

LIFE TOGETHER

*A quarterly newsletter for the sinners and saints of
Zoar and St. Ansgar Lutheran Church*

The Advent Blues

Advent. It's one of my favorite seasons of the Church year and it isn't just because I love the color blue. (Okay, maybe it is a little bit). But in truth, it's one of my favorite seasons because it's a season all about anticipation. It's a season that seems to build and grow each and every Sunday, until finally it erupts with this beautiful celebration of the birth of Christ. Speaking of Advent, did you know that the color blue is supposed to symbolize the sky just before the sun rises? Which is really all too perfect because as Christians, we call Jesus the "Light of the World." And in this season of Advent, the light is exactly what we are waiting for. Take some time each day in this season before Christmas and pay attention to the places where lights shine. It could be as simple as noticing the lights that adorn houses and trees. It might even mean taking in a sunrise or two. This Advent, I encourage you to look for the light, because even just a little light, can help us see the beauty and warmth of God's love all around us.

Pastor Ryan

What's Happening

Worship Calendar

Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. @ St. Ansgar; 10:30 a.m. @ Zoar

June

6/3 - Pentecost 2
Gospel: Mark 2: 23-3: 6

6/10 - Pentecost 3
Gospel: Mark 3: 20-35

6/17 - Pentecost 4
Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34

6/24 - Pentecost 5
Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41

July

7/1 - Pentecost 6
Gospel: Mark 5: 21-43

7/8 - Pentecost 7
Gospel: Mark 6: 1-13

7/15 - Pentecost 8
Gospel: Mark 6: 14-29

7/22 - Pentecost 9
Gospel: Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

7/29 - Pentecost 10
Gospel: John 6: 1-21

August

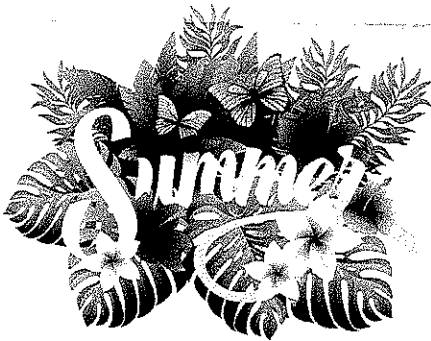
8/5 - Pentecost 11
Gospel: John 6:24-35

8/12 - Pentecost 12
Gospel: John 6: 35, 41-51

8/19 - Pentecost 13
Gospel: John 6: 51-58

8/26 - Pentecost 14
Gospel: John 6: 56-69

Be sure to mark your
calendars for "God's Work,
Our Hands" Sunday -
September 9th!



Did You Know?

Research shows that most influential people in the faith life of children are their parents or guardians. When was the last time you talked about faith together as a family? What's one faith practice you could add this summer?

*Bold font indicates worship at a time other than our usual Sunday morning schedule

Wanting More?

- Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. to discuss next Sunday's readings.
- Visit Pastor Ryan at Klein's Grill for lunch on Wednesdays, anytime from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Stop by to say, "Hi," or bring your questions and comments for good conversation.

Life Milestones

Baptisms:

4/8 - Gregory Michael Johnson

5/13 - Scarlett Louise Yohe

5/27 - Samantha Jo White

Funerals:

Youth News

Sunday School



VBS is coming soon! We are so excited for our Rolling River Rampage adventure this summer and we can't wait for this awesome week of fun and faith. Please join us for this adventure of a lifetime, **July 16th-19th, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

Registration is open to all kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade (as of fall 2018). Contact Savannah Young, Jill Wagner, or Pastor Ryan if you have any questions or are willing to volunteer to help with VBS.

Confirmation

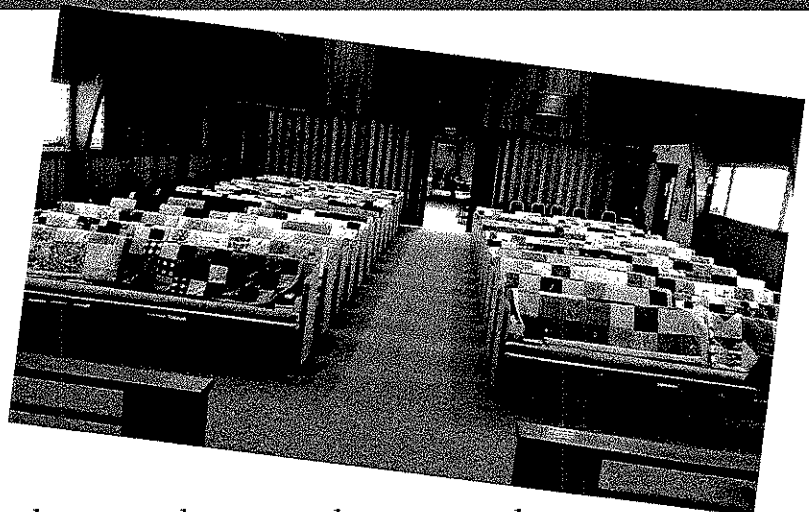
The confirmation year has officially wrapped up and what a year it was! We implemented some new experiences in our confirmation curriculum this year, including a few field trips to the Islamic Center of Fargo to observe a prayer service and learn about Islam, as well as attending worship Temple Beth El to learn more about our Jewish brothers and sisters.

It has been an exciting year and I want to thank each of the students for bringing their energy and enthusiasm to class. I would also like to thank the parents for your ongoing support, especially for those who provided meals for the students throughout the year. It was a huge help to both me and the students.

Final confirmation projects are due by September 2nd. Please do not delay on these projects! I have high expectations for these projects and I know that you will do well if you challenge yourself. Please contact Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

LYO

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! Earlier in May, we recognized this momentous milestone for Connor & Jeremiah Mattice, Heather Gades, & Trey Isakson. Each of them received a quilt made by our talented quilting group, received a blessing from the congregation, and celebrated with an all-church potluck.



May God bless each of you in your future endeavors and may you always remember that you have a loving church family that will support you in and through all things.

Church News

New Sound, New Possibilities

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Ps. 100:1)

With your support, we are able to do just that with our new sound system. The new system was installed mid-May and with it come all sorts of new and exciting possibilities, including:

- Better sound coverage in our sanctuary and fellowship hall
- Recording worship services to be posted online (www.zoarlutheran.org)
- Assisted listening devices for those who may need a more amplified sound
- Future possibilities of video recording services and projector screens, contemporary worship options, and the ability to host more church and community events

On behalf of the church council, thank you for your support and generosity. You are the church and you make it possible for this community to live into its mission to share the love of Christ.

Looking Ahead

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

For the past 2 years, Zoar and St. Ansgar have been taking our worship out into the community in the form of a day of service. We will be kicking off the year once again in similar fashion, joining hundreds of other congregations around the country on **Sunday, September 9th**, for the ELCA's Annual "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Please contact Pastor Ryan at the
church office (701-883-5991) or by email
(pastorryan@drtel.net)

Check out our website!
www.zoarlutheran.org

Outdoor Worship

Last summer, we hosted an outdoor worship service with a potluck. And it was such a great day and a great event, that we're going to do it again! More information is coming soon!

Summer Worship Change

It's been said that if you are going to do something, it should be done well. That's what we are hoping to accomplish with our Mid-Week Summer Worship. However, the church council and Pastor Ryan feel that it is not where it should be yet, and thus have decided to postpone our Mid-Week Summer worship until we can prepare it to be as successful as possible. We've received a lot of positive feedback about it and are committed to making it happen in the future.