

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2024

*“Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position”
- 1 Peter 3:17*

Happy Love Month SZ!

Oftentimes when we consider the month of February, we quickly think of Valentine’s Day. We think of it as representing “love”. And, certainly, one can write for days about the encouragement found in LOVE! Yet, something else struck me as I pondered the month of February. Now, technically, the month of “February” gets its name from the Roman calendar from the word “Februarius” which means “festival of purification”. In other words, there was a festival called “Februa” in which people would be ritually cleansed. The original Roman calendar was only ten months and people much smarter than me figured out that without January and February, the calendar year did not align with the actual time it took for Earth to orbit the sun. It was unbalanced. So, they added the two months. There was yet another unbalance. After February was added, the calendar and Earth’s orbit STILL did not match. So, we have “leap year” thrown in because it actually takes 365.24 days to orbit the sun. Hence, we have an extra day in February (leap year) every four years so that we remain balanced with the calendar and Earth’s orbit. February 2024 is a leap year.

What does all this have to do with South Zumbro? How shall we be encouraged by all this nonsense? I want you to think about the need for balance in your life. What things are needed in order for your world to be “aligned” and “balanced”? For me, I need time with my family. We are no different than other families in that things are busy. We long for those evenings where we have nothing on the calendar and when we do, we embrace a quiet night together at home. I also find myself needing alone time on my farm. Believe it or not, when there is a project that needs to be done like pitching out the barn, I welcome it because I can simply spend time doing something productive, by myself (unless I employ the assistance of my kids) and it is quiet. Finally, I need the balance of personal relationship with God. I easily get distracted and before I know it, I have not taken the time to include Him in my day. I need to take necessary measures to regain that balance in my life.

Peter writes in his first letter about being “forewarned” and “being on guard” so that we do not “fall from our secure position”. How can we be assured of our security each day?

cont’d on page 2

**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

- 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.
- If you have an extra South Zumbro Redwing crock that you would be willing to donate to church, please bring to Michele for use in the kitchen. Thank you!
- The Annual Report and WOW Booklet are available. Please pick yours up today!
- The SZLC Church Directory is available. Talk to Michele if you still need yours.



Dear South Zumbro family,
I am so thankful for your love and prayers this past month. The surgery went smoothly and Praise Father God that absolutely no cancer was found anywhere. Galen and I, and my family, are very thankful. My healing went smoothly, and I am doing very well. I know it's the result of your loving and faithful prayers.

Thank you ..the Lord bless you each.

Sara Johnson

On behalf of the family of Patrick “Rick” Boyum and us, we want to thank everyone of our South Zumbro family for the expressions of sympathy at the time of Rick’s passing. We’ve appreciated all your prayers, cards and comforting and encouraging words during his short journey battling this horrific form of brain cancer.

We’re so grateful for the Pastor’s many visits, food brought in, WOW for serving the meal following the funeral, sound and video tech, pianist and the list goes on and on. We don’t want to forget to name anyone. We love each of you and feel your love surround us. We know Rick is no longer in pain and has a new heavenly body with Jesus Christ his Lord and Savior.

We love you all and wish you all God’s many blessings.

Kendall & Julie Boyum

Sally & Rick’s entire family

cont’d from page 1

What do you need to do to ensure that you will not be “carried away by the error of the lawless”? Like the people so long ago did, they added months to the calendar. Now, I can’t add months to my life to create more time but I can be intentional about making time for the things which bring balance to my physical, home and spiritual life. It is so necessary and Peter writes it as a warning. So, do what you can to get “realigned” and “balanced” in your life. Add a “leap day” to your calendar to do the things that bring you joy and glory to God. You need it.

Lovingly,

Pastor Pete



Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.



Love Being a Student of the Word

As I was driving to Rochester one day last week I was listening to the local Christian radio station, KFSI and Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth teaching a method of Bible study called the A-E-I-O-U method. I want to share it with you, my church family.

A: Ask questions.

As we are reading the Word of God, we need to ask questions like “who”, “what”, “where”, “why”. What does this passage say? What does it mean? Who said this in this passage? What happened? What are the main ideas? What is the main theme of the passage? When was it written? Why was this written? What does this mean? Where did it happen? Who wrote this book? Whom were they talking about? To whom were they speaking?

E: Emphasize key words and phrases

Look for a key verse in the chapter that captures the heart of that passage. Search for keywords, patterns, repeated words or phrases, and things that are in the chapter or the book or the passage. Then summarize what the book teaches about those subjects.

I: In your own words

Write a brief summary or an overview of the passage in your own words. What is this about? Include the major points. This helps in meditating and thinking about the passage.

O: Other related scriptures

Look for other related scriptures. There are two tools that will help. One is a concordance, which lists every word in the Bible. Under each of these words is a list of every place where that word appears in Scripture. As we pull these verses together, often we realize that they interconnect. Another tool is called the “Treasury of Scripture Knowledge”. This tool goes through the Bible and next to each verse it gives other references that have something to do with the theme of that verse.

U: Use it in application

Here’s where we ask the question, “so what?” What am I supposed to do about what I just read? After we study it, after we read it, after we meditate on it, after we memorize it, we have to do it. So write down some applications. What does this passage say to me? What does God want me to do as a result of what I just read? Does this passage have any promises that I should claim? Are there commands here that I need to obey? Is there an example in this passage that I should follow?

Everything we read in God’s Word calls for some sort of response. It may be to exercise faith in God’s promises or His character to humble ourselves, to acknowledge our need, to confess a sin or to turn from a wrong way of thinking. It may be to worship and adore the God who has revealed Himself in Scripture, to forgive someone who has wronged us, or go and seek forgiveness from someone we have wronged.

But the main point of Bible study is to apply the truth of God’s Word to our own hearts.

Your Faith Community Nurse,

Cindy Bernard

(Thanks to resources from Revive Our Hearts Ministry)



Please join us at South Zumbro for supper served by our Luther Leaguers at 6 pm; confirmation, junior choir, and senior choir at 6:30 pm; and then our Lenten series, “Examples for Imitation”.

- February 14 - 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion: Pastor Pete, “Simon, the Cross Bearer”
- February 21 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Larry Grove, “Dysmas, a Brand from the Buring”
- February 28 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Mark Olson, “Mary’s Example of Loving Service”
- March 6 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Pastor Jeff, “John, the Loving and Beloved Apostle”
- March 13 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Larry Grove, “Mary, the Mother With a Pierced Heart”
- March 20 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Mark Olson, “The Centurion, the Convincing Power of the Cross”
- March 24 - 10 am Palm Sunday Worship; Preschool - 6th graders sing
- March 28 - 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion: “Jesus Glorified Even in Death”
- March 31 - 7:30 am Sunrise Service with Mountain Movers; 8:30 am Breakfast by Luther League; 10 am Easter Worship



January 2024

South Zumbro Council Minutes

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

Attendance

158, 81, 154, 189

Offerings

12-31-23

\$8297.88, home budget; \$80, Food Shelf; \$1152.50, Luther League; \$1027.50, Good Samaritan fund; \$50, The Gathering Place; \$100, Sunday School; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$20, Memorial fund in memory of Gerhart Bungum; \$200, Memorial fund in memory of Harry & Vivian Peterson.

1-7-24

\$21,397.02, home budget; \$566.19, Building Vision fund; \$200, Luther League; \$75, Good Samaritan fund; \$154.13, Sunday School; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$250, Memorial fund in memory of Mable Bale.

1-14-24

\$3602, home budget; \$190.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, WOW; \$200, The Gathering Place; \$51.38, Good Samaritan fund; \$50, Luther League.

1-21-24

\$4704.50, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, Sunday School; \$85, Cemetery fund; \$40, Memorial fund in memory of Ruth Carstensen; \$20, Memorial fund in memory of Bill Ness.

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

Devotion: Deacons provided handout on "Ways to Serve the Lord this Year" and the council discussed this.

Secretary's Report: M/S/A

Treasurer's Report: M/S/A

Trustees updates: Homestead demolition has been completed by Matt Clock and the bill was \$10,500 (\$12,500 previously quoted). The next step is the well will be capped by Thein Well Company. After this is complete, the septic tank will need to be emptied. There have been comments about the parking lot and the way people are parking. The trustees will be brainstorming ideas on how to assist with parking without putting poles in permanently.

Pastor's Report:

Mileage:

- Pastor Pete: 145 miles
- Pastor Jeff: 74 miles
- Total Visits: 12
- Baptisms: 1 -- Emerson Rechtzigel, daughter of Stefan and Jade Rechtzigel
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals/Memorials: 1 (Mable Bale @ East St. Olaf...filled in for Pastor Paul Thompson)

Stuff:

- Christmas Eve 2024 -- 2 services or 3 services, times? We had discussion on 3 services that will be at 2, 4 & 6.
- LEM (Lutheran Evangelistic Movement) -- conference in Mesa, AZ, Feb 4-7. Pastor Pete and Pastor Jeff along with their wives will attend. Pastor Elden is covering.
- Pastor Pete gone February 16-19
- Lent services will be a round robin again this year with Pastor Larry and Pastor Mark.
- Thank you for the many many many hands that go into decorating, Advent, Christmas Eve services, communion, ushering, reading, FUNERALS. We are busy, and lots of things are going on but in each of them we have opportunities to SERVE God. YOU DO IT SO WELL SOUTH ZUMBRO. THANK YOU!

Looking ahead:

- January 28 -- Annual Meeting
- February 14 -- Ash Wednesday
- March 31 -- Easter -- 2 services
- May 5 -- Confirmation -- Regular Service at 8:30 and Confirmation at 11:00

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

- New Life Services in Rochester

- Missions- The Navigator's- Trevor and Cassie Long have been the Navigator's that we have supported in the past. M/S/A

Old Business:

- Review and Approval of the proposed 2024 budget- M/S/A

New Business:

- Mission Coordinator Resignation- Bill Stromme submitted his resignation. Lu Clifford will continue to be a mission coordinator. There was discussion on turning this into a committee and will discuss this further with Lu.
- Thank you's- Cindy thanked the council for the time and dedication that they put into helping with the "business" side of the church. All council members will continue with their positions except Val Bohle.
- Acoustical Tile for Fellowship Hall Estimate-
 - Bill Stromme discussed an estimate that was received from Acoustic Geometry by Acoustical Surfaces as recommendations have been given with acoustic panels that can be installed to help decrease the level of noise that we experience when an event is held in the fellowship hall. The memorial committee will fund this improvement and Bill will seek an estimate from Mike Koebele for installation. M/S/A

Meeting Adjourned- M/S/A

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Val Bohle

Budget meeting 1-4-2024

Attendees: C. Carlson, K. Johnson, V. Bohle, M. Aarsvold, L. Knutson, D. Nemechek, D. Powers, N. Jurrens, B. Stromme, & Pastor Jeff

Absent: J. Larsen, C. Herbst, R. Lee

Corey called the meeting to order and Pastor Jeff opened with Prayer.

We discussed the 2024 budget and the budget changes will be reviewed at the council meeting on Monday, January 8th.

Meeting Adjourned- M/S/A

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Val Bohle



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.

Council Members

Council President:

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For the month of January, part of South Zumbro’s monthly mission support will go to support the ministry work of Trevor and Cassie Long. Trevor and Cassie have been part of The Navigators organization. South Zumbro supported the Long’s when they were in Rochester, MN directing a Christian campus ministry with students from Rochester Community and Technical College, University of Minnesota Rochester and Winona State University. At this time Trevor is the Upper Midwest Collegiate Regional Director. He leads a team of Navigators and the efforts to advance the gospel and make disciples of Jesus on college and university campuses across North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Trevor and Cassie and their children currently live in the Twin Cities area.

The Navigators is an international, interdenominational Christian ministry established in 1933 as an outreach for followers of Jesus Christ to help others come to know and grow in Him as they navigate through life – a goal embodied by The Navigators motto, “To Know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same®”

Navigators are characterized by an eagerness to introduce Jesus to those who don't know Him, a passion to see those who do know Jesus deepen their relationship with Him, and a commitment to training Jesus followers to continue this nurturing process among the people they know. “We are a community of hundreds of thousands of everyday people who impact others for God's glory in our normal pathways of life where we study, live, work, and play. We spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by establishing Life-to-Life® mentoring—or discipling—relationships with people, equipping them to make an impact on those around them for God's glory.” Today, the Navigator staff family – nearly 5,000 strong – spans 70 different nationalities, 130 languages, and individuals from every heritage and life experience. The Navigator family also includes those who work alongside and support our staff, whose hearts beat with our same passion to Know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same™.

Through Life-to-Life relationships, The Navigators discipleship fulfills the message of 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others (NIV).”

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



Love is in the air, and what better way to celebrate than with a Valentine's Progressive Supper at our church! Instead of going from house to house, we will stay at church and have different people sign up for one of the categories. We're counting on your culinary creativity to make this event a success. We need at least three people to sign up for each of the following categories: non-alcoholic drinks, appetizers, salad, main course, and dessert. The church kitchen will be available for food preparation, so let your culinary talents shine!

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: SZLC Fellowship Hall

If you are unsure about the kitchen facilities or need assistance, please reach out to Michele or Bill Stromme for guidance.

A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the church Narthex. Feel free to team up with friends or family to tackle a category together.

Thank you for being an essential part of making this Valentine’s celebration a delectable and delightful experience for everyone. Let’s come together and share the love!

Michele & Bill Stromme

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Faith Circle has duties this month.</p>		<p>Service Group Leaders: Christopher & Meghan Culverson</p>		<p>1 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch</p>	<p>2 Groundhog Day 11 am SZ on the Move in Fellowship Hall</p> 	<p>3 7 am MOB</p>
<p>4 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Holy Communion 11 am Mtn Movers 6:30 pm Financial Peace University</p>	<p>5 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>6 7 pm FIRES</p>	<p>7 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>8 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch</p> 	<p>9 11 am SZ on the Move in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>10 9 am Esther Circle @ Church</p>
<p>11 Super Bowl 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Mtn Movers</p> 	<p>12 7 pm Council meeting @ Church 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Ash Wednesday 6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Sr Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Holy Communion</p> 	<p>15 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch</p>	<p>16 11 am SZ on the Move in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>17 7 am MOB 4:30 pm Valentine's Progressive Supper @ Church</p>
<p>18 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Mtn Movers 6:30 pm FPU</p>	<p>19 Washington's Birthday 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>20 7 pm Health & Wellness meeting @ Church</p>	<p>21 6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Sr Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>22 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch</p>	<p>23 11 am SZ on the Move in Fellowship Hall</p>	
<p>25 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Mtn Movers 6:30 pm FPU</p>	<p>26 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Worship Space Committee meeting</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28 6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Jr Choir 6:30 pm Sr Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>29 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch</p>		

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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February



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

