

We're glad you're here!

We're glad you are interested in taking the next step of participation in the Body of Christ and that you are choosing to worship at Zoar. No matter where you are in your faith journey, we are glad that you are here! While some new members are accustomed to life with a church family, others may be embarking on a new commitment to worship, fellowship, giving, and/or spiritual growth. Know that each of you are welcome at Zoar, and we pray that your time spent in worship and fellowship with us helps you feel the Love that Jesus has for you. Jesus Christ comes to us – where we are now – and fills our lives with the Holy Spirit. You are loved, and we are glad you're here!

What brings us here?

People are drawn to Christianity and to particular congregations for as many reasons as there are people. For some it is a spiritual awakening, for others location, for others the theology of the denomination, for others the feeling of the congregation, and others want to be connected in another way to family and/or friends; different reasons, and different people, all invited to be disciples of Jesus in amazing ways. Whatever reason brings you here, you are welcome and wanted. The following pages can be used as a resource guide to help you know more about Zoar and the values we try to embody. Please feel free to scan this packet at your leisure and know that you are always welcome to contact the church office with questions.



Zoar Lutheran Church has been a cornerstone of Perrysburg since 1850. With over 1500 members, Zoar is a large congregation with a small-town feel and a big heart! Discover Zoar and Be AmaZed!

You belong!

"...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." Romans 12:5-6

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION



Jesus

We seem to talk a lot about Jesus

Jesus is the reason we are called Christians, and the reason this is a church rather than a spiritual country club. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). Disciples are people who follow someone's teachings, so as Christians we follow Jesus's teachings and try to live them out in our lives. The stories of Jesus and his message are called the Gospels of the Bible, and there are four of them: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These make up the core of the "New Testament" portion of the Bible. We read from these Gospels during worship services, and you can always follow Jesus's teaching at home by turning to these chapters in the Bible!

***If you would like a complementary bible, please contact the church office.**

So, who is Jesus?

There are several answers to that question, and as you grow in faith you will begin to know Jesus more and more. For now, let's focus on two most important parts:

1) Jesus lived, died, and rose again.

Jesus was a real historical figure who walked the earth back in the BC era. Jesus was a Jewish man whose parents were Joseph and Mary of Nazareth - a backwater part of Palestine which was an even more back water part of the Roman Empire. A one-time carpenter, Jesus became a traveling preacher for about three years. While he inspired, healed, and befriended many, he also offended some powerful people with his message. For this reason, he was tortured to death by being nailed to a cross, as this was the usual punishment of the time for non-Roman enemies of the Roman state. After being buried in a borrowed tomb for three days, something unexplainable happened. His followers said that they had seen him alive again! This is what we call the Resurrection - Hallelujah! He is Risen!

2) Jesus is our Savior - meaning he is the one who saves us.

As Christians, we believe Jesus not only fulfilled the Jewish prophecies of the Old Testament of the Bible, but we also believe that Jesus was the one and only Son of the Living God. Knowing that God is the author of the universe, you know... Let there be Light, big bang, I am that I am - The Only God, we can marvel that God so loved the world that God sent God's son to become human and teach us about faith and love. Jesus is God's greatest gift to the world because, in Jesus, God frees us from the brokenness of sin, and brings us into a relationship with ourselves, each other, and God. Jesus is not only a savior, Jesus is OUR Savior. It is Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection that tell us who he is and how to understand everything about him. Jesus loves us so much that he died for us yet always surprises us in the way he breaks into our daily lives.



Jesus is for
Everyone!

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION



Christianity

So, being a Christian means being a follower of Jesus. And?

In some ways, being a Christian has changed over the centuries as people and the church have changed. In the first years, being Christian meant being willing to risk your life to say three words: "Jesus is Lord". Saying that phrase rather than "Caesar is Lord" could get you killed. As the death threats eased, people had time to think about what it meant to be a Christian. So, here are some of the things that saying, "I'm a Christian" means today:

I believe in the Trinity

The Trinity is one of the more difficult parts of Christianity to understand fully. There is One God who has been revealed to us in three persons: The Father (God), the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit (God/Jesus at work today). There are not three gods but one God who is revealed to us in three ways.

Sin, confession, and forgiveness are for EVERYONE

Because we are all imperfect humans, we all sin. Sin is the disobedience that separates us from God, but it is important to remember that God will always love us no matter what. When we sin against God, when we sin against one another, we can always turn to God in prayer and in community to confess our sins and be forgiven. Jesus' death on the cross frees us to be in a relationship with God by conquering sin and death and inviting us again and again into wholeness with God and each other.

The Bible is where I can turn for teaching on faith

The Bible is often referred to as The Holy Scriptures and/or The Word of God. The Bible isn't simply a book comprised of some religious sounding stuff, but rather the Bible is God's word given to us through the people who wrote the Bible so many years ago. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and the New Testament. The authors of both sections of the Bible felt God's presence in their lives and wrote God inspired words. Today, these words still are used by God to teach us. The Bible is where we can turn when we want to grow in faith and connection with God. The Bible is one of the main ways God speaks to us about our lives each day. During worship we read and reflect on scripture lessons from the Bible.

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION



Christianity (continued)

Holy Baptism is a sign of adoption into God's family

We are baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit – our Triune God. Baptism happens with water and God's word. When someone experiences their baptism, it is considered a bath of membership, a washing of sins, a drowning of the old self, a joining to Jesus' death and resurrection, a cleansing of our sinfulness, and a sign of adoption into God's family! "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6) Different Christian denominations baptize at different times of life and use different ways of getting wet, and they all mark the beginning of a new relationship with God in community. At Zoar, we celebrate baptism at any stage of life. Some choose to celebrate with the whole congregation during a worship service, while others choose to be baptized in a more intimate setting after worship.

*If you are interested in being baptized, simply contact the church office to connect with a pastor and discuss your baptism!

Holy Communion is an opportunity for all to experience a deeper connection with Jesus

Holy Communion is a special time to connect with our Savior. It is a special meal of the people of God and is a celebration that began long ago by Jesus at The Last Supper. Holy Communion shows another level to the Passover feast meal that the Jewish people continue to celebrate to this day. In John 6:53 Jesus said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." In Holy Communion we receive Jesus body and blood through the gifts of bread and wine (or fruits of the vine). Jesus takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary.

At Zoar, all who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine (or fruit of the vine) are welcome to share in communion. Zoar's current practice for communing children is to invite those in fourth grade to attend a Communion Education class prior to receiving at the table. People of any age who are not receiving Communion are always offered a blessing when coming forward during this part of the worship service. If you would like your child/ren to receive Communion sooner, please let a pastor know. All are welcome, for Jesus invites us.

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION



Being Lutheran

Who are Lutherans?

To be Lutheran is to be a Christian who interprets the faith through the confessional documents of the Lutheran church and the reformational ideas lifted up by Martin Luther. The Lutheran denomination worldwide is about 81 million and growing!

Who is Martin Luther?

Not to be confused with the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Martin Luther was born into a poor family in Germany in 1483. Luther was bright and enrolled in school. He attended the University of Erfurt, earned a Master of Arts degree and enrolled in law school. One year later, Luther was caught in a thunderstorm and nearly struck by lightning. He cried out, "St. Anne save me, I'll become a monk!" He survived and somewhat miraculously, followed through. He became a priest and, after receiving a Doctorate of Theology, a university professor. He struggled mightily with his awareness of his own sin and the church's teaching on justification – how to get into a right relationship with God.

In response to an indulgence salesman (someone who sold full or partial forgiveness for a price), on October 31, 1517, Luther wrote the 95 Theses. The 95 Theses is a lengthy list of statements Martin Luther proposed in response to the practice of the church of offering/selling indulgences with an intention of inviting leaders of the Catholic Church into debate. This list was translated from Latin (not common among the people) into German (common language of the people) and reprinted for many to read and wonder about, and this got Martin in BIG TROUBLE with the church hierarchy. At the Diet of Worms (a big church meeting in the town of Worms Germany) he was commanded to recant, or take back, everything he had written. Luther said that he could not, and so began the Protestant Reformation. Luther wrote a massive number of books, married, and with his wife Katie had six children. Luther died in 1546.

So, what makes Lutherans different from other Christians?

Lutheran Christians are shaped by an understanding of Christianity that was central to the Reformation. The main theological gift we bring to the larger Christian table is constantly lifting up that we are Justified (put into a right relationship with God) by Grace (God's love that we can't possibly earn or deserve) through faith in Jesus Christ. This is a lifting up of Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 3:23-24. This bold claim is tied to the three "solas" of the Reformation. Turn to the next page to learn more about these "solas."

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION



Being Lutheran (Continued)

The 3 Solas

Faith Alone

Faith alone – what matters is faith in Christ. No matter how hard you work at being good, you fall short. Only faith in the savior, Jesus the Christ can save you.

Grace Alone

Grace alone – God forgives you not because you deserve it, not because you almost earned it, and not because you needed a little boost. You are a sinner; everyone is a sinner. God forgives you with a love that is beyond understanding – this is Grace!

Scripture Alone

Scripture Alone – while there are many great ideas and writings in the world, scripture (words from the Bible) is our primary guide, is our reliable source of God's presence in and for the world, is a living document of passages in dialogue with each other, and continues to be relevant generation to generation. Luther believed in the power of the Word so strongly that he was one of the first ones since St. Jerome (347-420 AD) to translate the scriptures into the language of the people.

Other Important Lutheran Ideas

Adiaphora: Practices of faith that are not required for salvation (Lutherans believe we are saved by grace through faith alone), and are fine as long as they do not become idols that keep us from the loving God and loving our neighbors.

Word and Sacrament: There are two sacraments in the Lutheran church 1. Holy Baptism and 2. Holy Communion. We believe that sacraments require two parts, the Word of God (teachings in scripture) and earthly elements (a tangible experience - water and bread/fruit of the vine), and they are part of the mysterious and amazing way Jesus' continues to be with us and connects us to God and each other.

REFLECTIONS ON THE THEOLOGY OF THE DENOMINATION

Being Lutheran (Continued)

The Cannon within the Cannon: This refers to the dominance of some passages over others in how people read scripture. We are all invited to study the Word of God, and to read difficult passages through other passages (scripture interprets scripture) in the greater context of God's continued presence and promise throughout the Bible.

The lens of Christ: As we look at scripture, we are invited to read passages in our awareness of God's love for the world, made most evident to us through Jesus.

Law and Gospel: All of scripture contains law and gospel. The law guides us in being in good relationship with God and each other, and the gospel gives us hope through the promise that God, through Jesus, is always with us and not even death will keep us from God's love.

The Priesthood of all believers: The promise of everlasting life is extended to all of us through Jesus, and we are all called to share this good news through the things that we say, and the things that we do.

To Be Lutheran is To Be Lutheran Together

**We are part of something far larger than Zoar.
We are part of:**

The Perrysburg Ministerial Association

The Toledo conference

The Northwestern Ohio Synod
<https://nwos-elca.church/>

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:
<https://www.elca.org/>

The Lutheran Federation

The catholic church
(little c catholic, meaning universal)

Full Communion Partners

We are full communion partners with many other denominations, which means we have developed relationships based on our common confession of our Christian faith, and the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. There are a lot of differences in our traditions, and we recognize the value of unity in being the Church together. As communion partners, we can worship together, share clergy, and have a common commitment to evangelism, witness and service.

The Episcopal Church
The Presbyterian Church USA
The Moravian Church
The United Church of Christ
The Reformed Church
The United Methodist Church

ZOAR

HISTORY, MISSION & VALUES



Zoar has a longstanding, rich history

Zoar is named after the city of refuge where Lot flees in the Book of Genesis. Zoar was founded in 1850 to serve the growing number of German Lutheran immigrants in the Perrysburg area by Rev. Cronenwett. Zoar has been on this site since 1875, and the current sanctuary was built in 1917. It has been modified and expanded several times, the last major one in 1998 with the Family Life Center addition. You can read more about Zoar's history on our website at: <https://www.zoarlutheran.com/about/history>. Our history and vision at Zoar are important parts of our ongoing ministry, reminding us that we are invited together to continue living into and out of God's love for the world. As you consider participating or starting a ministry, you are invited to be a part of how Zoar lives our vision statement together.

Zoar Vision Statement

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

What are the expectations of members?

To join us in ministry! We hope you feel connected to Jesus's teaching here at Zoar and that you can utilize this community to find ways to live out your spiritual gifts. We hope all members want to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ together.

How does that happen?

There are countless ways to be involved in your faith. Here are a few to help identify how you might deepen your connection and membership with Zoar.

Stewardship – Choosing to share the gifts that God has given you (time, talents, gifts, and/or treasure). Romans 12:1-8

Prayer – It's hard to have a relationship if you aren't talking! God wants to hear from you, so we always encourage you to pray!

Worship – To be a Christian is to be in Christ together. You might be able to feel close to God in many ways beyond the walls of the church building, but we are called to be the body of Christ. Joining together for worship service is a great way to connect and deepen our relationship with the Lord.

ZOAR

HISTORY, MISSION & VALUES



Bible study – Luther brought the Bible back to the language of the people, so let's read it! There are a number of Bible studies that take place at the church. As a member, you are welcome to join any of them and/or start a new one!

Serving – There are many teams involved in more ministries than one could possibly imagine. We will highlight some of them in the following pages and we encourage you to try one!

Fellowship – Spending time together helps bind us together and keep our faith real! We have many opportunities to join in fellowship outside of worship and service so that our members can build deep relationships and have a strong community of Christian friends.

We invite you to join us as we gather, grow and give in faith and community.

The following pages offer an overview of the many ways a member can gather in love, grow in faith, and give with a generous heart with Zoar. You are always welcome to participate in ministry with us!



EXPLORE ZOAR



Join us for Bible Study Groups

Adult Sunday School: Round table discussion of various topics related to faith and church. Meets Sundays at 9:45 am.

Adult VBS: An adult group meeting in the evening in the summer to dive into learning more about a book or character from the Bible.

Book Club: A monthly group that meets to discuss a specific book. Discussion is led by members.

Lectionary Study Group: A group of members and friends meets on Wednesday mornings at 8 am, in person at Zoar or on Zoom, to discuss the Old Testament reading for the coming Sunday. This group explores the historical context of the reading looking at what this message meant to the first people who heard it as well as what it can mean to us today.

Life Group: Young Families: This Life Group is typically comprised of 3-5 families of school aged children. Families select a time and place to enjoy a monthly meet up. While gathered, they enjoy fellowship, food, and a Bible study or devotional of their choosing. Life Group provides a great opportunity for the whole family to build friendships and meaningful connections with other members of Zoar!

Uncorked Faith: Pop! Pour! And Restore! A monthly woman's devotional meeting the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. This group gathers at various venues, pop a cork, pour a drink, and restore their faith as they discuss Scripture lessons.

Various Bible Study Small Groups: Some groups do a monthly bible study, others share a variety of activities -- some social. All center around friendship, fellowship, and fostering personal and spiritual growth. Included in this category are: Naomi Circle, Rachel Circle (Meets second Wednesday each month at 1 pm with a Bible study presentation lead by Pastor Paul and Pastor Melanie with fellowship following - all women are welcome), and Ninke Zoom and Hybrid study groups

Have an idea for a Bible Study Group?
Contact the Church Office to help get a group started.

EXPLORE ZOAR



Join us in Service

There are many ways to share your time and talent in service to others. Explore the many opportunities we have underway, or contact the church office if you are interested leading a new ministry!

Altar Guild: This group of volunteers prepares the sanctuary and Holy Communion for worship service on a weekly basis.

Birthday Crew: A ministry around reaching out to and including the elderly in the congregation. On the birthdate of the 85+ year old, a member of this group will call, visit, send a card, deliver a cake, and/or take them to lunch, etc. This takes on many forms as the recipient expresses their preference for this event.

Choirs:

- **Chancel/ Vocal Choir:** Rehearsals usually last one hour on Thursdays 7-8pm, September to May. The choir alternates between the Sunday services (and an occasional Saturday service). Anyone is welcome and parents are welcome to bring their children with them. They practice pieces over several rehearsals so choir members can miss a rehearsal here and there without feeling behind. If your schedule doesn't allow a weekly rehearsal, you are welcome to be a seasonal choir member and drop in for the Christmas season, Easter season, Lent, or whatever season might work for you. Please contact Jacob with any questions.
- **Bell Choir:** The handbell choir plays about once a month alternating between Sunday services. They have one rehearsal on Sunday mornings between services (usually the week before) and players do not need to commit to playing every time. Prior bell experience is not needed. The ability to read music is helpful, but if you can't read music and want to try, they can pair you up with a nice bell player to help you. Please contact Jacob with any questions.

Church Decorating Committee: Volunteers decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church for holidays and special occasions.

Community Partnership:

- **Perrysburg Christian's United (PCU)** meets monthly Sept thru May. Zoar has a representative on this committee, and they collect items monthly and deliver them to the pantry. Time commitment: Approx. 4 hours per month.
- **St. Paul's Community Center 5th Saturday Lunch:** Every 5th Saturday, Zoar provides the meal for about 50 people at St. Paul's Community Center. This involves shopping for ingredients, preparing food, and delivering it to the center. Time commitment: about 5 hours every 5th Saturday.

EXPLORE ZOAR



Communion Assistants: Communion assistants help with the distribution of communion.

Feed Our Families: A ministry that provides food, toiletries, and backpacks during the summer months to Wood County children and their families who qualify for the school lunch program. Volunteers can choose to serve as a leader and/or choose to work the 5 distribution events that take place on Thursday mornings from 8:00 am to noon during summer months.

Feed Our Families Christmas Distribution: Provides food, toiletries, as well as an opportunity for families to shop for free to provide Christmas gifts to each other. Volunteers help during the week prior to the event as we prepare for our guest by cleaning, repairing, and sprucing up donations that will be used in the Christmas shop. Some volunteers serve as shoppers to purchase additional supplies for the event. We call this “Elfing”! Time varies as you are available. Some come to work for a morning, or an evening, or all day, one or all five days. Volunteers are also needed the day of the distribution from 8:00 am to about 3:00pm. Service as a distribution volunteer includes assisting guests with shopping, wrapping gifts, greeting guests, taking photographs, and/or helping in the kitchen to serve the volunteers.

Funeral Committee: Volunteers prepare, provide, and serve funeral meals as requested at Zoar.

Greeters: Greeters are stationed at the main entrance and the parking lot entrance to the church to provide a friendly greeting to all before worship.

Kitchen of Hope: Volunteers prepare and serve a monthly meal to community members. The meal is generally the last Friday of the month at noon at Zoar.

Lay Assistants: Lay assistants help the pastor throughout the worship service. They take part in the liturgy, the prayers, communion, and other duties as needed.

Lectors: Lectors are lay members who read the various Scripture readings for the day. They also assist with communion as needed.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR): School kits, baby kits, personal care kits and sewing kits are assembled and sent to 3rd world countries. They also ask for donations of supplies, and donations of knit or crochet baby sweaters.

LWR Quilts (Peace Corps): A ministry of quilt making and assembling school kits, baby care kits, sewing kits, and personal care kits to be distributed by LWR. No sewing skills necessary! They gather to tie layers for comfort quilts that are sent to 3rd world countries. Join them every Tuesday morning from 9-11:00 am.

EXPLORE ZOAR



Prayer Partners: This is a group of people who promise to pray for people who have requested prayers. They meet once a month for conversation related to the needs identified. You don't need special words or special abilities to pray! They meet on the third Saturday morning of the month. Consider joining them!

Social Hour: Volunteers provide light refreshments in the Gathering Space after the 8:30 service and before Sunday School.

Sound Crew/Live Streaming Team: Volunteers run the video and audio board for services and streaming broadcast. Training is provided.

Ushers: Ushers are available prior to the service to welcome members and visitors and to hand out bulletins.

Yarns of Love: Knitters and crocheters meet to make prayer shawls and other items. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet. They can teach you!

Join us at a Special Interest Group

Men's Breakfast: This group meets at a local restaurant (currently The American Table, across from Costco) every 2nd Friday of the month. This activity is meant to gather for a meal and fellowship for men who enjoy getting together to renew friendships or just to have company on occasion.

Bridge: Every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 pm, folks meet all year in the "upper room" on the 3rd floor for an afternoon of friendly bridge. This is open to all, regardless of church membership.

Men's Golf: Every Thursday from May through October, this group plays a different course every week. This is open to all men, regardless of church membership. A schedule is posted in the church trifold every week. This is not a league and is available to anyone interested in a round of golf (and for most of us, lunch afterwards) and fellowship. Scores are not recorded as this is a fun sport for all levels of play are welcome to join this group.

Pickleball: Everyone is welcome to come, learn, and participate in one of the newest athletic opportunities. Several options for play are available on Tuesdays each week in the Family Life Center of Zoar. Players can come at 11:00 (mixed level), 1:00 (mixed level), 3:00 (Intermediate level), and 5:30 (mixed level). Teams will be formed on the spot for this fun fellowship opportunity.

Basketball: One group meets on Monday nights from 7:30 to 9:30. Two generations of males enjoy fellowship and playing ball. Other groups meet different days and times.

Solo Again: This group is for recently widowed women who would like to talk with others in the same situation. Information is shared on how and where to get help with specific needs. This group meets on the second Friday of the month at 1 PM.

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Zoar Lutheran Church Council

Being a member of Zoar Church Council gives you an opportunity to engage with the Congregation in a way that positively affects the operation and programs of Zoar while serving as a volunteer leader of the Congregation.

Council is granted the authority by the Zoar Congregation to assure that the provisions of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions are carried out as specified. Council is responsible for establishing and managing the annual Zoar financial budget among other duties. Council members are confirmed each year at the Congregational Annual Meeting. The full statement of Zoar Church Council description and duties are stated in Chapter 12 of the Zoar Lutheran Church Constitution and Bylaws which can be found on our website.

Council consists of the following members:

- Pastor(s) – Voting Member(s)
- Director of Church Operations – Nonvoting Member/Advisor
- President – Voting Member serving 1 year as Vice President & 1 year as President
The President shall set the agenda and preside over Council meetings
- Vice President- Voting Member serving 1 year as Vice President and moving up the 2nd year as President. The Vice President shall preside over Council meeting in the absence of the President
- Treasurer - Voting Member serving first 2 years as Financial Secretary then 2 years as Treasurer
- Financial Secretary – Voting Member serving first 2 years as Financial Secretary then 2 years as Treasurer
- Secretary - Voting Member Serving 2 years
The Secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of each Council meeting, Executive Committee meeting as well as each Congregational meeting, and submitting the minutes for the records.
- Council Members - There are 6 Zoar members serving for a 2-year term as voting members of Council. A council member can choose to remain on Council for an additional 2-year term as voted on by the Congregation. Members may not serve more than 4 consecutive years but can return to Council after being off for one 2-year term.
- Youth Member – Serving 1 year term. The Youth member must be under the age of 18 and may serve 1 additional year. The Youth member is a nonvoting member of Council as described in the Constitution

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Council Member Duties

Council meets monthly throughout the year on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Dedication to meeting participation is encouraged.

Each Council member will serve as a liaison to at least one Zoar committee. Council members are expected to attend the meetings of their assigned committee and report the activities of that committee at each Council meeting.

Council engages in other activities throughout the year as determined by the members i.e., serving Lenten lunches and/or dinners, hosting an annual picnic for the members of Abundant Life Housing, attending the joint meeting between Zoar Council and Abundant Life Manager(s) & Officer(s). Other activities may be determined by Council.

Council members are encouraged to be engaged in the activities of Zoar.

Additional Leadership Opportunities at Zoar

Abundant Life Board: The Abundant Life Board oversees the activities and facilities of Abundant Life for Zoar Lutheran Church. Abundant Life 1 was developed as part of Zoar's 125th anniversary celebration in 1977 as the result of a community need for low-cost housing for seniors. Fifteen years later, Abundant Life 2 was developed as part of Zoar's 140th anniversary. Abundant Life is a separately-incorporated not-for-profit organization.

Budget/Finance Committee: This committee meets periodically to consider any financial issues that might arise. They also put together the annual budget for presentation to the congregation.

Cash Management Committee: This Committee is part of the Finance Committee and meets as necessary to consider financial consideration such as investment decisions.

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee at Zoar is open to all congregation members who have an interest in spreading the word about all the AmaZing things happening at our church! This Committee is responsible for creating and maintaining a communication strategy that furthers this Congregation's mission while promoting its many programs. They meet once a month to discuss the ways we can integrate branding, public relations, social media, advertising and marketing to grow Zoar's impact throughout our congregation and beyond.

Courtyard Committee

This group is responsible for the oversight of the memorial garden area (courtyard), its guidelines, and maintenance. The garden space will be both a safe and final resting place for human cremains and the respectful events by this Congregation's members. Courtyard Committee shall meet twice a year as needed.

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

LEADERSHIP



Heritage Committee: The Heritage Committee's purpose is to preserve the historical documents and pictures of the Zoar Congregation, plan celebrations to honor Zoar's legacy and traditions, and be responsible for publishing Zoar's pictorial directory of its members. This committee meets about every other month for 1-2 hours.

Life Long Learning (LLL): This committee shall provide learning opportunities for members of all ages to nurture their faith in Jesus Christ. The committee typically has nine members representing a cross-section of this Congregation who assist in structuring and conducting Sunday School classes for both youth and adults, assist in structuring and conducting the summer Vacation Bible School (VBS), and assist in encouraging and arranging education classes offered throughout the year.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee helps to fill open positions for committees and Council. The Pastor convenes the committee in September to provide a ballot in December for elections at the general meeting in January. The committee also can be engaged on an as-needed basis at other points in the year.

Property Committee: Property Committee is responsible for overseeing the physical buildings that are owned by Zoar which includes the church proper and 3 adjoining rentals. The Property Committee is also responsible for the appearance of the exterior of the grounds: mowing, bush trim, flower gardens, weed control, and the landscape. The sound crew volunteers are also the responsibility of the property committee.

Social Ministry Committee: Social Ministry committee organizes and oversees service outreach of the congregation. They coordinate Zoar's efforts to serve the needs of our community, the greater Toledo community, and the global community. Additionally, they offer opportunities to learn more about service opportunities through educational events. Social Ministry typically meets the first Monday of every month. This group meets at 7:00 pm for approximately 90 minutes and work on service projects between meetings as the participants see fit.

Stewardship Committee: The Stewardship Committee assists the pastor in developing Stewardship as a way of life in the parish, an attitude of the mind and heart that is expressed in action; emphasizing that all people, things, and experiences are gifts from God. Stewardship reviews how gifts of time, talent, and treasure from the congregation help support all Zoar ministries.

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Worship and Music Committee: The main goal of this committee is to support our Pastors and Director of Music in maintaining Zoar's rich history of traditional Lutheran liturgy while exploring new avenues for growth in worship and music ministries and expanding opportunities for congregational participation. The committee also strives to plan experiences beyond worship that will provide outreach and uphold Zoar's standing as a place where all are welcome. The Worship and Music Committee meets at the church on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. The meetings typically last for 60-90 minutes.

Youth and Young Adult: The Youth and Young Adult Committee (YAYA) works in collaboration with the Director of Youth Ministry and meets monthly to review the needs of youth from 5th grade through young adult (25 years old). This committee plans and executes opportunities for learning, fellowship, and service to facilitate the transition from child to adult member of the congregation.

Zoar Foundation: The Zoar Foundation was created by the congregation to help its members build lasting legacies in support of Zoar and its ministries. They do this by utilizing Endowment Funds to complement and expand Zoar's Christian witness and service to its members, its community, and beyond. Gifts to the Zoar Foundation are endowed. This means the principle is preserved in perpetuity and on an annual basis a portion of the earnings from the endowed funds are used to enhance, energize, and grow Zoar's ministries. The Foundation Board is responsible for overseeing and managing these funds and distributing the earnings.

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