

*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

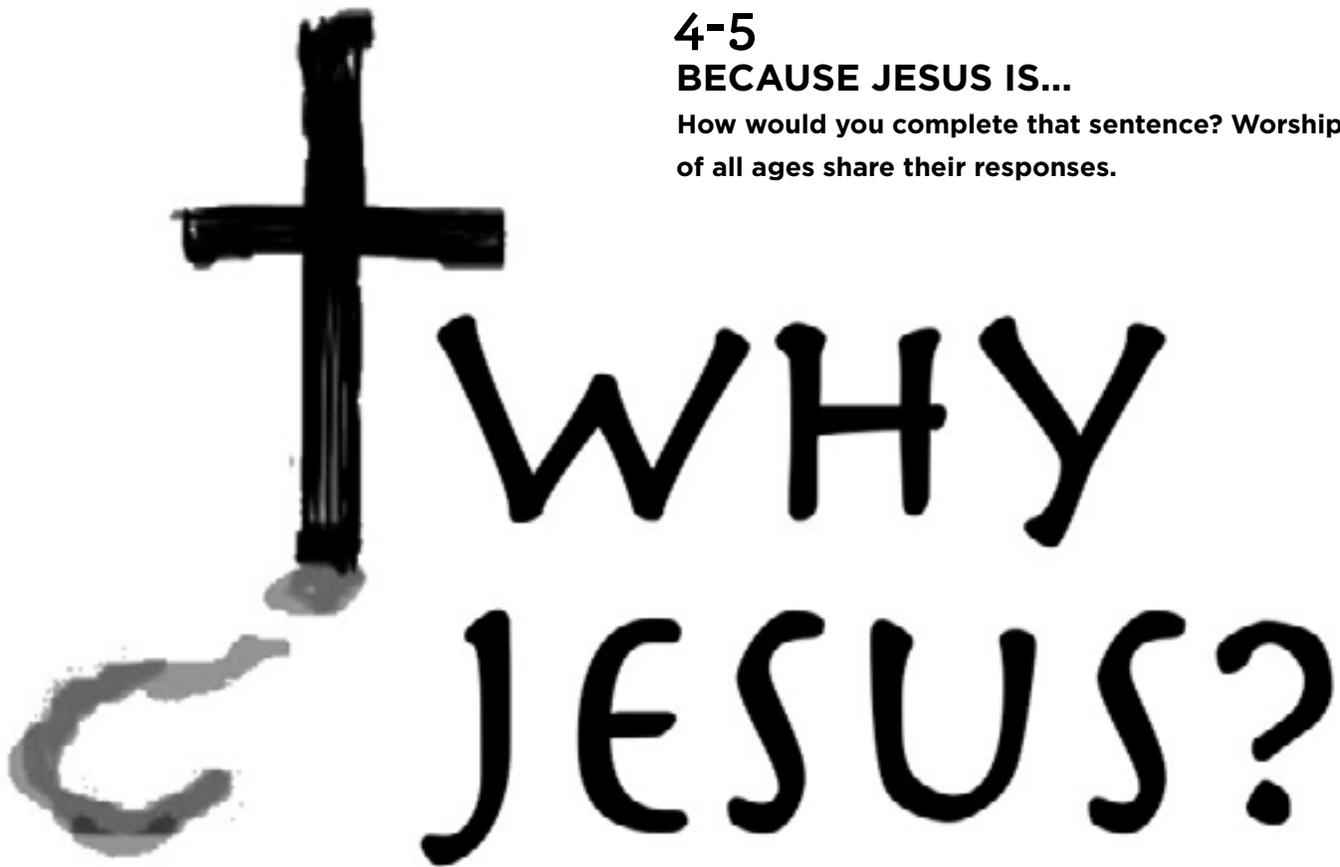
FEBRUARY 2019

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

4-5

BECAUSE JESUS IS...

How would you complete that sentence? Worshippers
of all ages share their responses.



2

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Jason unpacks all that happened in January (building focus groups, Pastor Vern's return to work) and looks to what is happening this month.

3

WORSHIP DETAILS

We continue with our sermon series on "Why Jesus?" See what you can expect in worship this month.

6

GARAGE SALE MENTALITY

A long-time Zumbro couple reflect on their life together and life-lessons after 65 years of marriage.

Stepping Toward the Future, One Step at a Time

It has been a wonderful start to 2019. Pastor Vern returned to ministry (part-time, for now) and to the pulpit a couple weeks ago. We are searching for new staff members to strengthen ministry with young people and the community. Our Tanzania Team is currently working alongside our partners at Iambi Hospital. And we have started to look at how our building serves our mission and ministry now and into the future.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Building Focus Groups in January. More than 200 people provided input into the options the Building Leadership Team assembled. **Your feedback has provided invaluable insight about the scope and priorities of a potential building renovation.** We also learned about some other priorities that were not listed in the initial options. This feedback has helped shape work of the planning council, teams, and staff are currently doing. One concrete step taken so far is the decision to replace the main kitchen fridge and assess costs for replacing other kitchen appliances.

A few key points emerged from these focus groups:

- People overwhelmingly affirmed that our location downtown matters to who we are as a congregation. Specifically mentioned were our visibility, proximity to green space, and central location from which to serve the community.
- Maintaining the integrity and infrastructure of the building is a very high priority for

members.

- There is strong support for improving accessibility for those with mobility challenges, parents with small children, and the hearing impaired.
- Several people expressed concern about the look and feel of rooms on the two lower levels. Planning is being done to address some of these areas with 2019 stewardship funds.
- Participants emphasized that renovations should be done in consultation with younger generations and with future ministry opportunities in mind.

You can learn more about the findings of the Focus Groups, the refinement of the project, and next steps in the process by attending the **ZED Talk on February 3, at 9:35am in the Fireside Room**. If you're unable to attend, look for the latest Building Leadership Update at the ushers' stand or in your inbox.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, during the Annual Meeting, the Building Leadership Team (BLT) will bring forth a proposal asking for the congregation's approval to move forward with planning a project. *We will not approve any building renovations yet.* Rather, this approval would allow for a feasibility study to be conducted. Additionally, the BLT would work with architects to further refine the design and produce visuals that would help the congregation make a final decision to build. A special congregational meeting would be required this spring for final approval.



As a reminder, the goals for this project are:

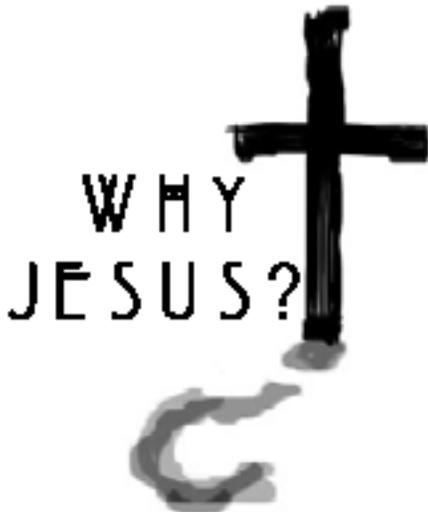
1. To make our building welcoming and accessible for all.
2. To build on our strengths of worship and purposeful relationships, by providing improved space for these activities.
3. To enhance mission and ministry opportunities in our neighborhood and community by having a facility to better support them.
4. To be good stewards of God's gifts—ensuring that our building remains a vibrant and viable asset for generations to come.

I encourage you to be part of the process and participate in the Annual Meeting this month. In the meantime, **pray for this process, the Building Leadership Team, and our congregation** as we seek God's guidance on the future of our ministry and our building. I'm hopeful in where God is leading us on our journey of faith together.

Peace,

Pastor Vern

Worship



Why Jesus?

SERMON SERIES

We continue to dig into the Gospel of Matthew to explore this question. Along the way, we'll get a better sense of why Jesus is important to each of us and how he makes a difference for us and the world.

WHY JESUS? BECAUSE JESUS KNOWS YOUR HEART

SUNDAY, FEB. 3 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

(8:30am); Janette Reeves and Jenny

Kruse (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6 | 6:15pm

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

WHY JESUS? BECAUSE JESUS LOVES BOTH SAINT AND SINNER

SUNDAY, FEB. 10 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion (10:30am)

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30),

Zumbro Choristers (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13 | 6:15pm

WHY JESUS? BECAUSE JESUS SEES THE POSSIBILITIES

SUNDAY, FEB. 17 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

(10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20 | 6:15pm

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

WHY JESUS? BECAUSE JESUS IS TRUSTWORTHY

SUNDAY, FEB. 24 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion (10:30am)

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Zumbro Choristers' Musical: *'Takin'*

It Through the Day' by Cathy

Skogen-Soldner

Music: Bel Canto Handbell Choir

(8:30am and 10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27 | 6:15pm

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 2019

9:20-10:20AM

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE USHERS' STAND
AND CHURCH OFFICE. ONE PER FAMILY, PLEASE.

WORSHIP

Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15-11:45am

WEDNESDAYS | 6-8:15pm

Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES & TIMES

SUNDAY | 8:30am & 10:30am

January 13, 27

February 10 (10:30am)

March 10, 24

April 14, 28

May 12

WEDNESDAY | 6:15pm

February 13, 27

March 13, 27

April 3, 17

Weekly Devotional

Zumbro's weekly devotional, *The Big Idea Guide*, is written based on the week's biblical text and theme by the preaching pastor. You can pick this up at the ushers' stand, read it online, or have it delivered to your email inbox each week. Contact Communications Director Allison Passon to opt-in.

Volunteer Expo

SUNDAY, FEB. 17 | 9:35-10:25am

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20 | 5-6pm

Serving inside and outside of our church is a part of who we are at Zumbro. Volunteering at Zumbro not only makes a difference in our church and in the world, but it is a great way to make some new friends! Find out more at our Volunteer Expo.

Women's Winter Social

SATURDAY, FEB. 16 | 1-3pm

KARI JADIN'S HOME

(2668 Braeburn Lane SW)

Zumbro women, girls, and friends are invited to celebrate winter and Valentine's Day with treats and fellowship.

Also at the event, college care packages will be assembled for mailing to Zumbro's college students. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with your Zumbro friends and remind our college students that they are loved and in our prayers!

Compass Rose Brass in Concert

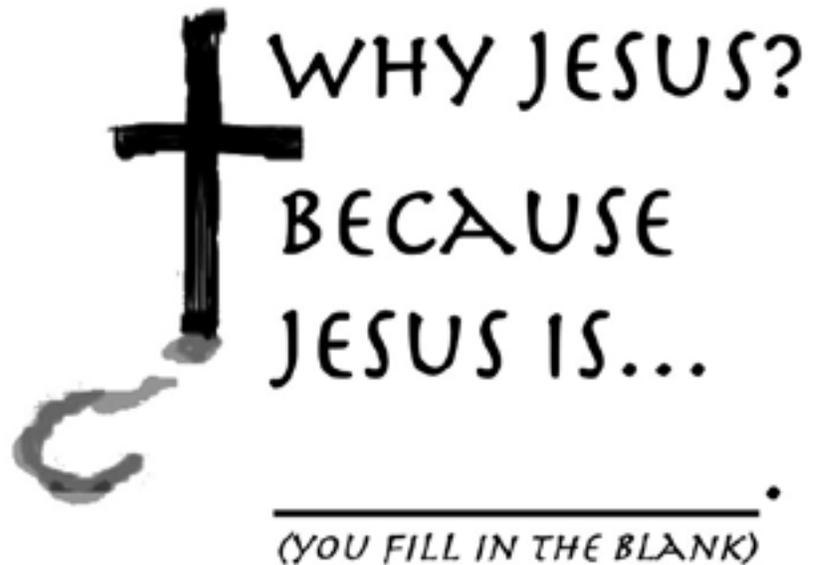
SATURDAY, FEB. 2 | 3pm

\$10/ADULT | \$5/CHILDREN

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

The Compass Rose Brass will present Bernstein's Overture to Candide, J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5

Heard in the Hallways



During the church season Epiphany we are diving deeper into answering the question, "Why Jesus?" It has been a great opportunity for each of us to figure out why Jesus is important to us. Read how fellow worshippers completed the sentence: "Jesus is _____."



healing.

- Krista
Jacobson

our constant
companion.

- Nancy
Johnsrud

a spotlight,

- Allison Passon

gets me
through each
day.

- Karla Dexter

God's son.

- Randy Fritz

a rock.

- Ellen MacGregor

a support in a time of trial.

- Kris Harms



love. - Maggie Smith
 in me. - Sara Smith
 great. - Camberly Tripp
 hope. - Sarah Lichty
 everywhere. - Avery Lichty



our salvation.
 - Arona Schuck



followed by life and happiness.
 - Sam Freimuth



hope.
 - Cassidy Tschida



great.
 - Phil Erickson



watching over us.
 - Carrey Olin

friendly.
 - Otto Hemmah



forgiveness.
 - Brandon Passon



walking with us.
 - Luanne Wussow



our Savior. - Grant Isaak

A Garage Sale Mentality Love Story

by Allison Passon

Sixty-five years ago, in the parsonage of a church, a young man and a young woman exchanged their wedding vows. It was an intimate affair. At 6am the next day, that young man reported back to work. "The honeymoon was short," laughed this now older man. This young couple is Nira and Gene Flaten.



These lovebirds met in the fall of 1951 in a Gustavus Choir rehearsal. Nira was a freshman, who just joined the choir, and Gene was an experienced member who joined in the fun of "hazing" the new singers. Eventually that tenor asked Nira on a date. Nira accepted the date mainly because, "I wanted to see the movie that he took me to."

Their life together started when Nira left home with Gene after his holiday leave was up. Gene was enlisted in the Army, and because of that their life brought them to call 22 different towns home in those 65 years of marriage. Since that quiet day in January 1954 they welcomed six children, 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren into their lives.

One of their daughters once asked, "How did you do it? How did you stay together and strong through all of these years?" Gene's response was witty, yet holds meaning:

"There will be bumps in the road, but love has great shock absorbers."

Those 22 moves would be enough for anyone to feel alone and unstable. Imagine being a child and moving that many times. Nira made sure with every new place to call home, that her family found a church home, too. "One of the first things we did when we arrived in a new town was go to church." Nira commented, "church is where we found support and friendship."

He views marriage with a "garage sale" mentality:

"We are all slightly imperfect, but a terrific bargain."



ZWELCA Action Projects

BENEFICIARY: GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE (LOCAL)

Gift of Life provides services for solid organ, bone marrow, and stem cell transplant patients and their families. It provides Mayo Clinic transplant patients with high quality and affordable accommodations in a supportive home-like environment. It is a place of compassion, healing and hope for patients of all ages from all over the world. In this supportive environment we help ease the impact of the complex medical, financial, emotional and spiritual burdens families are faced with day to day on their transplant journey.

NEEDS:

- Paper towels and napkins
- Anti-bacterial general-purpose cleaner
- Wrapped candy/candy bars
- \$25 to pay for a one-night stay of a guest
- Forever postage stamps
- Decaffeinated coffee

Action Project Update

During December members of the congregation generously donated the following items for Dorothy Day House: 11 pair men's gloves, 34 pairs of socks, 16 stocking caps and scarves, 7 bath towels, 2 large packages toilet tissue, 5 3 lb. cans of coffee, 1 set of sheets, and a small box of personal care items. These will help those who find themselves in crisis and need the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter that the Dorothy Day House seeks to provide as a temporary shelter. They welcome all persons in need.

Ongoing Project

Eyeglasses for Lion's Club

(Note: Deposit eyeglasses in container near the coat room.)

January Pastoral Acts

BAPTISM

Elouise Addison Green

GONE BEFORE US

Loren D. Gates

Kimberly A. Walls

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

Janette Reeves
Family Minister
janettereeves@zumbrolutheran.org

Allison Passon
Communications Director
allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org

Connie Saunders
Administrative Assistant
conniesaunders@zumbrolutheran.org

Ruth Monson
Congregational Life Minister
ruthmonson@zumbrolutheran.org

Tracy Schar
Business Manager
tracyschar@zumbrolutheran.org

Bob Giere
Director of Zumbro Lutheran Choir
Director of Wednesday Worship Band
bobgiere@gmail.com

Ralph Schornack
Music Assistant

Robert Schneider
Building Manager
robertschneider@zumbrolutheran.org

Ryan Flemke
Custodian

Karla Dexter
Office Assistant
karladexter@zumbrolutheran.org

Kamen Makuer
Dinka Lay Evangelist
makuerkamen@yahoo.com

Barb Desens
Nursery Coordinator



624 Third Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55902

www.zumbrolutheran.org
(507) 288-2649

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 344
Rochester, MN 55901

Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material

PLACE
TAB HERE

PLACE
TAB HERE

PLACE LABEL HERE

PLACE
TAB HERE

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019
9:20-10:20am
Zumbro Sanctuary

Newsletter Deadline
Please submit items for the March issue
of the *Zumbro Current* by February 15, to
Allison Passon at allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org

