



*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*

DECEMBER 2017

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



A Longing for Home

3

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Worship will be held at 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm, 9pm

5

FAITH FORMATION

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Youth in preschool-grade 6 will present a program entitled *Jesus Is Our Home*

THE DARK AWAITS THE DAWN

Celebrate the magical sounds of Christmas at the Festival of Lessons and Carols

2-3

Journey with us through the season of Advent

6-7

BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

A Longing for Home

Not too long ago I was visiting someone in the hospital. She'd been a patient for nearly six weeks, and missed everything

"If I were little again my parents could do all of the worrying for me."

possible about home—her own bed, her furry friends curled up in her lap, and beginning to prepare for the holidays. As we continued to visit, I asked her what she wished for more than anything. After thinking for a moment, she replied, "I wish I were little again."

She continued to explain: "If I were little again my parents could do all of the worrying for me." She grew nostalgic as she imagined what that would be like. "I'd be looking forward to Christmas. On Christmas Eve I'd impatiently wait while my mom did the

dishes. We'd have to get to church early because Dad was always an usher. And then I'd watch the live nativity enter, and we'd sing "Silent Night" by candlelight."

With tears streaming down her face, she continued to imagine what life would be like if she were a little girl again. So much in her life had changed since then.

There's something about this time of year that causes a little bit of nostalgia to sit in. Whether your childhood was picture perfect or etched with blemishes, memories of Christmases past are bound to come flooding in at some point.

So what do you long for? Simpler times? The home you grew up in? Fewer empty chairs around the table? This Advent we're going to make our way through a Sunday sermon series called, "A Longing for Home." While we



might not be able to recreate Christmases past or return to our childhood home, we'll be reminded that Christmas comes and makes its home in our heart. Times change and traditions evolve, but the promises of God's son sent for us remain true through the generations.

May the Prince of Peace find his way into your heart this season.

See you in worship.

Pastor Lisa

Sunday Worship

A Longing for Home

GOD MAKES A HOME FOR US

Genesis 2:4b-9, 14-17

SUNDAY, DEC. 3 | 8:30AM and 10:30AM

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Bel Canto Handbell Choir (8:30am and 10:30am), Zumbro Lutheran Choir (10:30am)

GOD HELPS US CATCH OUR BREATH

Ezekiel 37:1-14

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 | 8:30AM and 10:30AM

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Music: Zumbro Youth Band and String (8:30am and 10:30am); Zumbro Choristers and Junior Ringers (8:30am); Zumbro Lutheran Choir (10:30am)

GOD CREATES IN US A LONGING FOR HOME

Isaiah 55:1-13

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 | 8:30AM and 10:30AM

Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am), Zumbro Choristers and Sing-n-Ring (10:30am), Faith Formation Christmas Program (10:30am)

GOD COMES TO MAKE A HOME WITH US

John 1:1-18

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 | 8:30AM

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

Music: Janette Reeves, soloist

Christmas Eve

OUR HOME IS FOUND IN A MANGER

Luke 2:1-8

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Family Blessing (2, 3:30, and 5PM)

Candlelight Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

2PM

Music by The Ketterling Family

3:30PM

Bel Canto Handbell Choir
Zumbro Lutheran Choir

5PM

Bel Canto Handbell Choir
Zumbro Lutheran Choir

9PM

Janette Reeves, soloist

Christmas Day

SHEPHERDS VISIT

Luke 2:8-20

MONDAY, DEC. 25 | 10am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Kelsey O'Leary, soloist

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

John 1:19-34

SUNDAY, DEC. 31 | 8:30AM and 10:30PM

Preaching: Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Music: Ralph Schornack, soloist

Service of Remembrance

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 | 12:30PM

ZUMBRO SANCTUARY

The holiday season can be the most wonderful time of the year, but if you've lost a loved one it can also be the most difficult time of the year. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one (regardless of how many months or years it has been), you are invited to come to this Service of Remembrance. This is a holy time to gather, remember, hear God's promises, light a candle, and let your tears become a prayer to God. All are welcome.

Zumbro Youth Band and Strings

DECEMBER 10 IN WORSHIP

Everyone Loves Christmas carols, and here's an opportunity to play them in worship! On Sunday, Dec. 10, the Zumbro Youth Band and Strings directed by Music Minister Kristy Giere will accompany the congregation in some great carols of the holiday season. Questions? Contact Kristy Giere, 288-2649 or kristygiere@zumbrolutheran.org.

REHEARSAL TIMES:

- Thursday, Nov. 30, 6-6:45pm
- Thursday, Dec. 7, 6-6:45pm
- Saturday, Dec. 9, 10-10:45am

All rehearsals will take place in the Sanctuary.

Staffed Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS 8:15-11:45AM

CHRISTMAS EVE 8:15-9:45AM

WEDNESDAYS 6-8:15PM

The nursery will not be staffed on December 27 because there is no worship that evening.

Advent Lunch

WEDNESDAYS | 12:45pm

After the 12pm Advent worship, a lunch is served in the Lounge for a suggested donation of \$6. Lunches include dessert and beverages.

DECEMBER 6-Chicken Wild Rice

Soup, Crackers, Croissants, Fruit

DECEMBER 13-Tomato Basil Soup,

Crackers, ½ Turkey and Cheese Sandwich, Fruit

DECEMBER 20-Chicken Noodle

Soup, Crackers, Croissants, Fruit

Advent Supper

WEDNESDAYS | 4:45-6pm

On Wednesdays before evening worship, a supper is served in the Lounge. Supper includes beverages.

DECEMBER 6- HyVee Chinese
(charge per item)

DECEMBER 13- Pasquale's Pizza,
Green Salad, Garlic Knots and
Marinara Sauce (\$5)

DECEMBER 20- HyVee Chinese
(charge per item)

Faith Formation: High School Group

WEDNESDAYS

DECEMBER 13 | 7-8PM

YOUTH ROOM

Bell-Ringing: High School

DECEMBER 20 |7-8PM

Advent Worship-Wednesdays

We have Wednesday Advent worship again this year—both at noon and 6:15pm. Advent worship—much like Lent—is a great way to quiet our hearts and reflect on the season. Our theme for Wednesdays is “The Dark Awaits the Dawn.” We have lots of darkness in our world. We’ll focus on how God comes to us in the midst of the darkness with light and hope. We will sing Holden Evening Prayer during worship. If possible, join us for lunch after the noon service or come early for dinner (4:45-6pm).



LIVING IN DARKNESS

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6 | 12PM and 6:15PM

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

AWAITING THE DAWN

Psalm 46:4-7

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13 | 12PM and 6:15PM

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Kipp

TILL SHADES OF FEAR ARE GONE

Isaiah 43:1-4

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 | 12PM and 6:15PM

Prayers for Healing

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

We Heard You

During the weeks of November 5 and 12, we included a brief hearing survey in the *Life at Zumbro*. We were interested in hearing from you, specifically regarding how well (or poorly) you hear the spoken word. We know that our sanctuary presents some unique hearing challenges.

Sixty-two percent of you reported that on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best), you hear the spoken word at an 8, 9, or 10. However, 21% of you hear the spoken word at a 5 or less. This certainly leaves room for improvement.

Approximately 30% of you reported encountering dead spots. The most commonly mentioned areas were under the balcony and in the chapel.

Of those who completed the survey, 23% use a hearing aid. You reported limited experience with a hearing loop (technology that sends sound directly to hearing aids). Additionally, only 36% who have tried Zumbro's hearing assist devices found them helpful.

So what will we do with this information? We will certainly keep it in mind as we dream some dreams about our building in the future. In the meantime, as a staff we're working on bringing in a speech coach to help us work on some of our problem areas, like dropping our voices at the end of sentences. And we'll all work on slowing down a little.

Thanks for taking your time to fill out the survey. Your feedback matters. Quality sound is important as we seek to share the hope of Jesus in worship.

Advent Intergenerational Event

DECEMBER 3 AND 6

FAITH FORMATION HOUR

To kick off the season of Advent, all Zumbro generations are invited to build bridges of understanding and peace through conversations, a service project and prayer craft. Passing on faith happens in many ways. This event is intentionally designed to deepen faith, community and intergenerational relationships. We hope you can attend this vibrant Faith Formation session for the entire congregation!

The Dark Awaits the Dawn

36th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 17 | 4:30PM

ST. MARYS HOSPITAL CHAPEL

Prelude music begins at 4pm with the service beginning at 4:30pm.

Music by

- Zumbro Lutheran Choir
- Zumbro Choristers
- Zumbro Brass Ensemble
- Zumbro Woodwind Quintet
- Bel Canto Handbell Choir
- Mary Schneekloth, harp; Michael Bostwick, clarinet
- Corey Henke, horn and Susan Henke, piano

Come early to ensure seating.

Faith Formation Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 10:30AM

Our Annual Faith Formation Christmas program will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30am service. Preschool through 6th grade children and youth are invited to be a part of the program. All rehearsals will be held during Faith Formation classes on Sundays and Wednesdays. (There will NOT be a Saturday morning practice.)

There are special opportunities to be involved this year:

- **1st and 2nd graders can ring colorful bells**
- **3rd and 4th graders can dress in costume**
- **5th and 6th graders can have speaking parts**

All the kids will sing together as we present this year's program entitled, *Jesus Is Our Home*, tying into the theme for Advent: A Longing For Home. Please contact Janette Reeves with any questions. Look for more information in the Family Ministry Update email that is sent every Friday afternoon.

Holiday Poinsettias

Again this year you will have the opportunity to order and donate poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary through Christmas Day. Plants are \$15 each. Details and ordering guidelines will be in upcoming *Life at Zumbro* inserts and ENews.

Can you Lend a Hand for Lessons and Carols?

If you have a pickup truck or larger SUV, your assistance is needed to:

- Transport equipment from Zumbro to St. Marys Hospital Chapel after the 10:30am service
- Transport equipment back to Zumbro after the concert

Ushers and greeters are also needed to pass out programs and welcome those attending the service. If you can help with any of these opportunities, please sign up on the yellow *Life at Zumbro* during worship or online anytime.

The Church is a Messy, Beautiful Thing

by Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

In November, Pastor Jason accompanied several delegates from SE MN Synod and the greater ELCA church to celebrate the dedication of a new Lutheran center in Juba, South Sudan. Here is an excerpt from one of Pastor Jason's blog posts.

For all intents and purposes, South Sudan is an idea not yet realized. Sixty-four tribes of people live in this area. The borders of the country are relics of colonialism, which took no account for how boundaries would unite or divide people. It is one of the sins of Europe and



Pastor Jason and Pastor Pete Reuss were two of the pastors representing SE MN Synod at the dedication.

America that impacts people to the fifth and sixth generations.

Tribal violence has dominated the narrative of this country. Much of the fighting is happening between Dinka and Nuer. The sins of the past continue to breed sin in the present. From a distance the situation seems hopeless.

But today, some of those sins of division are being healed. Hope is finding daylight. Yesterday, I watched Pastor Wal Reat, a Nuer, walk down the street holding hands with Pastor Mawien Arik, a Dinka. (In east Africa, it is very

common for men to walk together holding hands.) Mawien walked Wal to a small shop just down the road from the new Lutheran Center. The woman who runs the shop is also Nuer and is from Pastor Wal's home village. It may seem like a very small gesture, but when you consider that people in each of their tribes have been killing each other for the last three years, it feels like a pretty big bridge was being built. Relationships are forming like this throughout this new Lutheran church in South Sudan.



Pastors Jacob and Wal, friends from different tribes and brothers in faith



We spent one afternoon and the next morning at the Lutheran Center in Juba. The Center hosts a beautiful sanctuary that has room for about 450 people, a school that will provide learning and skills for adults to get better jobs in the community, and a clinic that will focus on antenatal care and house the first permanent fistula clinic in South Sudan.

The name of the church is Reconciliation Lutheran Church. Their key goals are to bring peace between peoples and tribes and to bring hope through education and medical care. Little



by little, hope is showing up and peace is being found. It will take tremendous courage to bring tribes together to worship and serve alongside one another. It has been and will continue to be messy. But that's the way God works, in our messes and our struggles. That's the way that sin is healed and divisions are mended—through digging in deep and trusting that God is already there. God is definitely up to some amazing things here in Juba. And it's because faithful, messy people

have been willing to jump into the mess and find holiness in it all.

Read the full story plus find more stories and photos by following the link on the home page at www.zumbrolutheran.org.



The dedication of Reconciliation Lutheran Community Center and Clinic took place on November 16.



Pastor Jason delivered this sign made by Zumbro members during this fall's God's Work. Our Hands. activities.

Pastoral Acts

BAPTISM

Geneva Rae Hatton

SAINTS GONE BEFORE US

Terry R. Truax
Dean L. Kruegel
Ronald H. Scrabeck
N. Howard Brandt
Gene L. LeClaire
Joanna C. Rovelstad

Building Blocks of Baptism Class

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 | 9:35AM
KAIROS ROOM

Planning a Baptism?

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUNDAY | 8:30am
December 10, 24, 31
January 14, 28
February 11, 25

SUNDAY | 10:30am
December 10, 31
January 14, 28
February 11, 25

WEDNESDAY | 6:15pm
December 13
January 3, 17, 31
February 14, 28

Zumbro Lutheran Travelers And Friends

Fliers and registration forms are available for all trips at the ushers' stand and in the church office. Make your reservations early for great discounts.

Sister Act

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 2018

CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRE

After a successful run, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres is bringing back the feel-amazing musical comedy smash, *SISTER ACT*. This tells the hilarious story of a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her away in the last place anyone would expect—a convent! She helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she also rediscovers her own in a sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship.

Join the Zumbro Lutheran Travelers and Friends for a one-day trip to Chanhassen for the musical *SISTER ACT*. The day includes motor coach transportation, noon meal selected that day from the matinee menu, matinee musical, and all taxes and gratuities. **Paid reservations are due in the church office no later than December 17, 2017.**

National Parks of America

JUNE 9-20, 2018

This trip includes Scottsdale, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, Old Faithful, Sheridan, Bighorn Mountains, Mount Rushmore, and Crazy Horse Memorial with many lodgings within the national parks. **Save \$100 per person if booked before December 8, 2017.**

Magical Rhine and Moselle River Cruise

SEPTEMBER 5-14, 2018

This trip includes a 7-night cruise along the Moselle and Rhine Rivers with all touring stops included in the cost of the tour (other than the option of Heidelberg). Enjoy the medieval instruments at Siegfried's Mechanisches Musikkabinett, the picturesque tour of Rudesheim, cruise and tour the famous canals of Amsterdam, explore Cologne's Old Town, stops in Germany and France including the Black Forest and ending in Zurich, Switzerland. **Book before January 5, 2018, and save \$500.**

Action Projects

BENEFICIARY: DOROTHY DAY HOUSE (ROCHESTER, MN)

The Dorothy Day Hospitality House is a temporary shelter for those who find themselves in crisis and are in need of the basic necessities of food, clothing, and shelter. All persons in need are welcome.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Men's winter gloves & warm socks
- Stocking caps & scarves
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream & razors
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Toilet tissue
- Twin size blankets & quilts
- Bath towels (new or good condition)
- Coffee

*Items for the above projects
may be placed in the Action Box
outside of the Lounge.*



October Action Project Update

Because of your giving:

Fifty AIDS/Hospice Kits were assembled and sent to Global Health Ministries. Thank you to everyone who donated.

On Going Projects

The following items may be left in the drawers at the ushers' stand (unless noted):

- Layette items for Lutheran World Relief
- Beverage tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Campbell Soup labels and greeting cards for the Rainbow School
- Eyeglasses for Lion's Club
(Note: Deposit eyeglasses in container near the coat room.)

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

Sharryn Melin
Interim Communications-Life at Zumbro
zlcpublications@zumbrolutheran.org

Molly Althoff
Interim Communications-The Zumbro Current
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

Robert Schneider
Maintenance/Custodian

Craig Dickinson
Custodian

Karla Dexter
Office Assistant
karladexter@zumbrolutheran.org

Kamen Makuer
Dinka Lay Evangelist
makuerkamen@yahoo.com

Barb Desens
Nursery Coordinator



624 Third Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55902

www.zumbrolutheran.org
(507) 288-2649

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VELKOMMEN!

Lefse, fruit soup, and Scandinavian treats
meatballs, potatoes, cranberry sauce, coleslaw,
(adults-\$15; children 5 and younger-free)
Scandinavian Luncheon
11am-1pm

Lefse Sales (\$8/4 rounds; limit 3 packages)
10am

FAMILY Activities (\$5 suggested donation)
Coffe House (\$5)
9am-11am

Holiday Cookbook, Fair Trade
Attic Treasures, Crafts, Baked Goods
9am-2pm

Saturday, December 2, 2017



MOLLY ALTHOFF at TheZumbroCurrent@gmail.com
of the Zumbro Current by December 15, to
please submit items for the January issue

Newletter Deadline