

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

**ZUMBRO
WORSHIP
TIME CHANGES**
SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
8:30am & 10:30am & 6:15pm
8
TIME CHANGES

2

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Pastor Jason dives into our focus for the 2017-18 year, *building bridges of understanding and peace*. Read a few of the ways Zumbro will act on that especially on God's work. Our hands. week.

7

DEEP ROOTS

Roots allow the ongoing flourishing of something. Zumbro's upcoming series and 40-day event intends to explore our living tradition that still gives life today.

8

MUSICAL FAMILY

Participating in music ensembles can be a family affair, something you do to fuel your faith, and/or a way for you to find community at Zumbro.

A Calling to Partner with the Dinka

This fall, our focus as a congregation returns to *building bridges of understanding and peace*. At Zumbro this is not just a slogan, it is a calling. Over the last three years our mission statement, and this phrase in particular, has been like an inner voice that encourages and challenges us to engage the world differently.

One of the areas of ministry where bridges are actively being built is with our Dinka members. Some exciting and challenging events are in the works that are calling us together and providing an important opportunity for us to build bridges of understanding and peace, and be the body of Christ together.

Last year our lay evangelist for the Dinka, Kamen Makuer, traveled home to South Sudan with a group of other South Sudanese to negotiate peace in their home area, near the city of Rumbek. In the Dinka culture, cattle are like currency and cattle were being stolen from camps around the area. In retaliation, people were being killed. Kamen and the others were called on to mediate and restore peace to the area.

While visiting a cattle camp out in a rural area, he started talking with the children. Most of them were elementary-aged. As he talked with them, he learned that they had never attended school and didn't know the alphabet. There has never been a school in that area for the children to attend.

Kamen and others came home to the US determined to build a school in that area. Their hope is to change the future for these children and bring peace to their country in the process. So far they have raised more than \$20,000 and are starting a non-profit in the US to help develop and support the school.

On September 10 and 13, Zumbro will be a part of changing the future for these children by making school kits for the initial group of students during God's work. Our hands. project. In addition to making school kits, we will build bridges with our Dinka members that will help us learn more about South Sudan and build relationships with them.

One of those Dinka members is a man named Mading. He came to the US in the mid-1990s and has since become a US citizen. Mading is married with two small children. His wife and children are still in South Sudan. They were separated when he suffered a stroke in 2014 while visiting his family in South Sudan.



To recover, he had to leave his family and return to the US for healthcare and rehabilitation. Now that he is well again, he is working to bring his family to Rochester. Mading is looking for help from his church, Zumbro, to help make this happen. You will hear more about how you can get involved later this month. In the meantime, please pray for Mading, his wife Nyakuer, and their two children.

I am eager to see how God will be at work among us this year. Thank you, dear people of Zumbro, for all that you do in your daily lives to build bridges of understanding and peace.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jason".

Pastor Jason

Worship Details



DANIEL RESILIENCE IS REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL. DANIEL 6:10-28

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3 | 8:30am and 10am
Holy Communion
Preaching: Jason Bryan-Wegner
Music: Janette Reeves, soloist

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6 | 6pm
Holy Communion



Building Bridges of Understanding and Peace

We have an annual focus each program year to guide our ministry at Zumbro. For the last three years, that focus has come from our mission statement: *building bridges of understanding and peace, reaching out with compassion, and sharing the hope of Jesus.* Having worked through these three phrases, we're back to where we started: *building bridges of understanding and peace.*

WE HELP BUT GOD HEALS

EPHESIANS 2:11-21

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10 | 8:30am & 10:30am
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp
Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13 | 6:15pm
Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Nursery Hours

AFTER LABOR DAY
SUNDAYS | 8:15am-11:45am
WEDNESDAYS | 6-8:15pm

Usher Refresher

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17 | 9:30-10:30am
KAIROS ROOM

Current and interested ushers are invited to attend an Usher Refresher. Basics of ushering will be covered as well as new emergency procedures. If you have never ushered and want to learn more, plan to attend! For more information, contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

Worship Details

continued...

Zumbro Travelers

NORTH SHORE LAKE SUPERIOR
FALL FOLIAGE TOUR
SEPTEMBER 27-29

So many activities and dining plans are included in this beautiful trip to Minnesota's North Shore. Look in the trip brochure for the itineraries and all of the details available at ushers' stand and in church office. Zumbro members and friends are welcome. Reservation and payment deadline Sept. 11.

FALL LUNCHEON CRUISE
OCTOBER 17

A fall luncheon cruise out of Red Wing with a motor coach tour down the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River for fall color. Watch for details in the *Life at Zumbro*.

TALKING IS HARD, BUT LISTENING CAN BE EVEN HARDER

1 PETER 3:8-12

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Holy Communion
Prayers for Healing
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Jenny Kruse, Janette Reeves, vocalists (8:30am); Pam Hammond, recorder; Zumbro Lutheran Choir (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20 | 6:30pm

Holy Communion
Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson



Deep Roots

Martin Luther nailed the 95 Thesis on the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517. Little did he know that he was setting in motion a reformation that would change the future of the church. In this sermon series we will tell the story of Lutheran roots, detailing both the joys and challenges that reformers faced along the way. In the process, we will explore a central tenant of the Reformation: *the church must always be reformed*.

JESUS IS GOD'S BEST IDEA EVER

ROMANS 3:19-28

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24 | 8:30am & 10:30am

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson
Music: Zumbro Choristers (8:30am), Bel Canto Handbell Choir, Zumbro Brass (8:30am and 10:30am), Zumbro Lutheran Choir (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27 | 6:30pm

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Worship Time Changes



Starting September 10 and 13

This fall we are introducing some changes to our schedule for both worship and education, and for both Sundays and Wednesday.

The biggest changes are on Sunday. Our first service will stay the same—at 8:30am. But the goal is to be finished in time to start adult and children Faith Formation at 9:35am. We're shortening the education time to 45 minutes—9:35-10:20am.

The second service will start at 10:30am. The plan is to serve a beverage in the hallway afterward to intentionally make an effort to build community. Many visitors attend the second service. This is an attempt to have them meet some new people and feel more welcome here.

Wednesday worship will start at 6:15pm. We hope the later time will accommodate families who are often juggling numerous activities on Wednesdays. Faith Formation and Confirmation will be 7-8pm.

New Worship & Education Times

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

6:15pm	Worship
7pm	Education

High School ELCA Youth Gathing Informational Meeting

SEPTEMBER 6 | 7pm

ZUMBRO

Those interested in attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering are invited to attend this informational meeting. Contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard.

Women's Convention

SEPTEMBER 16 | 7:45am-4pm

AUSTIN, MN

The Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention is this month at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 306 2nd St. NW, Austin, MN. If interested, please complete and return by September 7 the yellow form located on the ZWELCA bulletin board located in the Narthex. ZWELCA will pay the registration fee of Zumbro women to attend.

Middle School 2018 Mission Trip Informational Meeting

SEPTEMBER 17 | 11:30am

ZUMBRO

Those interested in participating in the 2018 Summer Middle School Mission Trip are invited to attend this informational meeting. For more information, contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard.

Summer Action Projects Update

Because of your giving:

Several large bags containing personal care items and cleaning supplies were donated to Lutheran Social Service's LINK program.

Zumbro sent 115 school kits and 75 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief with gratitude to Thrivent.

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

Children and Youth Volunteer Training

SEPTEMBER 10 | 11:30am

ZUMBRO

Protected In Christ's Name (PICN) is an hour-long, training is required for all who volunteer with children and youth at Zumbro. The 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. Please bring your driver's license. This training is required every five years. Please contact Family Minister Kris Oppegard to register.

Action Projects

BENEFICIARY: Hope Lodge

The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge in Rochester offers guests a wide variety of cancer programs and services that provide information, resources and support to ease the cancer journey. Please help by donating these items:

- Paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, heavy-duty plates/bowls/cups, aluminum foil, plastic wrap
 - Forever postage stamps, mailing labels, pens, pencils, Sharpie markers
 - Coffee, dry coffee creamers, sugar or packets of sugar substitute, fruit juice boxes, lemonade mix, wrapped candy
 - Baking supplies
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Linens
 - Hand and body lotion, nightlights, umbrellas, videos/DVDs, hair dryers, Ziploc bags
- A full list of items can be found on the Action Box outside of the Lounge.*

All Items can be placed in the Action Box outside of the Lounge.

BENEFICIARY: Lincoln Elementary School

Please help by donating these items:

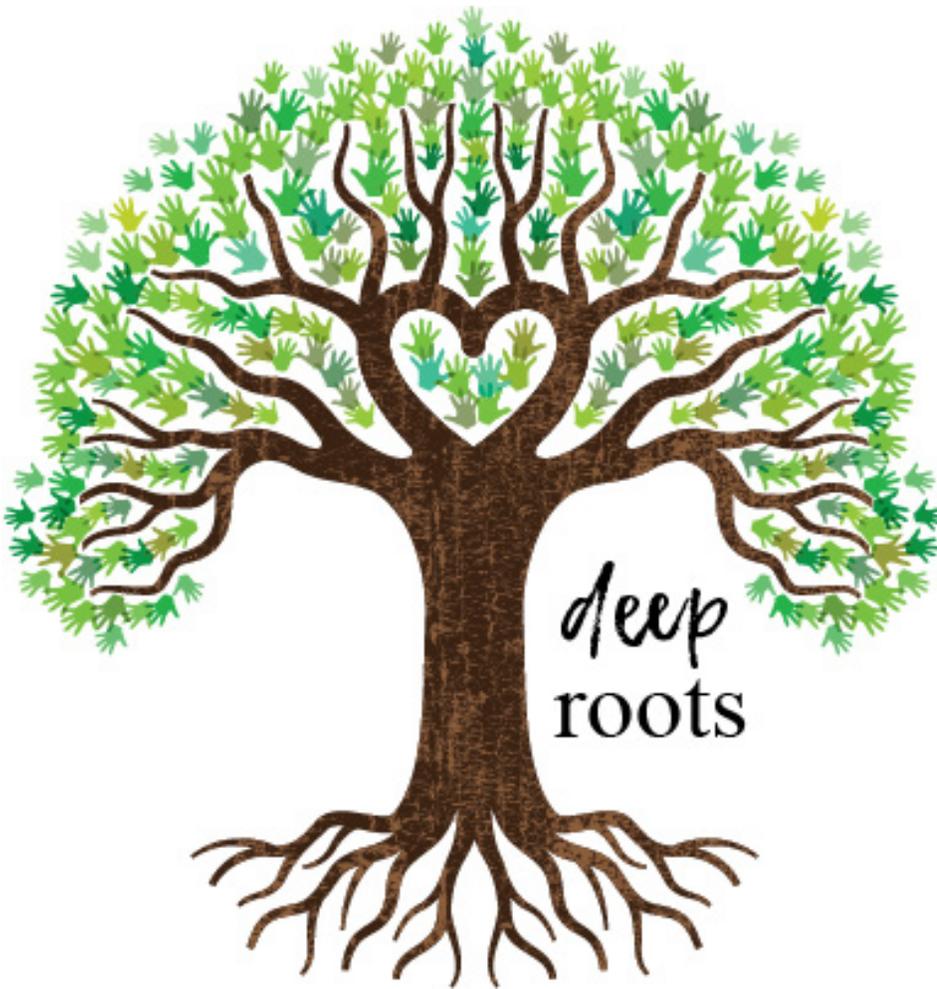
- New underwear: boys and girls (ages 5-10)
- New socks: boys and girls (shoe size 11-5)
- New athletic/sweatpants with elastic waist: boys and girls (sizes 4-10)

A full list of items can be found on the Action Box outside of the Lounge.

All Items can be placed in the Action Box outside of the Lounge.



Fall 40-Day Event



Plants that have what it takes to survive both the heat of the summer and a frozen Minnesota winter have deep roots. Those roots give them nourishment and stamina and allow them to flourish in any condition. Our faith needs deep roots, too—roots grounded in scripture, theology, tradition, and relationship. In the 500 years since the seeds of the Reformation were sown, the church has weathered much change. But our need for Jesus' tender grace and our thirst for God's refreshing word remains. And our Lutheran heritage provides rich soil in which to grow closer to God and stronger for the journey.

We invite you to sink your own roots of faith little deeper this fall. Join a 40-Day group, where you can connect with old and new Zumbro friends while you unpack some of the key tenets of the Lutheran faith. And worship on Sundays or Wednesdays as we sing, pray, and learn—so that we might flourish wherever we are planted.

Upcoming Themes

October 1: The Bible Is Your Guide, but Not Your God
 October 8: Faith Grows When It's Written on Our Hearts
 October 15: The Church is Holy and Messy
 October 22: Free to Live a Life That Matters
 October 29: Here I Stand

40-Day Small Groups

A 40-Day Small Group is a great place to meet other people, explore new aspects of faith, and develop some practices that help us along the journey of faith. The material is written by our pastors. They provide background information, insights, and questions that help groups explore the Bible and connect it to our lives.

Group times and leaders will be listed in the *Life at Zumbro* and online starting September 10. If you are interested in starting your own group, there's still time. Contact Pastor Jason for more information.

CURRENT TYPES OF GROUPS

- High School Group
- Young Couples Group
- Parents of Toddlers
- Parents with School Age Kids
- Women's Groups
- Men's Groups
- Mixed Groups

Handbells in the Family

by Allison Passon, Communications Director

Have you noticed that three of the Bel Canto Handbell players looking strikingly similar? You're not seeing something, because three of them are related. Chad Larson, Andy Larson, and Paul Bye are related (brothers and cousin). Another fact you may not know is that they've played handbells together since they were in 4th grade and 7th grade.

Paul Bye has had played the handbells for 31 years—20 of them at Zumbro. "When I moved to Rochester, my cousins, the Larsons, were all playing in handbell groups (including Andy and Chad) and got me involved. I played with their dad Brent, their older brother Matt, Andy, and also directed the high school group Chad was in."

Thirty-one years is a long time to do something. When asked what it is about handbells that keeps him playing Paul replied, "I think handbells are a unique instrument and musical experience. There is

no other instrument that I know of where each person is responsible for playing a specific set of notes, and where you are directly dependent on the people around you for playing."

Chad Larson continues to play handbells because he wants to continue to be creative. "After high school, there are not many opportunities to play in an organized music group. Bells are a great way to stay involved and work together to bring unique music to Zumbro's congregation. Making a music offering with a great group of people while having a good time I guess!"

Playing the handbells can be intimidating, but Minister of Music and handbell choir director Kristy Giere assures that if you can read music and count, than you too can play handbells. Although this isn't necessary for children—Kristy will teach them how to count and read music.

Zumbro offers three opportunities for every all to play handbells. There is a bell group for children to adults, beginner to

experienced. If you would like to learn more about handbells or would like to have a quick informational meeting, Kristy Giere looks forward to speaking with you.



Chad Larson in the back as a teenager during handbell choir rehearsal.



Chad Larson teaching the next generation of Larson handbell ringers—his son Connor.



The 2016 Bel Canto Handbell Choir

Save These Musical Dates

THE ROSE ENSEMBLE

WELCOME THE PEOPLE:

THE MUSICAL LEGACY OF THE REFORMATION

October 31 | 7pm | Zumbro

Joined in concert with Piffaro, the Renaissance Band

THE CHURCH'S JOURNEY IN ART AND SONG: A HYMN FESTIVAL

November 12 | 4pm | Zumbro

A synod-wide celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 17

4:30pm, prelude begins at 4pm

St. Marys Hospital Chapel



It's Easier Than You Think

by Bob Giere, Zumbro Lutheran Choir Director

In conversation with various Zumbro members and visitors over the years, I often hear them say something like ...

"I would love to sing in the choir but the music sounds too hard and the weekly commitment doesn't fit into my schedule."

If you've been considering joining the choir and this sounds like something you've thought or said,

I urge you to give the Zumbro Lutheran Choir a try this year. I think you will find the music more accessible than you might think and we know that nobody can make every rehearsal and Sunday morning.

But, more important than the difficulty of the music or the time commitment is the blessings that flow from gathering in community

with sisters and brothers in Christ in leading and presenting the songs of God's people.

Come and give it a try. Our first rehearsal of the season is Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7pm. It's easier than you think. For more information contact me at bobgiere@gmail.com or (507) 271-7273.

Music Opportunities

Interested in participating? Contact Music Minister Kristy Giere.

ADULTS

ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR – High School-Adult
Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm
First rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 6, Choir Room
Bob Giere, director

BEL CANTO HANDBELL CHOIR – Adults (experienced ringers)
Mondays, 6:45-7:45pm
First rehearsal: Monday, Sept. 11, Sanctuary
Kristy Giere, director

ZUMBRO BRASS ENSEMBLE
Performs in worship throughout the year and participates in the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Marys Hospital Chapel
Matt Hafar, director; Ron Elcombe, rehearsal coordinator

ZUMBRO WOODWIND ENSEMBLES
Ensembles for combination of horn, bassoon, oboe, clarinet, and flute, including a separate flute ensemble

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SING-N-RING! – Kindergarten-Grade 3
Wednesdays, 5:10-6pm
The time is split between singing with Janette Reeves (5:10-5:35pm), and playing Kidsplay™ handbells (pictured below) with Kristy Giere (5:35-6pm)
No musical experience needed
First rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 13, Choir and Bell Rooms

JUNIOR RINGERS – Grades 4-9
Wednesdays, 5:10-5:35pm
Handbell ringing
No musical experience needed
First rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 13, Bell Room
Kristy Giere, director

ZUMBRO CHORISTERS – Grades 4-9
Wednesdays, 5:35-6pm
Sing in Sunday worship twice a month, participates in Festival of Lessons and Carols at St. Marys Hospital Chapel, and presents the annual Choristers' musical
First rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 13, Choir Room
Janette Reeves, director

ZUMBRO YOUTH BAND AND STRINGS – Grades 6-12
Rehearsals are one to two weeks prior to playing in worship
Ensemble will play two to three times in Sunday worship
Kristy Giere, director
First performance is Sunday, Dec. 10





We Knead You

Lefse making is back and we knead you!

The dough and pans will be hot October 2-5 at 8am. Can't make it that week? A second week of lefse making is October 16-19.

Watch for a sign up opportunity in the *Life at Zumbro*. See you in October! Please send your questions to Cathy Grabau at cmg1948@gmail.com

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 electronics. Thank you!



The Annual Christmas Bazaar

The 2016 Zumbro Christmas Bazaar was a significant change from previous years. Feedback from Bazaar

attendees, volunteers, and leaders was considered heavily in making plans for 2017. It is the hope of Bazaar leaders and the ZWELCA Board that 2017 will be a meaningful event, with return of some treasured traditions as well as new elements that will allow participation and engagement across our congregation and community.

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 2 | 9am-2pm | ZUMBRO

You can look forward to the following:

- Meatball Luncheon
- Lefse
- Coffee House
- Craft Sale
- Baked Good Sale
- Fellowship and Holiday Festivities
- Attic Treasures Sale (again under leadership of Zumbro's youth in support of their summer mission trips)
- Family-Focused Activities

HOLIDAY COOKBOOK

ZWELCA's Holiday Cookbook will be available for purchase at the Bazaar. This comes at a perfect time to find some new recipes and start planning your holiday meals! There is one last chance to see your favorite sweet and savory holiday recipes in print. Additional recipes may be submitted to the church office by September 15.

MAKE AN IMPACT: VOLUNTEER

As always, many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. All volunteers can expect a big dose of holiday festivity and community spirit. This is a great way to commit to a day or two of "work", meet new people, and create a welcoming environment for others in our congregation and community. Please consider signing up for an activity or role that interests you! Anyone interested in a Bazaar leadership role or volunteering at the event is invited to contact Kari Jadin at kafische@hotmail.com or (507) 536-3822. Watch for opportunities to sign up in *Life at Zumbro* in the coming weeks.

Dementia Care Event

SEPTEMBER 16 | 10:30am-12pm | ZUMBRO

Are you caring for a loved one with dementia? Come to hear speaker Angela Lunde (Associate in Neurology, Mayo Clinic in the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center) speak on *Creating a Community of Inclusiveness and Understanding*, addressing empathy, communication and emotional needs when caring for someone with dementia. Look for the sign up opportunity in the *Life at Zumbro* or contact Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson.

Ending Well Workshop

OCTOBER 7 | 9-11:30am

Ending of life decisions can be easy to put off until later. We think we'll have time. Sometimes we do. Sometimes we don't, and the responsibility falls on our loved ones. One thing is certain: each one of us will come to the end of our days, with or without a plan.

To help us in making our plans, Pastor Vern is leading a second annual Ending Well Workshop. He will cover a variety of pertinent topics, including planning our funerals to cremation to financial matters. We'll hear from Wayne Odell as he shares about the work that Ethelyn and he did in planning ahead for her funeral.

Anyone is welcome to attend, though we want to extend a special invitation to those getting up in years and to their families. If you attended last year's workshop, we will be covering some of the same material, but some new topics as well. You're welcome to return. We hope you find it helpful and enriching.

FYI July and August Pastoral Acts

BAPTISMS

Alden James Olinger
Hannah Marie Beatty

MARRIAGES

Christy Martenson and Betsy Fisher

SAINTS GONE BEFORE US

Joanne I. Swanson
Donald "Don" M. Sudor
Ethelyn A. Odell

Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUNDAY | 8:30am & 10:30am

September 10, 24
October 8, 22
November 12, 26

WEDNESDAY | 6:15pm

September 13, 27
October 11, 25
November 1, 15, 29

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@gmail.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 October issue of the *Zumbro Current* by September 15, to zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org



**God's work.
Our hands.**

God's work. Our hands. Week

SEPTEMBER 10 AND 13

Build bridges with Zumbro's Dinka members. Sample some South Sudanese food.

Write letters to our elected officials to advocate for ongoing support for the people suffering in South Sudan.

Create school kits for children at a new school South Sudanese members are helping to develop near Rumbek, South Sudan.

PLACE
TAB HERE

PLACE LABEL HERE

PLACE
TAB HERE

PLACE
TAB HERE

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Material

www.zumbrolutheran.org
(507) 288-2649

624 Third Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55902



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