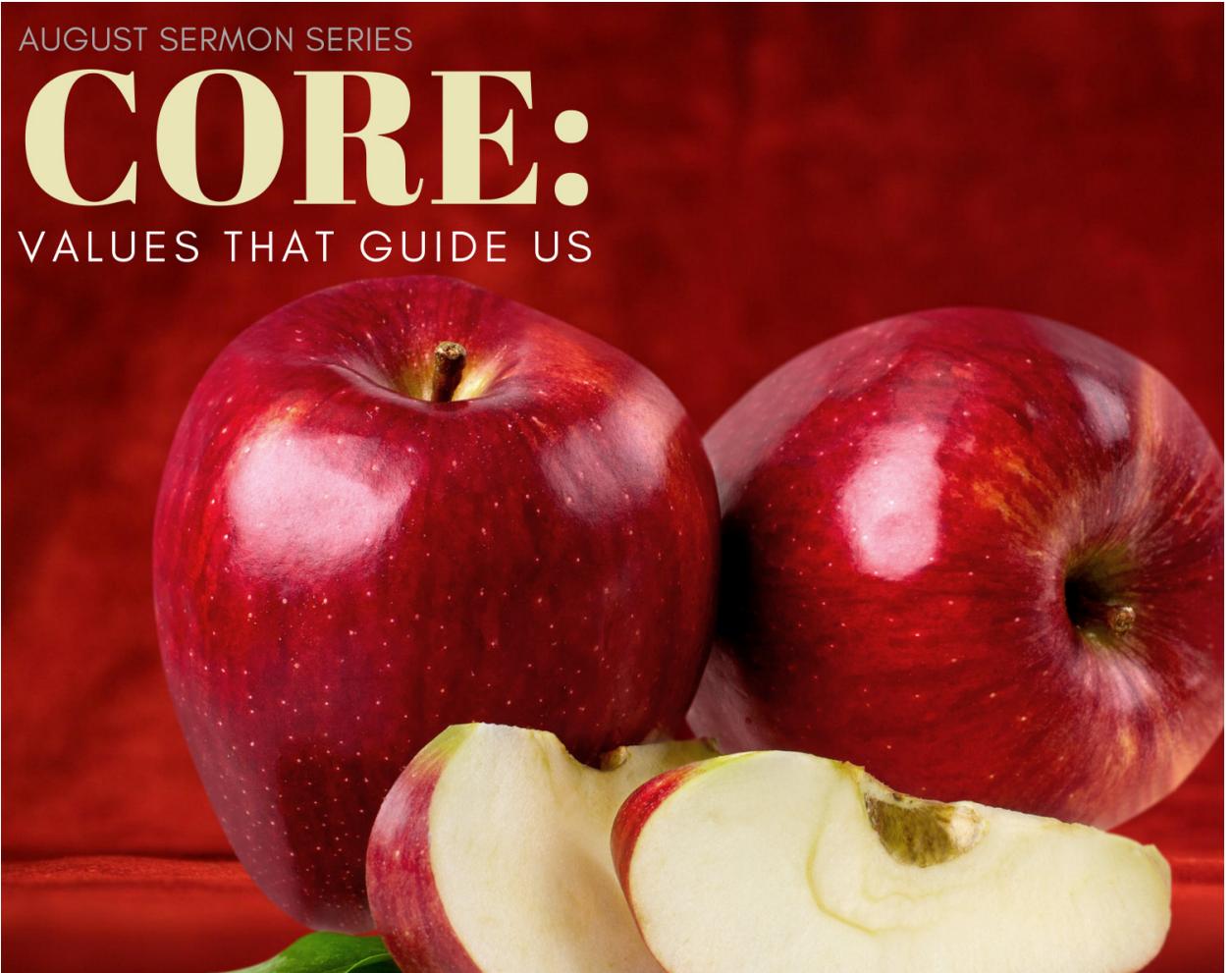


AUGUST SERMON SERIES

# CORE:

VALUES THAT GUIDE US



**Following Jesus is a Lifelong Journey**

# Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

During the month of August we are doing a sermon series on Zumbro's core values. The title of the series is *Values That Guide Us*.

Zumbro's Core Values are inspired by our mission statement. They are:

- Jesus is the center of our life together.
- Everyone is welcome here.
- Worship changes us.
- Following Jesus is a lifelong journey.
- We are sent to serve.

Our core values are the basic elements of how we go about our ministry and mission. They are the practices to which we strive in everything we do. Admittedly, some of these values are actual and some are aspirational, but in that they are inspired by our mission statement, they help form the center of all we say and do.

Our focus this week is **Following Jesus is a Lifelong Journey**.

By this we mean: *Whether we first experience faith as children or adults, our lives are grounded in the hope of Jesus. The church is a companion on the journey of faith, equipping and encouraging us every step of the way. Our journey is shaped by scripture and prayer, questions and conversations, and authentic relationships with others.*

The best stories never have perfectly linear storylines. They're complex, full of cool and weird characters, and almost always have moments and seasons of deep joy and awakening, surprise and laughter, and also profound uncertainty and loss. As humans, we're drawn to messy stories like that, because they reflect our own. It's a part of the human condition-our stories are typically as complex as we are. Our faith journeys are almost never an exception to this rule. They're just as diverse and as beautifully messy. Jesus' own journey certainly was. The core value of "following Jesus is a lifelong journey" grounds us in the truth that it's not how the journey starts or the destination or one single moment or season or choice that defines us, but rather the journey itself and the Holy One we share it with.

Worship will continue to be streamed online. It will also be broadcast on the radio at 1520AM.

We are having outdoor worship on the southeast lawn on Sundays at 10am. RSVPs are required. Check the website for details.

We will be taking a break from Wednesday Worship in August, but will return this fall in a new way.

KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

*As you prepare your heart for worship during the gathering music,  
you are invited to pray:*

Still us enough Creator God, so we can hear you. Come near us Jesus, so we know where to go. Breathe on us Spirit, so we can have the energy and faith for the journey. Amen.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## FOLLOW ME

GERHARD FROST

L: Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth

**C: and he said to him, “Follow me” (Matthew 9:9).**

L: Our God is a promise-making and promise-keeping God. He has committed himself to us and rescued us.

**C: Now we are summoned to live in the light of that rescue.**

L: The kept promises of God shape the life of each believer into a promise to keep.

**C: Because God has come, I must go. Because God has found, I must seek. Because God loves, I must love too.**

L: Whether you’re eight or eighty, the call is still, “Follow me.” Jesus calls us to a challenge continually new.

**C: To follow him is to participate, not just observe; to get involved in new experiences and responsibilities.**

L: We all think of ourselves. It is as natural as breathing, and it is not necessarily bad. But I need to think things through in terms of God’s gift to me.

**C: I need to remember that I am not called by Christ to compete. I am not expected to take another’s place but to find my own.**

## HYMN

## AMAZING GRACE! HOW SWEET THE SOUND

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.**

**’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
’tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

## GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

LORD, BE GLORIFIED



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Loving Jesus,

**C: Come close, and walk with us for the journey is long. Fill us with just enough courage to follow you wherever you might lead us and enough hope to know there is not a place on the journey that you will not be with us. With that faith we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE SONG

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

<sup>38</sup> After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. <sup>39</sup> Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup> They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup> Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## STORYTIME

PASTOR SHELLEY CUNNINGHAM

## SERMON

FOLLOWING JESUS IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY

JEN GRUENDLER

## HYMN

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

**"Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"**

**Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG

ALAN HANSEN, SOLOIST

TRANSLATED BY  
STEPHEN SOMERVILLE

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*After each petition the congregation responds:*

L: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, draw us close to you and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

**I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain*

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

**C: 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. Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

WHEN WE ARE LIVING  
KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

ARR. JOHN CARTER

**Prayers for Healing:**

- Don Butters
- Karen Jensen
- Curt Johnson
- Diane Kinneberg
- Betty Kraayenbrink
- Mark Schroeder
- Tom Westby

**Sympathy to:**

- Alice Benedett on the death of her brother, Donald Benedett.
- Aaron (Jenny) Bruenger on the death of his father, Rev. Alvin Bruenger.
- Pam (Mark) Shaft on the death of her mother, Eleanor Velzke.

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Jen Gruendler; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Vern Christopherson;  
**STORYTIME**-Pastor Shelley Cunningham; **LECTOR**-Ann Peterson; **PIANIST**-Kristy Giere;  
**SOLOIST/SONGLEADER**-Alan Hansen; **GUITAR**-Bob Giere

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624 Third Ave. SW | Rochester, MN 55902