

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

NOVEMBER 2016

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



5

SEWING STEWARDSHIP

A small group of women sew quilts as a way for them to give and to share the hope of Jesus with a world in need.

2

ROOTED IN JESUS

Consider what God has given you and the ways you can share it as we celebrate stewardship this month.

8

BAZAAR PLANS

It might be chilly outside, so let the merriment of the Zumbro Bazaar warm you up December 3 and 4.

9

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Many outside groups use the facility for the location, spaces available, and for the relationship built with Zumbro's staff.



Using What We Have to Share the Hope of Jesus

As a parent, I'm often on the lookout for opportunities to teach my kids generosity. Erica and I want our kids to know they have choices to make with the money they are given, and that the choices they make reflect what they care about. We talk with our kids about three basic choices we can make with our money. *We can share it. We can save it. We can spend it.*

Last month, when the *Helping Lambi Deliver* opportunity came from Zumbro, I asked my daughter, Ellie, if she wanted to help babies and their moms at lambi. She wasn't exactly thrilled about giving up her allowance money, but after a bit more conversation and some internal struggle, she decided that she would give \$5 to help these families in Tanzania. Her gift is one step in the direction of generosity.

The conversation and decision she faced is not unlike the financial decisions many of us face each day. How do we use the gifts and resources God gives us? What do our choices say about our values and the way we live out our faith?

This sounds like stewardship to me. In a nutshell, stewardship is how we partner with God to use the gifts entrusted to us. As Christians, we grow to trust that all that we have is from God. In turn, God asks us to make wise choices about how we use what God provides.

We're going to be celebrating stewardship this year on Sunday, Nov. 13, and Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Our stewardship theme is the same as our annual focus: *Sharing the Hope of Jesus*. As we enter into this season, I invite you to consider how your own stewardship is rooted in the hope of Jesus.

Hope is so important for our world. I like that hope is future oriented and rooted in the assurance that God provides all that we need. Hope can be challenging too. So much is beyond our control. We are depend on God to take care of us.



During this month, I encourage you to think about your own stewardship journey.

1. What gives you hope and how do you share it with others?
2. What has God given to you in this season of your life that you want to share?

Peace,

Pastor Jason





Worship Details

A God Who Answers Us

GOD'S MERCY FOR JONAH

Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

SUNDAY, NOV. 6

Holy Communion with Candle Lighting
Remembrance of the Saints
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir; Mary Schneckloth, harp; Zumbro Brass Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9

Holy Communion
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

GOD'S CARE FOR A WIDOW

1 Kings 17:1-16

SUNDAY, NOV. 13

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp
Music: Zumbro Choristers (11am);
Bel Canto Handbell Choir; Spencer Ketterling (8:30am and 11am)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

GOD'S PLAN FOR A NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

SUNDAY, NOV. 20

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am); Jenny Kruse and Janette Reeves (11am); Zumbro Woodwinds (8:30am and 11am)

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp
Music: Bob Giere, Meredith Pritchard, Janette Reeves, Ralph Schornack, Amy and Steve Adamson

Hope for a Weary World

HELP IN A LION'S DEN

Daniel 6:6-27

SUNDAY, NOV. 27

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner
Music: Zumbro Choristers (8:30am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am); Amy Adamson, cello (8:30am and 11am)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45-7:15pm

On Thanksgiving Eve, the nursery will be open and staffed 5:45-7pm.

All Saints Sunday

NOVEMBER 6

We will remember those who have gone before us in faith on All Saints Sunday. The Zumbro Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Bob Giere, will sing music from the Brahms' *Requiem* as well as other anthems of hope in the promise of eternal life. During communion distribution, candles will be lit in memory or in honor of loved ones. Photos of those who have died this past year will be included in a video montage along with a special choir anthem, *Then We'll Sing Hosanna*.

Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

NOVEMBER 23 | 7pm

You are invited to celebrate all that God has provided for us and eat pie following the Thanksgiving Eve worship service. If you are interested in providing pie or helping, contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.



WANT TO SERVE

Past Action Projects

OCTOBER

A large bag of sweatpants, underwear, and socks was delivered to Lincoln School. Hope Lodge received many snacks and laundry and cleaning supplies.

Thankoffering Brunch

NOVEMBER 5 | 9-11am

ZUMBRO LOUNGE

All Zumbro women are invited to gather for brunch (\$6.50), fellowship, and reflection on prayer and thanksgiving. Anne Bashaw-Meyer, Director of Community Engagement for the Rochester Salvation Army will speak. A freewill thankoffering will be received to support the mission of the Women of the ELCA organization. Sign up in the *Life at Zumbro* or online through myZLC.

Youth Band & Strings

On Sunday, Dec. 11, the Zumbro Youth Band & Strings will accompany the congregation in some great carols of the holiday season. Send Director of Liturgy & Music Kristy Giere your questions. Rehearsals are in the sanctuary:

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

ZWELCA Action Project

Beneficiary: Rochester Women's Shelter, Inc.

The shelter is a short-term, temporary, emergency housing for women and children seeking safety from domestic abuse. Women's Shelter, Inc. provides a handicapped accessible, safe, and secure building, food, access to donated items, transportation, and specially trained advocates available 24 hours a day. Any of the following items are appreciated. It is not necessary to put an entire kit together.

HOLIDAY NEEDS FOR WOMEN

- Pajamas
- Robes
- Slippers
- Jewelry
- Sweatshirts
- Body lotion/Shower gel sets
- Personal care items
- Sweatpants

NEEDS FOR CHILDREN

- Twin-size flannel sheets or throw blankets
- Games/toys
- Workbooks/Crossword/Word search books
- Pajamas
- Robes
- Slippers

Any donated items are appreciated. All items for the above projects 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.





Stewardship Through a Simple Combination of Fabric and Thread

“You know when you’re watching the news and you feel helpless? Like you can’t do anything to make the world a better place? Well, making quilts with the Mission Sewing group makes me feel like I am doing something. I’m not helpless anymore.” Marie Dokken explains why she has stayed involved with the group for decades.

A group of women, called Mission Sewing, meet every Tuesday from 8-11am in the lowest level of Zumbro to sew quilts as a way for them to live out their faith, reach out with compassion, and share the hope of Jesus.

While Marie admitted that she isn’t a quilter, she knew the talents given to her by God could be used for good in the world. These women use their gifts to reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope: a warm quilt. In 2016, the Mission Sewing group created 250 quilts to be sent out into a world in need.

These seemingly simple and mightily colorful quilts were made out of scraps of fabric, discarded sheets, and old drapes given by the

people of Zumbro. They are cherished and needed by those who receive them. The Francis House, Women’s Shelter, Family Promise Interfaith Hospitality Network,



Nancy Johnsrud and Carol Post work on tying the quilt layers together with yarn.



Every quilt created is done so by loving hands for those who need a warm blanket to wrap themselves in and know that they are a child of God.

Lutheran World Relief and other non-profit organizations are given these quilts to share with those that are in need. Warmth and comfort are brought to people who are refugees, to those who experience natural disaster, and to children who have lost everything.

Our quilt blessing will be during worship on Sunday, Nov. 13.



It’s all hands on deck to put the quilts together. Some women take fabric home to cut squares and sew them to make the top of the quilt. The majority of the time is spent tying them all together.



There are a few women who spend time at one of two sewing machines finishing the quilts before being packed up and sent off to bless someone in need.

Lefse, Krumkake, Sandbakkels, and Rosette Making

Watch *Life at Zumbro* for dates and sign-up. All are welcome, whether you are a seasoned expert or someone looking for a first experience in making Scandinavian holiday treats. For the first-time, a family lefse-making party will be offered on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Sales Donations

Donate baked goods, crafts, and attic treasures to the sales.

Volunteer

Many people are needed to make an event of this size a success. Help in a wide variety of roles is needed in the days leading up to and on the days of the Bazaar. There is truly something for everyone! Anyone interested can contact Kari Jadin at (507) 536-3822 or sign up through *Life at Zumbro*.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, DEC. 3 | 9am-12pm

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

It will soon be time for Zumbro members to gather and welcome members of our community to celebrate the holiday season at Zumbro's annual Christmas Bazaar. This year's event promises to be special as we continue traditions and create new memories. The holiday spirit will be contagious at Zumbro those days.

Saturday, Dec. 3

9am-12pm

Sales

baked goods, crafts

Fair Trade goods, attic treasures

10am-12pm

Scandinavian Coffee House

Sunday, Dec. 4

9:30-11am

Scandinavian Coffee House

Sales

baked goods, crafts

Fair Trade goods, attic treasures

12-2pm

Luncheon

Sales

baked goods, crafts,

Fair Trade goods, attic treasures

Many people are already involved in planning for the event. As the date approaches and excitement builds, opportunities to participate will also increase. Review the list to the left and consider how you would like to be involved.

Attend! Shop! Eat!

Mark December 3 and 4, on your calendar and plan to be part of this special tradition. Invite your family and friends to attend. Celebrate our heritage and the spirit of the season as we gather, share food, and generate funds to support local missions.

Reflections on Past Christmas Bazaars

CHUCK JOHNSON

A few years ago our coffee room was in the custodial closet, next to and under the stairs. We were constantly bumping our heads on something so we would hang rags on the pipes to protect our heads. We had a "secretary"—basically a mop that we had fixed up, in the coffee room, making a dingy place a fun place to work.

Another time we placed a music stand at the end of the hall where folks were entering the gym for the luncheon. On it we placed a tour notice to Norway - it was for four nights and seven days for \$400. We actually had a couple of inquiries.

I remember one year when we were filling multiple coffee pots, we noticed our feet were getting wet. We forgot to close the spigot so the water was running out as fast as we were trying to put water in the pots.

Zumbro's pastors were asked to reflect on the first time they tried their hand at making lefse.



This picture is worth at least a thousand words. Pastor Vern and Pastor Lisa's attempts at rolling the perfect circle of lefse.

PASTOR JASON

"Making lefse at Zumbro is like a team sport. There is a lot of encouragement and coaching, some good-natured razzing, and the larger and more round the lefse is, the more oohs and aahs there are!"

PASTOR SHELLEY

"Two words: Performance anxiety. There was no way my feeble rolling efforts could match the expertise in that kitchen. But once I decided I was ok with making leftover lefse (hey, someone had to supply the secondhand quality lefse for the snack break!), I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the stories, wisdom, and even helpful advice from the professionals in the room—all of whom were clearly enjoying themselves and one another."

High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8:15pm

Come when you can. Leave when you need to. Wednesday nights are drop-in times for high school youth to connect, have a treat, and discuss The Big Idea.

NOTE: The group will not meet on November 23 because of Thanksgiving break.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way™

NOVEMBER 2

6:45-8:45pm

\$50 per person/\$75 per couple

This workshop provides proven tips and techniques to avoid power struggles and ways to exercise really healthy control with children. We will look at the bases for respect and how we help kids resist peer pressure and temptation via self-control. Visit <https://fall16parent.eventbrite.com> for more information and to sign up.

Planning a Baptism

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

8:30 and 11am Sunday

November 13, 27

December 11

January 8, 22, 29

10am Sunday

December 25

6pm Wednesday

November 2, 16, 23, 30

December 14, 28

January 11, 25

Youth Mission Trips

Sign-up Deadline: November 5 (pick up a trip interest form)

Fundraising Meeting: November 13 | 12pm

Contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard with your questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

JULY 9-14, 2017 | LAKE TRAVERSE, SD

Ages: Grades 6-8

Anticipated Cost: \$400 | Deposit: \$150 (non-refundable, non-transferable)

During the mission trip week, the group will serve through painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects. They will also plan and lead kids' programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, crafts, and reading.

HIGH SCHOOL

JULY 4-11, 2017 | MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

Ages: Grades 9-12

Approximate cost: \$1,200 | Deposit: \$300 (non-refundable, non-transferable)

Next summer, Zumbro will partner with Mission Jamaica. Mission Jamaica is an outreach ministry of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Mahtomedi, MN. During the day, the group will serve at Robin's Nest and other nearby organizations, lead VBS, and do a variety of needed work projects. During the evenings, the group will learn more about the Jamaican culture and talk about our day and faith through evening devotions. At the end of the trip, the group will enjoy the beauty of Jamaica through special sight-seeing excursions.

Fall Grief Group

SUNDAYS OCTOBER 30-DECEMBER 4 | 12:15-1:45pm

Learning how to grieve is important to finding hope, healing and a "new normal." The group is facilitated by Erica Bryan-Wegner, MSW. Sign up online through myZLC, in the *Life at Zumbro*, or contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

Unique Community Connections

There is a connection at Zumbro Lutheran Church that can easily be overlooked, unless you take the stairs and walk down to the bottom floor. Before you hit the last step, you will hear giggles from a room where PossAbilities Program Without Walls participants meet about three times a week for activities, games, or just to relax. Standing among the crowd of participants, you will find JT Walls, one of the janitors for the church.

“He will stop what he’s doing to come say ‘hi’ and chat with us,” said Terrence Nienaber, PossAbilities Program Without Walls staff member.

JT has been working with the church for about four years, but his connection with the participants goes back more than 10 years when he worked at Rainbow School. “I’ve known some of these participants since they were little,” mentioned JT. “Now they are all grown up.”

JT has a connection with the participants that is hard to come by in the community. He knows what sparks their interest and how to make them smile. “Jenna’s smile on her face. I don’t know how to describe it,” said JT. “It’s awesome.” Plus, the participants enjoy JT’s company and energetic attitude.

“The participants like him so much because of how friendly he is,” said Terrence. “He’s fun to be around.”

JT has always treated the participants like one of his own. He will tell them when their work isn’t up to satisfaction or play one-on-one with them on the basketball court.

JT has never let the participant’s disabilities label them. “We all have disabilities,” said JT. “I am good at mechanical stuff, you may not be. We have our strengths and our downfalls.”

“He connects with our participants,” said Terrence. “That’s one thing they thrive on is making those personal friendly connections at our community sites.”

The PossAbilities participants all agree, stopping by Zumbro Lutheran Church weekly would not be the same without JT.



JT Walls -photos taken by Stacy Shones of PossAbilities

He’s created a unique bond with all the participants in the Program Without Walls, a bond that will continue to hold strong as more gatherings are planned at the church.

-originally printed in the PossAbilities publication, The Insider





UPDATES

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering

JULY 13-16, 2017

MINNEAPOLIS

Explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and will continue to happen within the Women of the ELCA Community.

There is a possibility of chartering a bus. Contact Minnie Dunbar if you are interested at semntreas@gmail.com.

Zumbro Travelers

THE BEST OF EASTERN CANADA

JUNE 18-25, 2017

Experience the beauty and learn the history of both Old and New Quebec City, St. Anne de Beaupree, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto. The Itinerary with reservation forms included are available at the ushers' stand or in the church office.

Passports are necessary for this tour.

Facilities Discernment Night

On October 11, approximately 80 people of Zumbro gathered to consider our aging building and ways that we might improve it to better support our mission. The group discussed what it means to think of our building as a platform for ministry as we reach out to the world with compassion and the hope of Jesus.

Pastor Vern Christopherson and Parish Administrator Bob Giere facilitated the meeting and presented input that has been gathered from the congregation over the past couple of years. This input is remarkably consistent in terms of the higher-level needs for improving our building. Many important improvements have already been accomplished: elevator upgrade, roof cleaning, security system upgrade, phone system upgrade, installation of LED lights in the sanctuary, power-assist doors on main level rest rooms, air conditioning upgrade and the boiler and air handler replacement project which is currently in process.

The group agreed that our most pressing needs for improving Zumbro's platform for ministry are:

- **Improve accessibility** including dealing with stairs to gathering spaces, clearer signage, and better hearing assistance technology in the sanctuary.
- **Improve interior** traffic flow to encourage fellowship and community as well as create a more welcoming environment.
- **Improve usability** of the building for important outreach activities that have been and will continue to be a hallmark of this community of Christ.

At the end of the evening, the group recommended the following next steps in finding our way forward:

- Engage professional architectural consultation to consider our list of needs and develop a long-range facilities master plan. Re-engage the Facilities Planning Work Group to identify and work with the architectural consultant. This should be accomplished within the next eight months.
- Repurpose rooms on the lowest level to be a resource for outreach in supporting Zumbro's mission activity and other missions outside of Zumbro (e.g., storage of supplies for various mission activities, overnight accommodations for outside mission groups). This should be accomplished within the next year.
- Meet with Mayo Clinic, Destination Medical Center, and University of Minnesota-Rochester to determine how our downtown location will be impacted by their long-range plans.

Additional input and feedback are always welcome. If you have questions or would like to add to the conversation, please contact Bob Giere or Pastor Vern.

Staffing Update

Bob Giere has served as our parish administrator for the past two years. During that time, he has done everything from budget planning to facilities discernment to church council updates. With some sadness, we pass along the news that Bob is stepping down from his role as parish administrator to take a position as Executive Director of the Choral Arts Ensemble. Bob's last day as our parish administrator will be November 17. Even as we share this news, we are happy to report that Bob plans to continue as the director of the Zumbro Lutheran Choir and the director of the Wednesday Worship Band. Thanks for your good work, Bob.



UPDATES October Pastoral Acts

BAPTISM
Noah Jonathan Schmalz
Liam Terance Kiefer

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE
Norman R. Stensrud

DEATH
Delores E. Brakke

Save the Date: 35th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 18 | 4:30pm

ST. MARYS HOSPITAL CHAPEL

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Marys Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 4:30pm (please note the time change). This annual event is presented by musicians and dancers from Zumbro.

Zumbro Staff

Vern Christopherson
Directing Pastor
pastorvern@zumbrolutheran.org

Jason Bryan-Wegner
Pastor
pastorjason@zumbrolutheran.org

Lisa Kipp
Pastor
pastorlisa@zumbrolutheran.org

Shelley Cunningham
Pastor
pastorshelley@zumbrolutheran.org

Kristy Giere
Director of Music and Liturgy
kristygiere@zumbrolutheran.org

Ruth Monson
Congregational Life Minister
ruthmonson@zumbrolutheran.org

Kris Oppegard
Family Minister
krisoppegard@zumbrolutheran.org

Janette Reeves
Family Minister
janettereeves@zumbrolutheran.org

Allison Passon
Communications Lead
allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org

Connie Saunders
Administrative Assistant
conniesaunders@zumbrolutheran.org

Bob Giere
Parish Administrator
Director of Zumbro Lutheran Choir
Director of Wednesday Worship
bobgiere@zumbrolutheran.org

Tracy Schar
Operations Manager
tracyschar@zumbrolutheran.org

Ralph Schornack
Music Staff

JT Walls
Building Maintenance/Custodian
jtwalls@zumbrolutheran.org

Terry Griebenow
Craig Dickinson
Custodians

Karla Dexter
Office Assistant
karladexter@zumbrolutheran.org

Kamen Makuer
Dinka Lay Evangelist
makuerkamen@yahoo.com

Barb Desens
Nursery Coordinator



Newsletter Deadline

Please submit items for the December issue of the *Zumbro Current* by November 10, to zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Material



ZUMBRO
LUTHERAN CHURCH
624 Third Ave, SW
Rochester, MN 55902
www.zumbrolutheran.org
(507) 288-2649

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 344
Rochester, MN 55901