A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.

Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-ful life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.



190 SW Third Avenue Canby, OR 97013

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10 10

nday School 9:15 am 10:30 am

Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church

503.266.4061 ZoarLutheran.org Zoar@canby.com

March 2020 190 SW Third Avenue Canby, OR 97013



Lord, you have been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us] back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.... So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

--Psalm 90:1-4, 12

Dear friends in Christ,

As I was lying in bed, rubbing the sleep from my eyes this morning, the first verse of Psalm 90 popped into my mind: "Lord, you have been our refuge in all generations...." I knew it was part of a psalm, but I wasn't sure which one, so I looked it up and the proceeded to read it as my morning devotion in its fuller context. As I reflected, I was delightfully surprised to find this ancient psalm speaks to so many current aspects of our life together as a congregation and my own life as an individual child of God.

Some of you won't be surprised that a Scripture passage about refuge sprang to my



mind! For one thing, if you read the piece I wrote for last month's newsletter, vou are probably aware that the theme of refuge has been on my mind lately. Specifically, I've been wondering how we, the people God has called Pastor Michelle Manicke and gathered together as the community of

Zoar Lutheran Church, can continue to "live into" the name an earlier generation bestowed on this congregation. As a reminder, "Zoar" is the name of the hillside town Lot and his family fled to when Sodom was about to be destroyed. In the original Hebrew of the Old Testament, "Zoar" means "little place of refuge."

I suspect another reason this verse of Scripture came to mind is due to a conversation that took place yesterday afternoon at the first meeting of Zoar's Core Team for Building an Inclusive Church. (Just FYI, in spite of my broken ankle, I was able to participate in this meeting by phone. I'm grateful for the wonders of modern technology-most of the time, anyway!) So, after our Core Team had spent some time in prayer and personal reflection, we turned to the topic of beginning to frame the conversation and discernment process for the work we'll be doing as a congregation in the months ahead. The theme of Zoar as a

"refuge for all" surfaced, and the members of our committee agreed that becoming a refuge is an ongoing, ever-evolving, and alwaysexpanding process. As a group, we recognized that over time Zoar Lutheran Church has been living into our calling to be a "little place of refuge." The Community Dinner, the furniture ministry, the outreach of the Sewing Circle, the hospitality we provide to the Scouts and other building users, and our new emergency warming center partnership are all examples of our congregation's heart for hospitality and our compassionate care for the ones Jesus called "the least of these."

As I write this, it's two days before Ash Wednesday, and so I'm also struck by the timeliness of Psalm 90:3, which speaks of God turning us back to dust and calling us to "turn back" - that is, to repent. The part about God turning us back to dust makes me think of the creation story of God fashioning the first human being, Adam, from the dust and breathing life into him. Reflecting on the creation story also causes me to remember that humankind has been created in the image and likeness of God, who, the Psalmist tells us, is "our refuge in all generations." So, given that God is our refuge, and given that we're created in the image and likeness of God, I think it's fair to say that being a "little refuge" for others is a big piece of our God-given identity!

(Continued on page 3)

With regard to how this psalm speaks to me as an individual child of God, I'd have to say it's a good reminder to put things in perspective. It's a good reminder that while God is "from everlasting to everlasting," I am not! My days are numbered; therefore, the season of Lent-that is, right now!-- is the acceptable time to ask God to help me get my own spiritual house in order. Most of all, though, as I pray this psalm, I take heart in the Good News that God has been, is, and always will be the refuge of God's children in all generations. Although we humans are often fickle, our God is always faithful, always waiting to welcome us prodigals back into God's wide embrace, which is our place of refuge.

To sum up, as I sit here nursing my broken ankle, Psalm 90 is "good medicine" because reminds me to prayerfully discern how I want to spend the remaining precious days God has entrusted to me here on this earth. Personally, I can't think of a better way to spend my days than to ask God to help me and our congregation grow into God's call to become a "little place of refuge" for others, and the forty days of Lent seem like a good time to begin practicing!

What say <u>you</u>, friends? Are you ready to join in the Lenten journey that calls us to turn back to God, the One who is "our refuge in all generations," the One who loves us and gives us abundant life through Jesus the Christ? Are you ready to ask for a wise heart to make <u>your days</u> count by reflecting God's love and by helping Zoar become a "little place of refuge" for all those outside our doors who long to know Christ and the life that is in him?

Your companion on the journey,

Pastor Michelle Manicke

LENTEN JOURNEY 2020 AT ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lenten Wednesdays

Each Wednesday evening we'll follow this schedule:

6 pm: Soup supper

7 pm: Holden Evening Prayer.

Worship Series Theme: "Making Change."

Each week one of Zoar's members will share a personal reflection based on the Scripture and theme of the day. As we share and listen to each other's stories, we grow in faith toward God and in love for one another!

Weekly worship themes:

March 4 "Change of Season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

March 11 "Change Of Course" (Luke 6:46-49)

March 18 "Change of Circumstances" (Luke 12:22-34)

March 25 "Change of Heart" (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

April 1 "Change of Plans" (Mark 10:32-34)

(If you would like transportation to any of these services, please contact the church office so it may be arranged for you.)



I want to thank Pastor Michelle for all her visits to our home so Lillian and I could participate in a small church service and also for presiding at Lillian's memorial service.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to her memorial service, Mel Kubik for the music and all of the ushers.

A special thank you to the ZLCW and all who set-up tables

and provided the wonderful lunch. It was very much appreciated by me and my extended family.

In Christian Love,

Leland I.

Soup Suppers



In our service we pray for these people using their baptismal names only, a long-standing church practice. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless the need for prayer has not changed.

- Ann S., For healing & strength during treatment.
- Barbara N., For continued healing & pain relief in her back.
- Jennifer B., For strength during treatment.
- Dean W., Ardeth's husband.
- Pat, Al S.'s brother.
- Brad. Marie R.'s grandson.
- Jana, Shirley's son-in Law's sister.
- Nevin., Mike S.'s father.
- Sherri & family, From Carolyn S.
- Karen & Jim K., For peace, comfort & healing.
- Debbie, Renee B.'s daughter.
- Dan, Friend of the Thompsons.
- Kathryn, Sharon K.'s niece.
- Rod, Friend of the Thompsons.
- El. Friend of Jewell M.
- Robert, Friend of Kent & Renna.
- Vincent, Mike & Gloria's grandson
- Karen S., Is home recovering from successful knee surgery, pray for a smooth healing process. Friend of Janet J.
- Evie B., Is home where she continues her recovery from a series of small strokes.
 Prayers for healing, strength, & patience are appreciated.
- James L., Jewell M.'s biological father is suffering from high blood pressure & has a family history of heart disease.
- Jewell M., For comfort & emotional stability.
- Aaron D., is almost 6 mos. Old with an aggressive malignant brain tumor. Pray for healing for Aaron, & peace & comfort for his family.
- Elaine L., Has breast cancer (JoAnn's neighbor and friend).

- Gershom G., has recently been diagnosed with colon cancer and beginning chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for him & prayers of support for his wife, Paula.
- Joann S., has been experiencing severe insomnia.
- Joann's sister-in-law Vikki has been diagnosed with liver cancer. She asks for healing prayers for Vikki & family.
- Kathy S., friend of Sharon K., is recovering from brain tumor surgery.
- Ken K., for good diagnosis & healing.
- The Davis family, for peace and comfort. From Jacque Corey.
- Paul P., Stan & Suzi K's brother-in-law has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
 Pray also for their sister Pam, his wife.
- Stan K., Please pray for Stan as he recovers from surgery to treat numbness in his hand.
- Gloria S., Pray for continued successful healing, comfort & peace.
- Cynthia H., JoAnn's sister has been diagnosed with cancer. She is responding well
 to treatment. Please continue to pray for her and entire family.
- Esther H., Prayers for healing & comfort are requested.
- Family of Terry F., Kris D's. brother-in-law who passed away recently. Peace and comfort for his family and friends.
- Mel K., please pray for a speedy healing process as she recovers from knee surgery.
- Janet J., please pray for health, healing & comfort during this time of health concerns and upcoming treatment plans.
- Ivy B., pastor's mother. Please pray for continued healing & peace with her situation.
- Anna P., Friend of Betty L. has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.
- Kenny L., is now home from the recovering from surgery, please continue to pray for a speedy recovery so other health issues may be addressed.
- Tess Y., Jennifer B's. cousin had surgery for 2 broken legs on 1/9/2020. She was recovering from surgery last week and took a nasty fall a couple of days ago.
- Ronald M., Carol W's. uncle, for successful radiation treatment of bone cancer in his shoulder.
- Bob B., has been ill for some time, please pray for strength & good diagnosis.
- Bonnie B., Marie R's. grandchildren's other grandmother who will be going home to God soon. She is still holding on but cannot eat and is getting very tiny. Please pray for a peaceful passing to her new home in heaven.
- Shondra C., friend of Dan P., has been fighting cancer for several years. Pray for strength & peace for her and her family that the surgeons are able to remove all of the cancer and she will be in remission.

(Continued on Page 5)

- Gloria M., from Don & Carol W., Gloria has rapidly progressing dementia, please pray for peace & comfort for Gloria, her family, and her caregivers.
- Jerry, Teri Lynn A's father, he cared for his wife during her final days and he himself is on hospice and in the last days of his life. Please pray for a peaceful passing for Jerry and strength & comfort for his family.
- Norma A., recovering from surgery, she is battling complications from treatment of multiple myeloma.
 She is in ICU, please continue to keep her in your prayers, she has a long road ahead.
- A life-long friend of Paula M.: She has stage 3 breast cancer. She has CP and broke her leg last Summer & is currently in a rehab center & will not be able to return to her apartment. She needs prayers, & also please pray that she can find an affordable assisted living apartment.
- "C" a young addict, is trying to stay clean so she won't lose her kid(s) and lacks support. Please pray that God will help her to have courage to get the support she needs, not be distracted and also, pray for her child(ren) that they receive the support/ resources/living situation that is best for them.
- Pastor Michelle, had successful surgery on Tues.
 Feb. 25th at OHSU to repair her broken ankle. She went home the same day but needs several days to recover. Prayers for speedy healing and abundant patience are appreciated.
- Kevin M., John's brother has been diagnosed with osteomyelitis. He recently had surgery and needs more. He may lose teeth and part of his jaw. Please pray for physical, emotional, and financial healing.
- Stephanie, Jewell's biological mom is working hard at staying clean & sober, lives in an Oxford House and is active in AA. Paula's prayers are of gratitude that God has helped her get this far in her recovery & ask that He will help her continue on this path.
- Paula M., that she is able to complete the SSD paperwork for Jewell by the due date, if it's God's will.

 Kathy, Janet J's daughter-in-law is experiencing stomach issues, please pray for a good diagnosis and treatment plan.

For All serving in the Military & their families, for strength & safety, including:

Bruce A. (USN), Matthew B. (USAF), Christopher N. (USN), Danielle S. (USAF), and Tom A. (USN).

Palliative Prayer Requests

• Erwin, for comfort and peace.

Prayer: Oh Lord my God, you are a good God and your desire is that your children be in good health. I ask that your healing hand locate on all who ail and heal their of every ailment. May they experience wellness in every part of their body in Jesus' name. Amen

Condolences

Leland I., Pray for Leland, family & friends that they can experience God's presence surrounding them with His loving care, peace, and comfort as they grieve Lillian's homegoing.

Allan Sr. and the family of Glenda P. Pray for peace, comfort, and strength as they grieve the loss of their dear wife and mother.

Sarah M. & family, for comfort & peace following the sudden death of her father.

Trust in God's Plan

It's hard to understand
Why God takes those we love.
Does He need them more than we do,
In Heaven up above?

No one on earth can pretend To know what's in God's plan. All we can do is take it on faith And trust we'll see our loved ones again.

Kelly Roper

Caring for OurFamily

Please remember these members of Zoar who are no longer able to participate as they once did. They have been active in Zoar's community in many ways. Now, as time makes it necessary for them to slow down, they often become the prayer backbone of Zoar. Days can get long though, and a visit from you can be so uplifting. Sending a card or making a phone call can also brighten their day. (If you need an address or phone number, please call the church office.)

- ♡ Esther H.
- ♡ Dick K.
- v Bobbe P.
- ♡ Edna L.





Pastor: Michelle Manicke Zoar-Pastor@outlook.com

Music Ministry: Mel Kubik melkubik@live.com

Office Admin.: Karen Parton

Zoar@canby.com



"What Does the Lord Require of You? Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with Your God."

March LIFFT Event: "Love God, Love Your Neighbor"

Jesus' Great Commandment to love God and love your neighbor as yourself echoes this year's LIFFT theme verse, Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Join us from 12-1:30 on Sunday, March 8th, as we reenact the story of the Greatest Commandment using Godly Play. We will also play games, sing songs about loving God and neighbor, and share a delicious lunch.

In the coming months, here are the topics:

- No April Event (Easter April 12)
- May 3rd Good Shepherd Sunday Acts
 2:42-47 "Living it!"



Zoar's Adult Sunday School class meets from 9-10 am most Sundays. We have lively discussions, as we explore the Bible or delve into a thematic study. All are welcome to join us at any time, as most of our weekly lessons are self-contained and require no advance preparation. (Please check the calendar below to be sure we're meeting on a given Sunday!)

During the month of March, we'll be continuing our study of Matthew's gospel, which has been unceremoniously disrupted by Pastor Michelle's broken ankle! The revised schedule is as follows:

March 1 No class due to pastor's surgery

March 8 No class due to LIFFT event

March 15 Matthew, Session 6: "Where Two or Three Are Gathered in My Name" (cont.)

March 22 Matthew, Session 7:

March 29 Matthew, Session 8

Apr. 5 No class (Palm Sunday)

April 12 No class (Easter Sunday)





February flew by! We've had fun with Valentine's Day and focused on acts of kindness. Our Bible verse was "Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32. We worked on sorting, number concepts, letters, sounds, sight words, and learned about being kind to each other.

Also, we are still asking for donations for the classroom. Some things we still need: Crayola tempera washable paint (all colors), construction paper (individual colors), and

colors, no mixed packs), and Zip Lock Freezer Bags (both quart and gallon size). Cash donations are also much appreciated. Thank you for always supporting our preschool!

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is OPEN. Application forms are available to download at zoarlutheran.org/preschool or they may be picked up in the church office. Contact us for more information: (503)266-4061 or at zoarpreschool@gmail.com.

Blessings, Jenni Beatty



The Sewing Circle started off 2020 strong, even though many members have been struggling with winter colds. We have a goal of competing 100 quilts to give to Child Protective Services in May. If you'd like to help us work towards this goal, please join us during our March sessions:

March 3, 6-8 pm;

March 4, 9 am-2 pm;

March 17, 6-8 pm;

March 18, 9 am-2 pm

Lunch is at 11:30 am on Wednesdays and the Community Dinner is from 5-6:30 pm on Tuesdays.

All are welcome. If you are younger than 12, please bring your favorite grown-up with you. No experience is necessary. We will gladly teach anyone who is interested.



Daily Devotionals!

Zoar has **Christ in Our Home** daily devotional

booklets for **January through March** available in the Entryway and in the church office for you. April-June will be available soon.

Preparing for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Please take a bag of plastic eggs home to fill with small toys, candy, or coins for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 5th grade. **Eggs will be available March 8th**. Please return them by **March 22**.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 11, beginning at 10 am. We will have the telling of the Easter story, we will decorate bags for the hunt, and we will have a treat.

Education Leadership Team





We are still in need of two volunteers to add another team to count Sunday offerings!

OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED If you can balance your checkbook, you can count Zoar's offering. ALL training provided! Each volunteer serves on a rotating team of two for

one month at a time. Counting is done directly following worship each Sunday and usually take 30-45 minutes.

Contact Ron Pottratz or the Church Office if you are willing to serve or have any questions.





We have a box by the mailboxes to bring your bottles and cans for recycling, all proceeds support Zoar's emergency fund, for rental & utility assistance

Update from Zoar's Core Team for Building an Inclusive Church

In response to the last two years of listening seasons at Zoar, the "Building an Inclusive Church" core team has gathered for the first time. The meeting was focused on getting to know each other, discussing Zoar's service in our community (including the furniture ministry, the Tuesday night dinners, sewing circle, and our new warming center), and our need to ensure we are intentionally expanding Zoar's mission of being inclusive. The meaning of the name "Zoar," which is "little place of refuge," provided a frame to discuss the listening season experiences, survey data, and our process of discernment about expanding inclusion at Zoar. Our next meeting will be held Sunday, March 15th, after worship.

Please hold these members of Zoar's Core Team and our fledgling discernment process in your prayers: Marlena Adams; Ashlie Carvajal (co-chair); Jeanna Doversberger; Eric Hinson; Lisa Hinson (co-chair); Noel Hygelund; Pam Hygelund; Mel Kubik; John Manley; Raquel Robles; Carolyn Shearer; Kyler Shearer; and Mark Shearer. (Pastor Michelle Manicke is an advisory liaison to the Core Team.)



Meals Together at the Canby Community Dinner here

Tuesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

We serve an average of 100 meals each week throughout the year!

We have several ways you can help:

- -Help us get the word out, by mentioning the dinner to others who might be interested in attending or helping
- -Volunteer we can always use help with: dinner preparation and/or cooking, set up, serving, and cleaning up. You could help with one or many of these for any dinner we serve!
- -Especially, we need your prayers and attendance at dinners. Come share a meal and visit with our guests

If you are interested or have questions, call Connie T. or contact the Church Office.



Update of Furniture Ministry 2020 Winter Hours



During the cold months of February and March, we are only working two days a month...(one Saturday and one Thursday). For the month of February, we are working with clients and taking large donations on Thursday the 13th and Saturday the 22nd. You may continue to donate items in the basket under the mailboxes. Thank you for adhering to our schedule.

In March we will use the same configuration, but I do not have those specific dates yet as a few of the volunteers have not told me their schedules. (Stay tuned!)

Please consider checking your attic space for hidden furniture pieces. We are always in need of dressers as well as clean sheets and blankets of all sizes.

Come and help us by volunteering three hours of your time. We would greatly appreciate your service. Bless you all.

Mary Eastman, Carol & Don Weaver, Marlena Adams, and Jackie & John Kimball



Furnished with Love



Please sign up! Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the church office. Volunteers are needed for:

Greeters Altar Flowers

Please take advantage of these ministry opportunities. There are others available such as *Audio Visual & Offering Counters* (*training provided for both*). We are in need of people to suppliment our current regulars in these position. Contact Ron Pottratz if you are interested in either & he will set up training for you.

Communion Assistants are also needed. These are the people who help Pastor to distribute the bread and wine/grape juice during communion. If you are interested in helping this way, contact Pastor Michelle.

Do you like to bake? We need *four or five volunteers to make communion bread* once a month and freeze it for later use. It is an easy recipe. Recipes are in the church office.

Music & Worship Leadership Team members sign up *Lay Readers* each month, but they are always looking for new people. If you would like to be a *Lay Reader*, leave your name with Karen in the church office and she will pass it on to the Team.

We are grateful for all our volunteers.

Church Membership Directory

We need your picture!

If you did not have
your photo taken in 2019 for the Zoar
Membership Directory, please contact
Jeanna Doversberger or Carolyn Shearer
ASAP. We need up-to-date photos of all our
church members.

We still have many members that have not had their photo taken. It will only take a few minutes either just before or just after church.

Thank you!

The Evangelism Leadership Team





For Warming Shelter Guests

For those interested in helping with supplies for our guests at the warming center we need: warm socks, toothbrushes, toothbrush covers, small toothpaste, travel size deodorant, washcloths, and bars of soap.

Or—you can donate some money so I can buy the things we need. Thank you for your help.

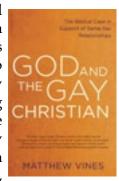
Pat Parker



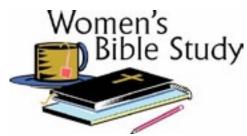
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Zoar's Book Group will meet from 7-8:30 pm on Thursday, March 12 at Los Dos Amigos. Based on group consensus at our February gathering, we'll be discussing a new book, "God and the Gay Christian" by Matthew Vines. All are welcome to join us for good food, fellowship, and learning!



A few copies of the book will be available for pickup in the church office. Please consider a small donation to Zoar (\$12.31 per book) to help cover the cost. Thank you!



First Thursdays each month at 7 pm

This month's meeting is March 5.

All women, all ages, *join us at Zoar.* Each lesson is independent with no homework, so show up anytime for great discussion, prayer, and fellowship! The current study is "When God Doesn't Fix It." It is a video series.

Questions? Ask JoAnn Rothi.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: (unless otherwise noted)						
9:00 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Bell Choir practice 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Time	2-3:30 pm Knitting Group, Entry Hall 7:00 pm Mixed Choir 8:00 pm Ordinary Men	5-6:30 pm Community Dinner, Entry Hall 6:30 pm Cub Scout Mtg.				
9 am ZLCW Council Mtg. 12:30-2 pm Confirmation	2	3 6-8 pm Sewing Circle	9 am-2 pm Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	5 11:45 am Preschool Bd Mtg 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	6	For Wall
8 Daylight Savings Time begins LIFFT following Worship	9	10 7 pm Church Council Meeting Conf. Room	11 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	12 7:00-8:30 pm Book study at Los Dos Agave	DEADLINE to turn in articles for the April newsletter!	14
15 12:30-2 pm Confirmation	16	6-8 pm Sewing Circle	9 am-2 pm Sewing Circle 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	19	20	21
22	23	24 7 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	25 6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	26	27	28
29	30	31 9:00 am Breakfast at Pappy's Greasy Spoon				