

*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

JANUARY 2017

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



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## HISTORY IN THE MUSICAL

Reminisce about past Zumbro Choristers musicals and look head to this year's.

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## WELCOME THE STRANGER

Pastor Vern reiterates that as followers of Jesus, we are called to share the hope of Jesus with any and all.

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## SHARE THE HOPE

Sharing the hope of Jesus is not necessarily easy for Lutherans. Read why this is important and start naming the ways you see Jesus offering hope to the world.

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## AIM TO DEACON

Family Minister Kris Opegard explains the shift in her rostered title with the ELCA.

# Welcoming the Stranger

Over the winter months, we will continue to focus on the Gospel of Luke. I find Luke particularly compelling for a very simple reason: He seems to find room for everyone. When Jesus is born, the angel says, “I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.” And when Jesus begins his public ministry (Luke 4), he proclaims that he has come with good news for the poor, the blind, the captives, and the oppressed. One can’t help but wonder: Who else will be included in the stories Luke tells?

Clearly, good news can come to a variety of people in any number of ways. When I was growing up, we had eight kids in our family. Food was scarce, but we always seemed to have enough. Every so often a “hobo” would show up at mealtime. As far as I know, my parents never said no to them. While they didn’t invite the hobos into our house, they did fix a plate for them to eat on the front steps. They showed them hospitality. And in so doing, they welcomed the stranger.

Have you ever done anything like that? Inviting strangers into our home—and into our lives—might seem like a gracious thing to do, until we actually meet those strangers face to face. Questions are bound to come up: Do we have anything in common? Are they safe? Should they be doing a better job of taking care of themselves? If we don’t reach out to them, who will?

Welcoming the stranger is a major theme in the Bible. In Genesis 18 three visitors show up at the tent of Abraham and Sarah. According to the custom of the day, Abraham and Sarah are expected to welcome them and provide for their needs. As the story unfolds, we learn that these three visitors are angels. They have come to announce that Sarah is going to have a baby. This story is echoed in Hebrews 13: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

I’m not suggesting that welcoming strangers is easy. Nor am I suggesting that we should take unnecessary risks in doing so. What I am saying is that we as followers of Jesus are called to share the hope of Jesus with any and all. That can mean any number of things: getting to know someone of a different race; reaching out to a person at work who’s not particularly lovable; building stronger communication with an estranged member of the family. Each of these persons can feel like a stranger to us. The question is: Can we find a way to welcome them?



We will explore this theme more fully in our sermon series in January and February: *The Gospel for Everyone*. You might also want to check out the Thursday book study that I will be leading: *Fear of the Stranger*.

There’s a lot at stake in these efforts. In today’s world, we hear over and over again that we need to fear the stranger and instead look after ourselves. I think Jesus is calling us to rethink that, and maybe even to find way to welcome a hobo or two. Who knows, if and when we do, we might be entertaining angels without know it.

*Pastor Vern*

Pastor Vern



# Worship Details

## The Gospel for Everyone

### SIMEON AND ANNA VIST THE CHRIST CHILD

LUKE 2:21-38

SUNDAY, JAN. 1 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Holy Communion  
 Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner  
 Music: Ralph Schornack, vocalist

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4 | 6pm  
 Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

Luke 3:1-22

SUNDAY, JAN. 8 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
 Music: Janette Reeves, soloist (8:30am);  
 Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11  
 Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### JESUS PREACHES HIS FIRST SERMON

Luke 4:14-30

SUNDAY, JAN. 15 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Holy Communion  
 Prayers for Healing  
 Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp  
 Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir  
 (8:30am); Susan Henke and Kristy Giere,  
 organ duet (8:30am and 11am); Zumbro  
 Choristers (11am)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21  
 Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

### JESUS CALLS DISCIPLES TO FOLLOW HIM

Luke 5:1-11

SUNDAY, JAN. 22 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner  
 Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Zumbro  
 Handbell Quartet (8:30am and 11am)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25  
 Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH

Luke 6:1-16

SUNDAY, JAN. 29 | 8:30am and 11am  
 Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson  
 Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir  
 (8:30am), Bel Canto Handbell Choir  
 (8:30am and 11am), Zumbro Choristers  
 (11am)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5  
 Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

## Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm

WEDNESDAYS | 5:45-8pm

## The Gospel for Everyone

Our sermon series in January and February 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

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am

January 8, 22, 29

February 12

March 12, 26

WEDNESDAY AT 6pm

January 11, 25

February 1, 15

March 1, 15, 29

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

# A History of Choristers Musicals

Janette Reeves, Family Minister



When I first arrived at Zumbro Lutheran Church in December of 1992, I quickly realized that I had found my true church home. The most prominent reasons for that realization was the excellent music that fed my soul and that I was able to contribute to as well. The Zumbro Choristers musical was a favorite tradition for the congregation and quickly became a highlight for me. Led by Ann Beatty and Jeff Daehn, the musical had been presented the last weekend of January since 1984. I asked Ann to share some memories of the beginnings of the Choristers musicals.

"I clearly remember working on *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat* the winter of 1984 with Jeff Daehn and 'junior

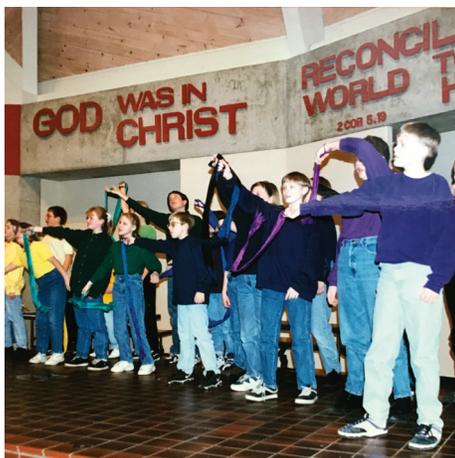
high boys' from the Horntvedt, Allen, MacGregor, and Brooks families as well as others. During the many rehearsals, I learned I was pregnant. These boys were very excited when nine months later I delivered our twin sons and named one of them Joseph.... (and the other Paul). Several of them actually became regular babysitters for our family, so special bonds were created from this musical."

One more memory I have is of Bob Morse as our "Main Man on the Drums!" The year of *Noah's Flood* it was his idea to show up with a piece of tin that he rattled to make "lightning and thunder" sounds. The musicals were the start of a longtime friendship with Bob. He and Ancy would

kindly delay their winter get-away travels until after the musical was over so we could count on him in the band. And each year when I see him still adding his fancy, but steady touches to the show, my heart sings!" (Bob continues to help with percussion when he can ... that's over 30 years!)

Over the years leadership shifted from Ann and Jeff to Kris Harms, Shelley Sperling, Missy Hagen, Kristy Giere, and Jeff Mundt. Nine years ago I began directing the Zumbro Choristers and with the choir, leadership of the annual musical came to me. Jonah Amundsen has been in every single one of those musicals. He began in my first, *A Technicolor Promise* in 2008 and continued through his senior year in high school in 2016. I asked Jonah to share some of his memories as well.

"When I participated in my first Choristers musical in fourth grade, little did I know that it would lead to being in nine years of musicals! My big break came in seventh grade when



1997 A Technicolor Promise



2008 A Technicolor Promise



I played the Pharaoh in the story of Moses. I was wearing a frog hat. Memorably, I danced through sanctuary pretending to have bugs crawl on me. I got a lot of laughs!"

"My personal favorite role was in the story of Jonah when I

played the over-the-top king of Nineveh because I enjoyed being able to have such a sassy attitude. Some of my very best memories of Zumbro are being part of the Chorister musicals."

## High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7-8:15pm  
YOUTH ROOM



2008 A Technicolor Promise



2012 Rescue the Night

## Youth Ski Weekend

FEBRUARY 24-26 | GRADES 6-12  
COST: \$275

(includes lodging, travel, two-day lift tickets, and six meals)

GIANTS RIDGE, BIWABIK, MN

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

JANUARY 15 with \$100 non-refundable deposit

Contact Family Minister

Kris Oppegard with questions.

## 2017 Choristers Musical

The Zumbro Choristers present their annual musical during both worship services on Sunday, Feb. 26. *Once Upon a Parable* by Allan Pote and Tom Long is a high energy, creative telling of Jesus' most well-known parables. Any youth in grades four-nine are invited to participate (past experience in musicals or Zumbro Choristers is not required). Rehearsals begin mid-January ... a six-week commitment ... so much fun and so worth it!! Contact Janette Reeves for more information.

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

THURSDAY, MAR. 9

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.

If interested in this FREE event,

please contact Family Minister Kris

Oppegard.



2013 What's Up, Zak



2014 The Rock Slinger, and His Greatest Hit

# Why Share the Hope of Jesus?

Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Our focus this year is, *Sharing the Hope of Jesus*. In October's issue of *The Current*, Pastor Vern laid out 11 initiatives we are working on that help us live into this focus. Already this year, we have been sharing hope through our Open Table ministry and the new food truck. We continue to build on our relationships with our South Sudanese members, and during Advent and Christmas we reflected on how Jesus offers hope for a weary world.

It's possible that sharing the hope of Jesus seems a little scary. Lutherans, after all, aren't known for saying too much about our faith. Many ways we've seen others share their faith don't always align with the ways we typically demonstrate our faith.

When I was in college, I had a roommate who was a brand new, born-again Christian. He

was the first Christian I had met that was really excited to tell other people about Jesus. He wanted everyone to know just how awesome Jesus was, and how "on fire for God" he was. His faith was genuine. His passion for how God had changed his life was inspiring. His approach to sharing his faith in Jesus was less inspiring. He earnestly tried to share the hope of Jesus by asking everyone if they were "saved." He made sure they knew the "truth." If they didn't know, he was happy to tell them the dangers of hell, how to escape it—and fast! Unfortunately, his approach made it clear he was interested in people's relationship with God, but didn't take into account that they would judge God on how my roommate related to them.

The best way we know how to have a relationship with God is through our relationships



with other people. Rather than a formula for getting people saved, Jesus shows up as God in human form to make it clear just how much God cares for the world. He healed the sick, he made the lame walk, and he cured lepers so that they could be restored to their families and communities. Jesus called ordinary people, like you and me, to walk with him as disciples and follow in his ways.

As we enter the New Year, we will go deeper into what the hope of Jesus means to us personally. We want people to be able to tell their own stories and name the ways you see Jesus offering hope to the world.

In the Adult Forum later this month, we'll find ways to tell our faith stories in a variety of ways. In worship, the Gospel of Luke will alert us to Jesus' mission to bring "good news to the poor, release to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

Jesus' mission is specific and tangible. By the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' mission becomes our mission.

## **I invite you to reflect on these questions as you think about what the hope of Jesus means to you.**

1. What captures your imagination for what Jesus does in your life?
2. At what points in your life have you relied on the hope Jesus offers?
3. Who do you know that could benefit from what you have found in Jesus right now?



# Book Study with Pastor Vern

THURSDAYS | JANUARY 19-FEBRUARY 9

9:30am and 6:30pm

Are you ever afraid of the people you meet? Do news stories cause you to want to pull away from reaching out to others? Over the winter months, Pastor Vern is leading a four-week book study entitled *Fear of the Stranger*. The class will be based both on stories from the Bible and on a short book by William Willimon called *Fear of the Other*. There are many things to talk about when it comes to navigating our way through this sometimes scary world of ours. Come and join the conversation as we look for ways to build bridges of understanding and peace. Sign up to reserve your copy of the book (\$13) and class in *Life at Zumbro* or by calling the church office. Books will be ordered on January 7.

## Adult Forum

SUNDAYS | 9:45-10:45am

ZUMBRO FIRESIDE ROOM

JANUARY 1 NO FORUM

JANUARY 8 NO FORUM

JANUARY 15 COMPASSIONATE PRACTICES

Presenter: Doug McGill

Doug McGill runs the Rochester Meditation Center. Founded in 2004, it is devoted to teaching and supporting meditation practice that loosens the grip of stressful mental habits and helps develop healthy habits such as patience, kindness, compassion, wisdom, and love.

JANUARY 22 GIVING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE HOPE

Presenter: Judy Hagler, Olmsted County Victim Services

Victim Services provides support to victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and victims of general crime. Judy will discuss the impact this community resource has and the hope it provides to people who have been victims of crime in our community.

JANUARY 29 WHY TELL OUR FAITH STORIES?

Presenters: Enid Weichselbaum and Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

We are focusing this year on *Sharing on the Hope of Jesus*. It may not be something that a lot of us do much of. Yet, it is something Jesus instructs his followers to do. Why we do it and how we do it matters. Enid and Pastor Jason will share their stories and guide participants in thinking through why their story matters.

## ZWELCA Event

SATURDAY, JAN. 21 | 11am-1pm

ZUMBRO KAIROS ROOM

COST: \$6.50

Watch *Life at Zumbro* for more detail on the program and to sign up.

## Zumbro Travelers

Zumbro members and guests are welcome on all tours. Itineraries and reservation forms are available at the ushers' stand and in the church office.

BEST OF EASTERN CANADA

JUNE 18-25

Highlights include Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, and Niagara Falls. Experience the Notre Dame Cathedral, history of both Old and New Quebec, St. Anne de Beaupree area with the Montmorency River falls, cruise through the unspoiled region of the 1000 Islands, cruise up to the incredible base of Niagara Falls, and so much more.

# Mission Work with Christmas Bazaar

Zumbro's 2016 Christmas Bazaar maintained our tradition of gathering as a community to celebrate the season, honoring our heritage, and sharing proceeds to support local missions.

While many traditions remained, this year's Bazaar was significantly different from past years. We invite your feedback. What worked? What should be reconsidered for the 2017 Bazaar? Your input will be considered as we define next year's event. Contact Kari Jadin with your feedback at (507) 536-3822 or [kafische@hotmail.com](mailto:kafische@hotmail.com)

The ZWELCA Board and Bazaar Leaders thank you for your support of this year's Bazaar and your willingness to accept change. We also thank the many people who spent countless hours preparing for and volunteering for the events on both Saturday and Sunday.

A highlight of the Bazaar is distribution of proceeds to organizations that will use the funds to provide assistance and support others in our community. This year, \$11,800 was disbursed as follows:

- Good Earth Village Scholarships \$1,750
- IHN/Family Promise \$1,350
- Lutheran Campus Ministry \$1,600
- LSS (LINK and Ways to Give) \$1,000
- Women's Shelter \$2,000
- Open Table \$600
- Samaritan Bethany \$1,000
- Zumbro Youth Mission Trips \$1,950
- Gifts of Appreciation \$550





## Action Project

### BENEFICIARY: ZUMBRO MISSION SEWING

Women (members and nonmembers) meet at Zumbro every Tuesday morning at 8am. They gather to cut, sew, and tie various fabrics that are transformed into beautiful and useful quilts. They are given locally and internationally to many needy agencies: Lutheran World Relief, Good Earth Village, Francis House, Lutheran Social Service, and more! All are welcome to join in on the fun and fellowship!

#### ITEMS NEEDED

- Fabric
- Bed sheets, pillowcases, duvets
- Draperies, linings, curtains
- Light-weight blankets
- Tablecloths
- Large spools of thread, yarn
- Financial support for needed supplies

### BENEFICIARY: CRISIS NURSERY

Crisis Nursery is a family support program to provide temporary, short-term care for children while families address crisis situations. They also supply crisis counseling and support, parent education, and in-home counseling.

#### ITEMS NEEDED

- Diapers and wipes (especially sizes 4, 5, 6, and Pull-Ups)
- Baby formula and baby food
- Cleaning supplies (dish soap, laundry soap, Lysol, etc.)
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes)
- Financial support for needed supplies

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

## Family Promise

Our congregation will continue to be part of the Family Promise Rochester ministry, which provides families with food and shelter while they work to overcome barriers and secure stable housing. But there will be a change this year in the hosting schedule. The families will not spend a week at Zumbro as in the past. Zumbro volunteers will continue to have the opportunity to assist our partner congregations during their host weeks. Our partners are Christ United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church.

The next host week Zumbro will be involved in is February 12-19, at First Presbyterian Church.

Current volunteers will receive an email invitation to assist with the host week. New volunteers are welcome! Please contact Vicki Erickson (Erickson.vah@gmail.com) or Betty Schmalz (bpschmalz@charter.net) for information about becoming a volunteer. For information about Family Promise and current events, visit [familypromiserochester.org](http://familypromiserochester.org) Sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers, who are so supportive of this ministry.

## 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

# You're a What?

Kris Oppegard, Family Minister

I often hear those words when I talk to people about my leadership as an AIM (Associate In Ministry) in the church. Everyone understands what a pastor is and does. But when it comes to lay leaders committed to serving in the ELCA, it gets confusing. No one doubts the value of lay leadership, but how to name those roles is still a work in progress. When the ELCA first formed, there were three groups—Associate in Ministry (which I am), Diaconal Minister (which you may remember was Barb Peterson's title), and Deaconess.

After study and approval at the 2016 Churchwide assembly, the ELCA decided to streamline the designation of leaders into two rosters (official groups), beginning January 1, 2017.

The clergy (pastor) will remain a 'Word & Sacrament' Ministry. The other three rostered lay leaders will fall under the 'Word & Service' Ministry and be called Deacons.

As you may recall, March 11, 2012, was my commissioning service where I accepted my call to serve as an Associate In Ministry (AIM) at Zumbro. Associates In Ministry provide leadership and support for the people of God as they care for, encourage, and equip them for faith and discipleship.

For me, practically, the title of my role will change from AIM to Deacon. However, this title change will not affect the passion that I have for this leadership role in the ELCA.

It reinforces the importance of how God continues to use me to love and serve and assist the whole people of God in living deeply into their own call to serve as Jesus serves in daily life. And, so it is with you, God also uses you as a grace-filled leader in this ELCA church to proclaim the good news, hope and healing of Jesus Christ in this broken world.



## 2017-2018 Rainbow School Registration

JANUARY 9

New family registration starts  
January 9, 2017.

### EXPANDED CLASS OFFERINGS

M/W/F morning 9am-12pm

M/W/F afternoon 12pm-3pm

T/TH morning 9am-12pm

M/W/F full day 9am-3pm\*

T/TH full day 9am-3pm

Five mornings 9am-12pm\*

Five afternoons 12pm-3pm

For more information, visit  
[www.rainbowschoolmn.org](http://www.rainbowschoolmn.org) or call  
Cat Thisius, Director at  
(507) 261-0586.

Children must be 3 years old by  
September 1, 2017.

\*Four and five year olds only

## Library Book Sale

SATURDAY, JAN. 21 | 10am-2pm

SUNDAY, JAN. 22 | 8am-11am

The annual used book sale will be held on two days again this year. Items (books, DVDs, CDs) that you'd like to donate to the sale can be dropped off in the library Monday, Jan. 16, through Friday, Jan. 20. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase new materials for the library.

## FYI

## December Pastoral Acts

### BAPTISM

Juliette Dee Dzubay

Maxwell Hunter Dzubay

Ellery Ann Erie

Sullivan Alexander Majerus

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Roger L. Van Der Heyden

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

Martha E. Holmes

Marvin W. Johnson

**Save the Date: Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017, 9:30-10:45am

# Zumbro Staff

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**Newsletter Deadline**  
Please submit items for the February issue  
of the *Zumbro Current* by January 10, to  
zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org

