

*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

MAY 2018

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

**4 & 5**

## **SERVING & A CUP OF COFFEE**

Meet Ruth Monson, Zumbro's  
Congregational Life Minister.



**2**

## **PASTOR'S ARTICLE**

Pastor Lisa Kipp explains her plans for her three-month sabbatical starting May 1.

**6 & 7**

## **2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS**

Take a trip down memory lane as we touch on just some of the highlights of this astounding program year at Zumbro.

**8 & 9**

## **SCHOOLS & GUNS**

A community conversation was held in April as a follow-up to the numerous school shootings. Read what some of the conversation participants have to say.

Read the letter from Pastor Vern Christopherson, [The Way Things Look From Here](#), that was included with this newsletter.

# Sabbath

This month I begin a three-month sabbatical. Woven throughout the biblical narrative is the concept of Sabbath – the rhythm of work and rest, and how the wholeness of life is to be found in that harmony. A pastor’s sabbatical is designed to be a time of rest, reflection, and study for the pastor; and a time of refreshment and renewal for the whole congregation.

I’ll be spending part of my time away studying mission. In my 18 years at Zumbro I have led 24 short-term mission trips and 283 people to locations in the U.S. and around the world. In April, I designed a survey to study the impact that these experiences have had on participants. I’m looking forward to having time on sabbatical to sift through people’s responses and reflections. The thoughtful responses I have already received are proving to be a powerful way to look back on my ministry at Zumbro. I am eager to dream about the ways this feedback might guide Zumbro’s mission and outreach into the future.

I’ll be spending four weeks in May/June back in Tanzania. While there I will be having conversations and studying the impact of accompaniment ministry.

Accompaniment ministry is a practice in which we commit to walking side-by-side our ministry

partners, seeking to blur the lines between givers and receivers in our relationship. We pay careful attention to values like mutuality, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. The director of Iambi Hospital has asked that I help him provide some leadership at the hospital. I also suspect that I’ll be doing some preaching and teaching.

Part of my intention for traveling to Tanzania is to be able to lean into the different rhythm of life Tanzania offers. Each time I travelled there I had the opportunity to take deep breaths and spend time with God in wholly (and holy) different ways than I do at home. The first week or so of my time in the country will be spent reading and soaking in the sun along the shores of the Indian Ocean. I’ve also recently purchased a used bike in Tanzania, and I look forward to exploring and simply being in God’s creation. Biking from village to village on African soil – doesn’t that sound fantastic?

The majority of June and July will be spent enjoying time with my family. There will be plenty of traveling baseball and AAU



basketball games to watch. I’m looking forward to being fully present with my boys and husband during these times. No writing sermons between games this summer!

In July, I’ll vacation with my entire family at the lake in Blackduck, MN. Later in the month, John and I will be taking our boys on an adventure to California and the shores of the Pacific Ocean. We can’t wait!

I’m so grateful for the opportunity to travel and take this time away. While I’m on sabbatical I will be taking a Sabbath break from responding to your e-mails, texts, and calls. I’ll certainly miss our regular interactions and seeing you all in worship. Thanks so much for your prayers and support.

See you in August,

*Pastor Lisa*

**Want to follow my adventures while I’m away?**  
I’ll blog at [www.PastorLisaKipp.wordpress.com](http://www.PastorLisaKipp.wordpress.com)

# Worship

## Living Joyfully

### SERMON SERIES

Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of the most joyful letters in the New Testament. That's surprising, because Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter, and his future was anything but certain. Much of Paul's joy stems from the positive reports he has heard about the congregation. They see themselves as partners with Paul. They've been at work sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting others to join them in their house church. They've even managed to send a financial gift in support of Paul. For all these things and more, Paul is grateful.

### PAUL'S ABSENCE

#### Philippians 1:12-26

SUNDAY, MAY 6 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am),  
Zumbro Youth Band and Strings, Zumbro  
Saxophone Ensemble (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 | 6:15pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### FOLLOWING IN CHRIST'S HUMILITY

#### Philippians 1:27-2:11

SUNDAY, MAY 13 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Music: Zumbro Choristers (8:30am),  
Junior Ringers (8:30am), Bel Canto  
Handbell Choir, Zumbro Lutheran Choir

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

### PENTECOST

#### SHINING AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

#### Philippians 2:12-18; Acts 2:1-21

SUNDAY, MAY 20 | 8:30am and 10:30am

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing  
Graduating Senior Recognition Sunday  
Wear Red in Honor of Pentecost

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

Music: Zumbro Lutheran Choir (8:30am),  
Zumbro Baroque Ensemble (8:30am),  
Music by Graduating Seniors (10:30am)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 | 6:15pm

Holy Communion

Preaching: Pastor Vern Christopherson

### TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS

SUNDAY, MAY 27 | 8:30am and 10am\*

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Music: Janette Reeves, soloist; Zumbo  
Handbell Quartet

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 | 6:15pm

Preaching: Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

\* Note the worship time changes to 10am for the summer months beginning May 27.

## WORSHIP

### Nursery Hours

SUNDAYS | 8:15-11:45am

WEDNESDAYS | 6-8:15pm

### Planning a Baptism

Contact the church office to schedule a baptism.

SUGGESTED DATES AND TIMES

SUNDAY | 8:30am & 10:30am

May 13

SUNDAY | 8:30am & 10am

May 27

June 10, 24

July 8, 22, 29

WEDNESDAY | 6:15pm

May 2, 16, 30

June 13, 27

July 11, 25

### Hymn Sings

Zumbro offers special Hymn Sings on the fourth Sunday a month during the summer to sing some of your favorite hymns during worship. Beginning May 27 you have the opportunity to share in the *Life at Zumbro* what your favorite hymns are and why they are so meaningful. We will sing some of them and share why they are so meaningful in the Sunday bulletin.

### Graduating High School Senior Recognition Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Reception in the lounge

9:35-10:25am. Recognition and

blessing during the 10:30am

worship service.

## JOURNEY OF FAITH

### Study on Social Statement on Women and Justice

MAY 10, 17, 24 | 11:30am

ZUMBRO LOUNGE

A team of theologians, scholars, and members of ELCA churches have been working on a Social Statement on Women and Justice. Zumbro member and retired pastor, Patti Hewitt, will lead this study on this document. Sign up in the *Life at Zumbro*.

### Couples' Night Out

MAY 18 | 6-8:30pm

We're hosting dinner and some fun time to focus on marriage, Friday night, May 18, 6-8:30pm. Drop your kids (ages 0-12) off at church with our skilled and caring staff, then join others for dinner at Grand Rounds Brew Pub for adult conversation, dinner, and some fun. Just \$35 per person, includes meal, one drink, and childcare. Registration is available at our website.

### SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

SAMARITAN BETHANY

Zumbro is scheduled to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ at Samaritan Bethany to church services in the chapel there during the month of June. Volunteers are needed for both of their worship services at 9am and 10am. Contact Nancy Berg with your questions at [berg1433@gmail.com](mailto:berg1433@gmail.com)

# Staff Spotlight: Ruth Monson

by Allison Passon, Communications Director

Sugar and cream. Caramel macchiato. Iced. Light roast. Black. Steamed milk. Fair-trade beans. Espresso. Blended. Cold brew. Skim.

Coffee is a culture. For some it's a necessity, others an indulgence, and others something they are not a part of. Ruth Monson understands the coffee culture and knows how it can easily break down barriers.

When Ruth gets to work at Zumbro in the morning, while she waits for her computer to warm up she chats with her coworkers as she makes herself a cup of slow drip single-serve coffee. Once her mug is filled she continues making connections while at her desk.



For her, coffee has always been woven into her career. She first started as a teacher after graduation from Luther College, where coffee was used to help energize her to keep up with her students. Then when she chose to raise her two daughters and run her home full-time, coffee helped her through those many sleep-deprived years. Ruth's love for music and her deep love for God and worship brought her to working in music ministry at Our Saviors' Lutheran Church in Austin, MN, where her husband Glenn served as pastor. Working in ministry and having a fondness for coffee seem to go hand-in-hand according to some. She spent her time organizing the music for worship, working with musicians, and rehearsing. When she started her job search on the cusp of relocating to Rochester as Glenn accepted a call to Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Ruth said, "Finding the job posting for Congregational Life Minister at Zumbro was a blessing."



**Ruth is nearly always ready with a cup of coffee in hand. Here she is with a Zumbro mug; you can buy your own in the church office.**

Being Zumbro’s Congregational Life Minister makes use of Ruth’s God-given gifts. She loves to organize and fit pieces together. She often has a running to-do list, and, like many other people, finds joy in crossing tasks off once completed. Yet her greatest joy is creating a relationship with people. “My favorite part of my job is my interaction with people. My ideal role would be to carry around a coffee pot and walk around filling cups of coffee while connecting with each person as I did.” In many ways, she is able to do just that in her daily work at Zumbro.

Ruth connects Care Ministers to people who are in need of a companion, mostly homebound members of Zumbro, and gathers and trains worship volunteers. She oversees 30 care ministry pairings and up to 60 worship volunteers on Sunday mornings—ushers, greeters, lectors, cross bearers, and communion assistants. “I see this as a ministry of navigating where people can use their gifts in service to this congregation,” Ruth said.

One of Ruth’s goals is to see that everyone knows they matter, and to help them find a place to thrive as a volunteer at Zumbro. Ruth feels, “When you use your gifts to serve your congregation your faith can deepen and life can be enhanced.” If you feel a tug or a nudge from the Holy Spirit to try something new, reach out to Ruth. She will gladly work with you, possibly over a cup of coffee, to find just the right place for you to volunteer and be successful doing so.

## Faith Formation

**SUNDAY | MAY 6, 13, 20**

PRESCHOOL-SIXTH GRADE

9:35-10:20am

**WEDNESDAY | MAY 2, 9, 16, 23**

KINDERGARTEN-SIXTH GRADE

GYM | 7-8pm

HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH ROOM | 7pm-8pm

## Seventh Grade Confirmation Orientation

SUNDAY, MAY 13 | 9:35am

All current sixth grade students and their parent(s) are invited.

You can expect to learn about the program and get excited for fall! Contact Pastor Shelley Cunningham or Deacon Kris Oppegard with your questions.

## Women's Spring Luncheon

SATURDAY, MAY 19

11:30am-1:30pm

A catered lunch (\$6.50 per person) will be enjoyed along with listening to guest speaker, Habibi Haji, a Mayo Clinic Registered Nurse, speak about her book, *Conquering the Odds: Journey of a Shepherd Girl*. It is an inspirational story of survival and perseverance. Sign up in the *Life at Zumbro*.

# What an Amazing Year

by Allison Passon, Communications Director

Life happens. Weeks get busy. The years fly by. As a new mom, managing my full-time job, volunteer opportunities, children's schedules, weekly meal plans, and my spiritual life, it so incredibly easy for me to keep "charging ahead" without reflecting on the good in life. Even though we may not be in the same stage of life, I'm sure you can say the same thing—it doesn't seem to be the most intuitive thing to be present in today's world. With Zumbro's program year winding down this month (September-May is our general timeframe for activities), I thought it would be nice to take some time and space in the newsletter to reflect on all that we made happen this year.

As I started brainstorming and reading the responses from my colleagues, I was in awe. I told Pastor Lisa Kipp one night while working on this assignment, "Zumbro has done a LOT of cool things this year. Zumbro Lutheran Church isn't just place for people to worship; it is a community actively caring for the communities it is a part of."



May 25, 2017 - Zumbro member Delores Badger and Congregational Life Minister Ruth Monson hosted a Spring Senior Luncheon. More than 60 of Zumbro's timeless members (age 85+) enjoyed lunch, a singalong of their favorite tunes, and conversation with each other.



June 20, 2017 - Open Table Food Ministry was recognized by KTTC and the United Way of Olmsted County as one of 10 Who Make a Difference.



July 3-11 2018 - Zumbro sent 26 high school youth and six leaders to Montego Bay, Jamaica to share the hope of Jesus with children in partnership with Mission Jamaica. This program is an outreach ministry of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN.



June-August 2017 - We asked you to take Flat Jesus along for a ride on your summer road trips. It was so fun to see Flat Jesus in Iceland, at yoga, on a “girls” trip to Lake Geneva, on bike rides, and more.

July 14, 2017 - A new website was launched giving an update to Zumbro’s “digital front door” making it more user-friendly and responsive to mobile devices.

August 2018 - Zumbro’s nursery was licensed by the State of Minnesota to allow the Rainbow School preschool to add class that meets three days a week in that space during the school year. The nursery space is now at its safest for Zumbro’s youngest children.



September 10 and 13, 2017 - As part of the “God’s work. Our hands.” service event, Zumbro supported our South Sudanese Dinka members, worked to raise money to reunite a family, and put together school supplies kits to send to Juba, South Sudan when it’s first school is built.

November 12, 2017 - Zumbro hosted a synod-wide hymn festival to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

January 2018 - Bridges of understanding were built as Zumbro and the Dinkas gathered with people who attend Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to discuss the topic “Being Safe in an Unsafe World” with a special focus on the worries and concerns that all of us share.

February 14, 2018 - More than 30 wiggly and excited children actively participated in the family Ash Wednesday worship service. It was really moving to see children mark the cross of Christ on their parents’ foreheads.

April 2-8, 2018 - The Youth Silent Auction took on a new twist and went partially digital this year. The Online Youth Auction happened in a Facebook group and raised \$1,000.

April 15-May 20, 2018 - Zumbro is hosting its first Art Exhibit showcasing the amazing talents of those who worship at Zumbro.

April 18, 2018 - Middle schoolers, high schools, parents, grandparents, and adults discussed safety in schools at a community conversation on schools and guns. (A recap can be read on pages 8 and 9.)



Through Zumbro’s partnership with Global Health Ministries, thousands of dollars’ worth of medical supplies were sent to Iambi Hospital in Tanzania, including an x-ray machine.

Reading through the Gospel of John this Lent left an impression on worshippers and children.

**Like I said, Zumbro is amazing. And this list only begins to “scratch the surface” of the ways we are building bridges of understanding and peace, reaching out with compassion, and sharing the hope of Jesus. Thank you for all that you do. Truly.**

# A Conversation about Schools and Guns

by Pastor Lisa Kipp and Pastor Shelley Cunningham

On Wednesday, Apr. 18, students, parents, and Zumbro members of all generations gathered for a community conversation about schools and guns. The goals: to create a safe space for conversation and to wrestle together with the question, “How do we respond faithfully?” This gathering was another one of the ways we’re seeking to build bridges of understanding and peace this year.



**Parents and interested Zumbro members listened as students shared their experience with school lockdown and safety drills.**

Because knowing the facts can be one of the first steps in easing fear and worry, we invited Scott Sherden, executive director of operations for the Rochester Public School District, to join us. He shared many of the steps the school district is taking to keep our students and staff safe. He also said the district’s number one intelligence tool was sitting in the sanctuary: vigilant, caring, engaged people. His top words of advice: “See something, say something.” District officials urge students, staff, and community members to report any comments they hear that may pose a threat to school safety. Mr. Sherden is proud of the depth in which RPS follows up on the reports they receive.

Small groups of parents, students, and concerned adults discussed how prior school shootings have impacted them emotionally. They also talked about local responses to more recent events, such as student walkouts and the March for Our Lives in downtown Rochester earlier this spring.

The room was filled with compassionate voices, active listeners, and people of all generations wrestling with how to respond faithfully. We were guided by the words of Ed Stetzer of *Christianity Today*:

“So don’t just watch the television news. Do something to change the broken world – show and share the love of Jesus. Again. More. The hurting world needs God’s people living as those who care, because we do care. We can’t fix everything, but we can do something.”



Small group conversations were designed to build bridges of understanding and peace between people of different generations and opinions.

So what might a faithful response look like? Here are some of the ideas we heard from participants:

**“Be kind. To everyone.” Rhonda Hendrickson, parent**

**“Write your legislators. Even if you can’t vote, you are part of the constituency that they represent.” Willie Roden, 9th grader**

**“Spread compassion. Love is the language of our religion.” Kathy Peterson, retired teacher**

**“Do something. Share the love of Jesus. Sit by a kid who’s sitting alone. This could have a spiral effect.” Ashley Stortz, 10th grader**



Bruce Sherden, Executive Director of Operations for Rochester Public Schools, shared the efforts the school district takes to protect our students.



Local media KIMT was present to tell the story of a local congregation "coming together to have open and honest conversations."



High school student Ashley Stortz and father LeRoy Stortz were grateful to have an opportunity to ask one-on-one questions of Bruce Sherden, a member of the superintendent's cabinet.

Though the aim of conversations like these isn't to come up with solutions, they do remind us that God calls people of faith to do something. Listening, learning, and supporting one another in prayer are great places to start.

# The Best Summer Ever!

Give your kids the bests summer ever with these activities!

## Memorial Weekend

SUNDAY, MAY 27

### 8am - Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial

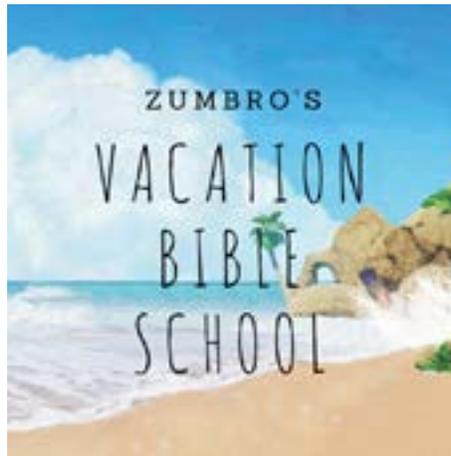
All are welcome as we honor and give thanks for those who have served and those who are now serving our country in military service. We will gather inside the center of the memorial for a brief reflection, prayer, and song.

### 11:15am - The Columbarium at Zumbro

All are welcome to gather inside the Columbarium for a brief service in honor of loved ones who have died. We will give thanks to God for the lives of those we have lost, and be reminded of God's reassuring promise of everlasting life.

## Camp Counselors and More!

Do you know of any Zumbro youth who are serving at a camp this summer? Zumbro wants to support those youth who serve at a camp this summer. If you know of someone who will serve as a summer camp staff person, please contact Deacon Kris Oppegard, Family Minister, or drop off the information at the church office. Please include the person's name, the name of the camp, the camp address, and the dates when they will be at camp.

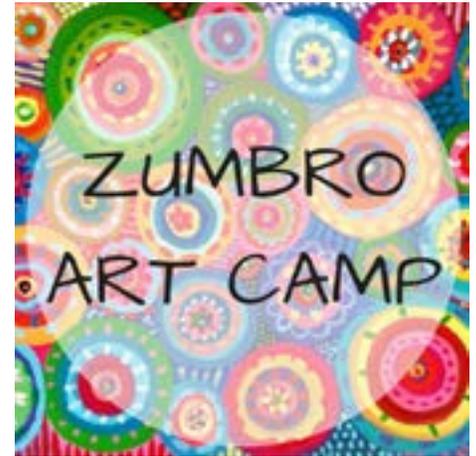


### VBS & VBS +PLUS+

JUNE 18-22

Bible stories with a real-life application during this high energy experience.

[zumbrolutheran.org/vbs-vbs-plus/](http://zumbrolutheran.org/vbs-vbs-plus/)



### Art Camp

JULY 30-AUGUST 2

A hands-on, squishy, watery, and colorful way to be immersed in Bible stories.

[zumbrolutheran.org/art-camp/](http://zumbrolutheran.org/art-camp/)



### Family Camp

AUGUST 10-12

A weekend spent surrounded by God's green earth (at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch) and God's loving people.

[zumbrolutheran.org/summer-family-camp/](http://zumbrolutheran.org/summer-family-camp/)



### Summer Camp

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

Exploring God in Creation, growing faith in community, and engaging the world as followers of Christ.

[goodearthvillage.org](http://goodearthvillage.org)

# ZWELCA Action Project

BENEFICIARY: Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Long and short sleeve sleepers (without feet)
- Receiving blankets (up to 52")
- Cloth diapers (flat fold)
- Jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts with hood
- Socks
- Baby cap
- Hand towels
- Bars of soap
- Diaper pins or large safety pins

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

## Action Project Update

Because of your donations in March, Zumbro was able to put together eight sewing kits.

## Adopt-A-Garden

Imagine, just imagine green plants and flowers growing around the church campus. There is an opportunity to help with this through "Adopt-A-Garden." It is a little early to plant, but the snow is receding, (we hope). Persons can pair up and adopt a specific area to tend (which includes: plant, water, weed, and dead-head) all at a time of your convenience. Contact Zumbro member, Chuck Johnson at ccjdmj@aol.com or (507) 281-1843 to volunteer.

## Ongoing 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.)

## April Pastoral Acts

SAINTS GONE BEFORE US  
Marie L. Schroeder  
Lyle R. Rostad  
Robert L. Sande  
C. Iyde LeFevere  
Rosella A. Aaby  
Gene D. Alexander

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**Newsletter Deadline**  
Please submit items for the June issue  
of the *Zumbro Current* by May 10, to  
Allison Passon at [allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org](mailto:allisonpasson@zumbrolutheran.org)

