18 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball 7PM Church Council	19 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Bridge Club	20 9:15AM Naomi Circle 1PM Zoar Book Club 7PM Choir	21 8AM Men's Breakfast Off-site 1PM Solo Again	22 6PM Worship
23 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:45AM Sunday School	24 11AM Staff Meeting 4:30PM Deadline for Kitchen of Hope Rez 6PM Popcorn Gang 6:30PM Personnel	25 9AM Quilters 1PM Pickleball 3:14PM Prayer w/Staff 5:30PM Pickleball	26 8AM Bible Study 11AM Staff Meeting 1PM Bridge Club 1:30PM Abundant Life I	27 7PM Choir	28 12PM Kitchen of Hope	29 St. Paul Soup Kitchen 6PM Worship
30 8:30, 11AM Worship 9:30 Reception for Zoar Graduates 11AM Senior Baccalaureate 9:45AM Sunday School	<div> <div> HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ZOAR MEMBERS CELEBRATING 85+ YEARS IN APRIL! </div> <div> April 2 Jim Mease April 3 Robert Stein April 4 Donald Kulczak April 5 Barbara Stewart April 8 Mary Ellen Hartman April 12 Richard Hazle April 14 Carole Blecke </div> <div> April 16 Jacques Everhart April 19 Mary Ann Monetta April 22 Lois Coffey April 23 Roy Lessing April 23 Mel Moore April 30 Lois Brigham April 30 Phyllis Belch </div> </div>					

ZOAR STAFF

Senior Pastor: Paul Reichert, pastorpaul@zoarlutheran.com
 Visitation Pastor: Rich Rentner, call Church Office at 419-874-4346 for home visit
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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

Come to Zoar for Holy Week & Easter!

Sunday, April 2 | 11AM* Palm Sunday & 1st Communion

Monday, April 3 - Wednesday, April 5 | 12PM* & 7PM Services

Thursday, April 6 | 12PM* & 7PM Maundy Thursday Services

Friday, April 7 | Good Friday

- 7AM Worship at the Cross
- 12PM* & 7PM Worship Services
- 6:30PM Community Service of Hope at Commodore Lawn

Saturday, April 8

- 10AM Easter Egg Hunt
- 6PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9 | Easter

- 6AM Worship in the Cemetery at Fort Meigs Cemetery
- 7AM, 9AM and 11AM* Services

*Services will also be livestreamed on @ZoarLutheranChurchPerrysburg Facebook Page

