

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2023

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

Warm Greetings SZLC!

As you drive around the countryside, you will notice many dead ash trees among yards, groves, wind breaks and woods. The emerald ash borer, an invasive insect, has done a number on ash trees throughout North America. These insects are actually quite beautiful. They are, you guessed it, emerald green and almost look metallic. The female ash borers dig into an ash tree, lay their larvae and there the larvae feed on the ash tree for one to two years before emerging as adults. In the process, the ash tree cannot withstand that which the larvae have fed upon.

I love trees. I love planting trees, and watching them grow throughout the years. Almost every year, I find young trees growing in random places around our farm. If I have a place for them, I often transplant them to a new place in our yard in hopes that they will grow tall and strong. Unfortunately, in the past year, I have had to cut down over a dozen ash trees from around our yard. I hate having to cut down a tree, especially so many that have offered shade and protection at our home for years. The fact is, they were not able to withstand the invasion of these insects. They were susceptible to the attack. In fact, oftentimes you can't tell whether a tree has been attacked as there really isn't any sign of it, it just slowly loses leaves, the bark turns white and the tree dies. This is what the evil one is trying to do to us as Christians. He is trying to invade, attack and plant his larvae that will slowly eat away at us. So often, we don't even see it coming. It is often beautiful to the eye. We don't even know we have been attacked until we start seeing little things being affected in our lives. Wikipedia says this about the emerald ash borer: *"Although studies of American ashes have suggested that they are capable of mustering similar defensive mechanisms, the trees do not appear to recognize when they are under attack."* They don't know they have been attacked!

My brothers and sisters, we are being attacked every day with many new tactics by evil. Our faith, love and hope in Jesus puts a target on our back. However, the GOOD NEWS is that we DO have a known defensive mechanism. It is The Word of God, and the sheer fact that Jesus has already defeated evil! REMAIN in Jesus as He says and "you will bear much fruit". I hate cutting down those trees. Removing the stumps from the soil reminds me of the finality of their life. Yet, I find such hope in knowing that when I remain connected to Jesus, there is no evil borer in my life that will separate me from Him.

Love you SZ!

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.**



**South Zumbro
Lutheran Church**

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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!
- Congratulations to a few more high school graduates at SZ: Elijah Ackland, Kaleb Prins, Abby Schubert, Jace Short. God's blessings on your future plans!
- Please join us for an outdoor concert at the parsonage on Thursday, June 15, at 7 pm.
- If you would like to help out with VBS in any way, please plan to attend our VBS meeting on Wednesday, June 7 @ 7 pm. We will be talking about schedules for the evenings, snacks, crafts, and stories. All ages are welcome, from 7th grade through adult.



Dear Friends in Christ,
Please thank everyone in your congregation for your very generous support of "A Place at the Table". South Zumbro is integral to the success of this mission of feeding God's people! Your contributions are important and we are grateful for your donations. You have been involved on so many levels, with not only financial contributions by the congregation and the Parish Nurses, but also by having the confirmation students help serve. There is unity in Community! Thank you for caring for our community!

Blessings!

Pat Dee

A Place At the Table Coordinator
St. Peters Episcopal

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the South Zumbro staff and members for assisting my father, Marvin Viker. Your help and kindness assists Marvin in many ways and allows him the opportunity to remain in his own home. I personally am extremely grateful for all of this help!

Dawn Wehrs

To the South Zumbro Congregation,
A note of sincere "thank you" to all of you who came forward on April 23 to help Loren at the end of the service when he started to pass out. It appeared to me to be a very practiced team effort rather than just an instantaneous reaction. Kudos to all.

Jackie

Mange Tuk to our South Zumbro Church Family!

Thanks for all the prayers, well wishes, cards, and visits since my recent knee surgery. Special "thanks" to Pastor Pete and Pastor Jeff for prayers and visit and to SZ ladies for the hotdish. It was all very much appreciated.

Blessings and love!

Frank (and Sandy, too!)

South Zumbro Congregation,
Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, and cards over the past 2 months as I recover from my heart procedures. Thank you Pastor Pete for the phone calls, emails and 3 "almost" visits we planned to have. Thank you all for welcoming me back to church with smiles and open arms. I am very grateful for all the love I feel as a member of this wonderful church family.

Anna Dingfelder



Please join us in celebrating Frank & Sandy Ness' 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 17, at the Dodge County Fairgrounds Pavilion from 2 to 5 pm. We are requesting cards only. No gifts please! Your presence is your present! Wear your dancing shoes as there will be music wvprovided. Hope to see you there!

Michele, Christine, Sherri & Families





The Spirit and Learning from our Emotions

We all experience difficult emotions at one time or another.

The Limbic system, located deep in the brain, is responsible for behavioral and emotional responses. Emotions start as sensations in the body. Emotions come first, then feelings come from chemicals released in response to our interpretation of a certain trigger, our thoughts about how we interpret our emotions. Our feelings exist. Feelings are real. Feelings are neither good or bad. Our feelings, whether positive or negative, are a natural response to what is happening in our life. It is how we respond to our emotions that make a difference in how they affect us and our lives. What will our response be?

Emotions serve a purpose. They are messages, telling us to stop, look, and listen. To pay attention to what is going on. They can indicate that a change is needed. Listening to our feelings prompts questions like: What am I feeling? What is wrong? Why do I feel this way? What can I do about these feelings? What will help? Getting in touch with our feelings is very important. Asking these questions is the first step toward finding answers. Feelings are referred to as positive and negative not because they are good or bad but based on how they often feel, our interpretation of the emotional message. For example, guilt or anger feel uncomfortable to us and are often referred to as "negative". Love feels good and is referred to as "positive". Often positive feelings are accompanied by those we find less acceptable. This mix of contradictory feelings, this ambivalence, is natural and human. Identifying and accepting all emotions becomes a challenge. What am I feeling?

Do you have positive feelings as well as strong and difficult feelings? Is caring and compassion mixed with anger, hostility, or frustration? When we accept these ambivalent feelings, we come to recognize and accept loss, both major loss and minor loss. Current loss may bring back past losses and feelings. Getting in touch with our feelings is very important. What am I feeling? The Bible points to many divine emotions. The Psalms refer to many of God's emotions: hate, anger, jealous, sorrow, joy, compassion, love. Genesis 1:27 says that "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." So all the emotions we feel are God's creative work within us. God gave us a mind (intellect) and heart (emotions) and will, a whole person. Chuck Swindoll says that:

- God gave us a mind to know God.
- God gave us a heart to love God.
- God gave us a will to obey God.

Romans 10:8-10 says, "the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" and "that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." God created us with both a mind and heart to decide to bring us into relationship with Him.

Acts 17 gives us another insight. Paul's spirit within him was "provoked". This was the working of the Holy Spirit that caused Paul to preach, and then caused the men of Athens to fear, and then to confess wrong. God gave us emotions to prompt us to do something.

Another emotion would be peace that equates to doing the will of God, an answer from the Holy Spirit to "do this" and "not that", clarity of purpose. Philippians 4:6-7 speaks of this assurance of responding the right way. And 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us of the emotions given to us by God. "He has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind." He has given us the capacity to think, to reason, and to understand. To do.

And in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "God loves a cheerful giver."

God give us the feeling of joy and cheerfulness so that we can reflect His goodness in our world. Cheerfulness and joy begets generosity in spirit, both positive feelings and actions in helping monetarily and practically. He wants us as His image bearers to reflect His goodness to the world.

Your Faith Community Nurse,
Cindy Bernard's

(Thanks to resources from Caregiver Helpbook, Pastor Chuck Swindoll)



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.



May 2023

South Zumbro Council Minutes

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

Absent: V. Bohle, N. Jurrens

Visitors: Melody Powers, Dennis Aarsvold

Prayer and Bible Study: Cindy called the meeting to order and Pastor Pete opened with prayer. Deacons led discussion on What's so Amazing about Grace – Chapters 7-8.

Attendance

163, 218, 167

Offerings

5-7-23

\$7022.29, home budget; \$300.69, Building Vision fund; \$425, Luther League; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$685, Memorial fund in memory of Gerhart Bungum.

5-14-23

\$11,067, home budget; \$2,600, Luther League; \$125.69, Building Vision fund; \$154.13, Sunday School; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$403, New Life Family Services (Mother's Day Brunch).

5-21-23

\$3670, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$105, Cemetery fund; \$75, Luther League.

5-28-23

\$6919, home budget; \$125.69, Building Vision fund; \$530, Cemetery fund; \$600, Luther League; \$40, Sunday School.

Secretary's Report: Mot/sec/approved

Treasurer's Report: Mot/sec/approved with the following balances as of 4/30/23.

General Fund	\$ 115,315.56
Building Fund	\$ 56,600.04
Edward Jones Investments	\$ 38,702.92
Thrivent Investments	\$ 34,850.58
Total Assets	\$ 245,469.10

Pastor's Report

- Baptisms: 2 (Noah and Elliot Wohlenhaus)
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals: 1 (Virginia Biwer)
- 6 visitation calls, 348 miles
- Thanks to the congregation for their love, support, and prayers for Pastor Pete, Jenny, and especially Aylah. Grateful to each of you.
- Baccalaureate Service is 7pm on May 21 at South Zumbro. Help is needed with parking, ushers, and people to help direct.
- The pastors have had opportunities to support our Law Enforcement Officers and Ambulance service as Dodge County Sheriff's Office Chaplains. Keep them in your prayers.
- Inaugural Prayer Night was a good event.
- The Tate/Bendickson wedding reception and dance will be held at a different venue.
- New church members were presented. Discussion on membership transfer papers being sent to their existing churches and additional sponsors. Mot/Sec/Approved accepting the new members as presented (below).

Carol Boyd

Elizabeth (Betty) Edgar

Bob and Charlene Hasz

Eileen Herschlip (approved, but will not join at this time)

Beth Hodgman

Brad Johnson

Scott and Laura Prins, Emma Ackland

Michael, Kara, Layne, Jace, Addison Short

Matt, Shanna, Adelyn, Brenna, Noah, Elliot Wohlenhaus

- Amendment: The following people were presented following the meeting and were approved by an email vote of the council:

Ackland/Prins family: Elijah Ackland, Kaleb Prins

Edgar family: Dennis Edgar

- Pastor Pete will take a day or two of vacation in the upcoming month to prepare for Megan's graduation.
- Upcoming Services and Events:
 - May 14 -- Mother's Day Brunch -- after the service
 - May 21 -- New Member Sunday, potluck, mission trip interest meeting
 - May 21 -- Baccalaureate Service at South Zumbro -- 7pm
 - May 28 -- Congregational Prayer Meeting
 - May 29 -- Memorial Day service -- Time to be determined
 - June 4 -- Worship Time moves to 9am for the summer
 - June 26-30 -- VBS -- 6pm
 - July 2-7 -- Youth Mission Trip
 - Third Thursdays of June, July, and August -- Summer Concert Series 7pm

Committee Reports:

- Landscape Committee: Melody Powers gave an update. The committee is proposing to make improvements in 3 primary areas:
 - Removal/Replacement of overgrown shrubs and plants
 - Prayer Garden: add flowerpot, engraved stone, possibly additional flower bed
 - Brick Edging: near landing by Fellowship door, add black dirt to sunken gravesites
 Mot/Sec/Approved Landscape Committee's proposed updates as presented
- Grounds Committee: Lynn Knutson gave an update. The committee is looking at short-term, mid-term, and long-term aspects.
 - Highest priority is currently parking and the parking lots. The parking lots have been over capacity for some services and an estimated 25 more spaces are needed.
 - The south tree line is starting to cause issues and will likely be removed. Removal will allow for the additional needed parking spaces in the south lot.
 - Additional area south of current S property line will be needed for drainage. Will need to work with Steve Jurrens on this.
 - South parking lot lights will need to be moved/replaced by Peoples Coop.
 - Grounds committee will work with the Trustees on getting more information and preparing a final plan
 - Hope to approve at the June council meeting

Old Business:

- Benevolence Assignment: Mot/sec/approved for Fieldcrest Nursing Home (for new smart TV)
- Dennis Aarsvold addressed the council in regards to dances in the Fellowship Hall
- Trustee updates:
 - Water softener has been fixed
 - They are working on the Exit light by the old basement kitchen
 - Removed rust from toilets and cleaned chandeliers
- Discussion on FIRES Survey Comments has been tabled until next month

New Business:

- The parsonage is continuing to be used more frequently as a meeting space. Any small groups or committees normally meeting at the church are welcome to use the parsonage as a meeting space.

Mot/sec/approve to adjourn the meeting and closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, *Corey Carlson*

Council Members

Council President:

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Treasurer:

Dan Powers
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Financial Secretary:

Lynn Knutson
507-365-8175

Financial Assistant:

Dawn Nemechek
507-951-8548



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Get your preschooler through 6th graders ready for a fun week at our South Zumbro Safari Park! We will have stories, crafts, games, and treats. A program and family picnic (including Miss Patty's ice cream truck!) will end the week on Friday.

Please watch for a sign-up sheet at church for your student. We will also need volunteer help from our older students/adults.



Mission Coordinators Corner

Thank you to all who have taken a baby bottle to fill with loose change, dollar bills, and/or checks. These donations will be given to the Women's Shelter of Dodge County to assist in providing care and services to women and children that have been

victims of domestic violence. Whether you were able to take a baby bottle or not, we ask that you include these victims and the staff/volunteers of the Women's shelter in your prayers! Prayer is powerful. Return the bottles on Father's Day, June 18 or earlier. There will be a basket in the Narthex for the drop-off. If you have any questions related to this fundraiser or the Women's Shelter please contact Lu or Bill. Thank you so much for your contributions!

Stay tuned to the Newsletters for more information on upcoming adult mission trips for 2024 and 2025 AND local missions where your help can make a BIG difference in God's Kingdom.

"And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

Thank you,

Mission Coordinators

Lu Clifford, bobandlu321@gmail.com, 507-951-9322

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

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Esther Circle has duties this month.		Family Service Group Leaders: Tom & Paula Ricke		1	2 K-M Graduation	3 7 am MOB 12 noon-5 pm Bridal shower in fellowship hall
4 9 am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Coffee fellowship	5 7 pm Bible Study	6 12 noon - 6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30 pm Faith Circle @ Church 7 pm Naomi Circle @ Church 7 pm FIRES meeting @ Church	7 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm VBS Planning meeting @ Church 	8	9	10 9 am Esther Circle @ Church
11 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship	12 7 pm Worship Space Committee meeting @ Church	13 7 pm Council meeting @ Church	14 Flag Day 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 	15 7 pm Outdoor Concert @ the Parsonage	16	17 7 am MOB 
18 Father's Day 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee fellowship 	19 7 pm Bible Study	20	21 7 pm Property/ Grounds Committee meeting @ Church 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 	22	23	24
25 9 am Worship with MN Adult & Teen Challenge 10 am Coffee fellowship 11:30 am-4 pm Reunion in fellowship hall 7 pm Prayer Meeting	26 6 pm VBS 	27 6 pm VBS	28 6 pm VBS 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study	29 6 pm VBS	30 6 pm VBS Family Picnic/Program/Fun Night	

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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June



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