

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2023

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. - Colossians 3:16

Summer Greetings SZ,

It is clear how much our church loves music. Believe it or not, it hasn't always been a part of worship at South Zumbro. In its infancy, the church didn't have music during its worship services. Over time, however, it has become increasingly more vital to who South Zumbro is. I think many of us are just used to it, but to have "special music" EVERY Sunday is NOT normal. It is a blessing, truly a gift that we are able to experience each week.

In summer, I often find myself with the windows rolled down and music blaring. It just goes together. Similarly, our "Music at the Parsonage" summer concert series has been a hit the past few summers. What better way to spend a summer evening than to be outside with friends and loved ones, listening to live music all for FREE?! These concerts are the third Thursday of the months of June, July and August. We used to host a "Joyful Noise" celebration in the summer as well. Once again, the focus of these gatherings was MUSIC. Many years ago, South Zumbro would host "Singspiration" in October. That is one of my fondest memories as a child. There was so much wonderful music, and it was a simple time of hearing others' gifts and talents as well.

The fact is, music touches the heart in a different way. Whether the music you are listening to is how you "jam out" in your car, how you relax, how you get motivated for something or how you praise God, it is good for the soul. Music as part of a service at South Zumbro is crucial in the worship experience but to praise HIM through it, is a Spiritual experience.

Paul's words in Colossians says, "*Let the message of Christ DWELL among you*", in other words, LET IT LIVE WITHIN YOU. The verse goes on to say "*through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing TO God with gratitude in your hearts*". This verse is a perfect reminder that when we sing songs TO God, we are worshiping Him, praising HIM. So, roll down the windows, find your favorite worship and praise songs and belt it out to Him. Even then, while driving, cleaning, whatever you find yourself doing, you can praise Him.

Musically Yours,

Pastor Pete

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!
- Please join us for an outdoor concert at the parsonage on Thursday, July 20, at 7 pm..



"I'm so grateful for the cards, texts, phone calls, visits ... and of course the prayers for my healing with my recent hip replacement. I feel so blessed!!!"

Thank you all so much.

Mike

A big "thank you" to our South Zumbro church family for the cards, well wishes, and those who attended our 60th Anniversary party. It was a very special day for us planned by our children. We felt very blessed!

Love you all!

Frank & Sandy Ness

Dear South Zumbro Church Family,
Thank you so much for the donation of the TV for our dining room. We so appreciate it!

*Field Crest Care Center
Staff and Residents*



Ladies of South Zumbro!

On Sunday, July 16, at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall, there will be a bridal shower for Madelyn Bendickson, fiancee of Ben Tate. The shower is being put together by the Young Adult Bible Study group and friends. Maddy and Ben are registered at Target. Let's all shower Maddy (and Ben!) with all of our South Zumbro love.



There will be a funeral service for Mary Joanne (Peterson) Estes on Saturday, July 15. Visitation begins at 10, with the service at 11, followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall. Mary Joanne grew up as a member of South Zumbro, and South Zumbro always remained dear to her. She loved it whenever she was able to return for a visit, as she lived her adult years in Arizona, Texas and North Carolina. Mary Joanne was the sister of Lillian Aarsvold. Anyone who knew Mary Joanne is welcome to attend.

Blessed be her memory.





Bondage and Freedom

We who live in the USA are all aware of the Revolutionary War in 1776. It was not a sudden act - it was the culmination of a series of events over 10 years. It was taxes on goods imported from Great Britain, conflict about freedom of trade, financial bondage of King of England, attacks on coastal towns. But we all celebrate July 4 as Independence Day. The Civil War was also a conflict many years in the making: industrialized northern states gradually passed laws freeing enslaved people while southern states became committed to slavery as the lynchpin of their agricultural economy. Then came the election of Abraham Lincoln as the first President who was a vocal opponent of slavery. We just celebrated Juneteenth, commemorating the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862. After a 4-year bloody war, 3.9 million enslaved black Americans were freed!

As we have been reading through our 1-year Bible, we read through Exodus when Moses led the people of Israel out of bondage to Egypt. This Independence is celebrated every year at Passover. (I must confess I always wonder when I read John 8:33 when the Pharisees said, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been in bondage to anyone." They must have forgotten the meaning of Passover.) Let's never forget!

Even today in our communities, there are people who are beaten, battered, threatened, victimized by violence. There are women living in a pattern of coercive behaviors where their partner is trying to gain power and control over them. This is why we collected change (Mother's Day to Father's Day) to fill and donate baby bottles to the local women's shelter. They have many services, supportive housing, emergency shelter, and transitional housing. (Call 507-285-1010) If you know someone struggling with this, please call the Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233). Set them free!

We may not all be aware of the current slavery problem in America. It is called human trafficking. Not only children and teenagers are kidnapped and held captive. Exploited people can be any age, gender, nationality in any community: people who have recent or past psychological or emotional trauma, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net of friends and family, unstable immigration status, struggling to cope with natural disaster, language barriers, those with physical or developmental disabilities, those who lack food, shelter, or safety. This is an extensive list of potential people who can be exploited using violence, force, fraud, manipulation, false promises of well paying jobs and romantic relationships. If you ever suspect that someone may be being exploited, call 1-866-347-2423. Like the

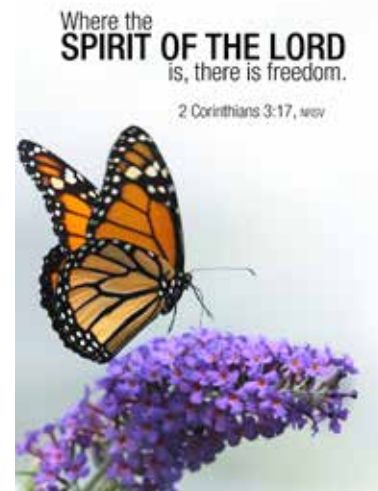
old game of Monopoly, share your "Get out of jail free" card! Set them free!

In Romans 6:20 Paul reminds us that we were all slaves to sin over many years. One may be a slave to one's ego or making money or success the most important thing in life instead of God. One may be a slave to lying. One may be a slave to pornography or sex. One may be a slave to "stuff" by stealing or coveting something that someone else has. Any of the 10 commandments (Exodus 20) could be what we are susceptible to, have been susceptible to for many years. In John 8:34, Jesus says, "Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin". We pray that God's Holy Spirit will convict each of us of sin so that we will each acknowledge and confess our sins. And then claim God's promises in Romans 8:1, "that there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" because Jesus willingly took our punishment and condemnation by dying on the cross in our place. Romans 8:2, "for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free". We are free now and always because "where the Spirit of God is there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). We are physically, emotionally, and spiritually free!

Happy Independence Day!

Your Faith Community Nurse,

Cindy Bernards



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.



June 2023

South Zumbro Council Minutes

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

Visitors: Bev Knutson, Paula Carlson, Michele Stromme, and Megan Culverson Cindy called the meeting to order and Pastor Pete opened with prayer.

Book Study: Discuss Chapters Nine and Ten of "What's so Amazing about Grace"

Secretary's Report- M/S/A

Treasurer's Report- M/S/A

General Fund	\$123,465.50
Building Fund	\$ 57,052.80
Edward Jones Investments	\$ 38,223.31
Thrivent Investments	\$ 33,620.80
Total Assets	\$252,362.41

Trustee's Updates

- Three smoke detectors were installed into the basement. Fire alarm went off and was audible in the fellowship hall but members could not hear in the church basement. Trustees will inquire about this with Custom Alarm for a possible fire assessment. Smoke detector in closet in fellowship hall replaced.

Pastor's Report- May 2023

- Mileage - Pastor Pete: 280 Pastor, Jeff: 300 miles
- Total Visits: 11
- Baptisms: 0
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals/Memorials: 0
- Stuff:
 - Proposal: Move council meetings to the second MONDAY of the month -M/S/A
 - Rationale: Tuesday night is the busiest night of the week for activities at KM schools according to the AD. Members of the council that have children in the school will oftentimes come into conflict with their children's activities and council meetings. Monday is one of the least busy nights of the week for activities according to the AD.
- Council input desired:
 - Pastor(s) attendance at council meetings. Are both pastors needed?
 - Pastor(s) attendance at other meetings of the church -- FIRES, Property, Bd of Ed, whatever
 - Pastor(s) attendance at the annual LCMC convention- Delegates should attend and the council suggested the pastors to attend a conference that will offer new educational opportunities
 - Pastor Elden- The Gathering Place
- Looking ahead
 - June 15 -- Nemecheks at the Parsonage!

Attendance

165, 163, 131, 184

Offerings

6-4-23

\$6163.85, home budget; \$302.69, Building Vision fund; \$310, Good Samaritan fund; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$169, coffee fellowship for A Place at the Table; \$125, Memorial Day coffee to cemetery fund.

6-11-23

\$3503, home budget; \$125.69, Building Vision fund; \$156.38, Cemetery fund; \$30, Sunday School; \$154.13, Good Samaritan fund; \$225, Luther League.

6-18-23

\$2710, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$75, Luther League; \$130, Cemetery fund; \$40, Mountain Movers; \$40, Sunday School; \$305, Parish Nurse from coffee fellowship.

6-25-23

\$6115, home budget; \$1240, MN Adult & Teen Challenge; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$1960.06, baby bottle campaign.

- June 25 – MN Adult and Teen Challenge
- June 26-30 -- VBS -- 6pm
- July 2-7 -- Youth Mission Trip
- August 13 -- Festival in the Park Service
- September 10 -- Barn Service
- September 17 -- Rally Day -- Start of Sunday School
- Third Thursdays of June, July, and August -- Summer Concert Series 7pm

Benevolence Suggestion/Vote (Deacons)-

- MN Adult and Teen Challenge- M/S/A

Old Business:

- Sunday School and Decorating Committee: Sunday School Space Improvements- The decorating committee worked with the Sunday School superintendents to come up with a space improvement plan of the Sunday School basement area. This includes: programmable thermostat, painting, size appropriate tables and chairs, carts to store supplies (Built but the Tate's), bulletin board and white board for parent communication and wall murals. M/S/A for the committee to spend up to \$7000 in improvements.
- Grounds Committee and Trustee Report:
 - New rock will be placed in parking lots and the road around the cemetery. The tree will be removed from the West parking lot. Township approved for signage on the gravel road North of church. Cover crop will be planted on the new property.
 - Matt Clock will soon start on the expanding project of the South parking with tree removal and grading the lots. People's Coop will be removing and replacing the light poles. M/S/A up to \$18,000 of parking lot improvement. Information will be provided to members July 9th, either email or informational meeting after church.
 - When the probate and transfer is done (which will take several months and transfer fees) the Grounds Committee will focus on the Gerhard Homestead clean up.
- FIRES Survey Comments to review and prioritize- postponed for future meeting.

New Business:

- Plan to Bring Jamie Fiksen to Church- We are asking for prayers for Jamie to attend future outdoor events and slowly transition to attending Sunday worship. He deeply misses seeing everyone.
- Mission Support for LALM (Latin American Lutheran Missions)- We have been providing monthly support, but Bill has been unsuccessful with contacting staff after several attempts. At this time we have agreed to suspend benevolence and Bill will attempt one more time to contact LALM staff. M/S/A
- "The Gathering Place"- Pastor Elden and Karen have been gathering with community members to share God's Word and offer support. The intended monthly benevolence that LALM has received of \$1,100, will be given to "The Gathering Place". M/S/A

Meeting Adjourned- M/S/A

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Val Bohle

Council Members

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The SZ Property / Grounds committee per the direction of the church council has been assessing the current and new physical property boundaries, and how they may best be used to meet the current as-well-as future needs of the congregation.

This committee has met several times – starting to assess current needs, near term needs, as well as long-term visioning and how these opportunities could benefit ministerial opportunities of South Zumbro. Discussions have looked to group topics into 1 to 3 years, 5 to 10 years, and 15 plus years as potential timeframes of implementation.

Following the first meeting, two items surfaced as current high priority. One being additional parking space given our full Sunday service attendance and special events, and second the matter of safe crossing of the roadway, back and forth from the church to the west parking lot.

Parking

The committee has determined the most logical plan to add parking spaces for events of the congregation would be to expand the parking to the south of the fellowship hall. The row of trees that border the current south boundary were planted some decades ago. They have served their purpose well, have provided enjoyment and beauty, but now being mature and of substantial height present seasonal challenges. During the winter months, the trees current and increasing height restricts the warmth of the sun reaching portions of the parking lot causing slow snow melt. When partial melting of the parking lot occurs, the resulting outcome can be icy walking conditionings for worshipers. Additionally in the spring, shading can result in soft and muddy conditions due to delayed frost thaw. With tree removal, the adjustment of site grade, and the addition of gravel base, an anticipated 25 parking spaces would become available. Of note, with the removal of trees, additional tree plantings are being considered in the future.

Road Crossing Safety

The South Zumbro Property / Grounds committee, with council approval has engaged with Olmsted County – Salem Township on the matter of pedestrian safety. As a great number of events are being held at the church, there is ever increasing concern for

the safety of our attendees and worshipers that cross-over from the west parking lot to the church. At a recent meeting, Salem township has agreed to install additional pedestrian crossing signs. While this is not a full or complete solution for safe crossing of the roadway – it will provide more awareness for motorists approaching South Zumbro from the north or south. Everyone still needs to be very careful in looking both ways before crossing the roadway.

These two initiatives have been reviewed, endorsed and approved by the church council.

On Sunday, July 9th, following the Sunday service, an informal informational session will take place during coffee fellowship - should you have any questions.



South Zumbro is going on a Bus Trip! Friday, October 6, 2023 Barn Quilt Tour in Carver County, MN 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Join us for a fun day touring barn Quilts in the Waconia, MN area. Men are welcome to join us. You may invite guests on a first come basis. We will be doing The Applique Loop Tour with a trip guide joining us on the bus. We will be traveling by coach bus starting from the parking lot across from the Kwik Trip in Kasson. Our trip includes lunch at Unhinged Pizza (similar to a Pizza Ranch). There will be opportunities to shop. Bring cash also as not all accept credit cards.

We have set the cost at \$50/person. This includes the bus and bus driver gratuity, fee for our trip guide, and the meal. Flyers and sign up will start on July 2nd. A \$25 fee is due at the time of signing up, with the balance due on September 3rd. You may also pay in full when signing up. One of the committee will be at the sign up each Sunday, to collect payment when you sign up. Cash or a check is required.

The cost of this trip has been set at a reasonable amount because we are doing a couple fundraisers to help with the cost of the bus, which is about \$3,000.00. So August 20th will be a Bake Sale. We ask everyone to bring something for the bake sale. September 3rd the Bus Trip Committee will be serving at coffee hour. Any money from the fundraisers over the cost of our trip will go to WOW for their mission distribution at the end of the year. Sign up early! We have a 45 passenger bus.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Naomi Circle has duties this month.		Service Group Leaders: Nick & Kelly Jurrens				1 7 am MOB
2 7 am Youth Mission trip begins 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10 am Coffee fellowship	3 7 pm Bible Study	4 	5 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	6	7 Youth Mission Trip returns	8
9 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship and Parking Lot Informational meeting	10 7 pm Council meeting	11 1:30 pm Faith Circle @ Church 7 pm Naomi Circle @ Church 7 pm Worship Space Committee meeting @ Church	12 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm FIRES @ Church	13	14	15 7 am MOB 10 am Mary Jo Estes visitation 11 am Funeral
16 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship 2 pm Bridal shower for Maddy Bendickson	17 7 pm Bible Study	18	19 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	20 7 pm Music at the Parsonage	21	22 
23 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship	24 	25	26 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Property/ Grounds Committee meeting @ Church	27	28	29
30 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship 7 pm Prayer meeting	31 Youth @ Lake Geneva Christian Center Camp					

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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