

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will."

The shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior. St. Luke wrote, "And Mary treasured all of these things and reflected on them in her heart."

We too need to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is simply Jesus, true God who became true man, who came to reveal perfectly God's truth and love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded a Church – a family – where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament. Treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus and the faith you share in Him as a member of South Zumbro.

Moreover, we must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day and by continuing to read Scripture. After all, for those of you who have been reading the Bible in a year, you are almost done reading the whole Bible.

May our reflection of the gift of Christmas move us by God's grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first made His dwelling among us.

Lastly, as your pastor, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make our church a beacon of Christ's love. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for you in this season as we make room for Jesus in the manger of our heart.

Take a good look at what is going on this month. We will have Holden Evening Prayer the first two Wednesday evenings in December.

May the peace, joy, and love of the Christ Child be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

May God bless you,

Pastor Elden

South Zumbro is a welcoming, spiritually alive family of God, caring for one another and reaching out to encourage others to know Christ and His love.



South Zumbro
Lutheran Church

Pastor Elden Simonson

4830 120th Ave. S.W.

Kasson, Minnesota 55944

(507) 365-8110 – church

(907) 654-7336 – cell

eksimon1978@gmail.com

www.szlc.org

South Zumbro Bulletin Board

Are You in the Know?

Your church council wants to make sure all members have the opportunity to hear the reasoning behind the council's decision to fill 1.5 pastor positions through this current call process.

Our second information session will be held on December 2nd following our morning worship service.

Plan to attend so you are in the know!



Thank You!

Here at South Zumbro we have a group of dedicated women who organize and lead the kitchen duties for funerals. All circle members are on the list to be called to bring in cakes and or help out in the kitchen, but the core group on the funeral committee plan and initiate the work. They never know when or how often they will be called to duty yet they stand ready to serve. They provide a huge service to the families and friends of those who have passed on. When people are in their greatest need it is reassuring to be able to depend on this group of funeral organizers. Thank you to all who jump in to bring cake and help serve. A big big Thank You to the funeral committee, Dorene Ness, Judy Ness, Mary Lou McClamroch, Sandy Dahle, and Verla Holtan, you are the hands and feet of God during a time of need.

Prayer Warriors,

Thank you for your prayers this past year for my niece Stacy Redhead. She was diagnosed with acute Leukemia on November 30, 2017. Your many prayers were a huge support for Stacy and her family. She is now cancer free and showing no sign of rejecting the stem cells she received through transplant from her brother Joe. With Joy and Thanksgiving we lift our praise to God for the Blessings of a bright future with Stacy in our our midst here on earth.

Sandy Tjaden



Dear South Zumbro Church Family,

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with God's blessings! I have been so blessed each time I've gotten to come down for Sunday morning services and other special occasions, such as the 150th celebration of South Zumbro Church. It was a wonderful, memorable time and thanks to all who made it happen! It's been a joy to read through the Bible with you... looks like we're almost to the end! How precious is God's Word to us, leading and guiding us along life's pathway. Thank you all for friendship and fellowship!

Love in Christ,

Lil Aarsvold



Sunday School Program

The Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, December 16 at 4 pm with a BBQ dinner to follow. Join us for "Make Room." Below is the December schedule for our Sunday school.

December 2, 9: Program practice from 8:30-9:45 am

December 16: Program practice from 9-9:45 am

December 16: 4 pm Christmas program with BBQ dinner to follow; children should arrive at 3:30 pm

December 23 & 30: No Sunday school

January 6: Sunday school resumes



Celebrate Our Heritage

Christmas in the Late 1800's



Reverend Iver Lasseson was the third pastor of South Zumbro. He was preceded by Reverend O. A. Bergh and Reverend H. N. Ronning. Reverend Lasseson immigrated to America from Norway with his parents. He served South Zumbro from 1891 to 1910. This was his first calling after graduating from the Hauge Seminary in Red Wing. He was paid \$400 a year. Reverend Iver, his wife Kari, and four children moved into the newly built parsonage located across the road south from the present parsonage. Six more children would be born during the time he served South Zumbro. The youngest daughter, Esther, wrote of Christmas in the parsonage in the Lasseson Family History book. Following are excerpts from her stories in this book.

Caroling - Several people with bobsleighs drawn by horses with bells went to the nearby country homes and filled the sleighs with singers. *(Sled runners glided silently over the ground. Bells, while making a festive sound were installed to alert others of the sled's approach).* The carolers went from house to house singing Christmas Carols. We all went outside and listened – it was so beautiful. The air was cold and light and filled with music.

Preparing for Christmas - Mother had drawers full of gorgeous linens and, two weeks before Christmas, all were taken out and washed and ironed, to be put on the tables on Christmas Eve. The house was cleaned, and baking started long before Christmas. After the food was cooked and baths over, all new garments were worn. The table was set with an Irish linen tablecloth, the good dishes and silverware.

Christmas Dinner - We had lutefisk, meatballs, chicken, pig's feet, head cheese, roast pork, apple pickles, cucumbers, jams, jellies, lefsa, biscuits and rhubarb. After dinner the table was reset with nuts, peanuts, apples, fruit cake, Christmas bread, cookies, milk, homemade root beer and coffee. *(Lutefisk is dried cod fish. To*

prepare for eating, four to six days of soaking in cold water is needed to remove the lye).

Christmas Eve - Our front room doors were only opened on special occasions. On Christmas Eve, father came with the tree to trim. No one dared open the door to see. He put all the presents under the tree. After dinner, all was cleared away and everything washed up, then the doors were opened to the front room. What a dream! We all went in and saw the tree decorated and lit with candles. *(Candles were attached to the tree with holders clipped onto the branches. Someone usually stood nearby with a bucket of water in case the tree caught fire. The candles were allowed to burn a short time before they were blown out).* Sister Emma played the organ, and Dad had a choir in his own home. We all sang church Christmas songs. After singing, Dad read from the Bible and said a prayer. At last the homemade gifts were passed out. *(It is likely that only homemade gifts could be afforded).* One Christmas Eve the prairie wolves yelped and came up on the porch and looked in the window. Dad grabbed the lamp and took it to the windows and the wolves ran away. *(This may have been the Great Plains wolf. An extinct subspecies of the gray wolf, the last surviving until 1926).*

The family moved from Kasson in 1910 to their next calling in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. They returned to Kasson in 1918 for South Zumbro's 50th Anniversary.

Pastor Lasseson was invited to preach the sermon on that occasion.

The Lasseson Family History book is a part of South Zumbro's History Library

Submitted by,
Donald Ness

Many happy returns



Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier



November Attendance

155, 136, 162, 55, 160

Offerings

11-4-18

\$7006, home budget; \$350, building vision fund; \$200, Luther League; \$30, missions; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$25, cemetery fund; \$470, WOW bazaar.

11-11-18

\$2291, home budget; \$60, building vision fund; \$85, missions; \$50, music ministry; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$30, Luther League; \$946, Uncle Butch fundraiser.

11-18-18

\$3416.02, home budget; \$110, Good Samaritan fund; \$30, Sunday School; \$70, cemetery fund.

11-21-18

Thanksgiving Eve offering to Dodge County Food Shelf: \$649

11-25-18

\$5043, home budget; \$130, building vision fund; \$15, missions; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$50, music ministry; \$45, cemetery fund; \$931, Dodge County Food Shelf.

November 2018 South Zumbro Council Minutes

Attendance: Todd Aarsvold, Jeff Bernards, Corey Carlson, Sara Johnson, Dale Ness, Don Ness, Mary Sue Sandeno, Pastor Elden Simonson, and Sandy Tjaden. Guests: Michele Stromme, Dawn Nemechek Absent: Lynn Knutson, Don Rosenberg, Pete Wyttenbach

Prayer and Bible Study: (Experiencing God – Chapter 11): Deacons

Secretary's Report: Mot/sec/approved

Treasurer's Report: Mot/sec/approved

- Discussed that Treasurers have the freedom to re-categorize some money within the budget.

Pastor's Report (10/15 – 11/12)

- Baptisms: 1
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals: 6 (3 for outside the congregation)
- 34 visitation calls: 709 miles
- Led services at Prairie Meadows; Visited the Dodge Center Nursing home
- Place at the Table went well, and we may help again Jan 30th
- LCMC Meeting bible study was great this year; Next year it is in Omaha, NE; 2020 will be in St. Paul, MN
- Special Worship Services:
 - Nov 21 7pm Thanksgiving Eve service
 - Nov 24 10am – 2pm celebration for Don Jones' 100th Birthday!
 - Advent services with Holden Evening Prayer December 5th and 12th with special music
 - Christmas Eve services at 1:30pm, 5:30pm, and 8:30pm
 - December Communion services will be the 2nd Sunday and Christmas Eve services

Committee Reports:

- WOW: Michele gave an update on WOW activities including Norwegian/American Day, Bazaar, donations to Missions, and the 150th Anniversary

Old Business:

- Benevolence Assignment: Mot/sec/approved for Adult and Teen Challenge
- Trustee updates:
- Various electrical repairs are being addressed
- Name Badge computer update
- Continuing to work on Insurance requirements: Background Checks have been completed
- The first Congregational meeting regarding the Pastors search went well; another

meeting is planned Dec 2nd

- The Pastor's Job Description will be added to the website

New Business:

- Discussion on Announcements during service – Announcements will be moved back to the beginning of service and requested to be brief
- Discussed a possible need for a small snowblower; Trustees will investigate

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Carlson



Holden Evening Prayer

We will have two special services for Advent this year. We will do the Holden Evening Prayer Service on the first two Wednesdays in December, the 5th and 12th. It is kind of like a little Christmas cantata with songs about the coming of Christ. We will have a lesson about the importance of Advent and about preparing the manger in our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. My hope is that you will take advantage of this opportunity and come and sing to the newborn King!



VISION STATEMENT:

South Zumbro is a welcoming, spiritually alive family of God, caring for one another and reaching out to encourage others to know Christ and His love.

MISSION STATEMENT:

South Zumbro is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved, and a sanctuary where you can seek healing. We desire to become servants of Christ by serving each other, our church, our community, and those beyond our borders. We are committed to equipping Christians through Biblical preaching and investigation of God's Word. We rely on prayer for direction in our personal lives and in the life of the Church.

Council Members

Council President:

Sandy Tjaden
507-993-5907
tjadenhome@gmail.com

Vice President:

Mary Sue Sandeno
507-635-5605
rbmsand@kmtel.com

Deacons:

Sara Johnson
507-259-8178

Pete Wyttenbach

507-421-3925
p.wyttenbach@komets.k12.mn.us

Jeff Bernards

507-634-4561
jtbernards85@gmail.com

Trustees:

Dale Ness
507-365-8604

Don Rosenberg

989-996-0083
don@dnbrosenberg.com

Todd Aarsvold

507-259-9707

Secretary:

Corey Carlson
507-365-8939

Treasurer:

Don Ness
507-365-8101
ddness@kmtel.com

Financial Secretary:

Lynn Knutson
507-365-8175

Office Hours

Pastor

Pastor Elden's office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9 am to noon.





Setting Limits at Christmas

The holidays often come with high expectations and stress. Add family members from multiple families with different interests, different traditions and even differing political and spiritual viewpoints. Family problems can be magnified when expectations don't match reality.

The solution may be to have strategies that enable us to be as flexible as possible with our expectations. That may include setting ground rules that limit political debates around the table or creating opportunities for introverts in the family to have space away from the larger group, or establishing windows of time where smart phones and technology get turned off and family members engage face-to-face.

Ground rules can apply to gifts, food, and budgets—basically to all of us. Perhaps for some families alcohol or other drug use is involved. And if any family member is struggling with addiction, there may be particularly complex layers of unpredictability, guilt, and uncertainty about how to interact with them.

The best approach for the holidays affected by addiction is the same approach that is recommended year-round. Remember that we didn't cause our loved ones' addiction, we can't control it, and we can't cure it. What we can do is detach from the illness while still loving the person who is sick. Set healthy boundaries and encourage any efforts to get help but let go of the outcomes.

Identify family's boundaries around holiday gathering, state them clearly, and stick to them. For example, it is entirely appropriate for us to say to a loved one who is struggling with substance abuse: "We've agreed we want this to be a sober holiday. We hope you can join us, but if you can't, we understand." Sometimes clear boundaries can even turn out to be someone's much needed wake-up call.

If loved ones show up to a holiday gathering intoxicated or under the influence of some other drug, we can ask them to leave, but we can't control their response. What we can control is our own behavior. We can express our feelings clearly and calmly and be prepared to leave ourselves if necessary. If a loved one is in recovery from a substance use disorder, that's great. We can offer to be supportive by asking, "What can we do to help you enjoy the holiday safely?"

We can ensure a happier holiday by setting boundaries, making our expectations clear and supporting everyone, learning the discipline of self-control. Self-control is the ability to forego acts that provide immediate pleasures but also have negative consequences, and the ability to act in favor of longer term

interests. It takes practice. Setting limits and self-control with food means paying attention to portions (one cookie or no seconds). We can clearly state our boundary of "I am satisfied" or "no thank you." It may also mean getting up from the table and deciding to take a walk around the block!

The solution is to have strategies that enable us to be as flexible as possible with our expectations. Perhaps the expectation is "one gift per person." Then the flexibility comes with budgeting a certain amount throughout the year, perhaps using an "envelope system" or an "automatic withdrawal" from the paycheck to a savings account. Perhaps it is a homemade gift or the gift of specific time together.

The Bible warns us that if we do not have self-control, we will be slaves to what controls us—food, lust, money, alcohol. These verses have been helpful to me: 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to men, God is faithful and with each temptation will provide a way of escape, that you can endure it." I memorized Romans, chapter 12, when I was younger: Romans 12:1-2 comes to my memory often, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual service." I remember my dad quoting 2 Timothy 1:7 to me often, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and of self-control." I think we all know Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Setting boundaries and limits in life is a good practice.

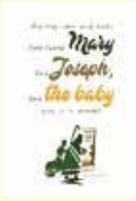
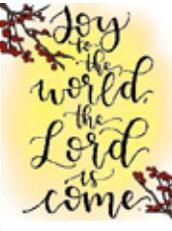
Your Faith Community Nurse,
Cindy Bernard



Hospital Policy

If you are hospitalized in Rochester or know of someone from South Zumbro who is, please contact the church and let us know about the hospitalization. Mayo Clinic no longer supplies patient lists for pastors to view, and we are dependent upon hearing from our members about their hospitalization. We want to be a support for you, so let us know if you need care at the hospital.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Naomi Circle has duties this month.		Service Group Leaders: Bill & Michele Stromme		 18 – Gerhard Bungum 27 – Lucille Boyum		1 7 am MOB 9 am Church Christmas Decorating 9:30 am Dessert prep for Advent by Candlelight
2 8:30 am SS Program Practice 10 am Worship with Cabin Fever 11 am Informational meeting re: Call Committee 5:30 pm Advent by Candlelight	3 7:30 pm Bible Study @ Dennis & Marilyn Aarsvold's	4 	5 6:30 pm Jr Choir 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service Mountain Movers following Prayer Service	6	7	8 
9 8:30 am SS Program Practice 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11 am Pack Cheer Baskets 11 am Luther League	10	11 7 pm Council mtg; Pete serves	12 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service Mountain Movers following Prayer Service	13 	14	15 7 am MOB
16 9 am SS Program Practice 10 am Worship 4 pm SS Christmas Program; BBQ supper to follow	17 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church (Bill & Michele, hosts)	18 7 pm FIRES	19 6:30 pm Confirmation	20	21 	22
23 10 am Worship 	24 1:30, 5:30, 8:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services w/Holy Communion	25 Christmas 	26	27 	28	29
30 10 am Worship	31 					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Dec 2: 10 am Worship with Cabin Fever Dec 5: 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service Dec 9: 10 am Worship with Holy Communion Dec 12: 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service Dec 16: 10 am Worship; 4 pm Sunday School Christmas Program Dec 23: 10 am Worship Dec 24: 1:30, 5:30, 8:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion Dec 30: 10 am Worship</p> </div>						

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

4830 120th Ave. S.W.
Kasson, Minnesota 55944
(507) 365-8110 church

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kasson, Minnesota
Permit No. 6



SOUTH ZUMBRO
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LCMC
Lutheran Congregations' 'n Mission for Christ