

I am  
the vine,  
you are the  
branches

JOHN 15:5



## ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,  
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 27, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 28, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### WELCOME GUESTS!

*Welcome to Zoar Lutheran Church! We are delighted and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Zoar is a church called to proclaim the Risen Christ through Word and Sacrament. We pray that you have a meaningful worship experience, and we look forward to seeing you again. You are invited to become a part of the ministry that is Zoar. Please sign the welcome pad so we may acknowledge your visit.*

(Congregation please rise as you are able when indicated by the “\*”)

## Prelude

## Welcome and Prayer

### \*Gathering Hymn

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

ELW #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Look, here is water!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Leader: Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Leader: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with  
the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates  
of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

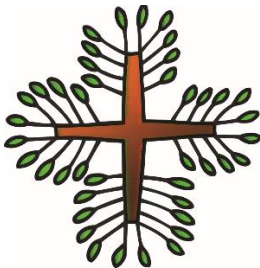
Leader: Look, here is water!

**People: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## **Apostolic Greeting**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**



*Refrain*  
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

**Children's Message (11:00 am)** Following the children's message, all 3 year old - 4<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to go downstairs for JAM time with **Miss Corryn.**

# WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

**who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

## **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

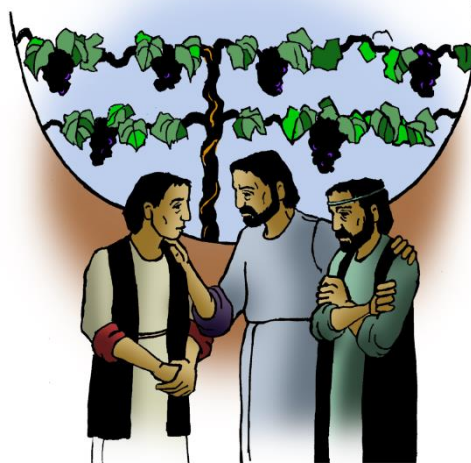
<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life

**People: Thanks be to God.**



**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Paul Reichert

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*You Are the Way*

ELW #758

- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

## **Order of Holy Baptism (11 am)**

**Leader:** I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the Church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? If so, you may say, “I renounce them”.

**People:** **I renounce them.**

**Leader:** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**People:** **I renounce them.**

**Leader:** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**People:** **I renounce them.**

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**People:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People:** **I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Washing of Henry Scot Haylett**

### **The Welcome**

*A candle is lit and the congregation respond together:*

**People:** **Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.**

*A promise is shared with Henry and then we welcome him into the body of Christ.*

**Leader:** Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**People:** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and  
redeeming word to all the world.**





**The Nicene Creed (6 pm and 8:30 am)**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church**

**Leader:** God of Grace.

**People:** Hear our Prayer.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Leader:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

*Please greet one another with words of peace.*

*Congregation may be seated.*

## Announcements

**Offering** 11 am Chancel Choir, “Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life” arr. Williams/Herbert

*Tithes and offerings are collected at this time.*

*Please sign and pass the pew pads during the offering and indicate whether you are receiving communion today. Please fill out the pew pads with your name along with all who are present with you today. For those who are visiting, please include your children's names and ages.*

## \*Offertory Prayer

Risen One,

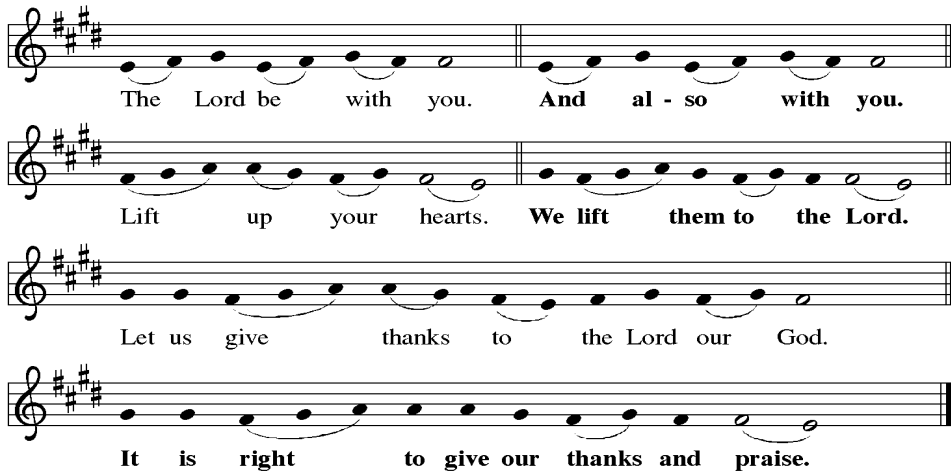
you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving



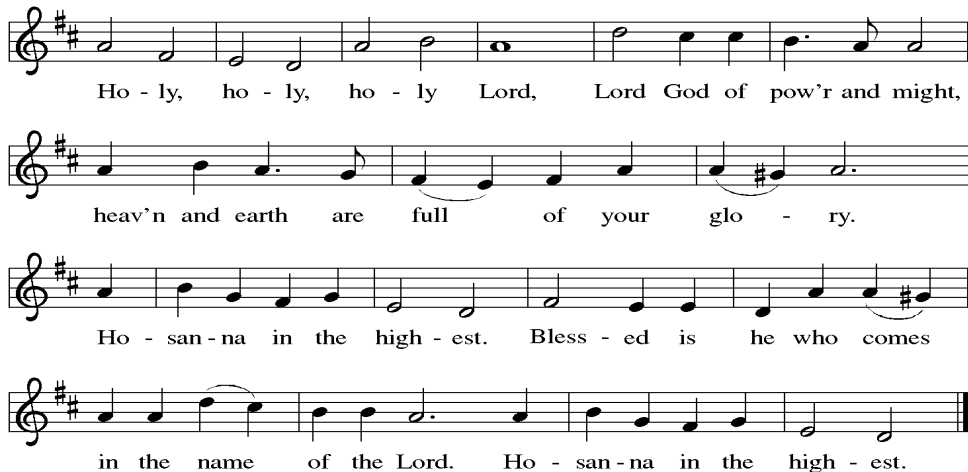
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is our duty and delight.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal...

...Together as the body of Christ,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,

the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,

and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,

send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,

whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.

Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,

that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God,

receive our praise and petitions,

as Jesus received the cry of the needy,

and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,

we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:

through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

*Congregation may be seated.*

### **Sharing of Communion**

*Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. In addition to red wine there is also a non-alcohol white grape juice available. Non-communicating children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

### **Music During Communion**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW #485

### **\*Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Leader: Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

People: Amen.

## Blessing

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

People: **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!*

ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## Dismissal

Leader: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Scan the QR code to sign up!



CLASS OF 2024

May 19th, 10am

SENIOR RECOGNITION/BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Grow,  
Gather,  
Give, and  
Game with  
Friends!

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**GAME  
NIGHTS**

APRIL 20

MAY 11

JUNE 22

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH FLC

7:00PM-9:00PM

GATHER: BRING A SALTY OR SWEET  
SNACK TO SHARE

GIVE: BRING PACK OF  
DIAPERS/WIPES OR PCU FOOD ITEM  
OF THE MONTH FOR DONATION!

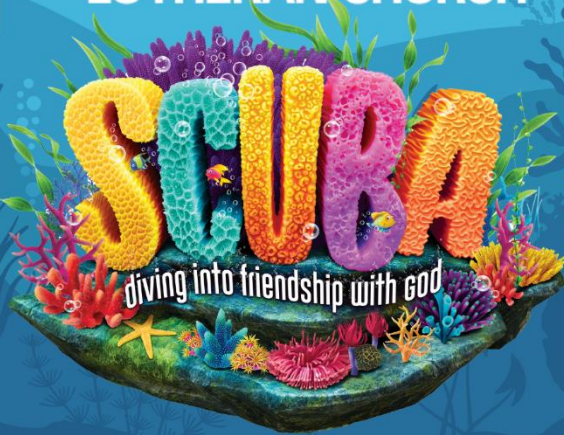


SCAN ME



**ZOAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 9TH-13TH



ALLERGY FRIENDLY FAMILY  
MEALS SERVED 5:00-5:45PM  
EACH NIGHT!

Pre-K and Me Programing  
from 5:45pm-7:00pm!  
Grown ups will stay with  
their pre-K kiddo for Bible  
stories, games, and crafts!

FREE T-SHIRT FOR EVERY  
REGISTERED PARTICIPANT  
AND VOLUNTEER!

Kindergarten thru 5th Grade Programming from 5:45pm-8:15pm!  
Join us for music, crafts, friendship, Bible stories, STEM, games, and more!

Youth in grades 6-12 and adults are needed to fill a variety of roles!

Adults 18+ must pass background check before working with youth.

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEA YOU!  
REGISTER TODAY!**





|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ministers                     | The People of Zoar |
| Senior Pastor                 | Paul Reichert      |
| Associate Pastor              | Melanie Forrey     |
| Director of Church Operations | Tracy Jahns        |
| Director of Music             | Jacob Henry        |
| Youth Director                | Corryn Short       |
| Communications                | Nicole Downey      |
| Secretary                     | Jodi Calkins       |
| Custodian                     | Paul Cannon        |

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Email for information: [info@zoarlutheran.com](mailto:info@zoarlutheran.com)

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