

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

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



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God's work. Our hands.

Help Tanzanian kids get a healthy start in the world.

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BAZAAR UPDATES

The traditional Christmas Bazaar will see some updates this year. Zumbro Women of the ELCA Kari Jadin explains the transformation.



Following God's Story with the Narrative Lectionary

Over the last year, we have done some new things in worship. We have used one biblical text each week, focusing on a Big Idea. Like a lot of things we do around here, it's been an experiment. The goal has been to help people better understand God's story in worship. Overall, this experiment is going well. People tell us they appreciate how clear the theme, or Big Idea, is each week. The whole congregation is engaging in Biblical storytelling in worship. This gives everyone a chance to not only hear the text, but also experience it. Kids and their parents are also talking about what happened in worship more often. And small groups have gathered around the weekly Big Idea throughout the week to discuss how this one biblical text shapes their lives.

This year, we will continue this practice and use the Narrative Lectionary to guide our way through God's story, one story at a time. The Narrative Lectionary tells the biblical story from start to finish in the course of the program year

(September-May). It begins with creation and runs through important stories and characters throughout the Old Testament until Thanksgiving. During Advent, the story turns to the expectation of Jesus' arrival. From Christmas to Easter, we will focus on the story of Jesus, told through Luke's gospel. Following Easter, we go with the disciples into Acts and Galatians, as they go into the world to share the hope of Jesus and grow the early church.

The Narrative Lectionary invites us to experience the full sweep of the Bible and develop a better understanding of how God's activity throughout the Bible calls us to put our trust in God. When God's story starts to work on us in this way, we start to see our story as a part of God's story. And this is transformational.

God's story through scripture has been changing lives for centuries. I invite you into God's great big story this fall as we follow along with the Narrative Lectionary.



I encourage you to make weekly worship a priority on Sundays or Wednesdays. And when you're not able to be in worship, grab the Big Idea Guide or sign up to receive it via email. You can also listen to sermons you missed at www.zumbrolutheran.org/2016-sermons

Let's see where God's story takes us this year and how it continues to shape our lives together.

See you in worship,

Pastor Jason





Worship Details

Psalms for Sojourners

TRUSTING GOD IN A NOISY WORLD

Psalm 46

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason

Bryan-Wegner

Music: Maika Suzuki, vocalist

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason

Bryan-Wegner

Stories about God and Us

Why the Old Testament God Might Not Be So Bad After All

GOD CREATES US GOOD BUT NOT ALL OUR CHOICES ARE GOOD

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

Liturgy: ELW Setting Six introduced

Preaching: Pastor Shelley

Cunningham

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14

Preaching: Pastor Shelley

Cunningham

GOD'S PROMISES ARE GREATER THAN OUR CHALLENGES

Genesis 15:1-6

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Zumbro Handbell Quartet (8:30 and 11am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

GOD WANTS TO TURN EVEN OUR BAD DEEDS INTO SOMETHING POSITIVE

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

Preaching: Pastor Vern

Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Choristers (8:30am), Zumbro Woodwind Quintet (8:30 and 11am) Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28

Preaching: Pastor Vern

Christopherson

Nursery Hours

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11

Sundays 8:15am-12:15pm

Wednesdays 5:45-7:15pm

Planning a Baptism

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

8:30 and 11am Sunday

September 11, 25

October 9, 23, 30

November 13, 27

6pm Wednesday

September 14, 28

October 12, 26

November 2, 16, 30

Music Opportunities for Adults

- Zumbro Lutheran Choir's first rehearsal is September 7 at 7pm.
- Bel Canto Handbell Choir's first rehearsal is September 12 at 7pm
- Zumbro Brass Ensemble

For more information about each of these opportunities, visit www.zumbrolutheran.org/music

Zumbro Hosts ELCA Event

STRONG CENTER—OPEN DOOR:
ENGAGING LUTHERAN WORSHIP TODAY
OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2016

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the hymnal found in Zumbro's pews, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Plenary sessions, workshops, and worship all come together for this celebration event. This is expected to be a large event and help will be needed with hospitality. For more information and to register, visit www.elca.org

Five Things I Learned on Sabbatical

by Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

The prayer before communion in the Iona Community begins, "Generous God, we thank you that, time after time, in the most surprising places, you spread a table before us and welcome us to the feast of your presence." I thank God for the feast of renewal, adventure, and God's presence I experienced on sabbatical. I am so thankful to you for granting me this time away. And, I'm very glad to be back with you.

Several of you have asked what some of the highlights were. I had more highlights that I can cover here, so here are a few lessons and insights I have from my time away.

1. Sabbath produces renewal.

A sabbatical is an extended period of Sabbath. Taking time away is not just a good idea, it is essential to being whole. Sabbath is not just downtime, but a discipline of resting in God's care. Letting the rhythm of life slow in order to reconnect with God in a variety of ways has restored my mind and soul. Sabbath doesn't have to be an extended period of time. God intends for it to be part of the normal rhythm of life. As I come back, I am more mindful of my need to make this a regular part of the week.

2. Daily spiritual practices change us.

During sabbatical, I read a number of books on spirituality and discipleship. I started using Phyllis Tickle's book, *The Divine Hours*. Once or twice a day, I meditated on the scriptures and prayers appointed for the day to center on God. It was not an unfamiliar practice, but one that I had practiced inconsistently in recent years. Over time, I have noticed how it has changed my perspective and helped me better see where God is present in the events of today.

3. Faith is more meaningful with people who know you.

I worshiped in other churches several times. Worship was done well, sermons were good, the music was inspiring; but it still felt kind of hollow because I didn't know people. I am convinced that people yearn to be known and accepted for who we are. I am more committed than ever to helping people connect in meaningful ways to each other and to God.



JOURNEY

Register for Faith Formation

Faith Formation (formerly known as Sunday School) for children and youth is an exciting, fast-paced, engaging hour that is all about sharing stories that teach us about our great God and our lives of faith. Faith Formation begins Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:45-10:45am, and Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7pm, with the church-wide service project, "God's work. Our hands." Visit www.zumbrolutheran.org to register kids age three-grade six.

4. Staying away from social media is really hard!

I pretty much failed at staying off of Facebook after about two weeks. But, in that time I thought a lot about how I use social media. I stayed away from checking my feed every time I had a spare minute. I decided to post thoughts and events more frequently. It has helped me focus on what I am doing in my life, while still feeling connected others.

5. My golf clubs got a lot more attention than my guitar.

I bought my first set of brand new golf clubs this spring. I figured I should use them as often as I could. The good news is I played a lot more golf than I usually play in a summer. The bad news is that my game has not improved anywhere near what I had hoped. I guess there is still time to pick up that guitar and see if I make a better musician than I do a golfer.

Join me at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 9:45am to hear more about what I learned on sabbatical and ways I hope it shapes our future together.



No pilgrimage to Scotland is complete without a stop at the birth place of golf in St. Andrews.



Jesus tells us we are to fish from people. I did some fishing for bass.

High School Youth Group

SEPTEMBER 21 and 28 | 8:15pm
Come when you can. Stay as long as you can. Wednesday nights are drop-in times for high school youth to connect, have a treat, and discuss The Big Idea.

Children's Music Opportunities

- Ring-N-Sing | grades 1-3 | first rehearsal is September 12 at 5:30pm
- Praises Ring Handbell Choir grades 4-8 | first rehearsal is September 12 at 6:15pm.
- Zumbro Choristers grades 4-8 | first rehearsal is September 14, 5:15pm.
- Youth Band and Strings
- Zumbro Liturgical Dancers

For more information about each of these opportunities visit www.zumbrolutheran.org/music



The Isle of Iona is known as a "thin place" where the realms of heaven and earth almost meet. Worship in the abbey was truly heavenly.

God's work. Our hands.

A couple years ago I walked through the village surrounding Iambi Lutheran Hospital and was delighted to encounter a group of school-aged kids playing a game of pick-up soccer. When the ball rolled my way, I kicked it back toward the game and was quickly surrounded by the children. As they came near they pulled out my hands and wanted to touch and feel them. I suspect they had never seen the hands of a *wazungu* (white person) up close.

This month we have the opportunity to join our hands with thousands of other hands across the ELCA to do God's work. Even more, we have an opportunity to use our hands to help enrich the lives of young children like these who surrounded me on the soccer field.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 9:45am, and Wednesday Sept. 14, at 6:45pm, we will work together to assemble 600 newborn kits to be shared with our mission partners at Iambi Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania. Together we will fold blankets and towels, assemble kits, and create devotional booklets (in Swahili!). I hope you'll join us!

As we kick-off another program year, I can't wait to see the many ways that God will bless our hands as we share the hope of Jesus.

Pastor Lisa



We are making a difference at Iambi Hospital!

Two years ago Zumbro completed its second major fundraising campaign for Iambi Hospital. Because of your generosity, we raised \$25,000 to furnish a new building on the hospital campus. Today the building is being used to care for and treat many patients. The new beds, fresh curtains, and updated supplies are helping to make Iambi a place where people from all of the surrounding villages want to come to receive medical care. Thank you for your generosity.





SENT TO SERVE

Iambi Hospital

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES

2010	200
2014	830
2015	1,200

In the past five years the number of deliveries at Iambi has grown by 600%.



These infants wear the hats and t-shirts their mothers received in newborn kits. Share the hope of Jesus with more babies by helping Zumbro pack newborn kits on September 11 and 14.

How can I get involved?

- Get your hands busy and assemble newborn kits as a part of **"God's work. Our hands."** on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 9:45am, or on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6:45pm.
- **Share your gifts** through a fundraising campaign for Iambi's OB department. Details forthcoming.
- **Travel to Iambi Hospital** in February 2017. Informational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 12pm.



The number of deliveries at Iambi has grown by 600% in the past five years. See delivery statistics and ways to get involved in the side bar.



An infant is weighed in the pediatric ward as new moms and babies wait to be seen.

Tanzania Task Force Members

- Maggie Bartels
- Paula Craigo
- Bob Jenkins
- Sue Jenkins
- Pastor Lisa Kipp
- Gaspar Kitange
- Marge Klee
- Julie Neumann
- Mike Neumann
- Jan Vetter



A young mom is surrounded and supported by female elders immediately after delivering her son.

Freed & Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action

Reflections on Churchwide Assembly 2016

by Ann Peterson and Kolloh Nimley

Since Bishop Eaton's election in 2013 we have heard a lot about "being church together for the sake of the world." In New Orleans we had the opportunity to live into that mission in new ways. The assembly was privileged to hear from Leymah Gbowee (pictured on page 9), a Nobel Laureate, Liberian peace activist and a Lutheran, challenging our church to be bolder than ever before. The Lutheran bishops from El Salvador and Papua New Guinea brought news of the work we are doing there as church together. Mawien Ariik, ELCA missionary in South Sudan; Dr. Mark Jacobson, medical missionary in Tanzania; and other representatives from the ELCA Global Mission Division told of opportunities to support our global partners as well as provide scholarships for International Women Leaders.

The assembly also did important legislative work that will chart the course of our church for years to come.

These actions include:

1. adoption of memorials from synods that support moving us toward a more responsible energy future
2. justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment
3. a call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy
4. support for military personnel, veterans and their families
5. approval to unify the three lay rosters of the ELCA into one roster of Word and Service
6. adoption of a memorial regarding African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter
7. support for welcoming refugees.

The assembly also approved AMMPARO—the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

Especially significant was the assembly's overwhelming acceptance of the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. Following the vote, an emotional assembly stood to applaud the momentous decision.

In her report to the assembly, Bishop Eaton reminded us that in baptism we have all been marked with the cross of Christ and have been called not to run away, but to run to those dark and deadly places in the world, bringing the light and life of Christ. Thanks be to God!

-Ann Peterson



**"I've come to the conclusion that the state of our world
is the reflection of our church."**

- Leymah Gbowee

Leymah Gbowee is a Nobel Laureate, Liberian peace activist and a Lutheran. She addressed the ELCA Grace Gathering and Churchwide Assembly with an inspiring speech that encouraged the church to be bolder than ever before.

The state of the ELCA is the state of our faith. The 2016 Church Wide Assembly in New Orleans brought together the church for the state of the world. As voting members we saw and heard from a multitude of speakers. We heard many proposals, debates on the issues that came before us, and made numerous of decisions on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

A highlight was seeing the church as a whole creating accountability within the body of Christ as evidence by the repeal of the Doctrine of Discovery and the requirement to have anti-racism training at least every two years within every synod of the church. If we as a church will proclaim the good news of Christ to all, this is a good starting point.

I was encouraged by the openness of the church wide office on charting the future of the church. Asking voting members to provide their view and feedback on the future of the church and how we will get there.

The leadership of Bishop Eaton is evident when she said "to be effective we must first know who we are as Lutheran and work together as a church for the sake of the world. This is truly a church in action. As we look forward to celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation next year, what will we say to the media when they ask who are you? We must be ready to answer with boldness and certainty that we are Lutherans for the sake of the world."

Grace and peace in all that we say and do.

-Kolloh Nimley



Past Action Projects

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Your donations made it possible to create 130 school kits, 70 baby care kits, and 30 personal care kits.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE:

LINK

The congregation donated groceries and personal care items to fill four large bags.

Bishop's 5K

SEPTEMBER 24 | 9AM

SOLDIERS FIELD VETERANS MEMORIAL

This 3.1-mile run or 1-mile walk on Saturday, Sept. 24, is open to people of all ages and abilities. Funds raised will benefit Enough Food for All, our ELCA Southeastern Minnesota Synod Bishop's Food Insecurity Initiative.

You can register online at www.semnsynod.org

Family Minister Kris Oppegard will gladly answer your questions.

ZWELCA Action Projects

Beneficiary: Hope Lodge

The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge offers guests a wide variety of cancer programs and services that provide information, resources, and support to ease the cancer journey. Please help by donating common household items. A detailed list is available on the Action Box outside of the lounge.

- Paper/Plastic supplies
- Office supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Grocery supplies
- Linens supplies
- Miscellaneous supplies

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.

Beneficiary: Lincoln Elementary School

Please help by donating one or more of the following items:

- New underwear: boys and girls, sizes 5-10
- New socks: boys and girls, shoe sizes 11-5
- New athletic/sweatpants (elastic waist): boys and girls, sizes 4-10 (good condition if used)

Boy Scout Updates

Eight adult leaders were recently recognized with the P.R.A.Y. Lutheran Servant of Youth Award. This award is given to individuals who have contributed to the Boy Scout program at church and who model spiritual development. Recipients were: Pam Legried, Mark Legried, Marvin Buckland, Greg Laughland, Glenn Leckband, Mike Ness, Heidi Finck, and Tom Finck.

Boys ages 11-18 are invited to join Zumbro's Boy Scout troop. Boys can expect to camp, hike, canoe, cook, and more. Tom Finck can answer any questions you may have at twfinck1@gmail.com or (507) 208-2255.



The Art of Blessed Conversation

Eight weeks ago, Zumbro member Bob Saunders went about his week as any retired Mayo employee would. He would watch his grandchildren, grocery shop, visit the gym, and spend time with a fishing rod in his hand. Eight weeks ago, his outlook and favorite activities of the week changed. Eight weeks ago he became a care minister.

Initially giving communion and saying a prayer made him nervous. "Pastors make it look so easy. The words seem to just flow with such ease when they recite the Words of Institution during worship." As will all things, it became easier with practice for him.

While most of the conversations during care minister visits are about life, sometimes faith is brought up. Talking about faith and sharing the hope of Jesus takes vulnerability and through this vulnerability growth can happen. Bob mentioned that an unexpected result of becoming a care minister is that he has a better understanding of what his faith is



Bob Saunders with Joanne Swanson during one of their visits, a friendship that deepened with care ministry.

Bob meets with three individuals in their homes at retirement centers for an hour or so every other week. Some days he and his care partner visit over a piece of pie (al a mode, of course), chatting about the latest current news topic, or reminiscing on days passed. While each visit has its own uniqueness they all contain the same three components: conversation about favorite topics, communion, and a prayer.

and is comfortable sharing it with others. Friendships are easily developed through conversation and this vulnerability. Bob enjoys his time spent as a care minister, "They look forward to the visit and I find that I do, too."

For more information on care ministry, contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

Past Pastors as Care Ministers

Pastor Lester Horntvedt and Pastor Wayne Vogt will assist with visiting and sharing communion with homebound members. Thanks to both Pastor Wayne and Pastor Lester for continuing their ministries of caring for people at Zumbro.

Zumbro Travelers

Detailed itineraries are available at the ushers' stand and in the church office. Reservations can be made in the church office with cash or check. The Best of Eastern Canada trip can be reserved with a credit card. Contact Carol Wilkinson at dwcw2916@aol.com with your questions. Upcoming trip opportunities:

NOVEMBER 3: VIKING STADIUM TOUR AND MARTIN LUTHER EXHIBIT AT THE MINNESOTA INSTITUTE OF ART

JUNE 18-25, 2017: THE BEST OF EASTERN CANADA

Trip presentation and meeting October 3, at 6:30pm.

Changes to the Annual Christmas Bazaar



by Kari Jadin, Zumbro Women of the ELCA president

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar and the traditions associated with it are important to us as individuals and to our congregation. This event is something to look forward to each year with excitement and anticipation. It is an opportunity to gather as members of our faith community and to open our doors and welcome members of our extended community. We place a high value on gifts shared with local organizations through funds raised at the Bazaar. To make an event of this size successful, countless hours are dedicated to preparation and work leading up to and on the day of the event. Over time, the Zumbro Women of the ELCA (ZWELCA) Board and Bazaar leadership committee have found it increasingly difficult to sustain this level of activity.

After much thoughtful discussion and consideration of input shared by past Bazaar leaders and other members of the congregation, the ZWELCA Board ultimately concluded that we need to adapt and explore new ways to maintain traditions in a way that is sustainable and makes the best use of our resources. We very much appreciate that it is painful to make changes to traditions

that are so firmly established and dear to us. The decision to change was not arrived at lightly; many options were considered. The changes for 2016 are significant and include long-standing elements that will not be part of this year's Bazaar. But with change also comes opportunity and we are excited about some of the new possibilities with this year's plan.

So...what is changing?

Timing: This year's Bazaar will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4. Special events will be held throughout the day, beginning with 8:30am worship and concluding with a luncheon from 12-2pm. Additionally, we will offer sales (baked goods, "attic treasures", crafts, and Fair Trade products) on Saturday, Dec. 3. The sales will continue on Sunday.

Food: The coffee hour between services and the luncheon will feature traditional Scandinavian foods and sweets. While meatballs will not be served, the luncheon will maintain a Scandinavian focus featuring open-faced sandwiches. Lefse will be served, but will not be offered for sale (more to come on lefse).

With the changes, we will still:

Gather as a Community: Our extended community will be invited to join Zumbro members at the Saturday sales as well as events on Sunday. Because the Bazaar now falls on a weekend, those with Friday work or school commitments will be able to participate.

Celebrate our Scandinavian Heritage: Reminders of our heritage will be incorporated into each element of the Bazaar, including worship services, food, decorations, and more. This is a perfect opportunity to wear your Norwegian sweater.

Food Preparation (on a smaller scale): Zumbro members will prepare food for the coffee hour and luncheon, including lefse, sandbakkels, and rosettes. One of the most significant challenges recently has been our ability to produce the volume of lefse needed for sales and the meal. This year, we will have a single lefse-making party and make lefse to be served at the Bazaar. We will rely on our "seasoned pros" to share their experience with those who would like to give it a try.



BELONGING July and August Updates

BAPTISMS
Lennon Mae Peterson
Sarah Catherine Bestrom

WEDDING
Kari Neutzling and Austin Phillips

FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICES
Gordon J. Vicker
Betsy C. Riess
Marjorie P. Iverson
Robert J. Lahey
Donald Engh

DEATHS
Rod Duncan
Juliet B. Seim

Reach Out with Compassion:
The various sales and a free will offering at the coffee hour and luncheon will generate funds to be distributed to local organizations.

As noted, many options have been considered. The plan for this year is what we feel best fits our needs and resources. We will learn from it, ask for feedback, and modify where it makes sense in future years. The Bazaar is a tradition that we intend to continue. Anyone with questions or an interest in being involved is welcome to contact Kari Jadin, ZWELCA President at (507) 536-3822.

There will be many opportunities to help with preparations leading to and on the day of the Bazaar. We sincerely hope that everyone who has volunteered in the past will continue to be involved; many of the same volunteer roles are still needed this year. Additionally, this is a great opportunity for people who have not volunteered previously to start. The ZWELCA Board thanks you for your prayers and support as we prepare for the Bazaar and ultimately gather to celebrate the holiday season on December 4. We look forward to this day with excitement and anticipation!

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Newsletter Deadline

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

Faith Formation Begins!

SUNDAYS 9:45-10:45AM & WEDNESDAYS 6:45-7:45PM

Faith Formation is a fast-paced, engaging hour that is all about sharing stories about God and faith. Register kids age three-grade six at www.zumbrolutheran.org/faith-formation SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Material



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