

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

APRIL 2017

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



EASTER

6-7

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Make your plans to contemplate during the Three Days and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter

2

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Vern explains why the worship services that happen during Holy Week are some of the most solemn and reverential of any services through the year.

4

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is core to who Jesus is. The Connections Team is at work in making Zumbro a church of invitation.

8-9

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

Summer is on the edge of being reality here in southeast Minnesota. Zumbro offers activities for all to stay connected with God and others.

Commemorate the Three Days

The worship services of Holy Week are some of the most solemn and reverential of any services through the year. In particular, the Triduum (often pronounced tri'-jə-wəm) sets aside three days of prayer—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—as we commemorate the central events of Christianity.

If you've never been a part of the "three days," I encourage you to come and check them out. They are powerful times of praying, storytelling, and singing. They include any number of dramatic moments such as the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, the pounding of the nails on Good Friday, and the procession of light during the Easter Vigil. As these dramatic moments unfold, it's as if worshippers are transported to a different place and time.

Here are a few of the highlights for this year:

On **Maundy Thursday** (7pm) we remember the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. They were observing the Jewish Seder meal, celebrating the exodus from Egypt. Suddenly, Jesus had a surprise for them. At the end of the meal, he called the bread his "body." He called the wine his "blood." And then he invited his disciples to share in the meal with him.

We will re-enact the story of Jesus and the 12 disciples as part

of our Living Last Supper. People from Zumbro will be dressed in colorful costumes. Each will share a story of their journey with Jesus. At the close of the meal, all worshippers will be invited to join Jesus and the disciples for a meal of love and forgiveness.

On **Good Friday** (7pm) our worship is centered on the reading of the Passion story from Luke. We will sing solemn hymns, hear anthems from the Zumbro Lutheran Choir, and write our sins and struggles on slips of paper and take them to the cross. The sanctuary will grow increasingly dark until only the Paschal candle remains. The candle will exit and we will sit in darkness, hoping and praying that the light will return.

On **Holy Saturday** (7pm) comes the Easter Vigil, our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. This service is very experiential as worshippers gather outside to light the New Fire. Then the procession leads into the dark sanctuary shrouded in the sorrow and death of Good Friday. We will tell stories of salvation that can be found throughout the Bible. In the middle of the service, we will tell the story of Easter, the greatest salvation story of all. With great fanfare, the lights will come on, the black cloth will become white, and the hymns of Easter will fill the air. At the heart of this celebration, we will remember



our baptisms, and how we have passed from death to life.

Make plans now to attend any or all of these services. Each one tells a part of the story. All are highly engaging. Your Easter will be enriched in the process.

Peace,

Pastor Vern

Pastor Vern

Worship Details

Following Jesus on the Journey of Faith

ZACCHAEUS MEETS UP WITH JESUS

LUKE 18:31-19:10

SUNDAY, APR. 2 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Pam Hammond, soloist (8:30am),

Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am), Zumbro

Baroque Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, APR. 5 | 6:30pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

LUKE 19:29-44

PALM SUNDAY, APR. 9 | 8:30am and 11am

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Palm Processional for Children

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Zumbro

Choristers, Zumbro Brass Ensemble

NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Easter Sunday

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

LUKE 24:1-12

SUNDAY, APR. 16 | 8am, 9:30am, and 11am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Brass Ensemble, Bel Canto

Handbell Choir, Zumbro Lutheran Choir;

Katie Cook, liturgical dancer (9:30am and

11am)

WEDNESDAY, APR. 19 | 6:30pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

ROAD TO EMMAUS

Luke 24:13-35

SUNDAY, APR. 23 | 8:30am and 11am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Ralph Schornack, soloist (8:30am

and 11am); Youth Band and Strings;

Zumbro Choristers; Junior Ringers (11am)

WEDNESDAY, APR. 26 | 6:30pm

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

This Story Can Change Your Life

TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN

ACTS 6:1-7:2a, 44-60

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

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am),

Zumbro Choristers (11am), Bel Canto

Handbell Choir (8:30am and 11am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 | 6:30pm

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm

WEDNESDAYS | 6:15-8pm

For Holy Week and Easter information, see pages 4-5.

Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am

April 9, 23

May 14

SUNDAY AT 8:30am

April 30

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 10am

May 28

June 11, 25

WEDNESDAY AT 6:30pm

April 26

May 3, 17, 31

June 14, 28



Holy Week

These three days offer powerful times of praying, storytelling, and singing. They include any number of dramatic moments such as the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, the pounding of the nails on Good Friday, and the procession of light during the Easter Vigil. As these dramatic moments unfold, it's as if worshippers are transported to a different place and time.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APR. 13 | 7pm

We gather on this night to experience the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. This meal will be dramatically re-enacted in the Living Last Supper.

Holy Communion

Living Last Supper Re-Enactment

Hand Washing

Stripping of the Altar

Nursery staffed 6:45-8:15pm

GOOD FRIDAY

LUKE 22:39-23:56

FRIDAY, APR. 14 | 7pm

On this holy night we remember Jesus' suffering and death. We give thanks for his amazing, never ending love for us.

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Journey to the Cross—worshippers can take sins and struggles to the cross

Music by: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

Nursery staffed 6:45-8:15pm

*There is a Community Good Friday Service hosted at Zumbro at 12pm.

EASTER VIGIL

SATURDAY, APR. 15 | 7pm

We tell stories of salvation, remembering God's great work in leading us from death to life.

Procession of Light

Remembrance of Baptism

Holy Communion

Come hear storytellers retell stories in new, creative ways.

A family-friendly service.



Easter

Easter is the unexpected conclusion that Jesus' death is not the end of the story, but a joyful new beginning. As we celebrate Easter, we share in the joy of Jesus' resurrection. The trumpets blare, we shout "Alleluia!", and we remember that because he lives, we will live also.

EASTER

LUKE 24:1-12

SUNDAY, APR. 16 | 8am, 9:30am, 11am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Vern Christopherson

Music by: Zumbro Brass Ensemble, Bel

Canto Handbell Choir, Zumbro Lutheran

Choir (8am, 9:30am, 11am), Katie Cook,

liturgical dancer (9:30am and 11am)

Nursery staffed 7:45am-12:15pm

Easter Memorials

You are encouraged to make your giving go farther this Easter by sharing the hope of Jesus in meaningful ways. Gifts can be mailed to Zumbro or placed in the offering basket with a yellow pew envelope. Please designate your giving as an Easter Memorial for one of the following two outreach ministries.

ZUMBRO RADIO BROADCAST

Help spread the word of Jesus to Zumbro members and the greater Rochester community by sponsoring one of our Sunday morning radio broadcasts. The cost of one radio spot is \$90, and allows countless Zumbro members who are unable to attend worship the opportunity to hear God's promises and remain a part of our community.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES (LSS) OF MINNESOTA

Recent and pending budget cuts to many social services in our nation are having far-reaching effects. A gift to LSS will help support social service programs in MN that seek to share the hope of Jesus with refugees, adults with disabilities, and those in need of basic life necessities.

Easter Flowers

Bring our sanctuary to bloom by ordering flowers for our Easter garden. Plants may be designated in memory or honor of someone and taken home after the 11am Easter service. Use the yellow pew envelopes, or call the office. Enclose cash or check made payable to Zumbro Lutheran. Orders will be received through Sunday, April 9. Options: lily/\$15, tulip/\$15, begonia/\$15, mum/\$15, azalea/\$25

Focus on Hospitality

by Allison Passon, Communications Director

While welcoming visitors has been a part of Zumbro's culture, it really began as a yearly focus a few years ago. The Connections Team reformed 18 months ago with the goal to help build the feeling of belonging, which leads to a stronger sense of community, that eventually leads visitors to membership. The team has a strong desire to try new things to welcome and invite visitors.

Anne and Ben Clarkson are two of nine members of the Connections Team. They felt a desire to join this team based on their values. "As a couple, we've always valued churches where members make a point of greeting and getting to know visitors and new members. Joining the Connections Team felt like the perfect way to give back after so many positive, welcoming experiences of our own." As parents to a nearly two-year-old, they wanted to

be familiar faces to other young families. Ben and Anne explain, "We thought that there might be other young families looking at Zumbro who would value a young family to chat with about the congregation."

"Hospitality is core to who Jesus and God are. We are told to 'come and see' and 'come to me.' God is a God of invitation. The goal for this team and the church is to become a church that is invitational." Pastor Jason mentions.

You may have noticed and will see some of the recent work of the Connections Team. The sale of the Zumbro coffee mugs funds mugs given to visitors as a gift from the Zumbro community. After Easter, Connection Pads will be reintroduced to worshippers during worship. The intention is to help worshippers take notice of who they are worshipping next to, and say hello.



Zumbro mugs, \$7 and \$10 available for purchase in the church office. Each purchase helps fund mugs given as gifts to visitors.

"We have all acknowledged the role that warm conversations with church members has played in our own lives and in our feeling a sense of belonging at Zumbro (or other churches). We see welcome and building connections as a relational ministry where we (and our congregation) are showing our belief of 'all are welcome' and 'you are loved' through our actions." Anne and Ben explain.



Anne and Ben Clarkson, members of the Connections Team

The Connection Pad

Let us know you are here. Please write your name and contact information, check all categories that apply, and pass along to the person sitting next to you. When the pad reaches the end of the row, pass it back. As the pad returns, make note of the names of your neighbors and greet them at the end of the service.

Date: _____ I am:

| Name and Contact Information | | | Regular worshiper | Returning visitor | 1st time visitor | Interested in membership | entering the host/pal | I would like a pastor to call. |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name | Email | Phone | | | | | | |
| Address | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Email | Phone | | | | | | |
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| Name | Email | Phone | | | | | | |
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Connection Pads will be introduced after Easter as a tool to help connect worshippers, and reduce the timeline of reaching out to visitors.



Adult Forum

SUNDAYS | 9:45-10:45am

ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM

The Adult Forum provides space to learn about a wide range of topics related to our journey of faith.

APRIL 2 GROWING UP IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS

Presenter: Samia Nelson

We have seen the walls built to separate Israel and Palestine and heard how Muslims and Jews are in constant conflict in the Holy Land. But the story often missing is the story of the Christians who have called the Holy Land home for 2000 years. Zumbro member, Samia Nelson, grew up as a Lutheran Christian in Palestine and will share her experience and perspective on how the faith of Jesus has shaped the lives of Palestinian Christians.

APRIL 9 No Forum—Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast (see details on page 10)

APRIL 16 NO FORUM—Easter

APRIL 23 STORIES FROM TANZANIA: HOW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH IAMBHI HOSPITAL IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Presenters: The 2017 Tanzania Travelers

For six years we have been sending teams of Zumbro members to Iambi to build relationships and explore ways we can help them provide the best care they can to their patients. Zumbro members have supported some big goals that the hospital had, and we are helping to make a significant difference.

Come hear about the recent trip of our Tanzania team and learn more about our ongoing partnership with the hospital.

APRIL 30 THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE CHURCH

Presenters: Pastors Vern Christopherson and Jason Bryan-Wegner

For about a decade, we've been talking about how faith in America is changing, and how the church everywhere is changing. This week, we'll explore some of the updated research and share stories of what is happening in churches and our faith institutions everywhere as we live into this new reality. Next week, we will have a discussion about how these changes may be affecting us here at Zumbro, and how that shapes some of the ideas we have for ministry moving forward.

Early Communion Class

WEDNESDAY, APR. 12 | 6:45pm

Holy Communion education is offered every year for 5th graders, but often children indicate an interest and readiness in receiving communion before 5th grade. Parents interested in attending an early communion class with their son or daughter are invited to participate in this class with Pastor Lisa. Children will be encouraged to take their first communion at this year's special Maundy Thursday worship service the following evening. Email Pastor Lisa to sign up.

High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7:15-8:15pm

ZUMBRO YOUTH ROOM

Save the Date: High School Graduate Recognition

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

SUNDAY, APR. 23 | 11am

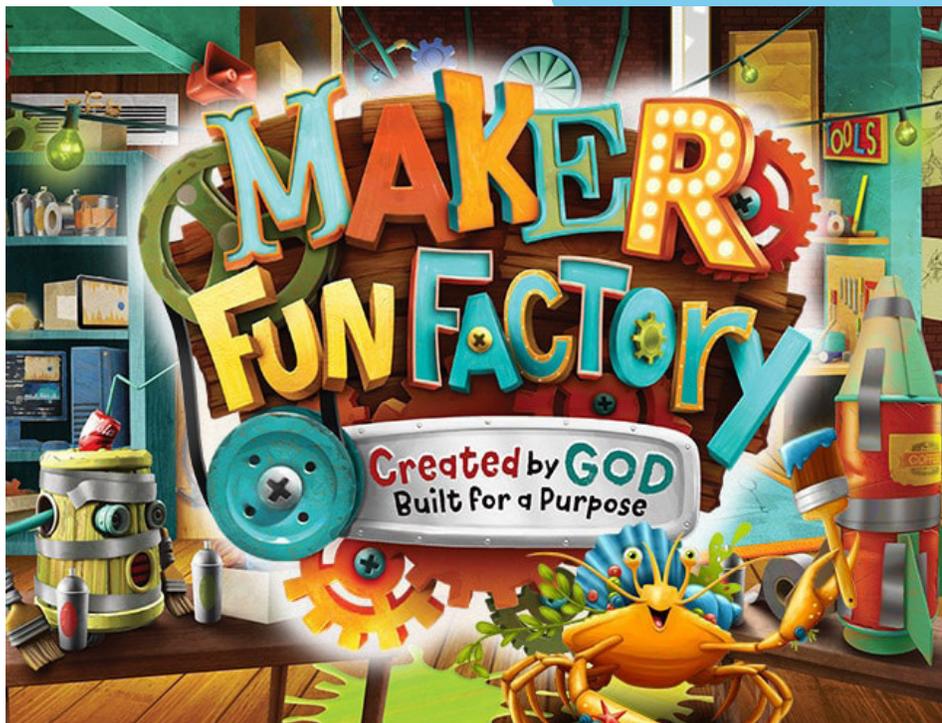
The Zumbro Youth Band and Strings will play in worship one last time before the school year ends.

Contact Music Minister Kristy Giere with questions and to sign up.

Rehearsals are:

- Tuesday, Apr. 18, 6:30-7:15pm
- Thursday, Apr. 20, 6:30-7:15pm
- Saturday, Apr. 22, 10-10:45am

Oh, What Summer Fun!



VBS

JUNE 19-23 | 9am-12pm
Three-Year-Old—Grade Six
\$20/child or \$50/family max.

Maker Fun Factory: Created by God. Built for a Purpose. Register online at zumbrolutheran.org

VBS +PLUS+

JUNE 19-22 | 12-3pm
Kindergarten-Grade 12
\$20/child or \$50/family max.
Register online at zumbrolutheran.org

Art Camp

AUGUST 7-11 | 9am-Noon
Kindergarten-Grade 12
\$20/child or \$50/family max.
Register online at zumbrolutheran.org





Summer Camp

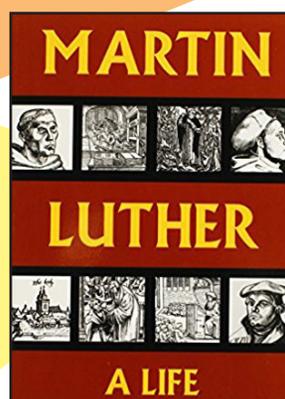
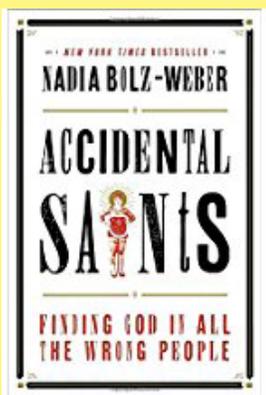
Register children for camp at Good Earth Village at www.goodearthvillage.org Camp isn't just for kids; Good Earth Village offers a family camp and grandparents camp, too! Zumbro offers camperships to members who attend, Contact Janette Reeves with questions. Good Earth Village representatives will visit Zumbro May 14 and 17.

Family Mission Trip

JULY 19-23

CHICAGO, IL

Give your family an experience to remember and share the hope of Jesus with others in the greater Chicago area. Zumbro members, friends, singles, and families of all ages are invited to be a part of this mission trip to the Chicago area. We'll serve God as we work in community gardens, stock food shelves, prepare meals, and learn about what it means to be hungry. This is a fantastic short-term mission trip opportunity for someone who has never been on a mission trip, but is interested in trying one out. Contact Pastor Lisa with your questions and interest by the registration deadline of Sunday, Apr. 30.



Pastors' Book Study

JUNE 22, JULY 27, AUGUST 24
9:30-11am & 6:30-8pm

JUNE—*Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber with Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner
JULY—*Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist with Pastor Lisa Kipp
AUGUST—*Martin Luther: A Life* by James Nestingen with Pastor Vern Christopherson

SENT TO SERVE

On Going Projects

The following items may be left in the drawers at 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

Past Project Update

Many bundles of paper towels, books of Forever postage stamps, cash, and several miscellaneous items were donated for the Gift of Life Transplant House. Thank you.

Action Project

BENEFICIARY: HIAWATHA HOMES

Since 1976, Hiawatha Homes of Rochester has provides support services to people with disabilities in their community. "Our mission is to help those we serve achieve greater independence, well being and enjoyment in life by providing the highest quality home health care."

ITEMS NEEDED:

- New or gently used bath towels to be sewn into adult bibs
- New or gently used blankets to be used on laps or floors

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

Ways to Support Youth Mission Trips

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY, APR. 9 | 7-8:30am and 9:30-11am

Zumbro youth will prepare and host a pancake breakfast for the Zumbro congregation to raise funds for their summer mission trips and say "thank you" to the congregation for their ongoing and faithful support. A free will offering will be received in support of the summer youth mission trips.

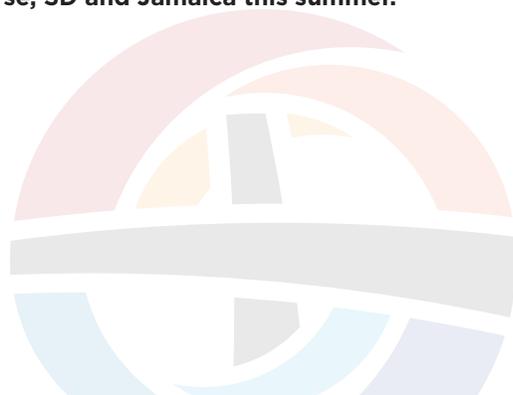
Youth Silent Auction

SUNDAY, MAY 7

ZUMBRO LOUNGE

Please visit the lounge to bid on silent auction items created by our summer youth mission trip participants. There will be a variety of baskets, baked treats, and babysitting hours, to name a few of the items up for bid.

Thank you in advance for supporting our middle school youth, high school youth, and adult leaders, as they continue to prepare to be sent out on mission trips to Lake Traverse, SD and Jamaica this summer.



Tea for the Grieving and Healing Soul

THURSDAY, APR. 27 | 2-3:30pm
ZUMBRO

How do we bring healing to our soul when our heart has been broken open because of the loss of a loved one? Plan to join Pastor Audrey Lukasak (Heartland Hospice Bereavement Coordinator) for a cup of tea while we share our collective stories. Feel free to bring a favorite cup and a picture of your loved one. This is a rescheduled event. For more information and to RSVP, contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

Annual Gustavus Faith Conference

SATURDAY, APR. 22
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
The 5th annual Faith Conference theme: *Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve* will explore the creative alliances being built between religion and science in order to address the world's most pressing challenges. The 30th Annual Association of Congregations Business Meeting will be held immediately following the Faith Conference. Register at www.gustavus.edu

FYI March Pastoral Acts

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Robert W. Streyle
Donna L. Wussow
Lois A. Jorstad
E. Joan Whiting

Save the Date

ZUMBRO SENIORS SPRING LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, MAY 25 | 11:30am-1pm
ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM
For seniors aged 85 and older
More information to come!

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
Music Minister
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 Director
allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org

Connie Saunders
Administrative Assistant
conniesaunders@zumbrolutheran.org

Tracy Schar
Operations Manager
tracyschar@zumbrolutheran.org

Bob Giere
Director of Zumbro Lutheran Choir
Director of Wednesday Worship
bobgiere@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 May issue of the *Zumbro Current* by April 10, to zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org

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www.zumbrolutheran.org
(507) 288-2649

624 Third Ave. SW
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