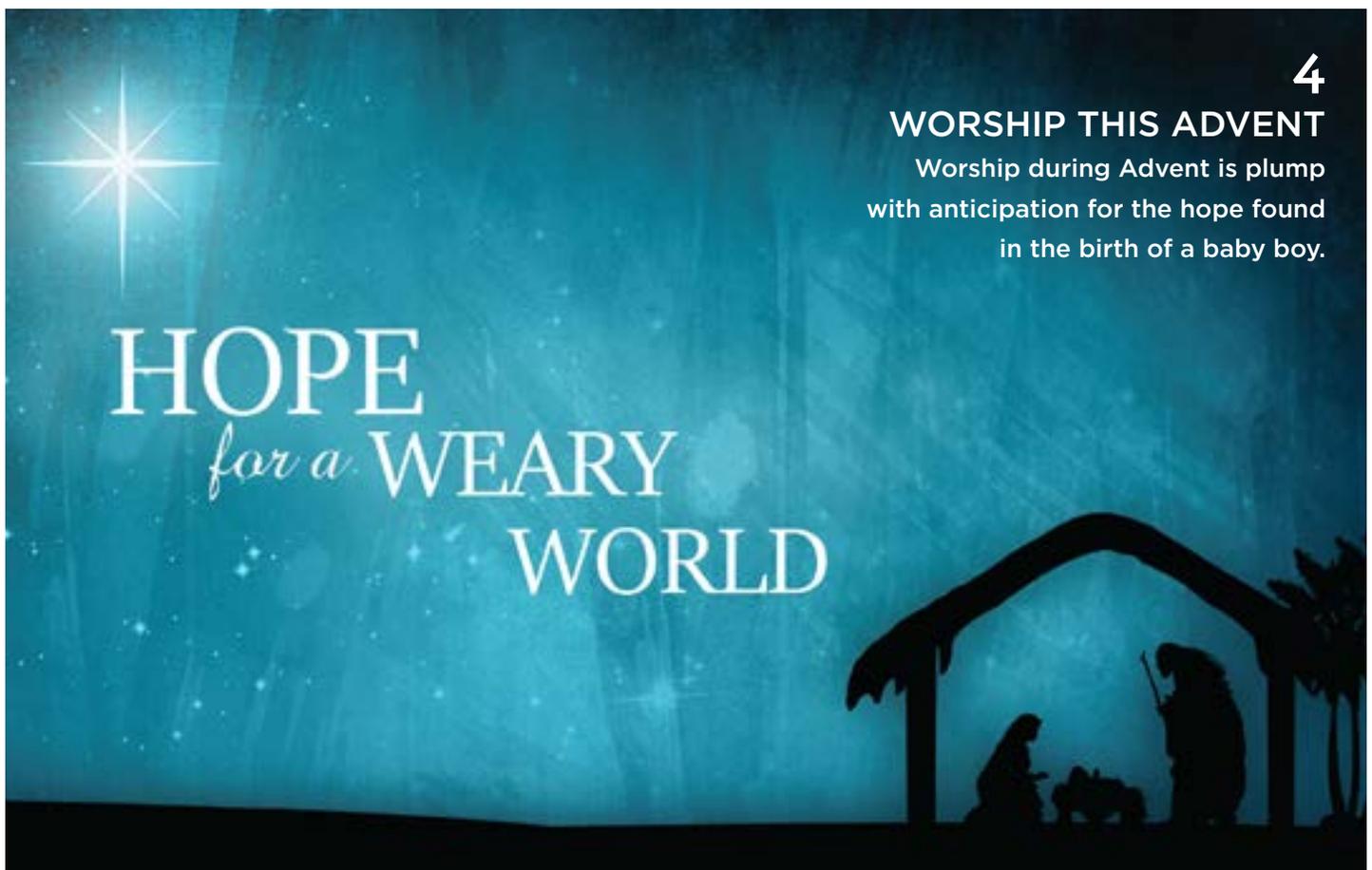


*Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.*

# THE ZUMBRO Current

DECEMBER 2016

Zumbro Lutheran Church | A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**4**

## WORSHIP THIS ADVENT

Worship during Advent is plump with anticipation for the hope found in the birth of a baby boy.

HOPE  
*for a* WEARY  
WORLD

**6**

## THE HOPE OF JESUS

Christmas is a magical time of wonder. This year Zumbro celebrates 35 years of awe and wonder that is the Festival of Lessons and Carols.

**8**

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Zumbro's Christmas Bazaar warms the hearts of the Zumbro and Rochester communities.

**10**

## CHRISTMAS JOY

Every year children tell the Christmas story. This year is no different. Hear and see the story of hope that is for all the ages.

# This is family.

I watched an episode recently of *Madam Secretary* on CBS. Elizabeth (U.S. Secretary of State on the show) is having a conversation with her adult brother. Throughout the course of the episode, the audience gets a glimpse into their past. Their relationship has never been an easy one, to say the least. Elizabeth's brother, Will, has never felt quite good enough when standing beside his sister.

Throughout the episode, Elizabeth and Will disagree about a major decision in Will's life. Eventually they have a heart-to-heart conversation. Will has spent most of his life running away from these types of conversations. I found his words to be poignant:

*"Last night when the three of us were fighting it felt distantly familiar. I thought, 'This is weird to have these messy feelings flying around. What is it?' And then I remembered, like going back in a time machine: 'This is family.'"*

Can you identify with Will's assessment? It's December, and for many this means there will be opportunities to gather with extended families. For some of you that might mean competitive card games, reminiscing, and late nights filled with laughter. For others of you it might feel more like distant memories of "messy feelings flying around." And I suspect that for many, it will be a little of both.

## So how will you survive this holiday season with family members that are less than perfect?

Let me offer a few suggestions.

**Listen.** I read somewhere recently that *listen* and *silent* are spelled with the same letters. People have a deep need to be heard. Can you bear to listen to your family member, perhaps the one you disagree with most? It might be challenging (okay, it *will* be challenging), but perhaps she just needs someone who is willing to take the time to listen. And remember listening to her doesn't mean you need to agree with her.

**Take a little time for yourself.** If you have a houseful of company, find space for some quiet time alone. Whether it is a quiet cup of coffee alone while the rest of the house sleeps, a good novel to escape into, or an errand to the grocery store, find some time to get away and take some deep breaths.

**Find healthy ways to deal with family stress.** Go for a walk. Call a friend. Listen to some music that brings you joy. Try to avoid excessive holiday eating or drinking. It probably won't leave you feeling better in the end.

**Remember that all families are messy in their own way.** It's easy to believe that no other family is quite as difficult as your own. Consider the first families we meet in the Bible: Adam blamed Eve for causing him to do wrong, Cain killed his brother Abel,



Jacob's sons sold their brother into slavery, and David had an affair. (Maybe your family looks pretty good now?) The reality is this – all families are made up of imperfect people and messy relationships. You're not alone.

**Pray.** Perhaps this is the most important one to remember ... and practice. Find some quiet time to ask God for patience. When you feel yourself growing anxious in the midst of conflict, exhale deeply and ask God to guide your thoughts and words. When you feel weary, ask God for the strength to make it through one day at a time.

I discovered a beautiful quote recently:  
*"Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart."*  
–author unknown

May the Prince of Peace fill your hearts this Christmas season as you navigate the joys, the challenges, and the messiness of being family.

*Pastor Lisa*

Pastor Lisa

# Sunday Worship

## Hope for a Weary World

### THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Luke 1:1-25, 57-66

SUNDAY, DEC. 4 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Bel Canto Handbell Choir

(8:30am and 11am), Zumbro Lutheran

Choir

### A VISIT FROM THE ANGEL GABRIEL

Luke 1:26-38

SUNDAY, DEC. 11 | 8:30am and 11am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Michaela Sandness, violin

(8:30am); Zumbro Choristers (8:30am);

Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

(8:30am and 11am); Zumbro Lutheran

Choir (11am)

### GOD TURNS MARY'S WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

Luke 1:39-56

SUNDAY, DEC. 18 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion

Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Zumbro

Woodwind Quartet (8:30am), Zumbro

Choristers, Ring-n-Sing, Faith Formation

Christmas Program (11am)

### HOPE IS BORN

Luke 2:8-20

SUNDAY, DEC. 25 | 10am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Kelsey O'Leary, soloist

## WORSHIP

### Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45-7:15pm

The nursery will be open, but not staffed December 25 and January 1.

### Service of Remembrance

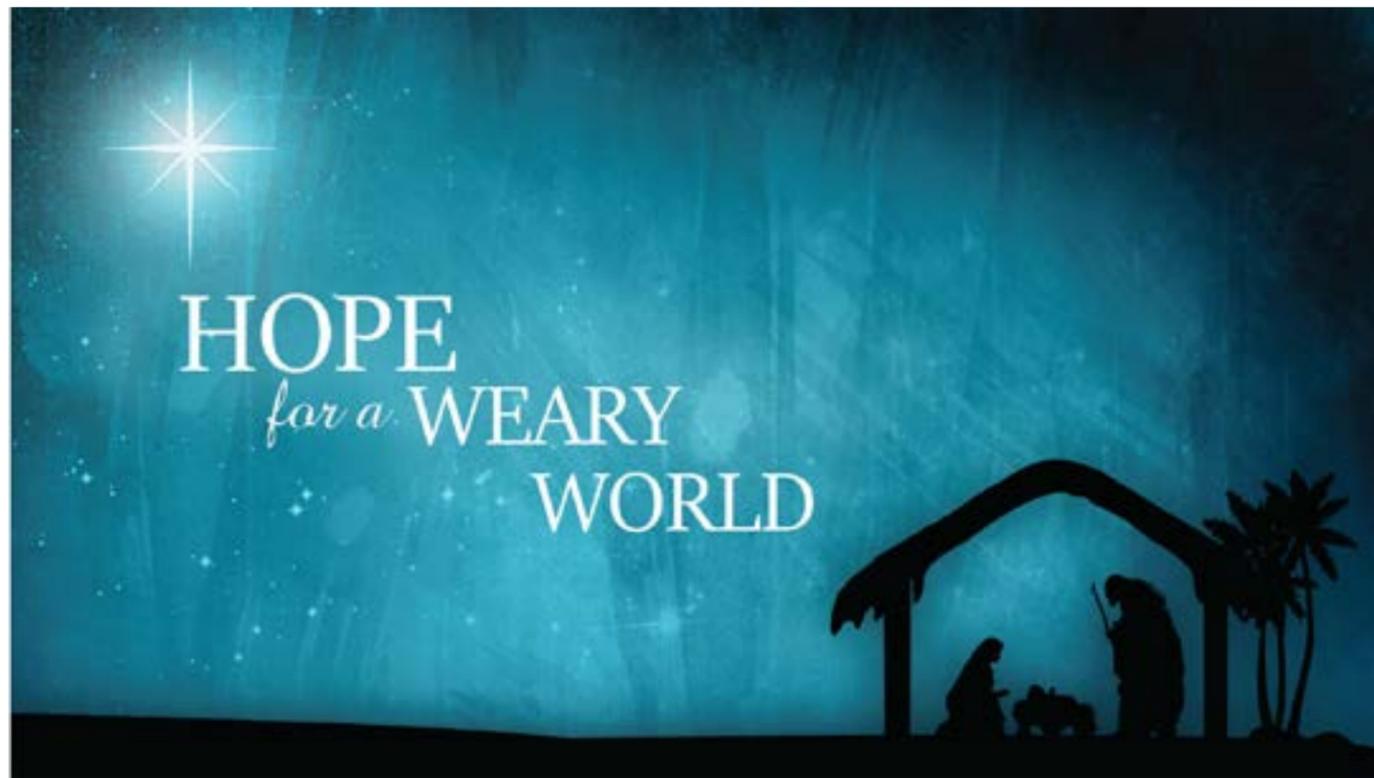
SUNDAY, DEC. 11 | 1pm

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

The weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with joy and expectation, but if you are grieving the loss of a loved one they might be filled with more sadness than joy and more dread than expectation. You are invited for a Service of Remembrance. We'll remember, reflect, and look toward the hope that comes for each of us with the birth of Jesus.

### Holiday Poinsettias

Again this year you will have the opportunity to donate poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary through Christmas Day. Details and ordering guidelines will be in upcoming *Life at Zumbros* and *ENews*.



Our sermon series for Advent is Hope in a Weary World. There is much about our world that weighs us down. That can apply to everything from political discord to social upheaval to family conflict. In the midst of this season, we invite you to join us in focusing on the hopeful words of Isaiah 40-55 and Luke 1. We'll be worshipping both on Sundays and Wednesdays. We be looking for a message of light and love and hope during our all-too-troubled times.

## Advent Worship-Wednesdays

Unplug and unwind as we pause and come into God's presence. Sing the beloved Holden Evening Prayer liturgy by Marty Haugen. Light candles around the manger as we offer prayer in the stillness. All are welcome.

### LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

Isaiah 42:1-9

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7 | 12pm and 6pm  
Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### HOPE BLOOMS IN A WEARY WORLD

Isaiah 52:7-10

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21 | 12pm and 6pm  
Holy Communion  
Prayers for Healing  
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

### LOVES GROWS IN A WEARY WORLD

Isaiah 43:1-7

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14 | 12pm and 6pm  
Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner



## Advent Lunch

WEDNESDAYS | 12:45pm

A lunch is served after the 12pm worship on Wednesdays for a suggested donation of \$6. Lunches include desserts and beverages.

DECEMBER 7- Goulash, Croissants, Green Salad

DECEMBER 14- Tomato Basil Soup, Crackers, Ham and Cheese Sandwich

DECEMBER 21- Chicken Noodle Soup, Crackers, 1/2 Turkey and Swiss Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread, Fruit

## Christmas Eve THE GOD WE HARDLY KNEW

Luke 2:1-14

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

Family Blessing  
Candlelight Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

1:30pm

Cailyn Johnson, soloist  
Children are invited to bring bells to ring.

3pm

Nursery care is provided  
Karl Hammond, soloist  
Bel Canto Handbell Choir  
Children are invited to bring bells to ring.

4:30pm

Bel Canto Handbell Choir  
Zumbro Lutheran Choir

6pm

Zumbro Lutheran Choir

## Christmas Day

HOPE IS BORN

Luke 2:8-20

SUNDAY, DEC. 25 | 10am

Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp  
Kelsey O'Leary, soloist

## New Year's Day

SIMEON AND ANN VISIT THE NEWBORN

Luke 2:21-38

SUNDAY, JAN, 1 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner  
Ralph Schornack, soloist

## Advent Supper

WEDNESDAYS | 4:45-5:55pm

A supper is served before evening worship on Wednesdays for a suggested donation of \$6. Supper includes beverages.

DECEMBER 7- HyVee Chinese

DECEMBER 14- Lasagna Casserole

DECEMBER 21- HyVee Chinese

## Staffed Nursery Hours

DECEMBER 24

The nursery will be staffed during the 3pm worship service (2:45-4:15pm). The nursery will be open, but not staffed, for the other three worship services and Christmas Day.

# The Hope of Jesus

This year Zumbro celebrates the 35th Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Marys Chapel. This worship experience is full of rich music and Biblical readings. It is rooted in the Anglican tradition that tells the story from the fall of Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ. Festival of Lessons and Carols has become a holiday tradition for the Zumbro, Mayo Clinic, and Rochester communities.

Since its inception in 1981, the Festival of Lessons and Carols has been an avenue to reach out with compassion and share the hope of Jesus. More than 250 people fill the pews and countless more see and hear the story of God's love through the birth of Jesus in their hospital rooms. The worship service is broadcast via Mayo Clinic's closed circuit TV for patients and families to enjoy. Zumbro Lutheran Choir director Bob Giere shares that this is some people's only Christmas experience.

The theme this year is *The Hope of Jesus*.

## Festival of Lessons and Carols Program

MAYO CLINIC HOSPITAL  
ST. MARYS CAMPUS-CHAPEL  
SUNDAY, DEC. 18  
PRELUDE MUSIC: 4pm  
SERVICE: 4:30pm  
Music by:  
Bel Canto Handbell Choir  
Mary Schneekloth, harp  
Zumbro Brass Ensemble  
Zumbro Choristers  
Zumbro Lutheran Choir

**Chris Gade**, Zumbro member, Zumbro Brass Ensemble member, and Mayo Clinic employee, shares how Lessons and Carols impacts his life.

"The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a time when my work and faith worlds collide, and it could not be more impactful."

"In my mind, one word best describes what Mayo Clinic offers patients from our community, the region, nation, and world—hope."

"Hope comes alive at the Festival of Lessons Carols. Hope for patients, weary from a diagnosis and treatment. Hope for members of Zumbro, weary from life's journey. Patients and Zumbro members come together for only a short time, feasting on a message of hope that only the birth of baby Jesus can promise."

"As a musician, it's humbling and an honor to be part of an occasion like none other—one that brings a sense of hope to so many in such a meaningful way." -Chris Gade



The Zumbro Choristers and Zumbro Lutheran Choir perform a piece together during Festival of Lessons and Carols in 2014.



The Zumbro Brass Ensemble plays during the Festival of Lessons and Carols in 2014.



The Liturgical Dancers lead the procession at the start in 2014.

Zumbro member **Bill Horlitz** reflects the new meaning Festival of Lessons and Carols has for him and his life:

"The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols has had a special place in the Horlitz family traditions since we joined Zumbro in the early 1980s."

"Early on, the whole family participated in some way, Sandy in the bell choir, Megan, Katie, and Sarah in the chime and youth choirs, and me as the wizard behind the curtain who operated the primitive video camera that could zoom in and out for close up pictures and occasionally would operate with a mind of its own and spin in 180 degree circles, much to the delight of the television audience."

"In recent years other commitments often would take us out of town during the Christmas season so when we knew we were going to be in town for the 34th annual performance in 2015 the date was circled on the calendar. At that time we could not imagine the events that would transpire before the evening was over."

"On the day of the service we were running behind schedule, as usual, and even considered postponing attendance another year, but we had missed the Sunday church service so we hurried to the chapel. To make it in time for the start required a bit of a sprint by me through the wings of the hospital, and I arrived just in time for the opening. I no more than sat down, when I began feeling a bit uncomfortable; my discomfort was actually the beginning of a serious heart attack. I decided to get some air."

"Thankfully guardian angels, Zumbro members Mike Holmes, Ann Beatty, and Pat O'Leary, were nearby and recognized that my distress required more than fresh air. It was a different and speedier trip from the chapel to the emergency room where the cardiac team was able to stop the heart attack. I have fully recovered. I cannot imagine what the outcome of that evening would have been had I been anywhere but at St. Marys Hospital. We will not miss the 35th annual service. Thanks be to God and all the angels at St. Marys." -Bill Horlitz

## Lend a Hand

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

If you have a pickup truck or larger SUV, your assistance is needed to transport items to and from St. Marys Chapel. Ushers and greeters are also needed. Details and opportunities to lend a hand will be in upcoming *Life at Zumbros* and *ENews*.

# A Piece of the Christmas Bazaar

## Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, DEC. 3 | 9am-12pm  
 SUNDAY, DEC. 4 | 9:30-11am & 12-2pm

### Saturday, Dec. 3

**9am-12pm**  
 Sales (baked goods, crafts, Fair Trade goods, and attic treasures)

**10am-12pm**  
 Scandinavian Coffee House  
 Suggested donation: \$4

### Sunday, Dec. 4

**9:30-11am**  
 Scandinavian Coffee House

Sales (baked goods, crafts, Fair Trade goods, and attic treasures)

**12-2pm**  
 Luncheon  
 Menu: baked ham and cheese sandwiches, potato casserole, cranberry salad, and cake  
 Suggested donation: \$8

Sales (baked goods, crafts, Fair Trade goods, attic treasures)

Wrap someone on the other side of the world in the comfort and warmth of a quilt.

Provide short-term child care for a family in crisis situation.

Support and provide temporary housing for a female domestic violence victim.

Help a child experience recreation and faith building at a Christian-based summer camp.

Improve the quality of life and health for residents of a senior community living environment.

Would you believe that you could accomplish all of this—and more—in a single day?

By attending the bazaar, you have the opportunity to impact many lives in your community. In 2015, funds were allocated to organizations such as: Crisis Nursery, Mission Sewing, Good Earth Village Scholarships, Samaritan Bethany, Women's Shelter, Lutheran Campus Ministry, IHN/Family Promise, Open Table, LINK, and Quilts for Kids.

Proceeds from the 2016 event will again benefit organizations doing important work to support our brothers and sisters. Don't miss an opportunity to be part of this! Gathering together to celebrate the season, sharing food, and honoring our heritage and traditions are all important...but are just a piece of what the annual Christmas Bazaar is all about. Your support of the bazaar makes a difference. We will see you there!

All members of the community are invited and welcome to participate in the festivities on both Saturday and Sunday.



Home decorations, gifts, baked goods, second hand items, and others are will be available for purchase at the Christmas Bazaar December 3 and 4.

## Action Project

Beneficiary: Dorothy Day House (Rochester, MN)

The Dorothy Day Hospitality House is a temporary shelter for those who find themselves in crisis and are in need of the basic requirements of food, clothing, and shelter. All persons in need are welcome.

### ITEMS NEEDED

- Men's winter gloves & warm socks
- Stocking caps & scarves
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream & razors
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Toilet tissue
- Twin size blankets & quilts
- Bath towels (new or good condition)
- Coffee

All donated items are appreciated and may be placed in the Action Box outside the lounge.

Our ongoing projects: layette items for Lutheran World Relief, eyeglasses for Lions Club, beverage tabs for Ronald McDonald House, and Campbell Soup labels and greeting cards for the Rainbow School. These items may be left in the drawers at the ushers' stand.

## Helping Iambi Deliver

This fall we kicked off a campaign for Iambi Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania called "Helping Iambi Deliver." Our goal was to raise \$32,000 to supply the delivery room with desperately needed surgical items, as well as outfit the OB ward with 24 new beds, chairs, and bedside stands. Because of your generosity we have raised \$28,000. *Bwana asifiwe!* Praise the Lord!

This month you have an opportunity to help us reach our goal by giving a Christmas gift in honor of a loved one. For each gift you make, you will receive a "Helping Iambi Deliver" Christmas ornament, as well as a card for the recipient explaining the difference your gift will make. Ornaments will be available outside of the lounge through Christmas.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, thank you for sharing the hope of Jesus with the thousands of babies that will be born at Iambi Lutheran Hospital.

## Past Action Projects

NOVEMBER

Nine newborn kits and five AIDS hospice kits were assembled and have been sent to Global Health Mission.

## High School Youth Group

DECEMBER 7 & 14:| 7-8:15pm  
 YOUTH ROOM  
 DECEMBER 21: SALVATION ARMY  
 BELL RINGING | APACHE MALL

## Save the Date: Youth Ski Weekend

FEBRUARY 24-26 | GRADES 6-12  
 COST: \$275  
 (includes lodging, travel, two-day lift tickets, & six meals)  
 GIANTS RIDGE, BIWABIK, MN  
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
 JANUARY 15 with \$100 non-refundable deposit  
 Contact Family Minister  
 Kris Opegard with questions.

## Planning a Baptism

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES  
 8:30 and 11am Sunday  
 December 11  
 January 8, 22, 29  
 February 12, 26  
  
 10am Sunday  
 December 25  
  
 6pm Wednesday  
 December 14  
 January 11, 25  
 February 1, 15

# Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

SUNDAY, DEC. 11 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Everyone loves Christmas carols, and here's an opportunity to play them in worship. The Youth Band and Strings, directed by Director of Music & Liturgy Kristy Giere, will accompany the congregation in some great carols of the holiday season. Rehearsals will be in the Zumbro sanctuary on:

- Thursday, Dec. 1 | 6:30-7:15pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 6 | 6:30-7:15pm
- Saturday, Dec. 10 | 1:15-2pm



Children in grades five and six acting out the Christmas story in 2014.



The Zumbro Youth Band and String ensemble playing in worship in April 2016.

# Faith Formation Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DEC. 18 | 11am  
 The Christmas program will be a part of the 11am worship. Children in preschool-grade six are invited to be a part of it. In keeping with tradition, children in grade four are invited to wear costumes and act out the Christmas story. Children in grades five and six will have the opportunity to read speaking parts. Rehearsals will be incorporated into Faith Formation class time. Children in preschool will join the older kids for the rehearsal in the sanctuary on December 11. Rehearsals are:

- Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and 14 | 6:45pm | Gym | Preschool-Grade Six
- Sunday, Dec. 4 | 9:45am | Gym Kindergarten-Grade Six
- Sunday, Dec. 11 | 10:20-10:40am | Sanctuary | Preschool-Grade Six
- Saturday, Dec. 17 | 9am | Sanctuary | Preschool-Grade Six

Send your questions to Family Minister Janette Reeves.

# Adult Forum

SUNDAYS | 9:45-10:45am  
 FIRESIDE ROOM  
 The Advent season is the celebration of one Big Idea, expressed in the words of Peter to Jesus: "You are the Messiah!" (Luke 9:20) But what does it mean to call Jesus "Messiah"? Where did that idea come from? What did the Bible have to say about Messiah? How do Jews and Muslims, understand that title? Why do we sing and listen to Handel's Oratorio, with that title "Messiah"? This is the first of a three-week series of Adult Forums that will explore how the Old and New Testaments provide our understanding of what it means to call Jesus, Messiah. Dr. James Limburg, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, will present on the following topics:

- November 27 | The Psalms: A Seedbed of Messianic Hope
- December 4 | No Adult Forum--Zumbro's Christmas Bazaar
- December 11 | The Prophets: Proclaimers of Messianic Hope
- December 18 | The Gospels: Jesus as Messiah-Servant

There will not be Adult Forum on December 25 or January 1.

# November Pastoral Acts

FUNERAL SERVICE  
 Ervin F. Hodge  
  
 DEATH  
 Wayne D. Tostenson

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### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit items for the January issue of the *Zumbro Current* by December 10, to [zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org)

Return Dated Material

Return Service Requested

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