

# SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2017

## Hello and Goodbye

One of the songs on the Magical Mystery Tour of the Beatles (one of my favorite albums) is the song Hello Goodbye. I don't know why you say good-bye I say hello. That is how I feel as I write this final pastor's article for the South Zumbro newsletter.

I realize this is time to say good-bye. I am not living in a state of delusion or need the counseling of my friend Dwight Dobell. Maybe his advice on which club I should use for my next shot. I have been the pastor at South Zumbro for 26 years. I have been here for baptisms, confirmations, funerals, and trips to Colorado. Norwegian dinners, Vacation Bible Schools and many worship services. The memories are all precious and I will take them with me. I will say good-bye, but not with sadness but with extreme thanks.

I will also say hello. This is a new start for my life and your life as well. I will head off to retirement. There are books to read. Golf courses to be challenged. Trips to

take and new adventures to enjoy. For the people of South Zumbro it is also hello. There will be new ideas, new directions, new talents, new experiences and new visions for the future. My prayers will be with you and I am confident you will be a strong people of God. Keep remembering that Jesus prayed "thy will be done" not my will. God's will. Let the Spirit move you and shape your future. South Zumbro will continue to be a powerful influence in this community and our LCMC.

So it is goodbye. I have enjoyed my years of service here. You have lifted me up when I needed it and supported me when times were trying. We also laughed and cheered on the good times. Our building programs. Trips. Dinners. And all those memorable worship opportunities when God was so present. You say goodbye but I say hello. Hello new times. Hello future. Hello Holy Spirit. Move us forward!

*Pastor Mark Schwartz*

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

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[www.szlc.org](http://www.szlc.org)

# South Zumbro Bulletin Board

Our prayers are with Don Lhotka who is recovering from heart surgery at Saint Mary's Hospital.

We also pray for Marlys Arends who fell and is recovering at Fairview Nursing Home in Dodge Center.

We welcomed new members into our congregation during the holiday season. They include Christine Purvis; Brandon and Eric. Jordan & Alyssa Swanson. Cory & Lilian Ingram; Lauren, Lars, Luke, Lonke. Welcome all to South Zumbro Lutheran Church!



I want to thank all my South Zumbro family for all the beautiful cards that I received in the hospital and at home. I have read and reread them. Also, thank you for the food and for the visits from Cindy and Pastor Mark. I want to thank WOW for the prayer shawl that was such a comfort for me in the hospital and at Charter House. Thank you also to WOW for the plant and devotional. God blessed me during this whole ordeal with a great surgeon and very caring nurses and other care givers. May God bless you all, as I have been blessed.

*Margaret Ness*

## Contemporary Worship Service

All are invited to a contemporary worship service on Saturday, January 21, at 7 pm in our Social Hall. It is a time to praise God and feel the Spirit of God alive in our presence. All are invited to attend. Make plans to be a part of our contemporary worship services on Saturday nights.



## CONFIRMATION PHOTOS

The Confirmation photos that used to be on the wall in the downstairs fellowship hall are now in photo albums. These are in the entertainment center in the northeast corner of the fellowship hall.



## MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Music Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 11, @ 7 pm, to include Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Mountain Movers, Contemporary Service, Special Music, Organist/Pianist. The meeting is to coordinate schedules and talk with Pastor Simonson about church calendar planning.

## South Zumbro Vision & Mission Statements

### 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.

# Three Days of Prayer

On the LCMC APP/Website there is an event entitled Three Days of Prayer.

This event encourages each congregation to participate in a 3 day prayer event of its own January 3-5 2017. With all of the activities of Christmas, family gatherings, and Pastor Mark's celebration our South Zumbro Congregation is a bit pressed to organize and create another event for January 3-5, but we can encourage individual members to take time to pray. Isn't that what we need the most right now in the midst of our transition? Here is my challenge to each member of South Zumbro Lutheran Church:

## Take 30 minutes of your day for three days to pray.

### Day One: January 3, 2017

This is a day focused on confession. We have made our lives, our relationships-and even the church- in our own image. We confess that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. We gather to lay down our pride, our sin and our agenda and ask the Lord of the church for forgiveness, which he gives freely and with mercy.

### Day Two: January 4, 2017

This is a day of petition. Pray for our South Zumbro Lutheran Church Congregation. For Pastor Mark and his retirement, for Pastor Simonson and his work as interim pastor, for our future pastor. For our church leaders, our Council President Marilyn Aarsvold and council members. For those who carry out the ministries, for our Sunday School teachers, confirmation class leader, adult Bible studies, WOW leaders, Luther League and Junior League leaders. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for all those connected to our church that they might know God's redeeming love for all in Christ.

### Day Three: January 5, 2017

This is a day for vision. Pray that the Holy Spirit will again move through the hearts and minds of leaders and pastors that God's vision for his church might be revealed and fulfilled. This is a time of prayer for renewal, revival and encouragement. Pray for God's vision.

That is the challenge, let's look forward with anticipation and see where God will take us!

*Sandy Tjaden*

Please  
Pray  
for...



## SECRET PRAYER SISTERS

Praise to God for sending us His Son to wash away our sins and iniquities so we can be closer to Him again.

Blessings to all women of South Zumbro Lutheran Church for 2017.

As decided at a previous WOW meeting, the new year with our Secret Prayer Sisters begins March 1, 2017.

Our sister revealing of 2016 will be February 16. Prior to our February meeting, there will be "about me" sheets to fill out on the table in the narthex. Please place your info sheet in the basket by February 12th. If you are attending the revealing, we will draw our sister choices at that time (the 16th). If you are not able to attend, please feel free to chose a sister anytime. Then let me know who you have chosen.

Hope to see all women from South Zumbro at the February meeting celebrating Valentine's and Women's Heart Health Month.

*Diana Coats*



# December 2016

## South Zumbro Council Minutes

Attendance: Marilyn Aarsvold, Jeff Bernards, Corey Carlson, Sara Johnson, Steve Jurens, Lynn Knutson, Travis Nemechek, Dale Ness, Don Ness, Pastor Mark Schwartz, and Michele Stromme. Guest: Dawn Nemechek. Absent: Wayne Larsen

### December Attendance

236, 95, 0, 239, 24

### December Offerings

#### 12-4-16

\$4635, home budget; \$200, building vision fund; \$200, Luther League; \$26, poinsettias; \$75, Good Samaritan fund; \$50, WOW; Memorials: \$1500, Jean Johnson; \$230, Bob Meyer

#### 12-11-16

\$1572.11, home budget; \$95, missions; \$63, poinsettias; \$300, Luther League; \$150, Good Samaritan fund; \$200, memorial fund in memory of Jean Johnson

#### 12-18-16

\$752, home budget; \$100, building vision fund; \$30, cemetery fund in memory of Severt Fiksen; \$70, memorial fund in memory of Severt Fiksen

#### 12-24-16

\$2155, home budget; \$100, building vision fund; \$16, poinsettias; \$1492, LCMC mission churches; \$50, memorial fund in memory of Clarence and Alice Boyum

#### 12-25-16

\$1196, home budget; \$32, poinsettias; \$200 Sunday School

### Prayer and Bible Study:

Nehemiah (Hand Me Another Brick – Lesson 8): Deacons

### Secretary's Report:

Mot/sec – approved

### Treasurer's Report:

Mot/sec – approved with the following balances:

General Fund	\$38,145.42
Building Fund	\$ 4,068.63
Stocks/Bonds	\$ 8,326.19
Medical	\$ 620.11
Vision Fund	\$ 9,970.02
Total Assets	\$61,130.37

### Pastor's Report:

- 18 visitation calls: 982 miles
- 1 Baptism: Parker Autumn Jensen (Nov 27)
- 1 Funeral: Severt Robert Fiksen (Nov 26)
- Marriages: None
- Worship Dates: Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for Dec 18. There will be two candlelight Christmas Eve services with communion at 3pm and 7pm on Dec 24. Christmas Eve Offerings will go to 3 LCMC congregations: Mission Point Church in North Oaks, Barefoot in Niagra Falls NY, and Emmanuel's Table in Colorado Springs CO. Christmas Day service 10am.
- Pastor will provide Emergency coverage January 1 -5 until Reverend Simonson arrives
- Pastor gave a special donation for the attendance of James Hersch

### Committee Reports:

- WOW Executive Board has been established: Julie Boyum & Michele Stromme Co-President; Sandy Tjaden Secretary; Mary Sue Sandeno Treasurer;

### Old Business:

- Benevolence Assignment: Mot/sec – approved for LCMC

- Updates:
  - o Sanctuary Updates (Trustees): Riehle Painters provided a consultation and estimate; Information meeting will be held in January (date to be determined) to describe the plans to the congregation.
  - o Parsonage (Trustees/Marilyn): Carpeting was replaced on the main floor; New washer/dryer was purchased; Pantry will be stocked by WOW members; Garage windows will need repair in the Spring
  - o Dishwasher counter: purchased another rolling cart & additional tubs for dishes
  - o Fire Alarm / Motion Monitoring – Steve got a review and quote from Custom Alarm for installing additional sensors and having a monitoring service. Steve will follow-up with Insurance representative re: impacts to the insurance coverage. Tabled until January meeting.

### New Business:

- Dawn Nemechek to shadow Don Ness and provide back-up as needed re: Treasurer duties. Dawn will be added to bank account for check-writing privileges. Motion/ sec Approved.
- Stevenson Insurance – met with the council and reviewed current policy; Current insurance carrier is increasing the premium significantly, so an alternate carrier is being explored; Additional coverage for “Religious Expression” was discussed.
- Parishioner Visitation Team was discussed; Topic will be brought to the Annual Meeting

### •FIRES:

- o Council is supportive of South Zumbro having a Mission Coordinator named, who will spearhead mission focus. A member of the Council will be named to provide assistance/guidance to the Mission Coordinator, as well as act as liaison between the Coordinator and the Council.
- o The Mission Coordinator may bring specific requests to the Council to allocate funds as appropriate. Line item will be added to 2017’s budget, which will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.
- o An emphasis will be placed on educating the congregation on mission organizations supported (via an update in the newsletter or temple talk during church service)
- Approved having a second person assist the Financial Secretary to assist with counting the Sunday offering. Michele will request Service Groups to assign one person to assist each week.
- Pastor Mark requested he be allowed to attend the 2017 Confirmation service. Council approved with the condition of positive feedback from Pastor Simonson. (Note: Pastor Mark deemed it best that he and his family not attend South Zumbro for an appropriate period of time, in courtesy to the new pastor. The Confirmation service would be his one exception. This was not a requirement from the Council.)

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayers from council members.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Corey Carlson*

## Council Members

Council President:  
Marilyn Aarsvold  
507-365-8402  
aarsvold@kmtel.com

Vice President:  
Steve Jurrens  
507-398-7102

Deacons:  
Jeff Bernards  
507-634-4561

Sara Johnson  
507-259-8178

Michele Stromme  
507-634-4022  
mds1964@kmtel.com

Trustees:  
Wayne Larsen  
507-202-3511

Dale Ness  
507-365-8604

Travis Nemechek  
507-775-0067

Secretary:  
Corey Carlson  
507-365-8939

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

Financial Secretary:  
Lynn Knutson  
507-365-8175

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## Office Hours



### Secretary

Our church secretary, Michele Stromme’s office hours are Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon.

# Understanding Grief: Helping Yourself Heal

We at South Zumbro have had some deaths lately—Knut Bungum, Bob Meyer, Jean Johnson, and Severt Fiksen. They are missed. Quite probably the Christmas season has been a difficult time for many because of empty chairs at the table. All of us at South Zumbro will be experiencing a similar grief journey as our pastor of 26 years, Mark Schwartz, is retiring and will no longer be shepherding us.

Our society often concerns itself with “keeping up appearances,” maintaining the status quo and covering up problems to be glossed over, gilded with gold...with everything tidy and nice. That view is not God’s. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” We all have griefs, brokenness, and “disease.” Realizing this, draw close to God and listen to His wisdom written in His Word. His perspective on our grief is the one we need to seek. Grief is not something we “get over”—instead it is something we live with. I heard someone say, “Grief is like waves coming in from the ocean—sometimes the waves are small and barely noticeable. But, when you least suspect it, a huge wave pulls your feet right out from under you.” Healing is a process, and we need to take it one day at a time. No two people will experience it in exactly the same way.

There are so many emotions, thoughts, and feelings. Some are symptoms of your wound. It will be a unique experience for each person. While each person’s experience is unique, there are six central needs of mourning that are most commonly experienced by bereaved people.

1. To experience and express the reality of death (change). We may know something in our head but not in our heart. We may move back and forth between “protesting”/denial and encountering the reality of “she is not coming through the door.” Talk about it—it helps to embrace the grief.
2. To tolerate the pain that comes with the work of grief while taking care of ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Tears help cleanse us—body, mind, and spirit. Eat adequate meals. Get daily rest and some form of exercise regularly.
3. To convert the relationship from one of “presence” to “memory.” Allow ourselves to embrace important memories, retain special keepsakes, reviewing photos.
4. To develop a new identity based on a life without the person who is gone. We go from “wife” to “widow,” from “couple” to “single,” from pastor to interim. This often requires us to take on new roles that were filled by the one now gone. Pastor Simonson will help us as we continue our lay leadership.
5. To relate the experience of our loss to a context of meaning. We may be searching for answers to “why” or “how” questions. We may survive in a holding pattern for a while. Eventually it calls for us to confront our own spirituality, developing a deeper relationship with God, discovering a new purpose.
6. To have an understanding support system available to you in the months and years ahead, those who understand that mourning is a necessity to be experienced as a result of loving and having been loved. We at South Zumbro benefit from the connectedness that comes from people who have also had a death/change in their lives.

Our Vision Statement says it well, “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.”

Your Parish Nurse,

*Cindy Bernards*

(Resource: Understanding Grief: Helping Yourself Heal, by Alan D. Wolfelt, PhD)

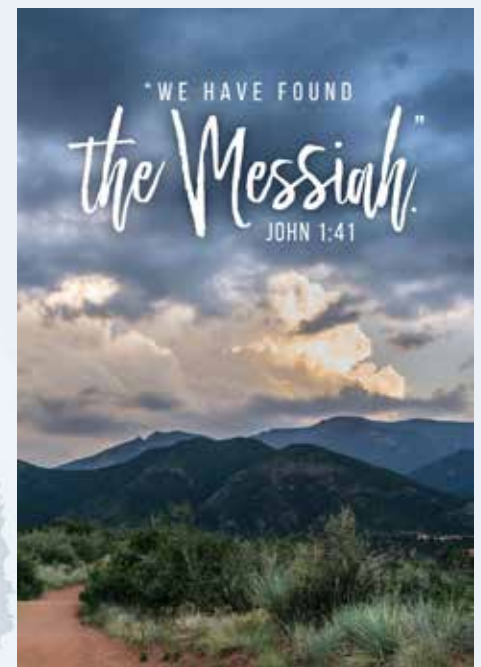
## A Hymn for the New Year

Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the early 20th century, became well-known for his stands on social issues.

His hymn “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee,” partially quoted below, appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace and hope. It’s an ideal hymn for beginning a new year.

O Master, let me walk with thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me thy secret; help me bear,  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future’s broadening way,  
In peace that only thou canst give,  
With thee, O Master, let me live.



## 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.

# Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I am delighted to be entering into the exciting work of interim ministry with you. The interim time between two settled ministries is a dynamic and rich time of transition. Intentional interim ministry is a relationship that we, you and I, enter into. I promise to be present; to pastor and listen, to reflect, lead, coach and guide. It is an awesome thing to be in such a relationship, one that I honor, and hold with great respect and care.

Fundamental to my understanding of ministry is that it is a shared enterprise. Ministry is not something I do, but rather a relationship we enter into as congregation, its people and pastor. The many dimensions of ministry; preaching, teaching, visiting, counseling, are all based on my understanding of ministry as a mutual relationship with individuals and with a congregation. Then we bring into our lives that which is holy, divine, and faith building, namely our Savior and Lord, Jesus. My primary task – calling – is to be a pastor; walking with, be present with, the members of your congregation as we deal with the tasks at hand! Along the way we will deepen relationships with each other.

God has blessed South Zumbro with the long tenured ministry of Pastor Mark. With his leaving there will be a feeling of loss, and there will be a time of grieving. Many have told me it is like losing a dear friend, a family member, or a loved one. If you had a deep relationship with your pastor you may need a while before you're ready to enter into a new relationship. For others they may see the change of pastors differently, maybe a time of new beginnings. Either way we need to be sensitive to the feelings of those around us.

It takes a lot of listening; listening to what a congregation, corporately and individually, is saying to be effective with a congregation in transition. Hearing what its needs are, what its fears are. It is after

all, the congregation that is the enduring center of mission, ministry and worship! You say it well in the first line of your mission statement! South Zumbro is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved, and a sanctuary where you can seek healing. That my new friends will be our starting point! Karen and I are excited to with you in your mission and worship. See you in Church!

*Pastor Elden*



## Missions: Not Impossible...with God!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

This is the second article in a series on missions supported by South Zumbro.

### Global Health Ministries

For generations, mission organizations have included health care as a way of continuing the ministry of Jesus who healed the sick. However, in time, newly independent nations in Africa started taking control of mission schools and

hospitals, and some church people in Europe and North America felt this work was no longer a responsibility of churches.

Hospitals that were once supported by church missions now experienced decline in personnel and supplies. Decades of such decline resulted in no money to replace old and deteriorating equipment. At a conference in Kenya in 1986, doctors and dentists came together to begin talking about a possible solution. This group concluded that for financial reasons, they should consider forming a nonprofit organization separate from the church, which could raise and administer its own funds. Global Health Ministries (GHM) was the result. In 1987 GHM was formed in Bloomington, Minnesota, as an organization that would not be related to any specific Lutheran church but should offer support to any Lutheran group that sponsored medical work overseas.

The purpose of GHM was to be an arm of support for existing agencies, enabling them to carry out their work more fully. It would provide funds for overseas Lutheran health care projects, gather and ship medical supplies and equipment, aid in recruitment of long and short-term health care workers and promote interest in health care ministries within congregations. Since the founding of GHM, increasing emphasis has been placed on primary health care in rural areas, under the leadership of local people, and also on providing training for doctors, nurses and other health care workers.

South Zumbro has been supporting the Friberg family for a number of years. They work for GHM in Kenya where he works as a medical professional in a clinic. For more information on GHM, go to their website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org).

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