

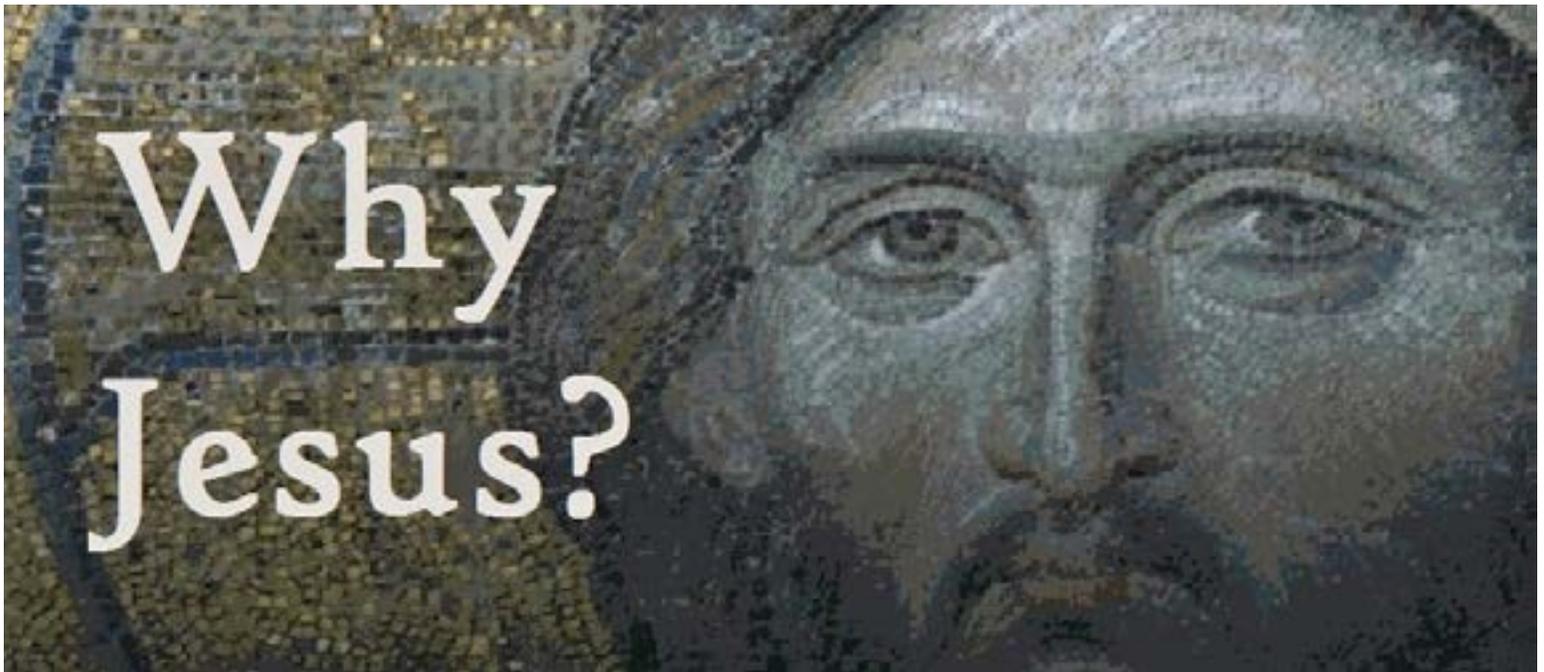
the Zumbro **CURRENT**

January 2016

Zumbro Lutheran Church

A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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www.ZumbroLutheran.org

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.

Why Jesus? Why Big Idea Groups?

This month we're starting a new sermon series called "Why Jesus?". The series is based on the Gospel of Mark. It will explore many of the characteristics that have drawn people to follow Jesus for millennia. Forgiveness. Teaching. Healing. Freedom. These characteristics are at the core of who Jesus is and what he reveals to us about God. We will also begin a new series of Big Idea groups that will explore these same topics each week. At face value, it may seem like the basics all over again, but in revisiting these key stories and looking at Jesus with fresh eyes, I anticipate you'll be moved by the way Jesus responds to the people he encounters and be surprised by how Jesus encounters you.

A Pew Study on the Religious Landscape of America came out last month. Not surprisingly, it shows that there has been a slight, but steady decline in the number of people in America who are religiously affiliated for each year since 2007. This may cause alarm to some. None of us like to see the influence of something we care about decrease. Yet at the same time, those who remain committed are finding more meaning in their experience of faith than in previous years.

I see this as a potentially promising sign. Though the 20th century was dubbed "The Christian Century", it also marked the height of influence the broader culture had on the ways people experienced the faith. As helpful as it may have been to have the culture reinforcing a person's faith, and particularly the Christian faith, it eventually made being Christian and being American difficult to distinguish for many. With the decrease of the broader culture's influence, the Church seems better able to define itself and the faith in which we profess.

The Pew Study's results indicate that people of faith are more committed to spiritual practices that align their lives with God. More people of faith are praying daily, reading the Bible regularly, and talking about the importance of their faith with others. (This is happening even among mainline Christians, like Lutherans.) This feels like good news.

It's not only how we practice faith: prayer, Bible reading, etc. It's also what we come to trust in when we do these things and why we do them in the first place. The kind of God we expect to encounter shapes what we come to believe, and how we choose to live out that belief. Is God angry or compassionate? Does God invite or isolate? Is God ok with the ways things seem to be going in the world or do we need to be listening and looking for another way?

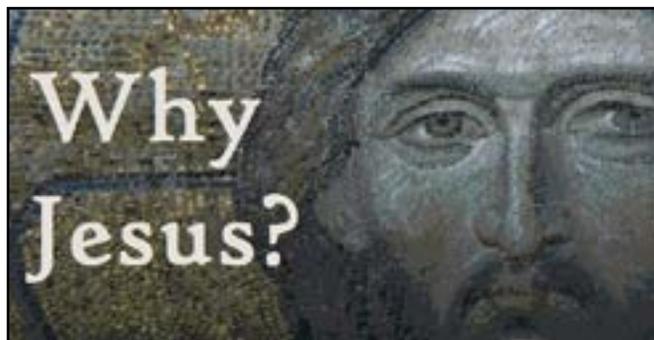
Our mission statement here at Zumbro begins with "Our journey of faith leads us..." It indicates the practice of faith is

ongoing and that these practices have an ongoing effect on us throughout our lives. That's one of the reasons we're working this year to have more people participate in Big Idea groups. These groups spend time each week getting to know each other and God's story better. They allow groups to practice and grow together. It's one of the best ways to be on the journey of faith with others.

Being on a journey of faith today is more difficult than it once was. It takes effort and intentionality. I'm grateful to be on this journey with you and look forward to seeing how God shows up among us this new year.

Peace,





Why Jesus?

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Worship

Sundays at 8:30am and 11am:

January 3

- The Big Idea: The good news of Jesus begins as he gets baptized and invites people to follow him.
- Pastor Vern Christopherson preaching
- Holy Communion
- Music by Jenny Kruse and Janette Reeves, vocalists

January 10

- The Big Idea: Jesus shares forgiveness with us.
- Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner preaching
- Music by Andy Johnsrud, soloist (8:30am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am); Zumbro Woodwinds (8:30am and 11am)

January 17

- The Big Idea: Jesus teaches that the Word is spread extravagantly.
- Pastor Vern Christopherson preaching
- Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing
- Music by Ralph Schornack, soloist (8:30am); Zumbro Choristers and Dolce Children's Choir (11am)

January 24

- The Big Idea: Jesus frees a man possessed by an unclean spirit.
- Pastor Lisa Kipp preaching
- Music by Bel Canto Handbell Choir (8:30am and 11am), Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am and 11am)

January 31

- The Big Idea: Jesus meets people who are hurting and brings healing to their lives.
- Pastor Vern Christopherson preaching
- Music by Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am), Fellowship of the Ring Handbell Choir (8:30am), Zumbro Choristers and Dolce Children's Choir (11am), Praises Ring Handbell Choir (11am)

Wednesdays at 6pm

January 6

- The Big Idea: The good news of Jesus begins as he gets baptized and invites people to follow him.
- Pastor Vern Christopherson preaching
- Holy Communion

January 13

- The Big Idea: Jesus shares forgiveness with us.
- Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner preaching

January 20

- The Big Idea: Jesus teaches that the Word is spread extravagantly.
- Pastor Vern Christopherson preaching
- Holy Communion

January 27

- The Big Idea: Jesus frees a man possessed by an unclean spirit.
- Pastor Lisa Kipp preaching

Wednesday Dinner

4:45-6pm, Lounge

Hy-Vee provides a variety of meal options each Wednesday. The price of meals range from \$5-\$8.

Nursery Hours

Sundays: 8:15am-12:15pm

Wednesdays: 5:45-8pm

ZWELCA Action Projects

Feel free to donate one, many, or all of the items on listed here. Items may be placed in the Action Box outside of the lounge.

Zumbro Mission Sewing

Women (members and nonmembers) meet at Zumbro every Tuesday morning at 8am. They gather to cut, sew, and tie various fabrics that are transformed into beautiful and useful quilts. They are given locally and internationally to many agencies: Lutheran World Relief, Good Earth Village, Francis House, Lutheran Social Service, and more! All are welcome to join in on the fun and fellowship!

Items needed:

- Fabric
- Bed sheets, pillowcases, duvets
- Draperies, linings, curtains
- Lightweight blankets
- Tablecloths
- Large spools of thread, yarn
- Financial support for needed supplies

Crisis Nursery

Crisis Nursery is a family support program to provide temporary, short-term care for children while families address crisis situations. They also supply crisis counseling and support, parent education, and in-home counseling.

Items needed:

- Diapers (especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and Pull-ups)
- Wipes
- Baby formula and baby food
- Cleaning supplies: dish soap, laundry soap, Lysol, etc.
- Toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Financial donations for needed supplies

Ongoing Projects:

Items may be left in the drawers in the ushers' stand.

- Layette items for Lutheran World Relief
- Eyeglasses for Lions Club
- Beverage tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Campbell Soup labels and greeting cards for the Rainbow School

Update on November Project

Several boxes of toys, pajamas, toiletries, etc. were delivered to the Rochester Women's Shelter in early December. Thank you!

Dorothy Day Thanks You!

Teams of volunteers have served tasty meals for guests at the Dorothy Day House for the last several years. December was our last month to provide a regularly scheduled meal for them. If any persons or groups are interested to serve "on call", please call the Dorothy Day House and put your name on the list. Thanks to each of you who have provided food, served, washed dishes, and visited with the guests. The staff and guests have appreciated our service.

If you are interested in serving meals to those who are hungry, please consider volunteering with **Open Table**. We are feeding guests on a larger scale and always need volunteers to mix and bake cookies, prepare and serve food, and be part of a clean-up crew. This partnership with People of Hope needs you! Please call the church office or visit Zumbro's website to sign up as a volunteer.



A Warm Thank You!

Thank you, thank you...mange takk...danke schon...Yin ac a leec...merci beaucoup...muchas gracias to everyone (volunteers, coordinators, and staff) that helped make the 2015 Christmas Bazaar a success!

Adult Forum

January 3 Violence and Religion

We live in a world of religious extremism. Too often that extremism leads to fear and violence. It's often hard for us to know to respond. Join Pastor Vern as he leads a conversation on violence and religion, and the challenge of finding a way to live side-by-side on our planet. Note: This forum will help prepare the ground for the five-week class that's being offered in January—Confronting Religious Violence in our World—though it's not necessary to attend the forum to be a part of the class.

January 10 Faithful Communication

Communication is defined as the "expressing and transmitting of thoughts, feelings, and information." We live in a world which provides us with a host of communication tools – from face-to-face conversations to written letters to cell phones to online movie streaming. How do we approach just a vast array of communication mediums with intentionality and faithfulness? Join Pastor Emily Carson, Director of Communication for our Southeastern Minnesota Synod and writer of "Holy Everything," a weekly column in the Rochester Post-Bulletin.

January 17 TBD

January 24 TBD

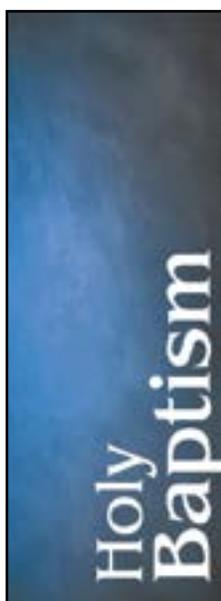
January 31 What Does Caregiving Really Mean?

Finding balance throughout the journey of caring for a loved one during illness is difficult. Holly Brown, education coordinator of Elder Network will help us explore the role of the caregiver. Topics will include but not limited to, Caregiver Stress, Managing Boundaries, Coping Strategies, and Local Resources.



High School Youth Group

Wednesdays, 7-8:15pm, Youth Room



Building Blocks of Baptism Class

Sunday, Jan. 10, 9:45am, Kairos Room

This class is part of the preparation for parents planning a baptism at Zumbro. During this class, you'll have a chance to meet other people at a similar stage of life, discuss what baptism is, and ways you can help your children grow in faith from an early age. Please contact Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner with your questions.

Planning a Baptism?

Contact Administrative Assistant Connie Saunders to make arrangements for a January, February, or March baptism.

Suggested Dates and Times:

8:30 and 11am Sunday Worship

- January 10, 24, 31
- February 28
- March 13

6pm Wednesday Worship

- January 13, 27
- February 24
- March 2, 16

New Member Event

Sunday, Jan. 17, 12:30-3pm

Zumbro's mission begins, "Our journey of faith leads us..." If you have felt led here and are interested in being on the journey of faith as a part of Zumbro, you're invited to our next New Member Event. We'll explore how our mission shapes who we are as a congregation and how we seek to live out our faith as a community and our daily lives. Lunch and childcare are provided. For more information, contact Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner.

Moms Group

The Moms group will continue their study of Woman in the Bible. No preparation is required. This is a video series with discussion questions. It is asked that you bring your own lunch and as always, children are welcome. We will be meeting in the nursery this month. Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 12-1:30pm

Topic: Mary Magdalene

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 12-1:30pm

Topic: Mary of Bethany

Please send Jenny Bruenger your questions at brue0073@yahoo.com or 507-202-0298.

Zumbro Travelers: "On the Trail of Martin Luther" Informational Meeting Thursday, Jan. 21, 6:30pm

An informational gathering to learn more on the scheduled tour to Germany in 2016 is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 21, at 6:30pm in the lounge. "On the Trail of Martin Luther" follows in the footsteps of the reformer and visits places across the country where he lived and practiced his beliefs. This is your chance to experience the life and moments that launched the Reformation as we travel to Mainz, Worms, Erfurt, Gutenberg Museum, Wartburg Castle, Lutherhaus, Eisleben, Leipzig, St. Thomas Church, Wittenberg, St. Mary's Church, and Berlin. We will pause at the tombs of Luther, Melancthon, and Frederick the Wise. We will worship in St. Thomas Church where the boys' choir has been performing for over 800 years, where Martin Luther preached, and the former cantor was Johann Sebastian Bach. Itineraries with reservation forms are located at the ushers' stand and in the church office. The tour includes air, lodgings, admissions, gratuities, and transportation to and from Rochester.

Zumbro Women of the ELCA

January Meeting

January 23, 11am-1pm

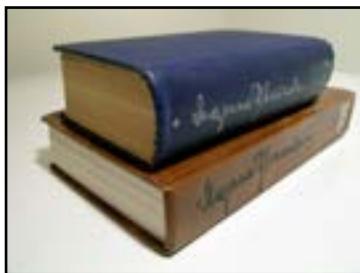
\$6.50 lunch

This meeting will align with the Women of the ELCA's "Raising up Healthy Women and Girls" special initiative. Our guest speaker will be from the Rochester JOY (Justice and Opportunity for Youth) organization (www.joymn.org). This organization exists to serve the very high-risk youth in the Rochester area. The mission of JOY is that every young person counts, every child matters, and every child can change. JOY is relentless in getting help to and for disengaged and disenfranchised young people in order for them to move out of violence and into meaningful engaged lives as adults. Lunch will be served. The luncheon cost is \$6.50 (soup, salad, bread, and dessert).

February Meeting

February 13, 10am

Mark your calendar now for a special event on February 13! Zumbro women, girls, and guests (friends, nieces, granddaughters...) will gather at Zumbro member Kari Jadin's house on Saturday, February 13. We will enjoy treats, fellowship, and reach out with love and compassion to Zumbro's college students. Watch for more details in next month's *Zumbro Current* and *Life at Zumbro*.



Overstock Book Sale December January 23-24

The Zumbro library's annual overstock book sale is coming up! You have two days to shop this year: Saturday, Jan. 23, from 10am-2pm and Sunday, Jan. 24 until 11am. Items (books, DVDs, CDs) that you'd like to donate to the sale can be dropped off in the library Monday, Jan. 18,

to Friday, Jan. 22. The proceeds from the sale will purchase new materials for the library.

Baptism:

Alexandra Olivia Liss

Memorials:

Kenneth C. Pieper

Randall Rovelstad

Deaths:

Inga C. Dickson

Margaret C. Jacobson



Save the Date: Annual Youth Ski Trip

March 4-6, 2016, Giants Ridge in Biwabik, MN

\$275 (includes travel, on-site condo lodging, two-day lift ticket, and six meals) Helmet, cross country ski rental or snowboard/ski rentals are extra.

Registration Deadline: January 20 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit

Contact Family Minister Kris Opegard with your questions and to register.

Zumbro Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, 9:30-10:45am

Zumbro Staff

Vern Christopherson

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Tracy Schar

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Ralph Schornack

Music Staff

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Terry Griebenow

Craig Dickinson

Custodians

Karla Dexter

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Kamen Makuer

Dinka Lay Evangelist
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Barb Desens

Nursery Coordinator

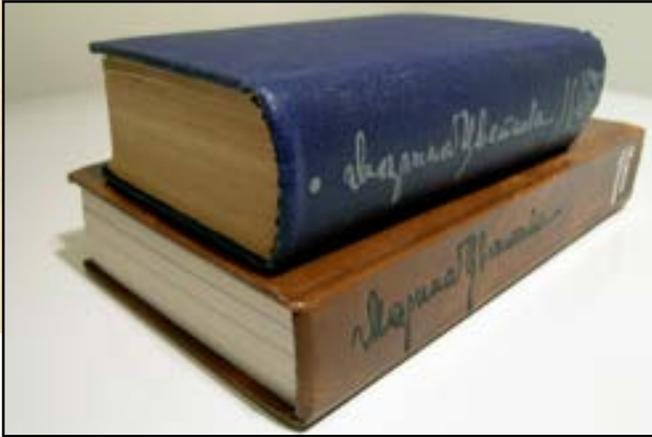
Worship Schedule

- Sundays at 8:30am and 11am
- Wednesdays at 6pm

Radio Broadcast on KOLM-AM 1520 at 8:30am, Sundays

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit items for the February issue of *The Zumbro Current* by January 10, to zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org
Zumbro Lutheran Church, 624 Third Avenue SW, Rochester, MN 55902



Update your reading material and help the Zumbro library do the same, page 6.

Time Dated Material

Return Service Requested

(507) 288-2649

www.zumbrolutheran.org

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