

*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

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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



8

## OPEN TABLE RECOGNIZED

Open Table is one of the recipients of KTTC's and United Way's 10 Who Make a Difference.

2

## PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Vern shares about his less than restful mini-sabbatical, the recent congregational survey results, and worship time changes coming this Fall.

3

## BRING FLAT JESUS

Many of you will be on the go this summer. We trust that God will be with you. As a reminder, we want you to take your very own flat Jesus with you!

7

## HELPING IAMBHI DELIVER

The OB wing at Iambi Hospital, Tanzania, is upgrading beds and equipment because of your giving. Thank you!

# A Note from Pastor Vern.

I'm back from my mini-sabbatical. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to get away and to focus on something other than pastoral ministry for a few weeks. I appreciated the change of pace. In case you missed it, I spent much of my time replacing a well-worn oak floor in our living room and a similar maple floor in a hallway. I'm happy to report that both floors are done, in spite of a few complications that popped up along the way.

Anyone who's started a project like this knows that things can get complicated in a hurry. I didn't know how to staple the tongue-and-groove floor boards to the subfloor. I didn't know there was a crawl space under the front of the house that was acting like a magnet for squirrels and other critters. I didn't know how hard it was going to be to try to level the various sections of the old and dilapidated floors. To move forward, I needed to be willing to ask questions, seek advice, and try some experiments.

So much of life seems like that. Things can get complicated in a hurry. Whether we're beginning a remodeling project, starting a new job, or trying to figure out how to be a vibrant congregation in 2017 and beyond, we have to be willing to do what I did in tackling my floors: to ask questions, to seek advice, and to try some experiments along the way.

We took a congregational survey at Zumbro this spring. Close to 400 of you participated. We were asking for feedback on everything from the Narrative Lectionary to the Big Idea Guide to worship times. Because church ministry seems

more and more complicated these days, we wanted input from you as we consider possibilities for the future. If you haven't read Pastor Lisa's helpful summary of the survey, you can find it in the June newsletter.

Both the church council and staff have spent considerable time analyzing the survey. On the basis of your responses, there are a number of things that will remain the same: 1)

**We will continue to offer the Big Idea Guide**, encouraging individuals and families to read it with others whenever possible. 2) **8:30am worship will stay at 8:30am**. A majority of you felt strongly about this. Plus, 8:30am is the only time slot available for our radio broadcast, a ministry that is important to many in our congregation. 3) **We will continue to create murals for the front of the sanctuary**. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to these murals.

In the midst of this continuity, we will try some experiments as well: 1) **We're going to move 11am worship to 10:30am**. We'll do this by shortening our 8:30am worship time to 55 minutes, having 10 minutes between worship and education, and shortening the education hour to 45 minutes. In a nutshell, getting done at 12pm feels late in our culture, especially during the football season. 2) **We're going to serve coffee in the hallway after the 10:30am service**. The majority of our newcomers attend our second service. Since worship will end by 11:25am, we hope this will provide more opportunity to build community. 3) **We will actively**

**explore livestreaming one or both of our worship services**. There seems to be a growing interest in this.

On another note, **we are moving our Wednesday worship to 6:15pm**. This will allow us to start education and choir by 7pm. It also will get families on the way home no later than 8pm. This was one of our more difficult decisions because of varying work and family schedules.

And finally, we're still engaged in conversations over whether we will continue with the Narrative Lectionary the fall. Many of you shared that it has helped you get to know the overarching story of the Bible better, but the stories are often long and somewhat hard to follow. On top of this, the schedule for the lectionary makes it harder to fit thematic sermon series—such as Reformation 500—into the mix. Stay tuned.

Thanks again for your feedback. If the survey tells us anything, it tells us that it's not "one size fits all" in today's world. There are some things we hope to try in an effort to be as vibrant as possible. I encourage your patience as we jump in and put some of these changes to work.

## New Worship & Education Times beginning September 10 & 13

### SUNDAYS

8:30am	Worship
9:35am	Education
10:30am	Worship

### WEDNESDAYS

6:15pm	Worship
7pm	Education



# Summer Road Trips

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY.

Summer is a great time for road trips. We discover new places, find ourselves in interesting

situations, and share the road with others. The journey of faith can be very similar. In this series we will explore some of the road trips that people take throughout the Bible, and as we do, we'll discover some nuggets of wisdom to guide us on our own journey of faith.

## GOD IS WITH US WHEREVER WE GO

JOSHUA 1:1-9

SUNDAY, JULY 2 | 8:30am and 10am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Grace Graszer, soloist; Samantha Sanders, piano

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 | 6pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

## WE GO OUT WITH A PURPOSE

LUKE 10:1-12; 17-20

SUNDAY, JULY 9 | 8:30am and 10am

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Hymn Sing

Music: Susan and Corey Henke, horn and piano duo

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

## WE'RE CHANGED BY THE PEOPLE WE ENCOUNTER

JOHN 4:1-15

SUNDAY, JULY 16 | 8:30am and 10am

Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

*Now the Feast and Celebration Communion Liturgy*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 | 6pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

## UNEXPECTED DETOURS CAN CHANGE US

Jonah 1:1-17

SUNDAY, JULY 23 | 8:30am and 10am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Brenda Wichmann and Mary

Hayek, vocalists

Summer Family Handbell Choir

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

## REST STOPS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE JOURNEY

MATTHEW 11:25-30

SUNDAY, JULY 30 | 8:30am and 10am

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Summer Family Worship Choir;

Kristy Giere, flute; Ralph Schornack,

piano

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

# Take Flat Jesus on the Go

Many of you will be on the go this summer. We trust that God will be with you. As a reminder, we want you to take your very own flat Jesus with you ([click here](#))

and send us some photos of all the places you travel together!

Make sure to tell us where you are in the photo. Share the photos to [Zumbro's Facebook page](#) or email them to [Pastor Lisa](#).

We'll share them on social media and before worship. We're excited to see all of the places that Jesus will go with you! Not traveling? No problem. Photos of Jesus staying home and enjoying the summer are also encouraged.



**Pastor Lisa and Charlie explored the Root River at Ironwood Spring Christian Retreat in Stewartville.**

## Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-11:15am

Not staffed Wednesday evenings

## Hymn Sing

JULY 9 & AUGUST 13

We'll sing some of your favorite hymns throughout the summer on the second Sunday in July and August.

## Summer Family Worship Choir

Singers of all ages are welcome to be a part of the Summer Family Worship Choir as they sing for worship on Sunday, July 30, at the 8:30am service and the beginning of the 10am service. Come for a short rehearsal on Wednesday, July 26, at 7pm in the Choir Room. If unable to attend on July 26, show up at 8am Sunday, July 30, for the warm up in the Choir Room. Sign up in the *Life at Zumbro* beginning July 9. All are welcome!

## Blessing of the Animals

AUGUST 30

As a part of Wednesday worship, we will bless our furry, scaly, and feathery best friends. Bring your pet as we gather on the east patio to praise God for God's good creatures and creation. Of course, worshippers without pets are always welcome! We'll worship rain or shine.



## re-sil-i-ence

THE ABILITY TO RECOVER FROM ADVERSITY OR CHALLENGE

Setbacks. Challenges. Life changes. All of us experience adversity, yet each of us responds differently. What makes some people more resilient than others? In this series, we will encounter some of the most resilient people in the Bible and explore how they faced adversity with courage, strength, and faith.

### PAUL RESILIENCE IS BELIEVING THAT GOD'S GRACE IS ENOUGH.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:21b-30; 12:7b-10

SUNDAY, AUG. 6 | 8:30am and 10am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Cailyn Johnson, soloist; Zumbro

Flute Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9 | 6pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### MIRIAM RESILIENCE IS THINKING CREATIVELY DURING HARD TIMES.

EXODUS 2:1-10

SUNDAY, AUG. 13 | 8:30am and 10am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Hymn Sing

Music: Zumbro Handbell Quartet

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

### JOB RESILIENCE IS TRUSTING THAT GOD IS PRESENT IN SUFFERING.

JOB 1:1-22; 2:4-10

SUNDAY, AUG. 20 | 8:30am and 10am

Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

*Now the Feast and Celebration Communion*

Liturgy

Music: Krista Jacobson, soloist

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23 | 6pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### NAOMI RESILIENCE IS KNOWING YOU DON'T NEED TO GO IT ALONE.

RUTH 1:1-22

SUNDAY, AUG. 27 | 8:30am and 10am

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Music: Mary Schneekloth, harpist

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Blessing of the Animals

### DANIEL RESILIENCE IS REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

DANIEL 6:10-28

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

Music: Janette Reeves, soloist

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6 | 6pm



# Vacation Bible School

For one week this June, more than 90 children filled Zumbro's halls, rooms, Sanctuary, and patio with a joy and energy that only they can bring. Highlights of VBS week include learning that God made each one of us for a purpose, packing enough meals to feed 73 children for a year at Feed My Starving Children, touring the Open Table Food Ministry food truck, being transported to a different time during Bible story telling, and singing their hearts out proclaiming the love they have for God. See more photos at [www.facebook.com/zumbrolutheran](http://www.facebook.com/zumbrolutheran)



## Tenth Triennial Convention Gathering

JULY 13-16

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for more information and to register for this women's event.

## ZWELCA Summer Bible Study

AUGUST 2 | 10:30am-1:30pm

ZUMBRO

Watch the *Life at Zumbro* for event details and sign-up.

## Children and Youth Ring-n-Sing

GRADES K-8

Beginning in September, kids in grades K-8 will have the opportunity to split an hour on Wednesdays from 5-5:55pm learning how to play handchimes, handbells, and fun new handbells designed for our youngest ringers! Family Minister Janette Reeves will work magic with the singers and Music Minister Kristy Giere will teach handbells. No musical experience is needed! Zumbro Choristers and Junior Ringers are for grades 4-8 and a new name will be announced for our youngest ringers and singers in September.

## Pray for Summer Youth Mission Trips

On Tuesday, July 4, Zumbro is sending out seven adult leaders and 25 high school youth to Montego Bay, Jamaica for a Mission Jamaica youth mission trip. On Sunday, July 9, Zumbro is sending out three adult leaders and 11 middle school youth to Lake Traverse, SD for a YouthWorks mission trip. Both trips will *share the hope of Jesus* in July at their different locations. Please pray for safe travels for both of these groups. Thank you for your continued support of the summer youth mission trips over this past year! We can't wait to share our stories with you in August! Watch for details about the Trip Celebration Sunday, August 27.

## 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

## May Project Update

Mary Circle assembled 59 baby kits for Lutheran World Relief! Thank you!

# July Action Project

BENEFICIARY: School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Receiving backpacks of school supplies means that children can attend school with everything needed to obtain a good education. Items should be new or in good condition. Please help by donating these items:

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 70-sheet notebooks (wide- or college-ruled)
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades)
- 30-centimeter ruler (or with centimeters and inches)
- Pencil sharpener
- New #2 pencils (unsharpened, with erasers)
- Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Eraser (approx. 2.5 inches long)
- 16 or 24 count box of crayons
- Backpack style cloth bag (sturdy; approximately 14 inches x 16 inches with shoulder straps)

All Items can be placed in the Action Box outside of the Lounge. Shopping lists are available at the Action Box.

# August Action Project

BENEFICIARY: Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

The personal care kits are often given to people around the world who have lost everything due to earthquake, violence, or other disasters. People receive a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world. You can share God's grace and love by providing that simple comfort. Items should be new.

Please help by donating these items:

ITEMS NEEDED:

- 2 bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping
- Adult-size toothbrush in original packaging (Toothbrushes in multi-packs can be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelope.)
- Sturdy comb (remove packaging)
- Metal nail clippers (remove packaging)

All Items can be placed in the Action Box outside of the Lounge. Shopping lists are available at the Action Box.



# Helping Iambi Deliver Update



**BEFORE:** Dr. Nyenje and an OB nurse described for us why these old delivery beds needed to be replaced.



**AFTER:** Three new delivery beds were purchased as a part of Zumbro's Helping Iambi Deliver campaign. Thank you!



**BEFORE:** A new mom and grandma sit on old, run-down mattresses.



**AFTER:** New beds, mattresses, and bed side stands fill the newly painted OB ward, making a hospital stay dignified and comfortable for new moms.



*On behalf of the community of Iambi Lutheran Hospital, I thank you for your wonderful gift for the women of the community of Nkungi and other neighboring communities. Iambi Lutheran Hospital, from our local income, we shall continue to make*

*renovations in other wards. They really need renovation.*

*Otherwise, continue to pray for Iambi Lutheran Hospital. As a new leader in this new position, I still have a lot to do here at the hospital for the aim of bringing positive changes to the hospital.*

*In love and partnership,  
Rev. Manase Elias Msengi  
Iambi Lutheran Hospital, Director*



**Pastor Manase Elias Msengi**

# Open Table Recognized

Each year KTTC and United Way of Olmsted County recognize ten individuals or groups within Southeastern Minnesota and Northern Iowa who have made an impact in their community through volunteering. This year Open Table was selected as an award recipient!

Open Table volunteers and other recipients were honored on Wednesday, June 21, on the Rochesterfest main stage, and were spotlighted in a story on KTTC on June 19.

Thank you to the many, many volunteers who support this ministry! We couldn't do this without each of you who donate food, prepare food, serve meals, greet guests, and help with clean-up. Because of your efforts, we are serving an average of 250 burritos every Thursday evening and are exploring new locations and evenings to serve from our food truck. Together we are making a difference.

To become an Open Table volunteer, contact Zumbro member Kirsten Lincoln.



Open Table serves new guests every Thursday evening.



Open Table volunteers gathered for a volunteer celebration in June. Pictured: Jan Vetter, Sarah Larson, Pastor Lisa Kipp, and Pastor Dan Doering (People of Hope).

## Your Response to South Sudan

We lifted up the hunger crisis impacting our brothers and sisters in South Sudan last month, and you responded. In three weeks, you provided \$3,988 that will directly help hungry people and provide some hope. Thank you for your generous gifts. Please continue to pray that God will work in the people of South Sudan, for stability and integrity for South Sudan's government, and that peace will come soon.





## Art Camp

GRADES K-12

Wrap up the summer with a week of creativity and art exploration! This week-long camp will give students an opportunity to explore a variety of art mediums as they experience Bible stories and turn them into art. Learn more and register at [www.zumbrolutheran.org/art-camp](http://www.zumbrolutheran.org/art-camp)



**Art Camp 2016 participants flexing their creative muscles bringing Biblical stories to new life through various art medium.**

## SENT TO SERVE

### Samaritan Bethany Worship Friends

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

8:30-10am | 9:30-11am | 8:30-11am

Your help is needed to join

Samaritan Bethany residents in worship at the Samaritan Bethany chapel. Responsibilities include: aiding the residents to and from their rooms to the chapel and worshipping with them. Sign up to volunteer in the *Life at Zumbro* during July. Contact Nancy Berg at [berg1433@gmail.com](mailto:berg1433@gmail.com) with your questions.

### Family Promise News

Family Promise provides shelter to families with children ages 16 and under who find themselves without housing.

Though Zumbro is no longer a host site, there is a dedicated group of members who continue to serve as volunteers when families stay at Christ United Methodist Church, and First Presbyterian Church. Volunteers from these three congregations provide an evening meal, evening hosts, overnight hosts, and drivers to and from the Family Promise home base. New volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Betty Schmalz ([schmalzbp75@gmail.com](mailto:schmalzbp75@gmail.com)) or Vicki Erickson ([erickson.vah@gmail.com](mailto:erickson.vah@gmail.com)) for more information. The dates of our next host weeks are:

- July 16-23 | Christ United Methodist Church
- October 15-22 | First Presbyterian Church

## New Website

When the Zumbro brand was completed in early 2016, the bulletin and *The Zumbro Current* saw updates to reflect the new brand. The next communication channel to be updated is the Zumbro website. Soulo Communications, the marketing firm that designed the Zumbro brand, has been working with Communications Director Allison Passon to update the website. A new website is coming this summer!

## Fair Trade Goods

Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, and goods will be sold before and after worship services on the first Sunday of the month during the summer.

## Remember While Cleaning

Remember to set aside those treasures that no longer work for you. Donate your unwanted items to the Christmas Bazaar's Attic Treasures happening this December. Attic Treasures accepts Scandinavian items, collectibles, books, toys, games, household items, home décor, holiday decorations, and much more. Please no clothing or computers. Thank you!

# Meet the Architects



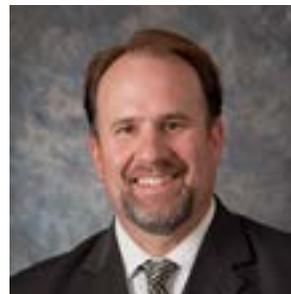
Widseth Smith Nolting (WSN) ([widsethsmithnolting.com](http://widsethsmithnolting.com)) is a multi-disciplinary design firm with professionals across Minnesota and North Dakota. The WSN team in Rochester includes church design

specialists in the architecture and engineering group, as well as specialists in infrastructure planning for new development sites. Their dedicated team of David Kane, Dana Hlebichuk, and Alex Schrader is a seasoned team with over 100 years of combined experience, on more than 300 church projects in Minnesota and Iowa. They will work closely with the Facilities Visioning Team, the staff, and congregation groups to develop a Master Plan and design documents that solve current issues and will allow the Zumbro Lutheran Church mission to thrive in the future.

On June 13, and June 20, 2017, the WSN team met with six Zumbro teams and interested groups to discuss how the building enhances and hinders some of the many functions that take place inside. They heard some common themes: accessibility, acoustics in the Sanctuary, lack of storage, meeting space, and wayfinding. They will compile these findings into a program of needs. This program will guide future design direction and will inform the Master Plan of the entire campus. After this overall guide is developed, the building program and Master Plan will be completed, building projects can be prioritized and design documentation can be developed. They are excited for this process with Zumbro and look forward to ground breaking on a revamped facility that empowers our missions, inspires our worshipping body, and attracts others to join. The WSN team is thankful and honored to be working with such hardworking, caring, and amiable groups at Zumbro Lutheran Church.



**David Kane**



**Dana Hlebichuk**



**Alex Schrader**





# Zumbro Staff Update

J.T. Walls', Building Maintenance and Custodian, last day at Zumbro Lutheran Church was Friday, June 30. He accepted a custodian and boiler operator position with the Byron Public School District. We wish him well in the next chapter of his career and thank him for 10 years of faithful service. We will celebrate and share our appreciation for him on Sunday, July 9.

## Join us for Worship on the Patio this Summer! Wednesdays at 6pm



### FYI

## June Pastoral Acts

### BAPTISMS

Norah Grace Ugland

Frederick Eugene Hollister

### MARRIAGES

Kristin Lear and Nathaniel Lutz

Heather Franks and Christopher Silker

### SAINTS GONE BEFORE US

Helen L. Johnson

Shirley R. Adams

## Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 10am

July 9, 23, 30

August 13, 27

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am

September 10, 24

WEDNESDAY AT 6pm

July 12, 26

August 2, 16, 30

WEDNESDAY AT 6:15pm

September 13, 27

# 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 Band  
bobgiere@zumbrolutheran.org

Ralph Schornack  
Music Assistant

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 September issue of the *Zumbro Current* by August 15, to [zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org)

**New Worship & Education Times**  
beginning September 10 & 13

**SUNDAYS**

8:30am	Worship
9:35am	Education
10:30am	Worship

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:15pm	Worship
7pm	Education

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