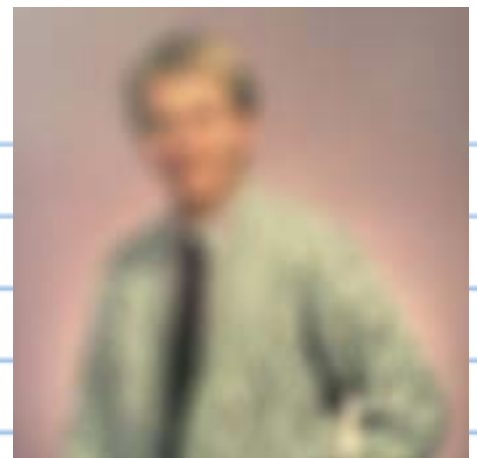


*Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.*

# THE ZUMBRO Current

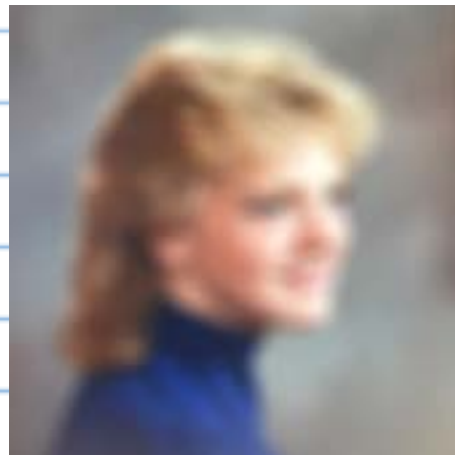
MAY 2017

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



## 6-7 MISSION TRIP LEADERS

Summer mission trip participants begin packing for their time of reaching out with compassion. Meet the fearless adult leaders (and their senior photos!) embarking with Zumbro youth.



## 2 PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Vern heads off to a mini sabbatical. See what he will be doing.

## 4 JOB DUTIES

The Zumbro pastors oversee Zumbro's ministry, but learn what they do and their specific ministries.

## 5 CELEBRATE GRADS

Many families are preparing for the next chapter—high school graduation. Celebrate with the high school graduates and their families on May 21.

# Mini Sabbatical

Zumbro's Personnel Manual sets forth the possibility of a sabbatical for full-time pastors and program staff after five years of employment. The goals for a sabbatical will undoubtedly vary, but most likely will involve some combination of Sabbath rest, personal and family time, continuing education, spiritual nurture, physical rejuvenation, and hopefully a little fun and adventure.

I will soon be completing my eighth year at Zumbro. A year ago I had applied for a sabbatical grant from the Lilly Foundation. This was to take place in the summer of 2016. I had grand plans to build bridges of understanding and peace in exotic places such as Tibet, Turkey, and Spain. Not only was I going to see the world, I was going to engage in various pilgrimages with Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians. Sad to say, my grant proposal was not accepted.

As I look back on the events of last spring, the "rejection letter" from the folks at Lilly turned out to be a blessing in disguise. When I received it, I was only a few weeks away from a trip to the Mayo Clinic and the subsequent diagnosis of an auto immune disorder with a very long name: antiphospholipid antibody syndrome. And as you may recall, the discovery of six mini-strokes meant that I was going to need to focus almost all of my time and

energy on getting well.

A lot has happened since last May. Shortly after my diagnosis, my neurologist, Dr. Robert Brown, assured me that the brain has a remarkable capacity to heal, but it takes time. He encouraged me not to be impatient. Sure enough, I am feeling much better now than I did a year ago. My brain is functioning better. I'm able to handle more complex decision making. And my short-term memory loss continues to improve. Am I exactly the same as I was before? Probably not. But I'm a lot better than I was. And I'm confident that I am still healing. Know that I'm grateful for God's help and strength along the way. And I'm especially grateful for your ongoing prayers and encouragement.

Over the last few months, the Personnel Team has been nudging me to once again consider a sabbatical. I have to admit, I've been dragging my feet. In many ways, the focus and hard work of ministry have been good for my brain—taking on challenges, setting goals, and getting work done. With each new challenge, it seems I'm a little more like my old self again. And that feels incredibly good.

I have decided to meet the Personnel Team part-way. I am going to take a five-week leave or "mini-sabbatical" from May 15 to June 18. There are no scheduled



trips to exotic locations, however. Instead I plan to replace the oak flooring in my living room, read a couple of good page-turners, and hopefully play a little golf.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity. And thanks in advance to the staff and volunteers who will be covering for me while I'm away.

*Pastor Vern*



# Worship Details

## This Story Can Change Your Life

### PETER HEALS A CRIPPLED BEGGAR ACTS 3:1-16

SUNDAY, MAY 7 | 8:30am and 11am  
Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
Music: Kathryn Horntvedt, soloist (8:30am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 | 6:30pm  
Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### THE APOSTLES ARE PERSECUTED ACTS 4:17-42

SUNDAY, MAY 14 | 8:30am and 11am  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bel Canto Handbell Choir (8:30am and 11am); Zumbro Choristers, Zumbro Youth Band and Strings (11am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 | 6:30pm  
Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### LIFE IN COMMUNITY ACTS 4:32-5:11

SUNDAY, MAY 21 | 8:30am and 11am  
Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing  
Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner  
Music: Mia Suzuki, soloist (8:30am); Music by Graduating Seniors (11am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 | 6:30pm  
Holy Communion  
Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### AN ETHIOPIAN BELIEVES ACTS 8:26-36

SUNDAY, MAY 28 | 8:30am and 10am  
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp  
Music: Kelsey O'Leary, soloist

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 | 6:30pm  
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

### Summer Worship Times

Beginning Sunday, May 28, worship times change to 8:30am and 10am.

## WORSHIP Nursery Hours

SCHOOL YEAR  
SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm  
WEDNESDAYS | 6:15-8pm

SUMMER (BEGINS MAY 28)  
SUNDAYS | 8:15am-11:15am  
Not staffed Wednesday evenings

## Hymn Sings

Zumbro offers special Hymn Sings one Sunday a month during the summer to sing some of your favorite hymns during worship. Beginning May 28 you have the opportunity to share in the *Life at Zumbro* what your favorite hymns are and why they are so meaningful. We will sing some of those songs and share why they are so meaningful in the Sunday bulletin.

## Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

SUNDAY, MAY 14 | 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:  
•Thursday, May 11, 6:30-7:15pm  
•Saturday, May 13, 1-1:45pm

## High School Graduate Recognition

SUNDAY, MAY 21  
Reception in the lounge 10am-11am. Recognition and blessing during the 11am worship service.

# What do the pastors do?

by Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Maybe you've asked yourself this question before. Over the last few months we've been evaluating ministry areas and realigning some responsibilities to better serve the congregation and allow your pastors opportunities to serve where they are most passionate.

All of the pastors provide leadership in worship, preaching, and pastoral care. These are core to the call of any pastor in the church and will continue to be shared as a team. Ruth Monson, our Congregational Life Minister, also plays a significant role in the care of our congregation by doing visitation and coordinating our Care Ministers.

These are just a few of the ways ministry happens at Zumbro. The vast majority of ministry happens through you, dear people of Zumbro. When you build bridges of understanding and peace with someone new, when you reach out with compassion to someone hurting, and when you share the hope of Jesus with those who need to know that there is a God who loves them, you are doing what God calls us all to do and making a difference along the way.



**Pastor Vern Christopherson**

- Directs the mission of Zumbro along with the Church Council
- Plans worship and sets preaching schedule
- Teaches a variety of classes
- Works with Personnel, Gifts and Memorials, and Building Visioning Teams



**Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner**

- Leads the Family Ministry Team
- Works with the Connections Team to build relationships with visitors
- Serves as pastoral liaison to Dinka Ministry



**Pastor Lisa Kipp**

- Leads Mission and Outreach ministries, including Open Table and Tanzania
- Plans Wednesday Worship
- Coordinates stewardship and fundraising



**Pastor Shelley Cunningham (quarter-time)**

- Leads 7th-9th grade Confirmation Ministry

# Congratulations, Confirmation Class of 2017!



As 23 ninth graders affirmed their baptismal promises on Sunday, Apr. 30, they claimed their place among the great cloud of witnesses who are marked by their faith. Thanks to the small group mentors, Lent mentors, parents, and congregation members who accompanied our confirmation students on their journey this year. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Confirmands: Quinci Badger, Matt Brandt, Dominik Caffes, Marcus Cramer, Gracie Grimsrud, Tor Hendrickson, Rena Hillehiem, Jessup Klingsporn, Megan Leland, Sydney Lichty, Ashliegh Lueder, Dylan Moravec, Sophie Mosing, Isaiah Nordine, Carter O'Reilly, Jasper Padrnos, Hannah Perrotti, Nick Sanders, Ella Schornack, Ashley Stortz, Mia Suzuki, Isabella Swenson, Mary Evelyn Walls

## Adult Forum

SUNDAYS | 9:45-10:45am  
ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM

The Adult Forum provides a space for people to gain new insights, encounter different ideas, and discuss timely topics related to faith and culture. We will wrap up the program year by looking at some trends in church and culture and also discussing how God might be calling us into the future as people of faith.

### MAY 7 THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE CHURCH

Presenter: Pastor Vern Christopherson

For about a decade, we've been talking about how faith in America is changing and how the church is also changing. We'll explore how these changes may be affecting us here at Zumbro. Pastor Vern will lead a discussion about the changes we see and share some of ideas for ministry moving forward.

### MAY 14 FAITH FORMATION 2020

For the past two years, Zumbro has been part of a cohort of congregations exploring what vibrant adult faith formation looks like in congregations. Pastor Jason has been part of those conversations and will unpack some of the findings of the study, and lead a conversation about future possibilities for faith formation at Zumbro.

## High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7:15-8:15pm  
ZUMBRO YOUTH ROOM

## Memorial Weekend Service

SUNDAY, MAY 28  
ZUMBRO COLUMBARIUM

All are welcome to gather for a brief service in honor of loved ones who have died. Give thanks to God for the lives of those we have lost, and be reminded of God's reassuring promise of everlasting life. More information, including time, will be published in the *Life at Zumbro* as the date approaches.

## VBS

JUNE 19-23 | 9am-12pm

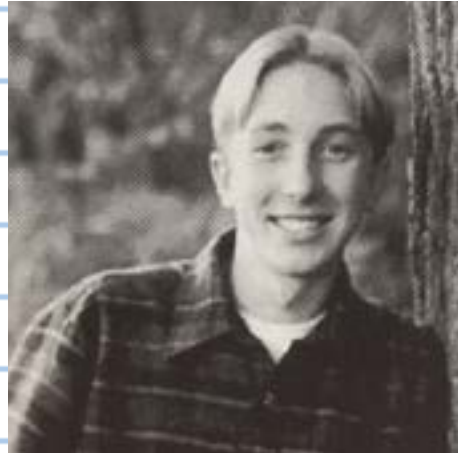
Three-Year-Old—Grade Six  
\$20/child or \$50/family maximum  
You can feel it and smell it—summer is nearly here! At Maker Fun Factory VBS, kids enter a world where creativity and fun are around every corner! Kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. The music, games, Bible stories, crafts and snacks bring it all together for a fantastic week! Register online at [www.zumbrolutheran.org](http://www.zumbrolutheran.org)

## Why did I decide to serve as a mission trip adult leader?



**Brenda Brown-Kennedy**

My daughter Katie, who is now a senior at John Marshall High School, asked (ok...begged) me to come on the Jamaica mission trip with her again. I went with the high school mission trip three years ago when we brought Vacation Bible School to Robin's Nest. The trip was a great way to see my daughter grow with her mission work and be involved in a way that used all my old camp counselor skills! I enjoy seeing these high school "kids" grow up and live Zumbro's mission statement in very inspiring ways. I have had an amazing opportunity to be involved with Zumbro adults on the Tanzania trip and now with the Zumbro teens on the Jamaica trip. I can't wait to see what we learn this year! I am also looking forward to this valuable time with Katie before she heads off to college.



**Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner**



**Janette Reeves**



**Carl Cramer**



**Linda Sanders**

I grew up attending church camp in the summer, and I remember how excited I was as the week grew closer and closer. It was one of the most rewarding and exciting times I had during high school. Chaperoning allows me a chance to serve with my children, which I truly enjoy. We are able to experience and grow to understand other situations, cultures, and environments—which I hope will help them to become compassionate and serving adults.



**Jason Jadin**

A few years ago my wife suggested that I chaperone a trip to see what it is like. She knew many of the youth from teaching Sunday school and thought I would have fun with the group (after all, I'm a big kid in my heart). While that first trip was very fun, I also learned about myself. It was very satisfying to serve a community, learn about their needs, and discover ways to help. It was heart-warming to see our youth serve with compassion. They have demonstrated how I can grow in my faith. Ever since that first trip, I come back energized and ready to do it again the following year!



**Sara Smith**



**Beth Napton and Kris Oppegard**

## REMEMBER!

### 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.

## SENT TO SERVE

### Your Green Thumb

Join other Zumbro gardeners in keeping the Zumbro campus an inviting place. You can adopt a small garden bed or some plant containers. The expected care includes: planting, watering, dead heading, and weeding. These may be done at your convenience. Contact Chuck Johnson.

### 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

### March Project Update

Lutheran World Relief will soon receive 35 Sewing Kits. These kits will be used in vocational training programs to teach young men and women useful and marketable sewing skills. Your donations will be put to wonderful use. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

## Zumbro Women of the ELCA Holiday Cookbook

Are visions of sugarplums running through your head? Probably not, but it is time to start thinking of your favorite holiday recipes!

Planning for the 2017 Christmas Bazaar has started (more details on that coming soon). One addition to this year's Bazaar is publication of a ZWELCA Holiday Cookbook. Recipe submissions will be accepted through July 1 and can be dropped off in the church office or emailed to Administrative Assistant Connie Saunders. The cookbook will first be available for purchase at the Christmas Bazaar—perfect timing for holiday gift giving! Recipe forms can be found at [www.zumbrolutheran.org/uploads/holidayrecipeform.pdf](http://www.zumbrolutheran.org/uploads/holidayrecipeform.pdf) and at the ushers' stand. You can direct your questions to Kari Jadin.

It's time to pull out the butter and flour, preheat the oven, and share your most delicious sweet and savory recipes!



I NEED YOU

## Action Project

BENEFICIARY: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (BABY CARE KITS)

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for mothers living in poverty: they have worries about the babies' health and well-being.

These kits provide the things a mother needs to care for her baby in a helpful and hopeful way. Please help by donating (one or more) of these items:

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 2 lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies)
- 2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, up to 52" square
- 4 cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins

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

## Zumbro Travelers and Friends

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA TOUR | TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Pick up a detailed itinerary for the very interesting and informative trip to learn about the McNeilus wind turbines that produce power for the electric cooperatives in the Dodge Center area. Then travel to Austin for an included lunch at the Old Mill Inn before touring the newly refurbished SPAM Museum. A special treat welcomes us as we go to the Paramount Theatre for a glimpse of this well preserved building unique to Austin. Reservations can be made in the church office with check or cash. The cost of the trip is \$45 per person and includes motor coach transportation, tour of wind turbines, SPAM Museum, Paramount Theatre experience, lunch, and all taxes and gratuities.

## Senior Spring Luncheon

THURSDAY, MAY 25 | 11:30am-1pm

ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM

Connect with Zumbro friends for good conversation and good food (\$5 donation suggested). Please RSVP to Administrative Assistant Connie Saunders (507) 288-2649 in the church office by May 18, or watch for a *Life at Zumbro* signup opportunity.

## ZWELCA Spring Luncheon

The Plummer House Spring Luncheon is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact Kari Jadin.

## FYI

### April Pastoral Acts

SAINTS GONE BEFORE US  
Kenneth D. Severson  
Lois Ann Randall  
Helen E. Marble

### Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am  
May 14

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 10am

May 28

June 11, 25

July 9, 23, 30

WEDNESDAY AT 6:30pm

May 3, 17, 31

June 14, 28

July 12, 26

## Zumbro Staff

Vern Christopherson  
Directing Pastor  
[pastorvern@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:pastorvern@zumbrolutheran.org)

Jason Bryan-Wegner  
Pastor  
[pastorjason@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:pastorjason@zumbrolutheran.org)

Lisa Kipp  
Pastor  
[pastorlisa@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:pastorlisa@zumbrolutheran.org)

Shelley Cunningham  
Pastor  
[pastorshelley@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:pastorshelley@zumbrolutheran.org)

Kristy Giere  
Music Minister  
[kristygiere@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:kristygiere@zumbrolutheran.org)

Ruth Monson  
Congregational Life Minister  
[ruthmonson@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:ruthmonson@zumbrolutheran.org)

Kris Oppegard  
Family Minister  
[krisoppegard@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:krisoppegard@zumbrolutheran.org)

Janette Reeves  
Family Minister  
[janettereeves@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:janettereeves@zumbrolutheran.org)

Allison Passon  
Communications Director  
[allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org)

Connie Saunders  
Administrative Assistant  
[conniesauanders@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:conniesauanders@zumbrolutheran.org)

Tracy Schar  
Operations Manager  
[tracyschar@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:tracyschar@zumbrolutheran.org)

Bob Giere  
Director of Zumbro Lutheran Choir  
Director of Wednesday Worship  
[bobgiere@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:bobgiere@zumbrolutheran.org)

Ralph Schornack  
Music Staff

JT Walls  
Building Maintenance/Custodian  
[jtwalls@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:jtwalls@zumbrolutheran.org)

Terry Griebenow  
Craig Dickinson  
Custodians

Karla Dexter  
Office Assistant  
[karladexter@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:karladexter@zumbrolutheran.org)

Kamen Makuer  
Dinka Lay Evangelist  
[makuerkamen@yahoo.com](mailto:makuerkamen@yahoo.com)

Barb Desens  
Nursery Coordinator



### Newsletter Deadline

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

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