

*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

OCTOBER 2017

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

# Freed & RENEWED in Christ

# 500

YEARS OF GOD'S  
**GRACE** IN ACTION

**8 & 9**

## REFORMATION

This month Lutherans around the world will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. See how you can participate close to home.

**2**

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Vern shares his Top Ten Reasons Why He Likes Being A Lutheran. Do you agree? What would you add to the list?

**7**

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

The "curtain" is pulled back for all to see what happens as Zumbro leads up to worship on a Sunday morning.

**10**

## BUILDING UPDATE

The Building Visioning Team shares an update on the conversations that have been taking place with architects and the general contractor.

# Pastor Vern's Top Ten List

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this October, I thought it might be helpful to list some of my reasons for being a Lutheran. Granted, I was born a Lutheran. If I had been born a Methodist or a Catholic, there's a good chance I'd still be a part of the denomination of my upbringing. Even so, as I reflect on my heritage, there are a number of things besides lutefisk and lefse that I have come to greatly appreciate.

So, here are my Top Ten Reasons Why I Like Being A Lutheran:

**10) I take great stock in a reformer who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed.**

Martin Luther didn't see himself as a reformer of the church, but rather as John the Baptist pointing to the only true reformer, Jesus Christ. Luther's courage and resolve in the face of great opposition is a constant reminder to me that the church is never perfect, but is always in the process of being reformed.

**9) Luther had his share of**

**faults.** Later in life, he said some notorious things about the Jews. Those things were largely forgotten until the 1930s when Hitler rose to power. Luther probably acted not out of racial bias, but because the Jews were not responding to the gospel. I'm grateful that in 1994, the ELCA Church Council dealt honestly with this regretful part of our past, and formally apologized

for it. They pledged to oppose bigotry wherever it occurs, and to work toward greater understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community.

**8) One of Luther's teachings was the priesthood of all believers.**

He held that all of us—and not just clergy—have callings from God. These callings show up in four primary areas: our daily work, our families, our responsibility as citizens, and our life in the church.

What this means is that whether we're working as a plumber or voting in an election or spending extra time with our grandchildren, our everyday efforts are pleasing to God. This thought encourages me, particularly when there's more work to do than hours in the day.

**7) Prior to the Reformation, congregational singing during church services was largely**

**non-existent.** Worship was in Latin. The congregation was not engaged. Then Luther got busy writing hymns in German and composing melodies that people could sing. Personally, I can't imagine experiencing worship without having an opportunity to sing together.

**6) Followers of Luther have commonly had a strong concern**

**for the poor.** In Luther's day, the community chest in Wittenberg provided welfare to those in need, zero-interest loans to help impoverished artisans back on



their feet, and funds for teachers, church workers, and doctors to care for those unable to afford medical services. In a world in which many people could use a helping hand, I'm proud of our strong Lutheran tradition to do what we can to provide for those in need.

**5) Luther believed strongly in the importance of baptism for bringing us into God's family.**

At the same time, he put great emphasis on the need for parents (and grandparents) to teach and model the faith for their children. The church couldn't—and shouldn't—try to do it alone. Luther wrote the *Small Catechism* and put it in the hands of parents to guide them in the process. The need hasn't changed. One of the great challenges of our day, I think, is to encourage and equip busy parents in the critical role of passing on faith to their children.

**4) In the tradition of Luther, we are not bound by any one interpretation of Scripture.**

Some passages we take more literally than others, but all of them are open to lively exploration and discussion. And no one can claim to have the last word. I find

*continued on page 11*

# Worship Details



## Deep Roots

Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517. Little did he know that he was setting in motion a reformation that would change the future of the church. In this sermon series we will tell the story of Lutheran roots, detailing both the joys and challenges that reformers faced along the way. In the process, we will explore a central tenant of the Reformation: *the church must always be reformed*. Throughout this series, we'll use the ensemble-led Setting Six of the liturgy.

### THE BIBLE IS YOUR GUIDE, BUT NOT YOUR GOD PSALM 1, JOHN 1:1-5, 10-14

SUNDAY, OCT. 1 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Music: Wind Ensemble (8:30am and 10:30am), Zumbro Lutheran Choir (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### FAITH GROWS WHEN IT'S WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

SUNDAY, OCT. 8 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham and Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am); Andrea Robertson, oboe prelude (8:30am and 10:30am); Zumbro Choristers and Sing-N-Ring! (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

## Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-11:45am

WEDNESDAYS | 6-8:15pm

## Deep Roots-High School Small Group

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING

OCTOBER 4 | 7-8pm

ZUMBRO YOUTH ROOM

# Worship Details

continued...

## Wear Red on Reformation Sunday

SUNDAY, OCT. 29

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, please wear red to worship.

## All Saints Sunday

NOVEMBER 5

November 5 is All Saints Sunday, a day when we remember those who have gone before us in faith. The Zumbro Lutheran Choir and harpist Mary Schneekloth will offer music 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."

### THE CHURCH IS HOLY AND MESSY

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

SUNDAY, OCT. 15 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Holy Communion  
Prayers for Healing  
Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham and Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner  
Music: Mia Suzuki, soloist (8:30am and 10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### FREE TO LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTERS

JOHN 8:31-36

SUNDAY, OCT. 22 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am); Zumbro Handbell Quartet (8:30am and 10:30am); Nicole Moravec, soloist (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### HERE I STAND

PSALM 46; GALATIANS 2:16-21

SUNDAY, OCT. 29 | 8:30am & 10:30am  
REFORMATION SUNDAY

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bel Canto Handbell Choir, Zumbro Brass Ensemble (8:30am and 10:30am); Zumbro Choristers (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

## Tanzania in Your Future



Are you interested in a life-changing, faith-filled adventure? Would you enjoy traveling through the Serengeti? Have you always wanted to see Iambi Hospital with your own eyes? If any of these apply, we hope you'll consider joining Zumbro's Tanzania Team for our 2018 visit to Iambi Hospital in rural Tanzania. Adults of all ages are welcome. While a background in medicine is great, it is certainly not necessary. Tentative trip dates are February 1-15, 2018. Cost is typically \$3-4,000. Scholarships may be

available. Contact Pastor Lisa or Bob Jenkins (rjenkins@mayo.edu) with any questions and to indicate interest by October 15.

# Adult Forum

SUNDAYS | 9:35-10:20am

ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM

The Adult Forum provides space to learn about a wide range of topics related to our journey of faith. In October, the Forum will focus on several aspects of the Lutheran witness to the gospel, as we celebrate 500 years of the Reformation.

OCTOBER 1 THE STORY OF THE REFORMATION

Presenter: Dr. Guy Nave, Luther College

OCTOBER 8 HELPING YOUTH LEARN A DEEP FAITH IN SHALLOW TIMES

Presenter: Dr. Sarah Ruble

As Christian faith becomes more distinct from the broader culture, it is even more important to root our kids in faith that has depth and meaning. Our forum will explore some of the current research on youth and faith, and help us think through some of our own assumptions and practices for passing on faith to the next generations.

OCTOBER 15 WHAT TO DO WITH LUTHER?

Presenter: Dr. Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary

Historians suggest that Martin Luther is a crucial figure in the last millennium of Western history. We Lutherans find his theological insights into the gospel and the Christian faith to be central to our own common faith. But, as might be expected from someone whose collected writings fill hundreds of volumes, there are some things that we wish he had not written. Our session will try to look at Luther in balance, and think about how we might appraise his legacy, and apply his insights into our contemporary congregations.

OCTOBER 22 WE ARE ALWAYS REFORMING

Presenter: A Panel of Retired Pastors from Zumbro

Luther promoted the idea that by the power of the Spirit, the Church is always reforming. A panel of retired pastors will reflect on how they have seen and participated in the ongoing reform of the church over the past 60 years, and talk about how the reforms have strengthened the Church and where there is continual need for reform.

OCTOBER 29 HERE WE STAND

Presenter: Dr. Wanda Deifelt, Luther College

Based on Luther's legendary statement, "Here I stand," we will find out what Lutherans stand for after 500 years of the Reformation. Among the many contributions, we will highlight the importance of grace as gift, vocation, education, and social service.

## JOURNEY OF FAITH

### Synod Youth Retreat

NOVEMBER 17-19

OWATONNA, MN

GRADE 9-12

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is hosting the "I. You. We. They. All Belong at the Table." youth retreat. The cost is \$150 per participant. Visit [www.semnsynod.org/syr2017](http://www.semnsynod.org/syr2017) for more information. Contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard to register.

### Congregational Art Exhibit

FEBRUARY 2018

ZUMBRO

This will be a wonderful opportunity to find out how members of our congregation express their creativity. High schoolers and older may submit up to three pieces, ready to display, including but not limited to: original wall art, sculpture, photography, workwork/carving, and fabric art. Watch future Zumbro publications for further details.

### Zumbro Travelers and Friends

Two informational gatherings are planned for Thursday, Oct. 5, for two trips planned in 2018. At 5:30pm, a National Parks Tour (fly + ride) scheduled for June 9-20 will be discussed. At 6:30pm, the Magical Rhine and Mosell River Cruise (fly + cruise) September 5-14 will be discussed. Reservation forms and itineraries are at the ushers' stand and in the church office.

## August Action Project Update

Because of your giving: nine Personal Care Kits were created and delivered to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to everyone who donated.

## 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

## Summer Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Meeting

SUNDAY, OCT. 15 | 11:30am  
ZUMBRO

## Women's Thankoffering Brunch

NOVEMBER 4 | 9-11am  
ZUMBRO KAIROS ROOM  
SPEAKER: Dr. April Ullring Larson, the First Woman Bishop in the ELCA

A catered brunch will be served for \$6.50. Watch for a sign up opportunity in the *Life at Zumbro*.

# Action Projects

BENEFICIARY: GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

This month the goal is to gather items to create AIDS/Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits. Any of the following items are appreciated. Please help by donating these items:

### AIDS/HOSPICE KITS

- Bath rowel, washcloth, wrapped bath-size bar of Dove unscented hand soap, toothbrush
- "Pick" comb, nail clipper, six band-aids, jar or tube of patroleum jelly (sealed)
- Pair of household gloves (medium, heavy duty)
- Small devotional booklet

### NEWBORN KITS

- Two cloth diapers, two large safety pins
- Bath towel, washcloth (thin)
- Bath-size bar of Ivory Soap
- Newborn stocking cap
- Small cotton-blend or flannel shirt (to waist only—no onesies)
- Receiving blanket

*Items for the above projects may be placed in the Action Box outside of the Lounge.*

Meatball Luncheon      Lefse      Family-Focused Activities      Craft Sale

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, Dec. 2**

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Scandinavian Coffee House      Attic Treasures      Bake Shop

# Worship: Behind the Scenes

by Allison Passon, Communications Director

Like most people, you leave your home with adequate time to get to Zumbro, park, and take your seat in the sanctuary for worship. For many though, the journey to Sunday morning or Wednesday evening starts days in advance, way in advance.

Every worship experience is made possible by pastors, staff, but mostly by congregational volunteers, also known as lay leaders.

Here is a walk through the steps that take place before Sunday worship starts:

Music Minister Kristy Giere plans ensembles schedules and music for the month four months ahead before the month begins.

A schedule of radio broadcasters to guide the listening audience through worship is created every month.

Music ensembles begin learning music for the Sunday worship they will be a part of up to six weeks in advance.

Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson starts gathering volunteers to be ushers, communion assistants, and lectors a month in advance.

Finance Team chair Brandon Passon creates a plan for who on the Finance Team will sort and secure the offering for each Sunday worship service a month in advance.

Pastor Vern creates a worship plan at least eight days in advance.

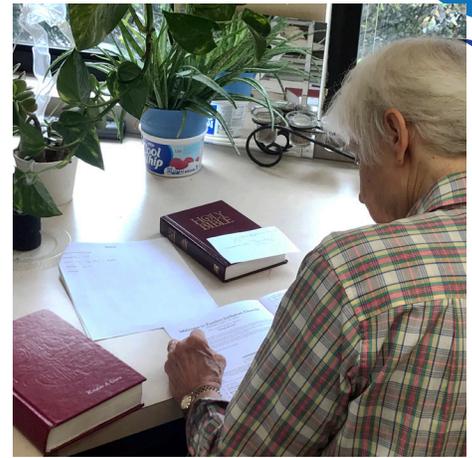
Communications Director Allison Passon creates a bulletin draft from this worship plan on Monday.

Bev DeBus and the volunteer Altar Guild gather the materials needed for communion and communicate with Ruth Monson on having the correct amount of supplies.

Tim Melin lines up people to lend a hand in making sure Sunday mornings run smoothly with tables, Lounge tvs, etc. called Helping Hands.

A proofer will come Thursday morning to edit the bulletin and *Life at Zumbro*. The bulletin and *Life at Zumbro* will be printed Thursday afternoon.

A group of people called the Pew Crew come late in the week to clean the pews, sharpen pew



Cheryl Adolphson spent a Thursday morning proofing the *Life at Zumbro* and bulletin for Sunday.

pencils, and restock the paper materials in the pew racks.

On Friday morning, four-six people stuff the *Life at Zumbros* and bulletins for Sunday.

There are so many more pieces that are put into place prior to Sunday at 8:30am—this is just a snippet. On behalf of the congregation and staff, I want to thank every person who has a hand in worship! This is a church of and for the people--something Martin Luther advocated for 500 years ago. If you would like to get involved in some way, short-term, long-term, behind the scenes, or front and center, contact Ruth Monson. She is eager to find the best fit for you and your skills.



The Junior Ringers rehearsing on a Wednesday night.



An usher and a Finance Team member sort and secure the yellow sheets and offering.

# Reformation Door

OCTOBER 29 AND NOVEMBER 1



We will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation on both Sunday, Oct. 29, and Wednesday, Nov. 1.

As part of the celebration, we will remember Martin Luther posting his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther wanted to challenge the church of his day to talk about the practice of selling indulgences, along with other issues that were problematic to him.

Throughout his reform of the church, Luther had a number of “here I stand” moments in confronting the religious and political leaders of the day. As we remember our roots this Reformation season, we will be making our own journey to the Wittenberg door.

It will happen as part of worship on October 29 and November 1. You will have an opportunity to fill out your own “here I stand” card and to place it on the door. Be thinking of something that is important to you as the day approaches.

**Freed & RENEWED**  
**in Christ** 500  
YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

## The Church’s Journey in Art and Song

### A Synod-Wide Hymn Festival

NOVEMBER 12 | 4pm

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

Join in a celebration of Lutheran music from ancient to old favorites to contemporary with members of ELCA churches throughout southeast Minnesota. A reception will follow. The offering received during the

service will be directed toward Lutheran Disaster Relief. Highlights include: a mass choir led by Daniel Kallman, including a newly composed hymn, organists Erik Floan and Kristy Giere, a brass ensemble, and a

contemporary worship band. For information, please contact Music Minister Kristy Giere or Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

# Reformation Festival 2017

## Closing Worship

OCTOBER 28 | 4pm

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS

Opportunities for learning and reflecting on the future of our faith from leading scholars, theologians, and musicians assembled by Luther Seminary and the National Lutheran Choir will be a part of a weekend Reformation Festival, October 27-28. The event concludes with a worship service on Saturday, Oct. 28, at 4pm

at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis, with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching and a 300-voice massed choir joining the National Lutheran Choir. The Zumbro Lutheran Choir will be a part of this historic worship service. All are welcome to attend. See event details at [www.luthersem.edu/reformation/](http://www.luthersem.edu/reformation/)

There are plans are to take a motor coach from to and from Zumbro, with an included dinner after the service. Watch the *Life at Zumbro* for details and when sign-ups will be taken for this very meaningful and impressionable event.

## Welcome the People

### The Musical Legacy of the Reformation

### The Rose Ensemble in Concert with Special Guest, Piffaro, the Renaissance Band

OCTOBER 31 | 7pm WITH A PRE-CONCERT TALK AT 6:30pm

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY



The Rose Ensemble. Photo Credit: Michael Haug Photography

Five hundred years ago, a monk named Martin Luther set in motion a spiritual movement that would transform church music for his followers. In this exciting collaboration with one of the world's finest consort of Renaissance wind instruments, The Rose Ensemble presents works by first-generation Reformation composers Johann Walther, Leonhard Lechner, and Michael Praetorius, as well as their ground-breaking reconstruction of a 1616 royal baptismal mass.

Don't miss this historic concert featuring the strength of 20 musicians on stage and the opportunity to join in singing the iconic hymn "Ein feste Burg" ("A Mighty Fortress").

Tickets are available at the door and online at:

[www.roseensemble.org/shows/welcome-people-musical-legacy-reformation](http://www.roseensemble.org/shows/welcome-people-musical-legacy-reformation)

\$15 regular admission; \$10 Students/Seniors; No Charge for Children (0-12 years old )

## FYI

### Save These Dates

ZUMBRO YOUTH BAND AND STRINGS

December 10

Everyone loves Christmas carols, and here's an opportunity to play them in worship! Zumbro Youth Band and Strings will accompany the congregation in some great carols of the holiday season.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17 | 4:30pm | St. Marys Hospital Chapel

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Festival of Lessons and Carols. This annual event is presented by musicians from Zumbro Lutheran Church.

### Choral Arts Ensemble Concert

SPEAKING THE TRUTH TO POWER

OCTOBER 21 | 7:30pm

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

Five hundred years ago this fall, Martin Luther risked his life to speak truth to power. So many others have taken similar courageous stands for integrity. Choral Arts Ensemble will honor bold and principled voices. For more information and tickets visit [choralartsensemble.org](http://choralartsensemble.org)

# Building Visioning Update

There is exciting progress to report. Our architects, WSN, have incorporated what they've heard from Zumbro and developed some creative solutions to our facility needs. Your team has had biweekly meetings with WSN since June. As a result a picture of "what might be" is really beginning to emerge. We've seen floor plan and facade options that will make the structure more accessible, welcoming, and functional while remaining respectful to the existing architecture. Later this month, we'll begin to see more detailed renderings, and there will be visual materials to share with the congregation later this fall.

The work product from this phase with WSN is specifically a Facility Master Plan, which will include these design options, validated cost estimates, and recommendations for phased implementation. Additionally, this plan document will include preliminary suggestions on how the property we own north of Sixth Street, might be leveraged through a potential development partnership to both preserve our parking and provide financial resources for our church mission.

Expect more information on this in October.

Your Building Visioning Team,

Jane Callahan

Alan Hansen (co-chair)

Teresa McCormack

Dan Dokken

Bill Horlitz

Mike Neumann

Kirk Gill (co-chair)

Dave Larson

Tracy Schar (staff)

## Ending Well Workshop

OCTOBER 7 | 9-11:30am

Ending of life decisions can be easy to put off until later. We think we'll have time. Sometimes we do. Sometimes we don't, and the responsibility falls on our loved ones. One thing is certain: each one of us will come to the end of our days, with or without a plan.

To help us in making our plans, Pastor Vern is leading a second annual Ending Well Workshop. He will cover a variety of pertinent topics, including planning our funerals to cremation to financial matters. We'll hear from Wayne Odell as he shares about the work that Ethelyn and he did in planning ahead for her funeral.

Anyone is welcome to attend, though we want to extend a special invitation to those getting up in years and to their families. If you attended last year's workshop, we will be covering some of the same material, but some new topics as well. You're welcome to return. We hope you find it helpful and enriching.

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this freeing, especially when I see fundamentalists (and many evangelicals) insisting on taking certain passages literally—such as the belief that we are living in the end times and the world as we know it will soon come to an end.

**3) Closely related to #4, Lutherans generally do not see science and the Bible as incompatible.** Certain churches teach that the world was created in six 24-hour days. In this scenario, the world is less than 10,000 years old. There’s no room for dinosaurs or woolly mammoths or any kind of evolutionary process. In my thinking, science does not have all the answers to life’s deepest questions, but I’m glad to be able to embrace modern scientific findings rather than oppose them.

**2) Luther taught that we are both saint and sinner at the same time.** It’s not as if some days we’re more “sinner” and other days we’re more “saint.” No,

we’re always both simultaneously. Like a lot of Lutheran teachings, this is paradoxical. But I find it helpful because I don’t have to pretend to be someone I am not. I am a sinner, and will always be a sinner in need of God’s mercy and forgiveness. And in that God graciously forgives me, I am also a saint.

**1) Martin Luther considered justification by grace through faith to be the most important teaching of Christianity.** At the heart of this teaching was Luther’s conviction that we don’t have to do anything in particular to earn God’s love. We don’t have to memorize the *Small Catechism*. We don’t have to believe in just the right way. Really, we don’t need to do anything. When it comes to salvation, we’re passive—getters, not givers. If, like me, you’ve ever struggled with whether God loves you just as you are, this is good news indeed. Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Vern*

## FYI September Pastoral Acts

BAPTISM

Emily Marie Doherty

SAINTS GONE BEFORE US

Joanne I. Swanson

Norma H. Silker

## Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUNDAY | 8:30am  
December 24

SUNDAY | 8:30am & 10:30am  
October 8, 22  
November 12, 26  
December 10, 31

WEDNESDAY | 6:15pm  
October 11, 25  
November 1, 15, 29  
December 13

# Zumbro Staff

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Barb Desens  
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