

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2018

Happy New Year

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Thank you for a wonderful 2017. It was a great year for our church, our members, for Karen and me too! You can read more about last year in the annual report. For January I want to look toward the coming year and live in the hope that comes through faith in our Lord Jesus the Christ!

As you already know, on Christmas Eve we passed out Bibles to all the families in church. So, my next question has to do with the Bible..... Have you ever wanted to read the Bible from cover to cover only to stop when you were half way through Leviticus? That is where I get stuck myself! This year, we as a church are going to focus on our Spiritual lives, and being in God's Word is the primary way to strengthen our faith. The daily readings are divided up much the same as our readings for a Sunday worship, a bit of Old Testament, a Psalm, a Proverb, and a New Testament reading. It adds up to about 15 minutes a day. For a family, maybe dad could read

one aloud, then mom, and then one of the children!

To tie what we read at home together with worship on Sunday, we will pick our Sunday lessons and sermons from the readings for that week so we will work through the Bible together! Have you ever heard a sermon on Balaam and the talking Donkey? Well, you might in March! This will give us an opportunity to hear Bible stories that are never talked about in church because they are not included in the lectionary for the church year.

Just think of the feeling of accomplishment when you are finished reading through the Bible. Just think of how your faith could be fed and nourished! Together may we live out our faith in the love of Christ this year. See you in Church!

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

- Be thinking about possibly helping deliver Meals on Wheels. We will be discussing this possibility at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January. Prayerfully consider being a part of this very worthwhile mission in the Kasson area.
- The sympathy of the congregation go out to two families this month—the family of Marlys Arends and the family of Joyce Boyum. May God bless and comfort their families.
- If you have not picked up a Bible yet, please pick up your 2018 study Bible. This Bible has daily readings laid out in an easy to follow format so if you spend about 15 minutes a day you can, over this next year, read the whole Bible. Let's dedicate this next year to improving our spiritual health. Can I get a big AMEN!
- Thank you to everyone who had any part in all of the festivities during the month of December. It was truly a wonderful month filled with opportunities to fellowship and praise our Lord!



2017 started out a bit rough for us, but with some help from our friends we are doing better. We want to thank the members of South Zumbro for helping us in 2017. You have been a God send! The Christmas Joy gift was wonderful. The new clothes and gift cards were more than we could have hoped for. Thanks again!

In Christ's Love!

Dorothy and Don Shotka

Greetings!

I wish my South Zumbro family a lot of joy, peace, and love in this New Year! I am so thankful for all of you, and I keep you close in heart and prayer.

Thanks for sending me the newsletter and the weekly bulletin. Thanks for the new NIV One Year Bible which I will read right along with you, and I know we will be blessed and strengthened in our faith walk each day as we do so. I would like to share a verse from Psalm 100:5 with you all: "For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever, His faithfulness continues through all generations!"

Love and thanks,

Lil Aarsoold

CPR (Celebrate, Praise, Rejoice)

All are invited to a contemporary worship service on Saturday, January 27, at 7 pm in our Social Hall. It is a time to praise God and feel the Spirit of God alive in our presence. Please plan to join us for this very special evening of worship!



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.



LCMC's 6th Annual
THREE
DAYS OF
PRAYER
January 2-4, 2018
www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer



Celebrate Our Heritage

South Zumbro—Then and Now

About in the 1860's a number of immigrants with their families came from Norway to make homes in this territory, later called Olmsted and Dodge Counties. They were among the first settlers. They built log houses and some built dug-outs in hillsides for their families to live in. They were good workers, cleared trees and brush and broke up small fields from which they made a living. They continued this work by which later generations have benefitted up to the present time.

6th Annual Three Days of Prayer

Prayer is a gift that God has given to us as a means to approach the throne of grace with confidence, like that of a child coming to her parents sharing concerns, victories, defeats and every part of life. It is an opportunity to express the deepest heartache and the greatest joy. Prayer is a conversation between the Creator and the created... and the conversation began with God, for us, in Christ Jesus.

Day One: January 2

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 3

This is a day of petition. Pray for your congregation, for the pastor, for the leaders, for those who carry out ministries, for the Sunday School teachers, for the Confirmation leaders, for those leading adult Bible studies and for those leading small groups. Pray for those in hospital and nursing home ministries. Pray for all those connected to your church that they might know God's redeeming love for all in Christ.

Day Three: January 4

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.



“What Do I Have?”

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said, to see the beauty in all that I've made —and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said, to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

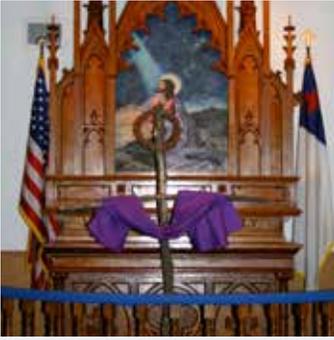
Feet, he said, to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said, to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said, to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said, so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler



December 2017

South Zumbro Council Minutes

December Attendance

49, 190, 169, 148, 325, 57, 117, 165, 68

Offerings

12-3-17

\$7047.54, home budget; \$500, building vision fund; \$220, Sunday School; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$25, cemetery fund; \$20, memorial fund.

12-10-17

\$3785.29, home budget; \$645, building vision fund; \$50, missions; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$25, cemetery fund; \$1500, memorial fund; \$50, WOW Advent by Candlelight; \$1635, Advent by Candlelight; \$1024, WOW Thank offering for food shelf.

12-17-17

\$3906, home budget; \$730, building vision fund; \$125, cemetery fund; \$50, Good Samaritan fund.

12-24-17

\$4444, home budget; \$655, building fund; \$25, cemetery fund; \$4110, Good Samaritan fund; \$50 in memory of Clarence & Alice Boyum, memorial fund; \$2000 in memory of Severt Fiksen, local benevolence; \$100 in memory of Ed Phelps, memorial fund; \$145 in memory of Marlys Arends, building vision fund.

Attendance: Marilyn Aarsvold, Jeff Bernards, Corey Carlson, Sara Johnson, Lynn Knutson, Wayne Larsen, Dale Ness, Don Ness, Don Rosenberg, and Pastor Elden Simonson. Guests: Dawn Nemechek, Michele Stromme, Bill Stromme, Jeff Stevenson. Absent: Brian Herbst, Steve Jurrens

Prayer and Bible Study: (Lead Like Jesus – Chapters 12-16): Deacons

Secretary's Report: Mot/sec/approved

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed; Mot/sec/approved

Pastor's Report (Nov 13 – Dec 8):

- Baptisms: 1
- Marriages: 0
- Funerals: 1
- 15 visitation calls
- Hosted Dinner for 46 Veterans and guests
- MN Adult and Teen Challenge sent a Thank You
- Attended Run Hide Fight training with Don Rosenberg
- Wendy House and Dan & Joann Roth have transferred to other congregations
- Fire Inspection was performed this past week. Don R will follow-up on getting panic hardware for north side exit door
- Special Worship Services:
 - o December 24: All three services will have communion (10am, 3pm, 8:30pm)

Committee Reports:

- Memorial Fund: Bill Stromme gave an update; 2 hand-held microphones were purchased; A donation of \$1,500 has been received for a projector screen in the Fellowship Hall; Mot/sec/approved to proceed with purchase and installation of the projector.

Old Business:

- Benevolence Assignment: Mot/sec/approved for Dodge County Sheriff's Chaplain Program
- Don R and Pastor Elden reviewed a proposal re: clergy certification at the LCMC Gathering
- Jeff Stevenson (Stevenson Insurance) gave an update on the 2018 insurance policy

New Business:

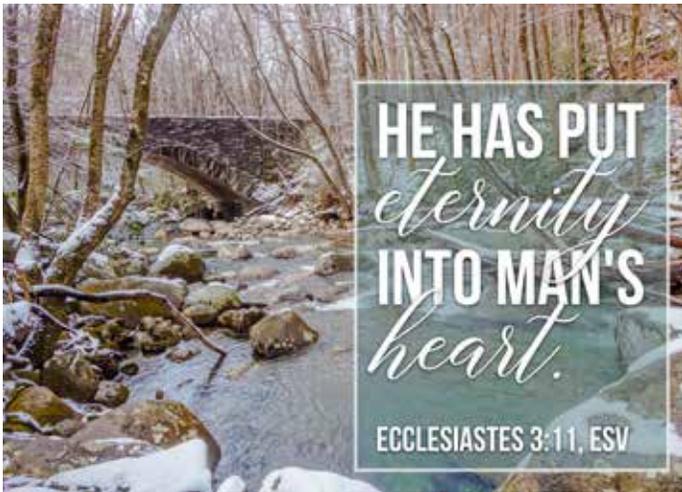
- Mot/sec/approved \$7,000 of Pastor Elden's salary as a furnishing allowance for the parsonage in 2018
- Discussed logistics and options of the communion methods (altar and continuous)

- Discussed the cost of pest control and will switch to a new service
- Jan 28 will be the 2018 Annual Meeting
 - Council meeting to review budget on 1/16
- Marilyn will check with Stevenson Insurance re: Security Plan
- Discussed how to handle non-monetary memorials

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayers from council members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Carlson



Bereavement Support Group

Our culture feeds us so much mis-information about grief! Grieve alone. Just be strong. Don't cry. Just keep busy. Time heals all. Chances are, if you have lost a loved one, you have tried one of these approaches, and it hasn't worked. Grief is messy! It hurts, and it lasts a long time. But there is hope for healing and a "new normal" following the death of a cherished loved one.

Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all plan for dealing with grief. That's why South Zumbro Lutheran Church offering a grief support group to help you learn about grief and discover healthy ways to heal.

Stepping Stones Grief Support Group is an 8 week traditional support group format which offers a safe space for sharing and bonding with others who have experienced the death of a loved one. Understanding your grief, by Alan Wolfelt provides the framework for this group.

When: Thursdays, 7pm-8:30pm, 7 meetings

Where: South Zumbro Lutheran Church 4830 120 Ave SW Kasson MN 5594

THERE IS NO COST. ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED.

Don't wait! Join us at in the fellowship Hall. And enjoy a safe and confidential setting to explore your grief. Call 507-365-8110 or 907-654-7336 for more information and to sign up.

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

Brian Herbst
507-951-2274
bherbst@kmtel.com

Trustees:

Wayne Larsen
507-202-3411

Dale Ness
507-365-8604

Don Rosenberg
989-996-0083
don@dnbrosenberg.com

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
Wednesday thru Saturday
9 am to noon.



Secretary

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

Self Care

Our health ministry at South Zumbro weaves together body, mind, and soul, integrating health into our congregational life.

This year the church council provided for each family at South Zumbro to receive a "One Year Bible" that we will be reading and Pastor will be preaching on either the Old Testament lesson, the New Testament lesson, Psalms or Proverbs for the week. Our hope is that God's Word will be planted in each of our lives and homes. Regular devotions can be a positive habit to be developed.

With the new year upon us, it could be a time to evaluate, "How healthy is your lifestyle?" We could develop a questionnaire of healthy and unhealthy behaviors and then develop a personal health goal on nutrition, weight control, or exercise. We could talk about the Food Pyramid or Rainbow Foods or the Daniel Plan or portion control. I considered many of them. But I know that our culture is so many times about doing better, doing more, or doing it all. And people are busy being employees, spouses, parents, family members, friends. It could be overwhelming.

I think that we can learn from Jesus how He dealt with all kinds of people and demands and controversies. I am sure He knew the story in Exodus 18 when Moses was wearing himself out serving as judge. Jethro, his father-in-law, gave him advice. "You can't do it alone" and then explained ways that Moses could delegate his work and share his heavy load with others. Jesus himself picked out 12 disciples to share the load. And later in Mark 6:30-31, "Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, "Come aside by yourself to a deserted place and rest a while. For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat." Jesus knew how to take care of his friends, his family, himself. He had learned the fine art of rest. In Matthew 11:28-30 He said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Sometimes self care means allowing others to help carry our burdens. We can be of more use to others when we take care of ourselves.

I'm sure that Jesus had heard the stories of Elijah growing up: the victory at Mt. Carmel and how Elijah had executed all the prophets of Baal... 1 Kings 19 tells of Elijah's fear and depression, his hopelessness and desire to die. But God provided "a way of escape" (1 Corinthians 10:13) by sending an angel who provided food and water and protection while he slept: simple rest, good nutrition and water were the elements of self care that he needed to survive. The story continues as the word of the Lord came to Elijah not in the great wind, or the spectacular earthquake, or the fire but in a still small voice (1 Kings 20:12). Self care means taking time to slow down and listen to God's voice in our life. In Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus tells us that, yes we must love God

first and others as well, but we need to get adequate rest to renew our body and spirit. Jesus often slipped away to rest and pray.

When we follow His example, we will be more effective in our relationships and better able to care for others.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, it reminds us that we need to take care of our bodies because each one is the temple of God. Genesis 1:26 says, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness."

There is no better reason to take care of ourselves than to realize that we are worth it. He made us.

Resting is an act of faith. We rest because God says we should. We can trust that He will continue to work and take care of things as we are resting. There are so many scriptures about rest: Jeremiah 31:25, Exodus 33:14, Isaiah 26:3, Isaiah 58:11, John 14:27, Psalm 61:1-4, Psalm 127:1-2, Psalm 46:10, and Luke 12:27-31 about the lilies of the field.

Finally, I have a few questions for each of us to ask ourselves honestly:

1. Am I practicing rest: If not, what is a self care goal I can practice this week?
2. Do others find rest and refreshment in my company? Do I refresh others?
3. Will rest improve or hinder our physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing?

Our mind, body and soul is the wellspring from which all good work can flow.

Your Faith Community Nurse,

Cindy Bernards



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.

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