

*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

MARCH 2017

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



6-7
LENT JOURNEY
March 1 begins the 30-day journey to Holy Week.
See the special details for this time.

PRACTICES FOR THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

2

PASTORS ARTICLE

In nearly everything in life, practice doesn't make perfect, but rather it makes a difference. The same notion can be applied to faith practices.

4

STAFF PRACTICES

Learn what some of the Zumbro staff do to nourish their faith and cultivate a deeper connection with God.

8-9

EDUCATION IMPACTS

The focus for the recent trip to Tanzania was education. Discover their experience and the work that continues.

Practice Makes a Difference

My kids are in the early stages of learning what they want to do outside of school. One tries basketball, while the other tries tennis. One tries volleyball, while the other takes swimming lessons. One of the things I have been reminded of as my kids try new things is how difficult it is to do something that you've never done before. They get frustrated that the ball doesn't go where they want it to, or that the swimming stroke isn't as smooth and effortless as the teacher makes it look. When this happens, the best thing I can do is encourage them to practice and cheer them on as they try again.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on March 1st. Lent has always been an intentional time of spiritual practice for Christians. We're all familiar with giving something up for Lent, but spiritual practices are more than that. In ancient times, Lent was set aside as the season of preparation for baptism for adults who wanted to become Christians. Candidates, as they were called, would spend time developing practices of faith that shaped new ways to live as Christians. Much of the emphasis was on changed habits and behaviors; not on theological constructs or doctrine. People would pray and read Scripture, of course; but they would also be challenged to respond to the needs of widows in their neighborhood and look out

for those who were sick and disabled. There was no hospital like today, and a social safety net was nonexistent. Christians would break cultural norms to respond to the needs of others. For the early Church, much like today, how we practice faith matters as much as what we believe.

This Lent we will dig into some spiritual practices that can shape our daily lives in new ways. God doesn't just show up at church. Martin Luther pointed out that God is in, with, and under all things. We'll use parts of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*, at Wednesday Lenten worship to frame these practices. Taylor's book invites us to wake up to God who is constantly present in our lives. She says, "The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude or special company. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need [for a spiritual life]."

In addition to Wednesday Lent worship at 12pm and 6:30pm, members of the congregation have written devotions about their encounters with God in everyday life. I hope you'll pick up a copy or sign up for the daily emails. Following along with this devotion book can be the new practice for you to try if you've never done so before. Even as adults, trying new things is difficult. But practice makes a difference. I hope you'll take time



during Lent to practice some new ways to encounter God in your life. We may not always see the benefits right away, but we can encourage one another and cheer each other on as we practice our way into deeper ways of living our faith in Jesus.

Peace,

Pastor Jason



Sunday Worship Details

Following Jesus on the Journey of Faith

THE GOOD SAMARITAN LUKE 10:25-42

SUNDAY, MAR. 5 | 8:30am and 11am
Holy Communion
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am); Zumbro Choristers (11am);
Prelude by Zumbro Woodwind Quintet

JESUS LAMENTS OVER JERUSALEM Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

SUNDAY, MAR. 12 | 8:30am and 11am
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Alan Hansen, soloist (8:30am);
Bel Canto Handbell Choir (8:30am and 11am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (11am)

STORIES ABOUT THINGS GETTING LOST Luke 15:1-32

SUNDAY, MAR. 19 | 8:30am and 11am
Holy Communion
Prayers for Healing
Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am); Zumbro Brass Ensemble (8:30am and 11am); Zumbro Choristers; Michaela Sandness, violin (11am)

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31

SUNDAY, MAR. 26 | 8:30am and 11am
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp
Music: Jenny Kruse, Meredith Pritchard, and Janette Reeves, vocal trio (8:30am and 11am)

Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15am-12:15pm
WEDNESDAYS | 5:45-8pm

Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 11am
March 12, 26
April 9, 23
May 14

SUNDAY AT 8:30am
April 30

SUNDAY AT 8:30am & 10am
May 28

WEDNESDAY AT 6:30pm
March 15, 29

WEDNESDAY AT 6pm
April 26
May 3, 17, 31

Staff Share Faith Practices

With all of this talk of practicing faith, as we prepare for Lent where the Wednesday them is *Real-Life Practices for the Journey of Faith*, it got the Zumbro staff talking about their real-life practices for nourishing faith and cultivating a connection with God. Here are a few of them:



I think my most pervasive and consistent faith practice is prayer ... all the time ... every hour of every day. It's been that way for most of my life—a habit that I established early. My first instinct is to pray. There are thank you prayers when things go well and *help me* prayers when I'm scared and lament "how can you love me because I such a dork" prayers when I goof stuff up ... the list goes on and on! This makes me feel connected to God throughout my day.

I also get a daily devotional by email from faithgateway.com that I enjoy very much. Some days are better and more applicable than others but overall they are really nice. They also include some very nice clip art illustrations. I started printing out the ones that are especially meaningful and putting them up in my office. **Janette Reeves**

I nourish my faith by practicing the art of awareness. As I run or as I drive, I pray for the neighborhoods, schools, churches, businesses, farms, fields, and people that I encounter. This practice has allowed me to appreciate the small changes that I see happen as time goes by. It reminds me that God is truly present in every little detail of the world around me and it gives me peace that God has everything under control. **Kris Oppegard**



My prayer life is nurtured in two primary ways: I spent a lot of time praying with other people, offering up prayers that hopefully fit with their deepest needs and concerns. I value these times and am always moved by the opportunities to bring people's concerns to God.

On a personal level, I tend to pray when I'm in motion...walking, running, or working out in the gym. I feel a sense of peace and assurance that God is with me on the journey and helping me find the way forward.

Pastor Vern Christopherson

World Day of Prayer

SATURDAY, MAR. 4 | 10am
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH | ROCHESTER

"Am I Being Unfair to You?" is the theme of the 2017 World Day of Prayer celebration based on Matthew 20:1-16. The women of the Philippines, authors of this worship service, call us to explore concepts of economic justice in both their country as well as around the world and our response in light of God's generosity. United in prayer on or around the first Friday in March, international ecumenical Christian laywomen share their resources through the World Day of Prayer offerings. Offerings collected are used by national committees to support the work of World Day of Prayer, and also to fund grants to organizations working on issues affecting women and children worldwide. Please join this fellowship of people from other traditions and cultures as we come together for understanding, prayer and worship.

Adult Forum

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

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

MARCH 5 THE STORY OF THE REFORMATION

Presenter: Dr. Wanda Deifelt, Luther College Professor of Religion
When Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church in 1517, he intended to spark a discussion. What he couldn't have predicted was that the discussion would still be as lively today as it was 500 years ago. Dr. Wanda Deifelt will lead us in a discussion about how the events of 1517 continue to have world-wide implications for the church today.

MARCH 12 HANDEL'S MESSIAH & PASSING ON THE FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

Presenter: Dr. Rick Kvam, artistic director, Choral Arts Ensemble
One of the revolutionary events of the Reformation was when the faith was communicated in the common language of the people. Musicians at the time quickly picked up on this revolution, and started composing in a language the local people could understand. Perhaps more than any other musical piece, Handel's Messiah provided the most sweeping and compelling telling of God's salvation in the English language.

MARCH 19 TO BE ANNOUNCED

MARCH 26 BOOK DISCUSSION OF *AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD* BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

Author Barbara Brown Taylor says that many of the people she meets see spirituality as a longing for more of life than meets the eye. In her book, *An Altar in the World*, she identifies a number of practices in everyday life that allow us to find that "More" that many people long for. This two week discussion will allow us to dig into those practices and discover ways we too may find God and a deeper spirituality in the everyday practices of life. *Note: Reading the book beforehand will be helpful, but not necessary to participate in the discussion. As always, all are welcome.*

High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS | 7:15-8:15pm
YOUTH ROOM

Save the Date: High School Graduate Recognition

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Save the Date: Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

SUNDAY, APR. 23 | 11am

Contact Director of Music & Liturgy Kristy Giere with questions.
Rehearsals are:

- Tuesday, Apr. 18, 6:30-7:15pm
- Thursday, Apr. 20, 6:30-7:15pm
- Saturday, Apr. 22, 10-10:45am



Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesday Lenten services will begin with Ash Wednesday services at 12pm and 6:30pm and continue at those times for the remainder of Lent. Lunch will follow the noon services and dinner will be served before the evening services, both for a small cost. Donation of \$6 is suggested for each lunch. Prices will be displayed for each supper. During our midweek services, we'll focus on *Real-Life Practices for the Journey of Faith*. Guided by Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*, we'll discover daily faith practices that can connect us with God wherever we are at in life.

THE PRACTICE OF WAKING UP TO GOD

Genesis 28:10-22

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 1

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

12:45pm

5pm

Macaroni & Cheese, Salad,

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, served by

Fruit, Bars/Cookies

Boy Scouts

THE PRACTICE OF PAYING ATTENTION

Exodus 3:1-12

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 8

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

12:45pm

5pm

Beef Barley Soup, Croissants,

Taco Salad

Fruit, Bars/Cookies

THE PRACTICE OF GETTING LOST

Luke 4:1-13

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 15

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

12:45pm

5pm

Chicken Tetrazzini, Caesar Salad,

HyVee Chinese Buffet

Bars/Cookies

THE PRACTICE OF CARRYING WATER

Galatians 6:1-10

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 22

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

12:45pm

5pm

Chicken Wild Rice Soup,

Shredded Beef, Potatoes, and Gravy

Cranberry or Bran Muffins, Bars/Cookies

THE PRACTICE OF PRONOUNCING BLESSING

Romans 12:9-17

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

12:45pm

5pm

Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas,

Pizza

Salad, Bars/Cookies

THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Romans 8:12-17, 24-27

WEDNESDAY, APR. 5

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

12:45pm

5pm

Vegetable Pasta Salad,

HyVee Chinese Buffet

Turkey, Swiss, & Bacon Sandwiches,

Bars/Cookies

Devotion Book

Zumbro members have written brief devotions about their own faith practices and experiences. Pick up a daily devotion book at the ushers' stand. If you would like to have the devotions emailed to you directly every day, send an email to allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org

Read *An Altar in the World*

One way we also encouraging people to deepen their spiritual practices this Lent is to read Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*, on which our Wednesday sermons are based. You'll have the chance to participate in a discussion on the book at Adult Forum on March 26 and April 2.

Teaching in Tanzania

by Pastor Lisa Kipp



Last month eleven people from Zumbro traveled to Tanzania to strengthen our relationship with our partners at Iambi Lutheran Hospital. We were delighted to see patients using the building we furnished with new beds and supplies a couple years ago. The OB supplies that we recently raised funds for during our *Helping Iambi Deliver* campaign are desperately needed and will be graciously received. During our visit we installed the beginning of a computer system for the hospital. I'm confident that together we are making this rural hospital a better place for the patients who come seeking medical care.

This year many of us spent time teaching and experienced first hand the educational system in Tanzania. From the hospital staff to the nursing students to the children in the village, we were struck by the differences between this educational system and what we are used to in the US.



Paula Craigo delivered a lecture in the hospital chapel about eclampsia for the nursing students and hospital staff.

In the village primary school, class sizes are around 150 students, with three to five kids sharing a desk. One teacher is responsible for several classrooms at a time, rotating through the rooms and putting homework up on the chalkboard for each student to copy into their notebook (if they have one). Students are expected to repeat back the information they learn. Questioning is not encouraged.

Students at Iambi's nursing school are eager to learn. They warmly welcomed guest teachers from Zumbro who taught topics ranging from communication to nutrition to the work of the central nervous system. Again, questioning and conversation are not encouraged in this educational system. With limited success, our teachers tried to encourage role-playing and interaction among the students.

As our Zumbro group gathered each evening and discussed our work of the day, the successes we witnessed, and the challenges we observed, our conversations often returned to the far-reaching effects that ways of teaching and learning have across a lifetime and across a society. Problem-solving is difficult when minds haven't been trained to question and create new solutions. Quality is beyond our grasp when we have learned to only accept things as they are.

Quality education encourages individual and group problem-solving and adaptation to new challenges. From an early age, we are encouraged to actively engage with new information and develop problem-solving skills, even at the risk of being wrong. This type of education is truly a gift to Americans, but not available everywhere, even within our own country. How we think and achieve our goals affects all aspects of society, from the dependability of building construction to the availability and safety of health care. As we continue our partnership with our friends at Iambi Lutheran Hospital, we will continue to reflect upon these lessons and allow God to lead us as we continue to learn from one another.



The 2017 mission team took a safari through the Serengeti after their time at Iambi. Front row: Brenda Brown Kennedy, Pastor Lisa, Brenda Wichmann, Paula Craigo, Ann Leland, Julie & Mike Neumann. Back row: Roger Wichmann, Sue & Bob Jenkins.



The nursing students loved Ann Leland and requested a photo with her following her lecture on nutrition.



Julie Neumann taught a class on effective communication in nursing to the first year nursing students.



Brenda Brown Kennedy taught OB nurses how to use the ultrasound machine to verify fetal position and growth.

Can't Get Enough?

More stories from the February 2017 trip to Tanzania can be found on Zumbro's blog. A link is available at www.zumbrolutheran.org An Adult Forum will be held after Easter.

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 Project Update

As a result of your giving, large boxes of diapers, baby food, and formula were donated to Families First (Crisis Nursery) and seven to eight lare bags of fabric were donated to Mission Sewing. Thank you for being the hands of God to help so many!

Action Project

BENEFICIARY: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—FABRIC KITS

Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women and men. Many of the Fabric Kits that Lutheran World Relief distributes supply vocational training programs and fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>FABRIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester) • Cut into pieces measuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.25 yards of 60" wide, 3 yards of 44" wide 4 yards of 36" wide | <p>THREAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two spools of matching or neutral, general-purpose thread 250-200 yards each |
|---|---|

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

Thank You for Investing

In February, our youth made an effort to contact all Zumbro members by phone to ask you to take stock in them and their summer trips. For many years youth stock has been our most successful fundraiser. Each share is \$10. Thank you for responding so positively!

Payments can now be dropped off or mailed to the church office and should be designated for "youth stock." You can purchase Youth Stock online at www.zumbrolutheran.org. Click on the 'myZLC' tab and click on 'Give Online.' Choose the fund, 'Youth Stock.'

We're sorry if we missed you by phone. It isn't too late to call the church office to make a pledge or send in your support. Our youth are preparing for two great mission trips this summer: the middle school youth are going to Lake Traverse, SD, and the high school youth are going to Montego Bay, Jamaica. Your giving will make a difference in the lives of the Zumbro mission trip participants and the people they serve. Thank you for your support!



Luther College Jazz Orchestra in Concert

FRIDAY, MAR. 17 | 7pm
ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

"Whether they are swinging to the tunes of Duke Ellington and Count Basie, making a Brazilian somba come alive, or simply laying down a heavy funk groove, the musicians of the "Superband" (as director Dr. Juan Tony Guzman calls the ensemble) are guaranteed to make any space alive with musical energy." A freewill offering will be received.

Annual Gustavus Faith Conference

SATURDAY, APR. 22
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE
The 5th annual Faith Conference theme: *Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve* will explore the creative alliances being built between religion and science in order to address the world's most pressing challenges. The 30th Annual Association of Congregations Business Meeting to be held immediately following the Faith Conference. Register at www.gustavus.edu

FYI February Pastoral Acts

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Alice M. Kiphuth
Naomi F. Moon

Save the Date

ZWELCA Spring Luncheon
SATURDAY, MAR. 25 | 11am-1pm

Zumbro Staff

Vern Christopherson
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Jason Bryan-Wegner
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Lisa Kipp
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Kamen Makuer
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Barb Desens
Nursery Coordinator



Newsletter Deadline

Please submit items for the April issue of the *Zumbro Current* by March 10, to zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org

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