

# SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2019

During our two and a half years together, we have probably experienced almost everything on the list. I remember the baptisms, weddings, funerals, brunches, auctions, tractor rides, Kasson community days, Lenten services, Christmas Eve, singing, praying, preaching, fellowship, and friendship. I remember it all! And I am thankful for all the opportunities we have had!

Karen and I will remember the dinners we shared together, the Veterans dinner and all the pot lucks! And the many times we shared a meal after a funeral. We have laughed and cried, mourned, ate way too many desserts and breakfast casseroles!

We have said goodbye to beloved members who have moved or went onto the church triumphant, and we have welcomed new people as well. We remodeled the church, celebrated our 150th year of serving our Lord. We have survived raging snow storms, shoveled much snow, and spent many more days in the sun.

Throughout it all, we have bonded and grown in wonderful ways while experiencing a great deal of mercy, grace, joy and love! The Lord has blessed us in more ways than we can count. The Lord has certainly been with us and has shown us that what we think is impossible, God makes possible.

I have always believed that a pastor is called to a particular place, for a particular time, with a particular purpose to a particular group of people in a particular community. I truly feel God brought us together for this special time! It was my intention and my covenant with this church that I would serve you in a particular way which included preparing you for your next pastor. The new pastor has been chosen and so it is my time to exit.

The thing you need to remember is that you will always be a part of Karen and me, and we will always be a part of you. Thank you for all of your patience, kindness, mercy, grace, generosity and love that you have shown us! You are a great group of people, and I wish you all the best in this new season that you are about to begin.

May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshipping the Lord with your whole heart, mind, body and soul and remember to do everything for the glory of God!

I thank God for you,

*Rev. Elden Simonson*

Interim Pastor South Zumbro Lutheran Church

P.S. Karen says, thank you for the garden! Stop by and see us sometime! Our address is 182 West Main Street Hixton, Wisconsin 54635

**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.**



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# South Zumbro Bulletin Board

- Congratulations from the congregation go out to Jordan & Alyssa Swanson on the birth of Teagan Christine on April 12. Big sister, Kinley, is very excited!
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Arnold Severson, Lucille Boyum, and Herman Sues. Their funerals were April 16, 22, and 24. Blessed be their memories!
- Blessings on our confirmands this year. They are Lauren Ingram, Lizzy Johnson, and Maddie Larsen.



I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to my church family for your generosity with cards, visits, phone calls, and food during my recent back surgery and recovery. I am especially grateful for your prayers on my behalf during that time. I truly believe they made a difference for me. I appreciate you all so very much!

Sincerely,  
Brenda Currier



## Attention! Attention!

You are invited to a Mother's Day brunch after church on, of course, Mother's Day, May 12. The men of our church will honor the mothers of our church with a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, milk, and juice.

There will be a sign up sheet this week for fruit and workers!



## MAY 19, 2019

Plan to join us in church on May 19th as we celebrate Pastor Elden and Karen and prepare for their send off.

Pastor Elden has faithfully served South Zumbro for two-and-a-half years as our interim pastor. We are grateful for his shepherding during our time of transition. On May 19th our resident pastors in training, Pete and Jefferson, will lead our worship service. The services will include opportunities for special music and farewell blessings.

A catered meal in the fellowship hall, with a free-will offering, will follow the service. The program after our meal will be a time to share special memories of the past couple years. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open as there just may be some special visitors coming up out of the basement that day.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us on May 19th for the farewell celebration of our time with Pastor Elden and Karen.



## Come & Dine: A Tasting

In John 21:12 Jesus invites his disciples to join Him for a meal. Sign up to join us for a tasting of a variety of plant based hot dish recipes. While/Before we eat, we will discuss ingredients, preparation, and how to make the recipes. Join us at 11 am on Saturday, May 11, 2019, in the South Zumbro kitchen/fellowship hall.

What can help you significantly reduce your risk for heart disease, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, obesity, some types of cancer, skin problems, gastrointestinal discomfort, cognitive decline and fatigue?

The answer is simple.....Plants! A whole-foods plant-based diet is not only packed with all of the nutrients your body could ever need, including plenty of protein, it can truly restore your health. Plants are simple, abundant, easy to prepare and delicious. Take it from me... born and raised with Norwegian/German heritage, surviving on meat, potatoes and all things beige, in the hotdish hotbed of SE Minnesota; if I can shift to a plant-based diet, anyone can. Come and sample several delicious, satisfying dishes and find out how I transformed my health along with the health of my husband and children through a 100% plant-based, gluten free lifestyle.



## 10 Commandments of Human Relations

I was recently cleaning out an old file and found this resource from my mother-in-law's church, and I wanted to share it with my South Zumbro family. Tell me who it reminds you of...

### 1. Speak to People

There is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting. Be the first to extend a hand for a good handshake or a hello hug. Jesus condensed the 10 Commandments into two in Mark 12:30-31, to love God and to love our neighbor.

### 2. Smile at People

It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile. Be the one who has a perpetual smile. Proverbs 15:13 says, "a merry heart makes a cheerful countenance (face)."

### 3. Call People by Name

The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his or her own name. They will instantly like our presence because we have acknowledged their importance. Isaiah 43:1b says, "I have called you by your name; you are mine."

### 4. Be Friendly

We learned early in life "that the only way to have a friend is to be a friend." Proverbs 17:17 says, "a friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

### 5. Be Cordial

Speak and act as if everything we do is a genuine pleasure, express ourselves with warmth and pleasantness. Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

### 6. Be Genuinely Interested

Ask a question. People want to know that we genuinely care about what they have to say. Ask another question. It makes people feel that they are important. 1 Corinthians 14:35 says, "and if they want to learn something, let them ask..."

### 7. Be Generous with Praise

Affirmation is uplifting to a person. Let us be cautious with our criticisms. When we see something good, give a compliment. Proverbs 27:2 says, "let another man praise you, and not your own mouth."

### 8. Be Considerate

Feelings can be hurt rather easily. We need to be aware of that fact and be careful not to be rude or arrogant even when we

disagree. Be humble. Psalm 34:13 says, "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile."

### 9. Give Service

It is more fun to give than to receive. You will make their day! (Acts 20:35). John 13:14-15 tells us of when Jesus taught his disciples about service by washing their feet which was a slave's duty, to serve. Jesus shows us an example of service and love. Service can be the most obvious way to witness of God's love for us (John 20:26-28).

10. Add to these...a sense of humor, a big dose of patience, a dash of humility...which reminds me of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, "Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy, love does not parade itself, is not arrogant; love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own way, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

Your Faith Community Nurse,

*Cindy Bernards*



## 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.



### 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.



# April 2019

## South Zumbro Council Minutes

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

Prayer and Bible Study: (Experiencing God – Chapter 16): Deacons

Secretary's Report: Mot/sec/approved

Treasurer's Report: Mot/sec/approved

Pastor's Report (3/12 – 4/8)

- Baptisms: 0
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals: 2 (John Evjen, David Phaff)
- 21 visitation calls: 476 miles
- Led service at Prairie Meadows, Field Crest, Dodge Center
- Pastor Elden is finishing his last round of visits
- Pastor Elden will take his remaining vacation time at the end of his tenure
- Special Worship Services:
  - o Palm Sunday (4/14)
  - o Good Friday service 7:30pm
  - o Community Good Friday service (Noon, Episcopal Church) – Pastor Elden will be the Preacher
  - o Easter Sunday (4/21): 7:30am and 10am Services. Communion will only be at the late service
  - o Communion on Easter and Confirmation Sunday, not Palm Sunday (mot/sec/approved)
  - o Pastor Elden's last sermon will be Sunday, May 12th
  - o Brunch is planned for Mother's Day, May 12th (husbands are serving – watch for signup sheets)

Committee Reports:

- Call Committee Update: Bill, Sandy, Ed, Melanie, Dennis, Julie, Brenda, and Pastor Elden gave their recommendations from the Call Committee pastoral search. The committee received 14 candidates for our 2 positions. Bill outlined the requirements for a pastor as outlined in 1st Timothy and 2nd Timothy. After due diligence was done evaluating all the candidates, the committee recommended Peter Wyttenbach and Jefferson Bernards for the two positions. The council approved the recommendations. Discussed next steps in the process. A big Thank You to the members of the Call Committee (past and present) for all their work over the past 3 ½ years! A vote by the congregation will be held on May 5th.

Old Business:

- Benevolence Assignment: Mot/sec/approved for Ironwood Springs
- Trustee updates:
  - o Randy did follow-up on estimates from Mops and Buckets, Kasson Cleaning, and Service Master; It was decided that Corey's was the best choice. Cleaning is planned for the week of June 23.

## April Attendance

69, 187, 182, 115, 172, 148

## Offerings

### 3-31-19

\$3845, home budget; \$200, building vision fund; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$75, cemetery fund in memory of John Evjen; \$100, music ministry; \$25, Mountain Movers.

### 4-7-19

\$5882.55, home budget; \$200, building vision fund; \$200, Luther League; \$25, Mountain Movers; \$250, Good Samaritan fund; \$225, cemetery fund (\$100 in memory of Greg Holtz).

### 4-14-19

\$5187.28, home budget; \$35, building vision fund; \$50, missions; \$25, Mountain Movers; \$175, Good Samaritan fund; \$25, cemetery fund.

### 4-21-19

\$5874, home budget; \$100, building vision fund; \$100, Luther League; \$50, Good Samaritan fund; \$75, cemetery fund; \$10, memorial fund in memory of Lucille Boyum.

New Business:

- Watch for South Zumbro on KSMQ (Iowa Public TV) on May 5th and May 9th (7pm)
  - o This is the airing of their recording of our service a few months ago

Mot/sec/approve to adjourned the meeting and close with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Corey Carlson*



On May 5th, 2019, we will hold a special congregational meeting where you can vote on this recommendation. I need to take some time to share with you how this recommendation came to be.

Our journey for this recommendation began in 2015 when Pastor Mark announced his retirement. At that time information was gathered, and surveys were completed to determine the wants and needs of our congregation.

Shortly after that the call committee was formed - we participated in a day long training by Pastor Steve Lein, who at that time was on the leadership team of LCMC. The call committee has carefully followed the steps and recommendations of LCMC. We've been patient and thorough in this process.

At first we didn't know we needed an interim pastor, and thought ok, maybe just 6 months or so. Now here we are 2½ years later fully blessed by the interim work of Pastor Elden. There are reasons to follow the recommended steps.

This past fall of 2018 the call committee reconvened. We met to discuss the process, set up questions, and pull together our resources for proceeding. Then in January 2019 the full time pastor position was posted and, following approval at our annual meeting, the position of part-time pastor was posted.

We received 14 applications. Each application was read through and prayed over. Many applicants had sermons posted on-line for us to view. The applications were sorted, ranked, and prayed over some more.

First round interviews of our top candidates were held. Second round interviews were lined up.

There were sleepless nights spent in prayer. God heard those prayers and the prayers of our congregation. He revealed in His own way to each of the call committee members who the recommendations for South Zumbro's future Pastoral leadership should be.

As this announcement is presented we have full confidence, peace in our heart, and the support of our Church Council.

We recommend:

Full time Pastor Peter Wyttenbach and Part time Pastor Jefferson Bernards

Again there will be a special Congregational meeting on May 5 following worship to hold a congregational vote for these two positions.

Please plan to participate in the vote.

Thank you,

*Sandy Tjaden*

Church Council President

# Council Members

## **Council President:**

Sandy Tjaden  
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## **Vice President:**

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## **Secretary:**

Corey Carlson  
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## **Treasurer:**

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ddness@kmtel.com

## **Financial Secretary:**

Lynn Knutson  
507-365-8175

## **Financial Assistant:**

Dawn Nemechek  
507-775-2935

## **Pastor**

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





Dear Brothers and Sisters of South Zumbro,  
What a wild few years we've had at South Zumbro! And when I say "wild" I really mean EXCITING. To think of the journey we've been on for 4-5 years, it is so exciting to see the Lord at work in our congregation, committees, families, youth, Bible study groups, and the list goes on. Much of that excitement has been the addition of Pastor Elden and Karen. What a true blessing they have each been to our church! Selfishly, I'd like to take a moment to walk you (actually more like run you) through my journey the past few years to help you understand why I am in the position I am today, hoping to be your shepherd.

Several years ago, I was looking for a career change. For some reason, I was feeling the "itch" to go a new direction with my career. However, the Lord was clearly at work in my life because I soon found that I needed to work on being content. Since then, contentment has been a source of prayer need in my life. I constantly pray that I can find and experience contentment in whatever it is I am doing. Fast forward about 2 years to about the time Pastor Mark retired. I had been extremely content in my job of teaching middle school. I had taken on leadership roles in the district and was truly enjoying my career (and still do). After sharing with my mother that I was feeling this stirring in my heart and the fact that I was frequently building sermons in my head about the day's events, she encouraged me to get really serious in my prayer as to whether or not He was, in fact, calling me to ministry. Enter Pastor Elden and Karen. It was an evening of conversation with them and Jenny that I finally decided that it was extremely clear that God was calling me from a career I love to a new position as a potential pastor, somewhere...wherever that may have led.

I want you to know that we all have a calling. My call looks different than yours as yours is different than your neighbor's. However, I also want you to know I prayed long and hard on this. It was scary, confusing, exhausting, exciting, and any other emotion you can imagine. Through this steadfast prayer and conversation with Jenny, I am excited to know what God has in store for our future.

South Zumbro, I love you. I love what you stand for. I love your spirit. I love your love for the Lord. I love your music, your hugs, handshakes, smiles and fellowship. I want to be your shepherd and I want to continue to grow alongside you. I want to share my excitement for God's love with you and you to share with me. Thank you for your unending love, support and prayer. I promise you it has been felt throughout this journey. I am so blessed and thankful for each of you.










Ephesians 4:11-13

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

In His Name!!! -Pete



# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Service Group Leaders:</b> Travis & Alli Nemechek	Esther Circle has duties this month.		<b>1</b> 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch 6:30 pm Mountain Mover practice 	<b>2</b> National Day of Prayer 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7 am MOB
<b>5</b> <i>Cinco De Mayo</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:10 am Special Congregational Meeting Luther League Hwy pickup 7 pm KSMQ show on South Zumbro (channel 15)	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm Bible Study @Dennis & Marilyn's	<b>7</b> 1:30 pm Faith Circle @ Diana Coats'  7 pm Esther Circle @ Sandy Ness'  7 pm Naomi Circle @ Church (Marcia Bungum, hostess)	<b>8</b> 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch 6:30 pm Mountain Mover practice 7 pm Special Council meeting	<b>9</b> 7 pm KSMQ show on South Zumbro (channel 15)	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 11 am Come & Dine: A Tasting 
<b>12</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Holy Communion 11 am Mother's Day Brunch 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7 pm Council meeting; Lynn Knutson serves	<b>15</b> 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch 6:30 pm Mountain Mover practice	<b>16</b> 7 pm WOW meeting @ Church	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Armed Forces Day</i> 7 am MOB 8:30 am Set up for party
<b>19</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am CATERED lunch & party for Pastor Elden & Karen 	<b>20</b> 7 pm Health & Wellness meeting @ Church 7:30 pm Bible Study @ Church (Don & Brenda, hosts)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch 6:30 pm Mountain Mover practice	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6 pm Mountain Mover End of Year Get-Together @ Meghan's 
<b>26</b> 10 am Worship	<b>27</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> 8 am Memorial Day Service; coffee fellowship 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch 5 pm Luther League @ Hope Lodge	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Sign up for <b>summer coffee fellowships</b> on the <b>bulletin board</b>

# South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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LUTHERAN CHURCH**

