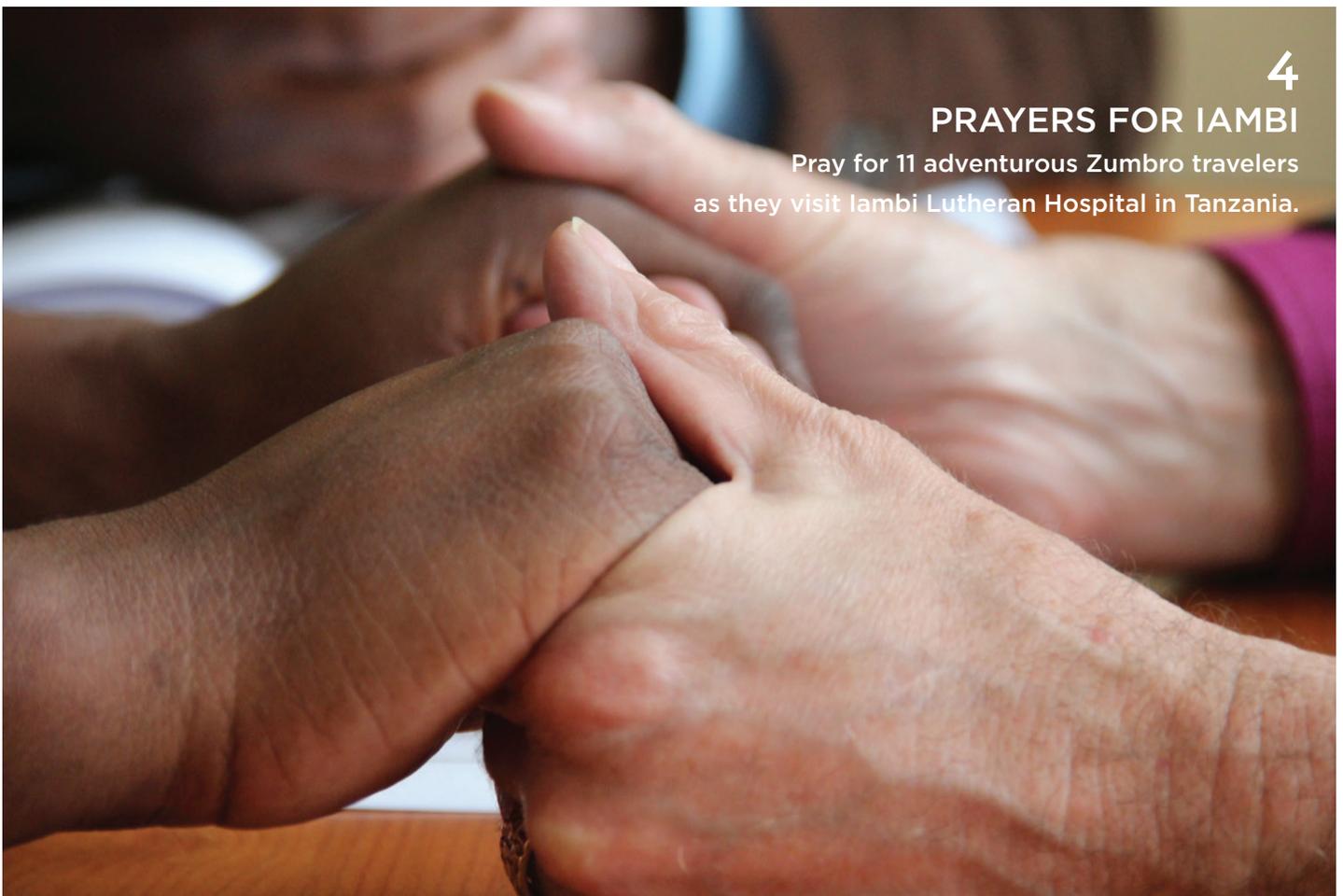


*Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.*

# THE ZUMBRO Current

FEBRUARY 2017

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



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## PRAYERS FOR IAMBI

Pray for 11 adventurous Zumbro travelers as they visit Iambi Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania.

2

## 500th ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg church. Pastor Vern shares ideas of ways Zumbro could celebrate.

6 & 7

## MARRIAGE REFLECTIONS

A Zumbro couple that celebrates its 67th anniversary and one that celebrates its 1st in 2017 reflect on their love and commitment.

8

## BIGGEST FUNDRAISER

Youth Stock is Zumbro's biggest fundraiser supporting youth summer mission trips. There are new ways to invest in the work they do in the world this year.

# Welcoming the Stranger

Many of you visited the Martin Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art over the past few months. It was an opportunity to see first-hand Luther's pulpit, desk, and various manuscripts. People told me that they found the experience both educational and inspiring.

This exhibit coincided with the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. For those who might not know, Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517. His intention was to spark a debate in the church, especially over the use and abuse of indulgences. Luther was deeply troubled over the practice of selling indulgences to shorten up a person's time in purgatory. As it turns out, not only did Luther spark a debate, he started a movement.

If the Luther exhibit is any indication, there is a good deal of interest in remembering our heritage as Lutherans. This goes for everything from historical events, to Luther's key teaching, to the Small Catechism. Many of us remember studying from the catechism, and memorizing it, and then being asked question about it during a public catechization.

At Zumbro, we've begun having conversations about how to observe and celebrate our 500th anniversary. We haven't fully developed our list, but we're working on it. And we're open to suggestions. Here are a few of the things we're considering:

- Movie night showing *Luther and the Reformation*
- Focus on parts of the Small Catechism during worship (Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed)
- Sermon series during the summer on Lutheran teachings
- Visit from Martin and Katie
- A "Here I Stand" journey to the Wittenberg door
- Book study on a Luther biography
- Synod-wide hymn sing in November

Again, this is just the beginning. We welcome your input. That said, there can be a danger in all this. Not everyone comes from a Lutheran tradition; those who don't might be bored silly with all this Luther talk. Also, many of the issues with which Luther struggled are not the same as the issues we are struggling with today. In other words, the church really is in a different place than it was back in 1517.



In 1947, theologian Karl Barth made an important point: "The church must always be reformed." It's possible that Barth was inspired by some of the teachings of the Reformation. What the quote says to me is that the church, in any time and place, is far from perfect. God is always about the work of making God's church new. This gives me comfort...and hope.

*Pastor Vern*

Pastor Vern Christopherson

# Worship Details

## The Gospel for Everyone

### JESUS RAISES A WIDOW'S SON

LUKE 7:1-17

SUNDAY, FEB. 5 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

(8:30am); Zumbro Brass Ensemble

(8:30am and 11am); ; Mia Suzuki, soloist

(11am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8 | 6pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### JOHN HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS

Luke 7:18-35

SUNDAY, FEB. 12 | 8:30am and 11am

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Music: Janette Reeves, soloist (8:30am);

Patty Pellikka, instrumentalists (8:30am

and 11am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir,

Junior Ringers (11am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### A SINFUL WOMAN SEEKS FORGIVENESS

Luke 7:36-50

SUNDAY, FEB. 19 | 8:30am and 11am

Holy Communion

Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Zumbro Choristers' Musical: *Once Upon*

*a Parable*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### TRANSFIGURATION ON A MOUNTAINTOP

Luke 9:28-45

SUNDAY, FEB. 26 | 8:30am and 11am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bel

Canto Handbell Choir (8:30am and

11am)

### THE PRACTICE OF WAKING UP TO GOD

Luke 9:51-62

ASH WEDNESDAY, MAR. 1 | 6pm

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

## Wednesday Evening Worship

Looking for a place of renewal in the middle of your busy week? Join us for worship every Wednesday at 6pm. The glow of candles creates space for holy encounters. The band leads music that is contemporary and contemplative. And the messages are filled with ideas for real-life faith application. Come as you are. All are welcome.

## Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45-8pm

## The Gospel for Everyone

Our sermon series is, *The Gospel for Everyone*. Of the four gospels, Luke is the most open to welcoming a wide variety of people to come and follow Jesus. We get a hint of that in Luke 2 when the angel proclaims: "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." As the ministry of Jesus unfolds, we will find out more about what that good news means and just how inclusive Jesus is.

## Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am

February 12

March 12, 26

April 9, 23, 30

SATURDAY AT 7pm

April 15

WEDNESDAY AT 6pm

February 1, 15

March 15, 29

April 26

# Prayers for Iambi

This month eleven adventurous Zumbro travelers will visit our mission partners at Iambi Lutheran Hospital in rural Tanzania. The team looks forward to sharing many stories on the Zumbro blog. In the meantime, please use these photos as a guide and pray for Zumbro's partnership with Iambi Lutheran Hospital. Your support is invaluable.



Every time we return to Iambi we journey with specific goals in mind, but the ultimate goal is always that we strengthen our relationship with the hospital. Pray that our relationship will grow and that through all of our conversations we will share the hope of Jesus with one another.



The team will travel 18 hours by plane and eight hours by land rover to get to Iambi Hospital. Pray for safe travels and rest for the weary.



Last year the hospital invited our group to return and offer education for the staff. Pray for wise teachers, willing learners, and that language and cultural barriers might be transcended.



Technology experts from Zumbro will be helping the hospital staff set up a computer network. Pray that the solutions we discover together will be useful for the staff and improve the level of care provided at Iambi.



We will meet with medical supply distributors to purchase supplies with the funds raised during our "Helping Iambi Deliver" campaign. Pray that the supplies will help the staff deliver quality, compassionate care to their patients.

## 2016 TEAM

- Brenda Brown Kennedy
- Paula Craigo
- Bob & Sue Jenkins
- Pastor Lisa Kipp
- Gaspar Kitange
- Ann Leland
- Mike & Julie Neumann
- Roger & Brenda Wichmann



# Adult Forum

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

FEBRUARY 5 NO FORUM - ANNUAL MEETING, SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 12 WHY WAS THE GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS?

Presenter: Dr. Phil Quanbeck, Augsburg College Religion Professor

The unlikely rise of Christianity in the first century is unparalleled to any other social or religious movement in history. What was it about the message of this poor wandering Jewish rabbi that got so many people's attention? First Jesus drew crowds; then he drew disciples. Why did people follow Jesus? What does following Jesus mean for us today?

FEBRUARY 19 DID THEY KNOW THEY WERE CHRISTIANS BY THEIR LOVE?

Presenter: Dr. Phil Quanbeck, Augsburg College Religion Professor

We continue Dr. Phil's exploration of Jesus' good news in Luke, Acts, and 1 Corinthians. Who were the first Christians and what drew them together? What might we learn today from their experience?

FEBRUARY 26 FIVE THINGS WE'VE DONE WITH FOOD THAT CAUSES US TO EAT TOO MUCH

Presenter: Dr. Mike Jensen, Mayo Clinic

Michael D. Jensen, M.D., and his lab study the effects of obesity and how body fat and body fat distribution influence health. He will discuss recent findings about the nature of our appetites and the food that is produced to make us hungry for particular things. Dr. Jensen will also have a survey available for willing participants that will help better identify community learning goals for nutrition.

## Safety Training

SUNDAY, FEB. 12 | 12pm

COST: FREE | ZUMBRO LOUNGE

Protected In Christ's Name (PICN) is an hour-long training that is necessary for everyone who works with children and youth at Zumbro. Training covers guidelines for leaders, signs of abuse/neglect, when and how to report, and self-care. A new Minnesota background check will be completed, so please bring your driver's license. This training is required every five years for all people who work with youth and children here at Zumbro. Please contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard to register for this training.

## High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8:15pm  
YOUTH ROOM

## Save the Date: High School Graduate Recognition

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

## Save the Date: Leadership Event for High School Youth

THURSDAY, MAR. 9 | COST: FREE  
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE  
STEP UP is a leadership development event open for all high school students. This day-long experience will introduce youth to college-level concepts of leadership and will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. Please contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard with interest.

# Dancing in Love Through Life

by Allison Passon, Communications Lead



Betty and Harvey Holtan on their wedding day at East St. Olaf Church, Byron, MN, June 16, 1950.

Harvey and Betty Holtan met, like many of their generation, at a dance. It was at the senior center, and they had danced together before their first date. On that fateful first date, Harvey asked to drive Betty home that night. After misplacing his new car, replacing oil in his brother's older, not as cool, car, they were on their way. Despite a "bumpy" first ride, their love story was as they say, history.

Faith in God and Jesus is a cornerstone in their marriage. According to Harvey "his mother walked with Jesus everyday." His mother influenced his faith growing up and subsequently influenced Betty's faith. When Betty was growing up, going to church, God and faith weren't discussed. She hadn't been baptized or confirmed. It wasn't a thought in her mind until she started attending worship services with Harvey at Zumbro Lutheran Church. A year before they were married, she chose to be baptized and confirmed.

Their faith kept growing and still does everyday. When their children were little, they would read the Bible, pray, and complete a devotion with them. Now, years later, they read and discuss a devotion every night in bed before a kiss and "goodnight."

Betty and Harvey have two pieces of advice for newlyweds and love birds of any length of time:

## 1. Have a church home.

"This fills your soul and offers a stable grounded foundation."

## 2. Have a common interest.

"Find something that you both enjoy doing and do it together."

Despite Harvey's unsuccessful attempt to persuade Betty into golfing, they do have a shared personal interest. And it all started at the beginning. Dancing. "We met dancing and have been dancing all our life."



Betty and Harvey Holtan 65 years later.

# Newlyweds Reflect

by Allison Passon, Communications Lead & Wedding Coordinator

I first met Kari and Austin on a beautiful May evening. As their wedding coordinator, this was our first meeting to get to know one another and for me to learn about their vision for their wedding. It was also necessary for me to have them start thinking about some minor but important details.

Kari walked in first and I immediately knew that she was the one I wanted to talk to—her smile showed through her entire body. She was a very happy bride. Austin was stoic, yet concerned and thoughtful. They both were focused on the commitment and lifelong love that marriage is.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, they pledged their respect and love to each other witnessed by loved ones, friends, and God. Six months into their marriage I checked back in to see how things were going. As busy individuals, Kari is in medical residency at Mayo Clinic and Austin works at a local bank, it is easy to get swept away by work and responsibilities.

## **Do you remember your first kiss?**

We actually met the first day of college. We were in the same orientation group and naturally fell into the same group of friends thereafter. We were great friends, but both of us thought on and off that maybe there could be something more. So we started hanging out as a two some and eventually found ourselves watching *Princess*

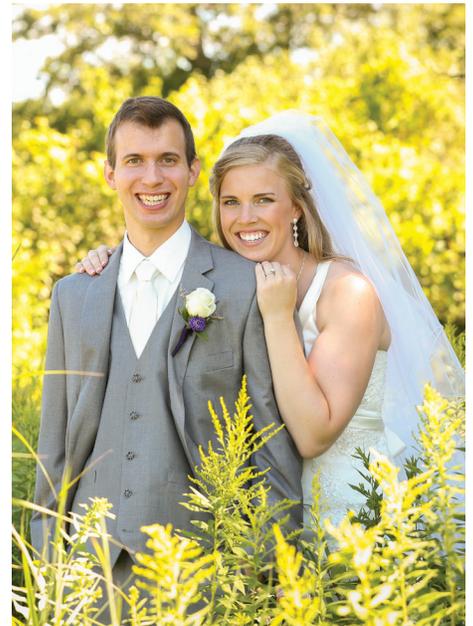
*Bride* (obviously the ultimate romance movie) in Austin's dorm room one evening. Although he will deny it fervently, Austin "subtly" pulled the classic stretch-turning-into-arm-over-the-shoulder move (smooth.....) and leaned in for the kiss. It was, as they say, electric. And the rest is history.

## **How do you both intentionally stay connected in this busy world?**

Each evening when Kari gets home from work (which can be pretty late sometimes...), we take an hour or two to relax, watch some HGTV (gotta love those updated kitchens!), play with our dog, and chat about the day. It's a good refresher at the end of tough days and allows for some reflection on difficult or interesting things that happened.

## **How is your love and your faith woven together?**

We both came from Christian families and thus have many Christian values woven into our moral fabric—selflessness, forgiveness, compassion, unconditional love. These become increasingly important as we progress through married life. We try to keep these values in mind when things are great and when things aren't perfect. We attend Sunday services together which allows us to reflect on our life and just be at rest together for one full hour out of a hectic week. And though we're not the most devout people you'll ever



Austin and Kari Phillips on their wedding day August 6, 2016.

meet, we try to live our life in a way that we can feel proud of—reflecting our values in all areas of our life. We believe in being conscientious citizens of a diverse, global community. We try to do what we can with what we have where we are to make that community better. Discussions around donations of talent, treasure, and time for different charitable causes bring us closer. Through conversation, we learn about what needs the other sees in the world and how we can best address those needs as individuals and as a couple.

# Invest in Zumbro's Summer Youth Mission Trips

Each year, the people of Zumbro are invited through a phone call from middle and high school youth to invest in their summer mission trips by purchasing stock. This fundraiser, Youth Stock, is the largest fundraiser for mission trips. It offers a chance for those to financially support the work and to be included along the way.

New this year, in addition to a phone call on February 4 and 5, you will be able to buy stock online (visit [www.zumbrolutheran.org](http://www.zumbrolutheran.org) for details).

Each share of stock is \$10. Checks can be made payable to Zumbro Lutheran Church and marked "Youth Stock." If you purchase stock early, you will not receive a call from a youth.

Your giving not only makes a difference in the lives of our youth, but also in the lives of the people they will serve this summer in Lake Traverse, SD, and Jamaica. As a thank you, you will receive a postcard from both of the summer mission trips and be invited to our "Mission Trip Celebration Sunday" in August.

Again, thank you for the many ways that you support our mission-minded Zumbro youth. We look forward to sharing our stories with you! If you'd prefer not to receive a call for youth stock, please let Family Minister Kris Oppegard know by February 2.



A group from the 2016 high school mission trip in Denver pictured here working at the Food Bank of the Rockies. They packed 693 boxes of food, or nearly 21,000 pounds in one day.



Can you spy the middle schoolers hiding in the cornstocks during the 2016 middle school mission trip in Indianapolis?



A group of middle schoolers are pictured serving in Indianapolis mission trip. They reached out with compassion at Meridian Nursing Home, Wheeler Thrift Store, and Gleaners Food Warehouse.



A group of high schoolers doing dishes after a potluck upon their arrival to one of their destination points, North Platte, Nebraska, on their journey to Denver.

# Action Project

BENEFICIARY: GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

Gift of Life provides services for solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant patients and their families. Learn more at [gift-of-life.org](http://gift-of-life.org)

## ITEMS NEEDED

- Paper towels
- Anti-bacterial general purpose cleaner
- Wrapped candy and candy bars
- \$25 to cover one night for a family in need
- Forever postage stamps
- Decaffeinated coffee

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

# Serve the Youngest of Us

The Zumbro nursery is a wonderful, welcoming place for Zumbro's youngest children from 0-4 years old. We have a trained and energetic staff that works tirelessly to engage the children during their time in the nursery on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. But, extra hands are always needed. If you are interested in becoming a nursery volunteer, please contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard. Volunteers need to be confirmed youth and older. Volunteers will also be asked to go through a training and background check.

# Got the Mid-Winter Blues?

Get out of a rut and join the Zumbro Lutheran Choir for rehearsals each Wednesday night at 7pm. Now's a great time to join before the Lent and Easter season. 2017 will be a year full of great choral music as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Like Bach and Buxtehude? We've got you covered! Contact Bob Giere, Director of the Zumbro Lutheran Choir, with questions.

## 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 Action Projects

#### NOVEMBER

Two medium-sized boxes of toys, one medium-sized box of personal care items, one large box of pajamas, robes, lounging socks, warm hats, and seven fleece blankets were sent to the Women's Shelter.

#### DECEMBER

Coffee, hats, gloves, toilet paper, paper towels, and two bags of personal care items were sent to the Women's Shelter.

### **Save the Date**

Luther College Jazz Orchestra in concert at Zumbro Lutheran Church.

FRIDAY, MAR. 17 | 7pm

Look for opportunities through *Life at Zumbro* to assist with the concert by ushering, greeting, and serving a meal to the Luther students before the concert. Questions may be addressed to Director of Music, Kristy Giere.

### **January Pastoral Acts**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Kennard B. LeClaire  
Roger O. Haugen

## **World Day of Prayer**

SATURDAY, MAR. 4 | 10am

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | ROCHESTER

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen’s initiative and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on or around the first Friday in March. The purpose is to bring together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer through closer fellowship, understanding, and action. The focus of World Day of Prayer is to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. The event includes a worship experience written by women of the Philippines with featured speaker Pastor of Missions, Woody Roland, of Autumn Ridge Church, Rochester.

## **Tea for the Grieving and Healing Soul**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22 | 2-3:30pm

THURSDAY, FEB. 23 | 6:30-8pm

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

How do we bring healing to our soul when our heart has been broken open because of the loss of a loved one? Whether you are dealing with an anticipatory loss due to illness or have had a loved one die, you are invited to join us 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 event will be led by Pastor Audrey Lukasak, Bereavement Coordinator with Heartland Hospice. This session is offered twice. Contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson for more information. RSVP using the *Life at Zumbro* yellow insert and myZLC.



Dear Members of Zumbro,

Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, messages, and letters during my recent mission trip to Slovakia. I am so grateful for everything. Thanks, too, for the many expressions of welcome I have received since returning. I have been home about four weeks and I am slowly adjusting!

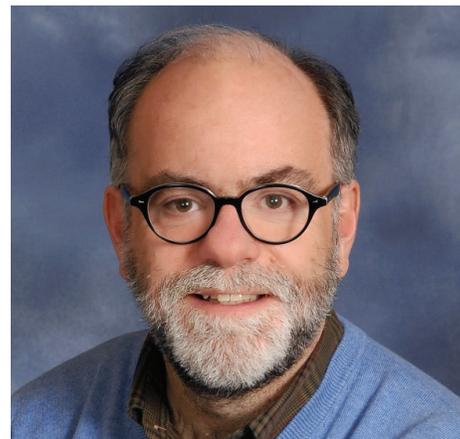
I had a wonderful experience teaching at our Lutheran high school in Martin, Slovakia! I interacted with more than 100 students each week, teaching English, playing music, leading devotions, and learning about life in another culture. I worked with a dedicated group of Slovak teachers who devote their lives to educating young people and sharing their faith. The school is growing! It's a lively place with lots of positive energy.

I was also warmly welcomed into the congregation in Martin. With the help of translators, I had rich worship experiences each week. In addition, I sang in the choir, played some folk music, attended the men's Bible study, and started a brass quartet.

This was a great faith experience. I had such a strong feeling of being in the right place, doing important work. I also had so many people who helped me with the challenges of a new culture and place. I truly felt the gift of hospitality and welcome.

My time in Martin was cut short. Because of some long-term financial considerations, I needed to return to my job at RCTC this month. With a heavy heart, I said goodbye to the school and congregation there for now. Again, I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received at Zumbro since returning. Your support means so much to me.

Matt Hafar



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Barb Desens  
Nursery Coordinator



### Newsletter Deadline

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

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(507) 288-2649

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