SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHER AN CHURCH December 2023

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. - James 4:1-2 Season's Greetings,

We are officially in the "Holiday Season". It is the time of year in which we have special traditions, family gatherings and make the time of year special. Let's face it, for some, it is not their favorite time of year. For some, it means you have to get together with "loved ones" that you have had a falling out of some sort. Many families go through it, you are not alone.

Many families would agree that there are, unfortunately, some cases in which getting together with family is only done for the kids. If it were up to you, you wouldn't even get together but you are doing it for someone else. Perhaps, you are appeasing your mom and dad, or wanting for your children to have time with their cousins. Regardless, it is probably an uncomfortable situation for some. The book of James gives much good advice. I recommend you take time to read it as it is a short book of the Bible and is rich in encouragement. James writes about "quarreling" in chapter 4. He opens with a question- "What causes fights and quarrels among you?" For some families, a loved one close to you hurt you at some point. They hurt you to a point in which you'd rather not spend time with them. Or, for some reason, you disagreed on something that has caused a rift that you can't seem to get through. In some of these instances, much pain has been had. However, if you sit back and think about it, so many of the family quarreling has happened due to something that is downright silly. It is not necessary to be so divided, yet most likely, both parties are too proud to reconcile. James touches on the cause of our quarreling and fighting as he writes "you cannot get what you want". Perhaps, the reason you aren't talking to each other is simply because someone didn't get what they wanted.

Scripture tells us that there is a way to get through it and it is quite simple. James writes "You do not have because you do not ask God". Could it really be that simple? Could my family get together, turn from "uncomfortable" to "bearable"? Or from "bearable" to "enjoyable"? My question to you is this: "have you asked God"? Have you asked Him to take control of the situation? Have you asked Him to soften your heart? Have you asked Him to soften your loved one's heart?

This Holiday Season, before the gatherings begin, will you turn it over to God for Him to lighten the burden? During this time of year, most people long to have peaceful and enjoyable times together. God promises that when we "present our requests to God" He will "guard our heart and mind in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). Place this concern of yours (and all concerns for that matter) in God's hands and sit back and watch what He will do. Submit to His leading and He will guide you through it. May your Holiday Season truly be blessed and your focus be on Christ Jesus.

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 Pete Wyttenbach

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Pastor Pete

South Zumbro Bulletin Board

- Please have all items for the newsletter to Michele by the 20th of the month. Thank you! Michele has a new email address—mstromme1964@gmail.com. Please use this for all correspondence.
- Welcome to our newest South Zumbro members: Jeremy, Alisha, Carter and Brynlea Banken; Curt & Linda Bolles; Eileen Herschlip; Nick, Mackenzie, Nolan, Olivia and Scott Hodgman; Quinita Kase; Ryan, Hilary, Lauren, Gavin and Paxton Ledebuhr; Scott & Rosie Rose; Brad & Sue Wilson; Phoebe Coats; and Shirley Fette.
- Continue to pray for all our families who are missing loved ones this holiday season and who are suffering with medical issues. Check out the prayer list in the bulletin each week for updates.



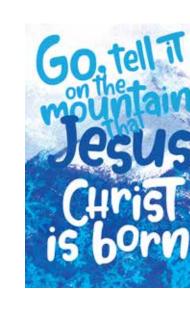
South Zumbro Lutheran Church family, Thank you so very much for your \$650 donation to our organization. We have a great community. Donations such as yours help us to continue our mission to keep seniors in their own homes longer. Our volunteers are the heart of our organization. Again, thank you for being so generous. We are truly blessed. Faith in Action Secretary,

My South Zumbro Church Family, A big "thank you" to all those who sent birthday cards and well wishes for my 80th birthday. It made the day special. Thanks, too, to my family who hosted a dinner at church. I was truly blessed. Love and Hugs, Sandy Ness Dear South Zumbro Family,
Galen and I thank you for your outpouring
of love through prayers and cards to us
during our new journey. In late August
we received the shocking diagnosis of
Galen's stage 4 cancer. Upon receiving
the diagnosis we realized that only Jesus
could mend our broken hearts. Thank you
for praying for us which we know are
carrying us through the sad times.
Thank you Pastor Pete and Pastor Jeff for
your visits which are very encouraging to

With love, Galen and Sara Johnson

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, South Zumbro's Health and Wellness Ministry sponsored a conversation with Dr. Cory Ingram on "What is the Best Care Possible". We discussed the difference between hospice (months to live–How do you want to respond to the next medical crisis to occur?) and palliative care (living the best years ahead) and walking alongside. We talked about discussing value, meaning and goal oriented preferences. And we talked about when goals shift. We discussed that people are more ill when they die today, requiring intensive medical care that makes it really hard for people to decide and make choices. Today we usually use

disease directed treatments that could be either a burden or a benefit. And our culture doesn't know about the natural dying process. We can thoughtfully plan and prepare to do it well. We can start palliative care when someone is diagnosed with a terminal disease. We talked about how essential it is for families to talk, despite every family being dysfunctional. We discussed that everyone needs an Advanced Directive, choosing someone to decide for you when you are unable, and having a hierarchical list that everyone is aware of. We discussed our deepest wishes, discussed what we value and to write those down. And then to make all of this legal, to have two witnesses to sign or use a notary public. We thank all 25 participants for sharing your stories and asking your questions. And we thank Dr. Cory Ingram for sharing his wisdom and experience with all of us.



Hope



What are you hoping for this next year? We are never at a loss for things to hope for. Often our hopes don't come to pass. Children may be hoping for a specific toy. Parents may be hoping for an adult child to come home. Someone may be hoping for a new job, a new car, or restored health. Hope is more than an optimistic attitude or wishful thinking. It is "to cherish a desire with anticipation, to want something to happen or be true".

The more we read of the Old Testament, the clearer it becomes

The more we read of the Old Testament, the clearer it becomes that much of Israel's hope came through the words of God's anointed prophets (Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Hosea), most importantly, their promise of Israel's future Savior. No other prophet provided a better picture of Israel's future Savior than Isaiah. God knew Israel needed something to look forward to and anchor their trust in, so He promised a Savior to the world. Isaiah 9:1-7 was seen in contrast to the reign of King Ahaz who rejected God and would not listen to Him. Isaiah used phrases like "a light has dawned", "you have enlarged the nation and increased its joy", "you have shattered their oppressive yoke and the staff of their oppressor". These are promises of light and words of hope for desperate people.

Although our circumstances look different, we too can rest on God's promise that He is still working even when darkness seems to be engulfing us. In Isaiah's prophecy we see the promise of a coming leader and Savior. The imagery of this text speaks to the hope that rests on the shoulders of this King. These four names are sometimes considered "throne" names that represent the royalty of Jesus.

Wonderful Counselor describes a king who performs wonderful acts with the skill of wisdom. God is the source of miracles, the author and personification of wisdom.

Mighty God captures the idea that this child would be a mighty warrior, and he would bear the name of God Himself. No other king could be identified with God in this way.

Eternal Father is one word in Hebrew, but it combines two ideas. The ideal image of a father is one who shows compassion and love for His children. For a ruler to show compassion to people in darkness would give Israel hope for their future. The idea that

this ruler would rule forever would sound too good to be true! Prince of Peace would have easily been understood by people who rarely experienced peace and yet longed for it. Peace Is about more than just the absence of war. As Prince of Peace, Jesus as Messiah accomplished everything that is required to restore a relationship between human beings - you and me - and a Holy God. Today we still long for peace in our world, but we can claim the peace that Jesus offers us now when we are reunited with God through belief in His Son Jesus.

After Malachi, God's prophets went silent for 400 years. No new challenges to live for God, no encouraging reminders to hope in God's promises. Malachi 4:5 said, "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the Lord." God promised to send a new prophet who would have the specific job of preparing God's people for the arrival of the Messiah. Then in Matthew we see that God kept His promise through the ministry of John the Baptist. Luke 4:18-19, Jesus proclaims his Messianic purpose to all of us (quoting Isaiah 61). "Jesus was anointed to preach good tidings to the poor, heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, open prison to those who are bound, proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, comfort all who mourn." Perhaps we may be dealing with many different types of personal problems than the Jewish people in the Old Testament-a car accident, work problems, surgery, challenges with family, being a caregiver of aging parents and teenagers, added to the problems of toxic politics, changing financial markets, and a global pandemic. Perhaps our "safe places" aren't safe anymore. Perhaps our hope is more fragile than we realize. But let us continue to look up and look ahead.

Revelation 21:1-4 lists some of the things we get to wait and hope for: God will dwell with us and be our God. God will wipe away every tear. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. We know from the testimony of God's Word that He keeps His promises. Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) so that we might have a relationship with God that lasts forever. We have much hope! During this Christmas season, we have many opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with people in our daily lives and the hope that He gives us now and in the future. God wants us to hope, and He wants our hope to be rooted in Him and His promises.

Your Faith Community Nurse,

Cindy Bernards

(thanks to resources from Lifeway)



SZ 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.

SZ 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.



Attendance

190, 210, 227, 204

Offerings

10-29-23: \$11,880, home budget; \$95, The Gathering Place; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$1500, Luther League; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$50, Mountain Movers; Memorial fund: \$90 in memory of Colleen Ness; \$20 in memory of Lorraine Ness; \$10 in memory of Harold Meyer. 11-5-23: 5685.36, home budget; \$506.19, Building Vision fund; \$1275, Luther League (\$1000 in memory of Colleen Ness); \$140, WOW; \$40, Sunday School; \$30, Cemetery fund; Memorial fund: \$1000 in memory of Colleen Ness; \$20 in memory of Catherine Brockman; \$25. **11-12-23:** \$6522.50, home budget; \$125.69, Building Vision fund; \$65, Sunday School; \$154.13, Good Samaritan fund; \$30, Cemetery fund; Memorial fund: \$50 in memory of Lorraine Ness; \$20 in memory of Pat Smith; Lorraine Ness memorials: \$500, WOW; \$1000, Good Samaritan fund; \$500, Parish Nurse; \$1000, Cemetery fund; \$2000, Memorial

11-19-23: \$6753.38, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, Sunday School; \$200, The Gathering Place; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$1000, Memorial fund designated for playground set; \$60,217.50, property sale from the Bennie Bungum estate.

11-26-23: \$2518.21, home budget; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$55, Cemetery fund; \$45.20, Good Samaritan fund; \$2192.55, Food shelf; Memorial fund: \$1270 in memory of Glen Donley; \$30 in memory of Lorraine Ness; \$30 in memory of Verla Holtan.

November 2023 South Zumbro Council Minutes

Attendees: C. Herbst, K. Johnson, V. Bohle, B. Stromme, M. Aarsvold, L. Knutson, D. Nemechek, D. Powers, N. Jurrens, C. Carlson, J. Larsen, Pastor J. Bernards & Pastor Pete

Absent: R. Lee

Cindy called the meeting to order and Pastor Pete opened with prayer.

Book Study: Discuss chapters nineteen and twenty of "What's so Amazing about Grace"

Secretary's Report: M/S/A

Treasurer's Report: M/S/A

Trustees updates: People's Co-op will finish the parking lot light installation soon. Two of the three light poles have been installed. People's Co-op has turned the lights in the West parking lot, so more light illuminates in the parking lot. The insurance inspection report was discussed and an outlet in the kitchen needs to be changed to GFI. The filters in the hoods over the stoves may need to be changed. The trustees will meet with Jeff Stevenson of Stevenson's Insurance to review. Assessing the reliability of the handicap door leading into the narthex.

Pastor's Report:

- Mileage: Pastor Pete: 405 miles Pastor Jeff: 1500 miles (LCMC, Don Jones) Total
 Visits: 23
 - o Baptisms: 0
 - Weddings: 0
 - Funerals/Memorials: 4, Steve Elton, Betty Charon, Harold Meyer, Lorraine Ness

Stuff:

- Pastor Jeff Vacation -- December 11-17 -- Head east to visit Adam and family
- Thank you for the gifts last month for Pastor Appreciation Month. We are honored and blessed to be part of this congregation. Thank you.
- Directory -- Propose we order 250 booklets. Price is \$1250. M/S/A
- Financial Peace University (FPU) -- 9 weeks on Sunday evenings starting on January 14 at 6:30pm. Leaders are Micheal Short and Ryan Ledebuhr. There is a site license to purchase but a member of the congregation has graciously offered to pay this so no cost to the church.
- New Member Sunday. The following are interested in membership and will confirm by this week. In the meantime, we are asking for approval of membership for: M/S/A
 - o Nick, Mackenzie, Nolan, Olivia and Scott Hodgman
 - O Brooke Hogan and Ben Stafford
 - o Eileen Herschlip
 - o Carla Webster
 - Merna Thompson
 - o Ryan, Hilary, Lauren, Gavin and Paxon Ledebuhr
 - o Bridget Kennedy and Cody Marquardt
 - o Danella and Dasmine Marquardt
 - o Quinita Kase

- o Curt and Linda Bolles
- o Patty Watson
- o Sue and Brad Wilson
- o Jeremy, Alisha, Carter and Brynlea Banken
- o Scott and Rosie Rose
 - Total- 31

Looking ahead:

- November 26 -- Cabin Fever leading worship
- December 3 -- Advent begins! Communion
- December 10 -- Service of Christmas Hymns and Scripture
- December 17 -- Christmas Program
- December 24 -- Services at 10am and 3:30pm
- January 28 -- Annual Meeting
- February 14 -- Ash Wednesday
- March 31 -- Easter
- May 5 -- Confirmation -- Regular Service at 8:30 and Confirmation at 11:00

Benevolence Suggestion/Vote (Deacons)- M/S/A

- SEMCAC- this month is food share month
- Mission support (in place of LALM)- World Mission Prayer League

Old Business:

- Decorating committee mission statement revisited- M/S/A
- Space Committee update: The fellowship hall has overflow seating on Sunday mornings for members when the sanctuary is full. The ushers have been doing a great job with helping members find seating as the church fills up. If there is an event after church in the fellowship hall, you need to wait to set-up or use the kitchen until church is finished!
- Memorial Committee: Motion brought forward to purchase Rainbow Swing set, currently on sale and installation is included in this cost and the system purchase includes warranty. This committee will collaborate with the Grounds Committee for installation. M/S/A
- Ground Committee update: The wildflower seeds will be planted soon and the bids for the demolition of Gehard's house are in progress and the committee is verifying requirements with the county and township.

New Business:

- Handicapped Parking- We will be observing the parking situation and use.
- FYI- checking accounts- Many accounts have been closed and committees will submit information for reimbursement to the treasurers and they will help manage the balances.
- Budgeting meeting date- January 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned- M/S/A We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Val Bohle



Council Members

Council President:

Cindy Herbst 507-273-5942 cherbst@kmtel.com

Vice President:

Corey Carlson 507-365-8939 coreyc86@yahoo.com

Deacons:

Bill Stromme 507-279-1534 stromme4@kmtel.com

Ryan Lee rmlee0605@gmail.com Marilyn Aarsvold 507-269-1549 aarsvold@kmtel.com

Trustees:

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Jim Larsen 507-951-7304 dllarsen6019@gmail.com Nick Jurrens nkjurrens@gmail.com

Secretary:

Val Bohle 507-272-1574 valbohle78@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dan Powers 507-634-4442

Financial Secretary:

Lynn Knutson 507-365-8175

Financial Assistant:

Dawn Nemechek 507-951-8548



Special Council Meeting October 29th

Present- C. Herbst, K. Johnson, V. Bohle, B. Stromme, M. Aarsvold, L. Knutson, D. Nemechek, D. Powers, N. Jurrens, J. Larsen, and R. Lee Absent- C. Carlson

Cindy called the meeting to order.

Cindy made a motion to move forward to complete the sale of its co-benefactor/co-seller portion of the Bungum land parcel in Section 31 of Salem Township in Olmsted County, and to accept the receipt of funds from the land sale. M/S/A

An announcement will be made to the congregation on November 5th and a congregation meeting will be held on November 12th.

Respectfully submitted, Val Bohle

Congregation Meeting November 12th

Cindy called the meeting to order. Cindy brought the motion to the congregation that the council approved at a special meeting. The motion states "South Zumbro will move forward to complete the sale of its co-benefactor/co-seller portion of the Bungum land parcel in Section 31 of Salem Township in Olmsted County, and to accept the receipt of funds from the land sale".

There was time allotted for discussion and questions to be answered. The congregation voted by paper ballot and approved the motion by more than $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote, as required according to church by-laws.

Respectfully submitted, Val Bohle



Financial Peace University Mission

Nearly two-thirds of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck based on recent surveys. As a result, more Americans are using credit cards to make ends meet with a record \$1.03 Trillion in credit card debt according to Forbes.

A Financial Peace University site license has been gifted to South Zumbro so anyone may attend the class absolutely free of charge. The mission besides offering this course to South Zumbro members is to extend this gift out to friends, family and to others in our communities. You probably know somebody that could benefit from the class besides yourself.

So what is Financial Peace University? It's a life changing course centered around budgeting that teaches you how to handle money God's way. Class lessons include how to pay off debt, wise spending, the role of insurance, investing and real estate.

Class will meet in-person at South Zumbro for 9 weeks on Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM starting on January 14. Utilize this link: https://www.fpu.com/FF5E80 or use the QR code below to register for class. Please share this link and feel free to post this information on your social media accounts.

After registering for the class, an email with the link to the FREE Ramsey+ membership and the required class materials will be sent to the email address provided. If you need help signing up or have additional questions, please reach out to Michael Short, FPU Coordinator via email, text or phone.

Michael Short FPU Coordinator

Email: Michael.Short@charter.net

Mobile: (612) 805-9300





WOW Meeting November 16, 2023

Co-president, Cindy Bernards, welcomed all in attendance. The meeting was opened with prayer and reading of the WOW Purpose Statement. A Thanksgiving devotion was given by Faith Circle.

The Treasurer's report was given by Brenda Currier. The balance on hand is \$16,507.06. A motion

was made, seconded, and approved to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

The Secretary's report was read by Ann Johnson. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the secretary's report as presented.

Upcoming events:

Mitten tree (to be donated to SEMCAC)

November is Food Share month.

Adopt a Family

Advent by Candlelight on December 3

Cheer Baskets to be packed and distributed on

December 10 (Faith Circle in charge)

The quilters have finished for 2023. They made 89 quilts that have been delivered to various missions, and many were sold at the bazaar.

Election of officers was next on the agenda. It was decided that, because of low meeting attendance, the current officers would continue until April when the WOW Secret Prayer Sister meeting will be held. Election of officers will be held at that time. Co-president, Marilyn Aarsvold, shared the list for the 2023 money distribution. There was some discussion and questions answered. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the list as presented.

We sang the table grace. Thank you to Faith Circle for the yummy treats!

Respectfully submitted, Michele Stromme It's December! and practice for our Sunday School Christmas Program is in full swing! This year's program is titled, "One Baby Jesus". There are 80+ students with parts in the program, so Sunday mornings are BUSY. The following is the schedule for practices this month:



Sunday, December 3: 8:30 am (sharp) practice Sunday, December 10: 8:30 am (sharp) practice Sunday, December 17: 8:30 am (sharp) practice 10:00 am Sunday School

Christmas Program

Please try to have your child/children to church and ready to practice at 8:30 am. We will start promptly on time so that we can be done at 9:45 am when people start arriving for the worship service. The sanctuary doors will be closed until 9:45 during practices. A snack will be provided for all children on these long mornings of practice.

As we are anticipating a large attendance for the program on the 17th, if you don't have a child/grandchild in the program, please feel free to sit in the fellowship hall for the service. There will be plenty of seating available there so that parents and grandparents can sit in the sanctuary to watch the program. Thank you so much for understanding.

We are very excited about this program. It is so wonderful to have so many kids involved. We appreciate each one involved and look forward to sharing this with you.

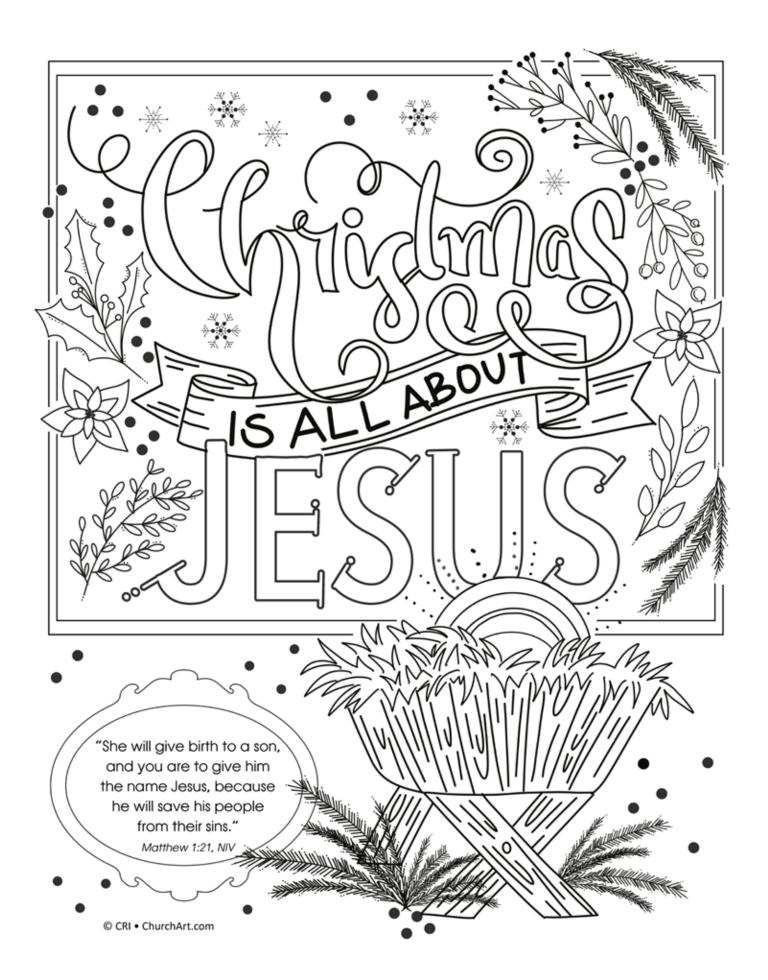
The teachers and the Board of Education request that instead of Christmas gifts for the teachers this year, if you would like to make a donation to Operation Christmas Child for 2024, there will be a donation box available for this.

Can't wait to see you all on December 17!



Thank you to all who took an ornament for Adopt A Family! Please have your gifts wrapped,- with the tag attached, and back to church by Sunday, December 3. Thank you! I might need Santa's sleigh to deliver them all! You guys ROCK and are giving this family a wonderful, generous Christmas. Thank you all so very much!

Stay tuned in January for more information and dates on an Adult MIssion Trip to Tennessee or Kentucky in the fall! If anyone would like to help plan the mission trip or have any other Mission-minded ideas, we would LOVE to have more people serving with us to identify and help coordinate local mission opportunities. We have a rotation to deliver Meals on Wheels, let us know if you'd like to be added to the list. It is so rewarding. As usual, you get more than you give with that ministry. I can tell you all of their dogs names, and I have to remind myself that I can't visit, the other meals need to be delivered! It truly is a humbling and loving experience. Please contact Lu Clifford, 507.951.9322, bobandlu321@gmail.com or Bill Stromme, 507.279.1534, wrs8564@gmail.com for any questions, concerns, or ideas on how to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors!



December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Faith Circle has duties this month	ServiceGroup Leader: Christine Purvis		December		1	2 7 am MOB @ Church
8:30 S. School program practice 10 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 11:15 Mtn Movers 4:30 pm Advent by Candlelight	4 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	5	6 6:30 pm Jr Choir Christmas Party 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Sr Choir	7	Welcome to sll!	9 10 am Luther League Cookie Bake @ Church
8:30 S. School program practice 10 am Worship 11 am Mtn Movers 1 pm Emerson Rechtzigel baptism	7 pm Council mtg 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	Jor the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.	13 6:30 pm Confirmation	14	15	7 am MOB @ Church 9 am Colleen Ness family Christmas in fellowship hall 9 - 6 Salvation Army bell ringing @ HyVee
8:30 S. School program practice 10 am Sunday School Christmas Program	18 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	19	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22	23
24 10 am Christmas Eve Worship w/ Holy Communion 3:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship w/Holy Communion	25 Christmas Blessed Ghristmas	26	27	28	29	30
31 HELLO 2024			Chi	dmas SUS		

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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