

SOUTH ZUMBRO NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
SOUTH ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2024

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

Dearest South Zumbro,

We are officially in the Lenten Season. Our Wednesday evening suppers have begun, the students have shown up to serve and we have worshiped together and considered the different “Examples in Imitation” of the people in the Bible, specifically with the Passion story. Lent is a time for reflection and examination. What, exactly, are we “examining”? That, in my opinion, is going to look a bit different for each of you. For me, the season of Lent is about examining and reflecting on who I am in Christ. How does He see me? How do others see me as compared to what I KNOW that is in me? When I do that, I realize the DIRE NEED for forgiveness. I am chief among sinners and I can’t quite grasp my head around the fact that God would send His Son to die for someone like me. Yet, there you go... THAT IS REFLECTION! We recognize our need for a Savior that wipes away the filth.

Repentance is an important piece, not only during Lent, but to our Christian lives. Understanding the liberation of repentance helps us to see clearly the love of The Father. I remember a summer as a teenager on the farm when me and dad had finished a day of chopping hay. My job was to drive wagons from the field and empty them into the silo. Dad had returned from the field and had just gotten out of his tractor. Meanwhile, I was unhooking the last wagon of the day. I was tired, young and not paying attention. As I unhooked the wagon, it began rolling toward the tractor and I hadn’t noticed. The wagon pinned me between it and the tractor tire. I wasn’t being crushed, but I definitely couldn’t push the wagon off of me. I was helpless. It was slowly taking away my breath. I had enough in me to yell for my dad. He came running and helped me get free from the wagon. I remember his demeanor was a mix of being a bit upset with my lack of paying attention but moreso, he was relieved and glad I was ok. I could tell that through his love, he wanted me to never make that mistake again.

Do you think that might be a good analogy as to what God wants from us in repentance? That He loves us so much, knows that the dangers of this world can sneak up on us and heck, maybe even gets a bit upset with us when we continue to make the same mistake? However, His love far outweighs anything. He wants us to repent and not go back to our sin.

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.**



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! 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 SZLC Directory is available. Talk to Michele if you still need yours.
- See the Family Service Group list in this newsletter. Find your name and the month that you will be able to help out with the worship services. Thank you for helping out when you can.
- If you would like to have an announcement placed in the weekly bulletin, please have to Michele by the Wednesday before.
- The Food Safety Class on March 23 is for all those who cook and serve at church...Luther League, Jr League, WOW, MOB.
- Please notify our FCN, Cindy Bernards, if you are willing to help with visitation of those homebound, NH, hospice, or needing transportation so that she can build a list of volunteers of both men and women.



Brandon and I would like to thank everyone who donated to his Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. That Sunday we collected money, Brandon received \$687.00 in cash and checks and then received many online donations from SZ members as well. Brandon raised \$4050.00 total! Thanks again for supporting Special Olympics!

Brandon and Christine Purvis

Thanks to WOW for my Christmas gift and to Ruth Stevens for delivering it and also delivering my picture album, WOW booklet, and Annual Report. It is great hearing what is happening at SZ. As I listen on YouTube, it was nice I can also match pictures and names of our new members. Am thankful for YouTube. And thanks for caring visits from the Pastors and Cindy and cards and notes from so many members. I enjoyed them all! I get around with my walker--can do my lighter housework, etc. and get out some (mostly doctor and dental appointments!). Good news this year. I am a great, great grandma to Tatum Elsie Kiser born 7-15-23, and a good active little girl she is! God's Blessing to all!

Mavis Berge

South Zumbro Lutheran Church,
Words cannot express just how blessed we feel by your generous donation of \$2500. Donations such as these are what will help us to continue our Faith In Action mission to help provide transportation, respite care, phone calls to shut-ins who just need someone to talk to, or doing light housekeeping or yard work for our seniors in Dodge County. Our heart is full. Bless you!

Faith in Action
Secretary - Diane



cont'd from page 1

Peter writes that "HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU". Thank goodness for that! But notice what he writes next: "NOT WANTING YOU TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE"! Yikes! So in other words, the opposite of repentance is perishing? Jesus also says it in Luke 13:3 "UNLESS YOU REPENT, YOU TOO WILL ALL PERISH". So, not only during Lent but always consider the importance of repentance. Choosing LIFE in and through Jesus Christ is a life choosing repentance.

Lenten Blessings!

Pastor Pete

WOW will be having a potato bake fundraiser following the church service on Sunday, March 3. WOW raises funds for our mission outreach which we distribute at the end of the year.

The potato bake will be baked potato with your choice of chili, broccoli cheese sauce or taco meat, along with an assortment of toppings.

Coffee, milk, and water, plus bars for dessert. Free will offering. Please join us for good food and fellowship.



Lutheran Evangelistic Movement

Have you ever heard of LEM? This is the pastoral conference that Pastor Pete and Pastor Jeff (and wives) attended in Arizona in February. The roots of LEM go back to the 1920's with a lay evangelist from the Hauge Federation. The Haugean movement (Hans Nielson Hauge) was a pietistic state church reform movement intended to bring new life and vitality into the Church of Norway often characterized by formalism and orthodoxy. This is the history of South Zumbro Lutheran. The strengths include personal faith, an experience of conversion, love for the Word of God, Holy Living and Lay participation using spiritual gifts. But we need to watch out for the weaknesses of spiritual pride, separatism, legalism, mysticism, emphasis on feelings instead of the promises of God and the Sacraments.

The need for evangelism within the Lutheran church was identified in the 1930's. Beginning in 1939 LEM was part of this (eventually having a Mid Winter Deeper Life Conference and Deeper Life Camps in the 1960's both at Medicine Lake and then Lake Koronis). Many older people probably remember the "Mid Century Awakening" in the 1940's and 1950's after WWII (Billy Graham). Then came the turbulence of the 1960's with the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr, civil rights, Vietnam War, Woodstock, Women's Liberation. Then in the 1970's came the interdenominational Jesus Revolution. LEM would send an evangelist and youth teams from area Christian colleges who shared testimonies and sang praise music. One area pastor confessed, "A number of our dear church members are spiritually dead" and had been relying on their good works for salvation instead of a relationship with Christ (How about you?!) One young adult identified himself as a "church boy who didn't know Jesus", running from God while pretending outward religion.

Do you have any kind of spiritual belief? Have you ever said "no" to God? "Yes"? To you, who is Jesus? Do you think there is a heaven or hell? If you were to suddenly die tonight and stand before God in Heaven and He asked you, "Why should I let you into Heaven?" How would you answer? Because You are a good person and try to help people? If what you believed were not true, would you want to know it?

Let's review what the Bible tells us.

Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Are you a sinner?

Romans 6:23, "for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 3:3, "Truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot

see the Kingdom of God." Do you want forgiveness of your sins? *John 14:6, "Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes in righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation." Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins and rose again?

Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..." Are you willing to open the door? To surrender yourself to Christ? To invite Jesus into your heart and life? Or perhaps you may not even remember having a time in your life when you didn't know Jesus. Can you tell me what Jesus has done for you? This is the work of LEM for almost 85 years. During the last 20 years LEM has led pastoral retreats and done church planting. Many remember Pastor Jack Aamot who came to South Zumbro for a church council retreat in 1991. The volunteer director Curt Linn and the current board is stepping down. The ministry board has hired two traveling evangelists to visit area churches. Other ministries that we learned about include Global Discipleship Institute with small disciple making groups, the Orality Institute sharing stories of Jesus in House churches.

Your Faith Community Nurse,

Cindy Bernards

(Thanks to resources from author Jonathan Anderson who wrote, "Our Fathers Saw His Mighty Works" about LEM)



Please join us at SZ on March 6, 13, 20 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".

March 6 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Pastor Jeff, "John, the Loving and Beloved Apostle"

March 13 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Pastor Larry Grove, "Mary, the Mother With a Pierced Heart"

March 20 - 7:30 pm Lent Worship: Pastor 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



February 2024

South Zumbro Council Minutes

Attendees: M. Aarsvold, C. Carlson, C. Herbst, N. Jurens, K. Kruckeberg, D. Nemechek, R. Ness, D. Powers, B. Stromme, Pastor Pete, Pastor Jeff.
Absent: K. Johnson, L. Knutson, R. Lee
Visitors: N/A

Attendance

188, 193, 185, 163

Offerings

1-28-24

\$4223.25, home budget; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, WOW; \$400, Good Samaritan fund; \$25, Sunday School; \$100, The Gathering Place; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$300, Memorial fund designated for playground equipment.

2-4-24

\$6806.67, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$25, WOW; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$135, Luther League.

2-11-24

\$5804.03, home budget; \$325.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, Sunday School; \$180, Cemetery fund.

2-18-24

\$5397.66, home budget; \$100.69, Building Vision fund; \$40, WOW; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$155, Memorial fund in memory of Rick Boyum; \$660, Memorial fund in memory of Clayton Carstensen.

2-25-24

\$2480.27, home budget; \$50, food shelf; \$50, Luther League; \$25.69, Building Vision fund; \$30, Cemetery fund; \$300, Memorial fund to go toward playground equipment.

Cindy called the meeting to order. Pastor Pete opened with prayer.
Devotion: Discussion on intro and chapters 1-3 of "Looking for the One"

Secretary's Report: M/S/A

Treasurer's Report: M/S/A

Trustees report:

- A Power company contractor is trimming or removing trees interfering with power lines. One tree at Gerhard's will come down & others trimmed. The big corner oak will be trimmed only. Spruce across from the Fellowship Hall and the tree next to the power pole at the NW corner of the cemetery will be removed. All no cost to church. They will clean up trimmings, leave logs, which Nick will remove.
- Parsonage Furnace stopped working for several days. Was working again when met with Tri County, tested and checked out ok. Keeping an eye on it.
- Septic tank alarmed recently. Pump worked fine on manual. Leth electric replaced the float and it is working properly.
- Olmsted County issued the permit to fill & cap the well at Gerhard's. Their well service will do so soon. Anticipate Leth septic to pump septic tank soon then Matt Clock will crush & fill the tank and do additional leveling where the house & tank were.
- Custom Alarm inspected the fire alarm system: passed. One of the fire doors by the bathrooms drags a bit on the carpet and could potentially not fully close. Tension adjusted which seemed to eliminate problem.

Cindy: Trustees are busy. Some members have extended offers of help so feel free to call on them to assist.

Pastor's Report:

- Mileage: Pastor Pete: 365 miles Pastor Jeff: 257 miles
- Total Visits: 18
- Baptisms: 1 - Jorge Garcia
- Weddings: 0
- Funerals/Memorials: 2 - Clayton Carstensen and Patrick Boyum
- Lent begins Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday). Pastors will be rotating with Pastor Mark Olson (Mt. Zion/Zion) and Pastor Larry Grove (Hauge Lutheran)
- Pastor Pete gone Feb. 16-19
- Worship stuff - how can we narrow down announcements? (an age old dilemma)
- Discussed member's impressions about the current state, and what topics warrant an announcement vs. other available means of communication, such as the service bulletin. Decision to continue to announce: pastor church business trips, the event that provided altar flowers, late breaking illnesses, and death notices. All other notices to be provided to pastors or to Michele by Wednesday before service for

- inclusion in bulletin. Pastors to communicate this change at upcoming services.
- Piano Recital request to be held in Fellowship Hall was received.
- Directory Update: Pastor Pete met with Emily. In recognition of the effort and the many hours that Emily put into creating the directory, the council approved a gift card to show their appreciation. Michele's assistance and contributions were also recognized.

Looking ahead:

- February 14 -- Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 17-- Progressive Supper
- Feb. 21- March 20 -- Lenten Service/Lenten suppers (Pastors Rotation)
- March 31 -- Easter -- 2 services and Brass Quartet
- April 28- Compassion Sunday
- May 5 -- Confirmation -- Regular Service at 8:30 and Confirmation at 11:00

Benevolence proposal (Deacons)

\$650 to Rainbow trail Lutheran camp - M/S/A

Mission:

\$1200 to Lutheran Evangelistic Movement (LEM) - M/S/A

Old Business:

Annual meeting feedback

- Marilyn: noted change from past regarding communication of an overview of and call for interest for each subcommittee. Discussion.
- Discussion prompted realization/recognition that the nominating committee members are not elected and perhaps should be. Tabled for future further discussion.

New Business:

none

Cindy gone for March meeting. Corey to conduct that month.

Meeting Adjourned - M/S/A

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Kent Kruckeberg*



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:

Cindy Herbst
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Vice President:

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Deacons:

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Ryan Lee
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Treasurer:

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Financial Secretary:

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Financial Assistant:

Dawn Nemechek
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Family Service Groups for 2023/2024

March Leader:

Steve Jurrens

Sister Month September

Todd & Connie Aarsvold
Cindy Bernards
Curt & Linda Bolles
Mark & Jenny Brannan
Earl & Nancy Emerick
Bob & Charlene Hasz
Wayne & Genny Hendrickson
Troy & Mary Knutson
Scott & Rosie Rose
Derek & Angela Thoen

April Leaders:

Ken & Ann Johnson

Sister Month October

Ken Boyum
Todd & Tammy Donley
Dennis & Betty Edgar
Dennis & Debbie Hansen
Larry & Mary Hansen
Brian & Cynthia Herbst
Kyle & Jackie Howell
Bruce & Georgeanne Johnson
Jim & Dorothy Larsen
Loren & Jackie Torrens

May Leader:

Jil Rendler

Sister Month November

Ryan & Angela Christensen
Mike & Diana Coats
Dan, Karen, & Mike Engler
Randi Finley
Dan & Raegan Froelich
Ryan & Hilary Ledebuhr
Don & Brenda Rosenberg
Leslie Rosenberg
Mary Sue Sandeno

June Leaders:

Tom & Paula Rieke

Sister Month December

Dennis & Marilyn Aarsvold
Ben & Val Bohle
George & Sandra Bolles
Carol Boyd
Kendall & Julie Boyum
Patty Boyum
Duane & Emily Hansen
Ryan & Paula Haraldson
Mary Lou McClamroch
Joel & Todd Senjem
Matt & Shanna Wohlenhaus

July Leaders:

Nick & Kelly Jurrens

Sister Month January

Jeremy & Alisha Banken
Cody & Sydney Cook
Ike & Brenda Currier
Mark & Melanie Hansen
Brant & Cassie Kruger
Matthew & Nicole Larsen
Joel & Amy Olson
Trevor & Abi Stromme
Ryan & Laura Wyttenbach

August Leaders:

Bill & Brook Santjer

Sister Month February

Joel Aarsvold
Anna Dingfelder
Billy Glawe & Ann Thompson
Quinita Kase
Ben & Becca Langan
Julie Larsen
Mark & Leah Ness
Kathy Peterson
Shawn & Darcy Petersen
Walt & Jeanie Wyttenbach

September Leaders:

Bill & Michele Stromme

Sister Month March

Mary K. Aarsvold
Lois Burdick
Corey & Darlene Foster
Dave & Pat Gosch
Lynn & Beverly Knutson
Don & Dorene Ness
Frank & Sandy Ness
Keith & Marge Ness
Mark & Anne Schwartz
Jenny Wyttenbach

October Leaders:

Marty & Heather Holum

Sister Month April

Steve & Vicki Bryhn
Annika Carlson
Corey & Paula Carlson
Bob & Lu Clifford
Michelle Godbout
Warren & Wilson Kerkhoff
Mason Koehler
Tim Moenning
Rick & Gail Phelps
Beth Senjem
John Tate

November Leaders:

Ryan & Heidi Lee

Sister Month May

Keith & Laura Dohrmann
Tim & Michelle Fitzgerald
Tim & Dawn Nemechek
Dale & Marla Ness
Randy & Teresa Ness
Scott & Laura Prins
Brandon & Susan Ripley
Michael & Kara Short
Gerry & Succarol Shuler

December Leader:

Christine Purvis

Sister Month June

Wendy Aarsvold
Galen & Marcia Bungum
Mary Beth Harmon
Eli & Katie Herbst
Cory & Lilian Ingram
Doug & Dawn Inman
Greg Naig
Travis & Alli Nemechek
Dan & Melody Powers
Brad & Sue Wilson

January Leaders:

Ed & Erica Gillis

Sister Month July

Gary Brannan & Tracy Stephens
Matt Clock
John & Diane Erickson
Burt & Enner Fjerstad
Adam & Carrie Herbst
Nick & Mackenzie Hodgman
Kent Kruckeberg
Byron & Cheryl Ouren
Jordan & Alyssa Swanson
John & Kelly Van Camp

February Leaders:

Christopher & Meghan Culverson

Sister Month August

Ruth Christie
Eileen Herschlip
Beth Hodgman & Brad Johnson
Wayne & Liza Larsen
Jeff & Kaia Long
Derek & Kelsey McMurchie
Tim Ness
Marylee Rose
Ben & Maddie Tate
Judah Tate
Wayne & Rosalie Trom
Abby & Kailyn Wigham



1/28/2024

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

Secretary Report:

- Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting: M/S/A-minutes as posted in the Annual Report.

Treasurer's Report:

- Dan Powers highlighted that Junior League, the Landscape and Music committee expenses are now managed by the treasurer, instead of independent checking accounts (these accounts have been closed).
- There was appreciation from the attendees for the pie chart and detailed budget included in the annual report.

Pastors' Reports:

- There were no extra comments regarding the statistical report from the congregation.
- Pastor Jeff shared each Sunday they look at attendance in the fellowship hall, online and in the sanctuary. On average there have been 160-175 in attendance each Sunday.

Committee Reports:

- Each committee submitted a report and is posted in the annual report.

Thank You's:

- Cindy thanked the council members for their time and commitment with helping with the church business. Members working the potluck were thanked and a sincere thank you to Pastor Pete and Pastor Jeff for all their time and commitment to South Zumbro.
- Thanks to outgoing council members Val Bohle and Jim Larsen.
- Cindy asked the congregation for prayers to provide wisdom to the council to be good stewards of the Lord.

Election of Council members:

- President Cindy Herbst provided an update on Jim Larsen's trustee position, as he was completing his late brother, Scott Larsen's term. There was a nomination from the congregation for Randy Ness as trustee.
- There were no other nominations from the floor. M/S/A for nominations to cease for church council members. M/S/A to cast a unanimous ballot for church council candidates.
- The 2024 Council positions:
 - President ~ Cindy Herbst

- Vice President ~ Corey Carlson
- Secretary ~ Kent Kruckeberg
- Treasurer ~ Dan Powers
- Financial Assistant ~ Dawn Nemechek
- Financial Secretary ~ Lynn Knutson
- Deacons ~ Marilyn Aarsvold, Ryan Lee, Bill Stromme
- Trustees ~ Nick Jurrens, Ken Johnson, Randy Ness

Committee Members:

- Board of Education ~ Erica Gillis, Lu Clifford and Brooke Santjer
- Cemetery Board ~ Walt Wytttenbach, Travis Nemechek and Joel Senjem
- Sunday School Superintendents ~ Meghan Culverson, Michele Stromme has submitted her resignation as superintendent at the end of the school year.
- Senior Choir Director: Cindy Bernards
- Faith Community Nurse: Cindy Bernards
- Head Ushers: Family Service Groups
- Nominating Committee: Meghan Culverson and John Van Camp- seeking new committee members
- Convention Delegates: TBD
- Auditing Committee: Trustees
- Worship and Music Committee: Dennis Aarsvold, Cindy Bernards, Lu Clifford, Cindy Herbst, Melody Powers
- Memorial/Giving Committee: Marilyn Aarsvold, Bob Clifford, Bev Knutson, Troy Knutson, Don Ness, Randy Ness, Sandy Ness, Bill Stromme
- Landscape Committee: Connie Abernathy-Ness, Julie Boyum, Diane Erickson, Erica Gillis, Melody Powers
- Decorating Committee: Connie Aarsvold, Betty Edgar, Diane Erickson, Bev Knutson, Georgeanne Johnson, Judah Tate
- Health & Wellness Ministry Team: Bob Clifford, Genny Hendrickson, Lynn Knutson, Dorene Ness, Lois Burdick, Kara Short, Tracy Stephens, Kelly Van Camp
- Family Service Group Committee: Christopher & Meghan Culverson, Bill & Michele Stromme
- FIRES (long-range planning): Cindy Bernards, Ruth Christie, Lu Clifford, Melanie Hansen, Cindy Herbst, Don Ness, Bill Stromme
- Mission Committee: Lu Clifford
- Sunset Funeral Committee: Dennis and Marilyn Aarsvold, Norma Braun, George and Sandy Bolles, Steve Bryhn, Marcia Bungum, Bob and Lu Clifford, Ike & Brenda Currier, Karen, Engler, Mary Beth Harmon, Brian & Cindy Herbst, Alpha Jensen, Steve Jurrens, Lynn Knutson, Mary Lou McClamroch, Frank & Sandy Ness, Joel Olson, Don & Brenda Rosenberg, Wayne & Roselie Trom, Walt & Jeanie Wytttenbach

Approval of 2024 Budget (Copy in the Annual Report):

- Dan Powers highlighted some line items which were increasing this year:
 - Maintenance/repair- The parking lot has been completed,

with the land exchange there were changes with the Bungum homestead, which contributed to the increase in this line item.

- Janitorial services- Service Master is no longer able to provide services at South Zumbro, therefore new cleaning service was obtained. The services have been very thorough and this will eliminate the need for congregation spring and fall cleaning.
- The pastor's salaries were increased by 6%.
- A/V Services- This line item has been increased as there is a possibility of two services starting this fall and compensation for this service is new. The committee was not sure if this will be changed, but wanted to plan for it in case this is implemented.
- Bill Stromme discussed his challenges with communicating and connecting with staff from LALM (Latin American Mission). Support for this mission was suspended in July 2023 and the council has supported missions with monthly mission rotation. This will be the direction moving forward this year, monthly mission rotation. At the 2023 annual meeting it was agreed upon to donate a set amount of \$10,000 to missions. There has been a lot of thought and prayer and \$2000 was given in 2023 to Lat Faya Christian retreat center. Prayer will continue for the remaining \$8000.
- M/S/A to accept this report with an addendum to increase mission support by \$100 a month in 2024.

New Business:

- Michele Stromme announced that she will be stepping down from Sunday School Superintendent at the end of the current school year.
- Megan Culverson gave a brief overview that the nominating committee is looking for new members and going to do different events this year to get to know the council members better.
- There were many new committee formed in 2023:
 - Grounds Committee: Mike Coats provided an update- Oats were planted in the fall of 2023, along with wildflowers. The wild flowers were purchased from Shooting Star. The wildflower growth will be a 3-5 year process as they need time to mature.
 - Worship Space Committee: We are blessed to have growth at South Zumbro, but this presents new challenges. Brook Santjer gave an update on the short term changes that they have worked on, worship space in the fellowship hall for overflow on Sunday mornings. There will be more updates to come in early 2024 regarding their suggested changes.
 - Mission Coordinators: Bill and Lu provided an update that the baby bottle drive was a success and they were able to shop for a family this year. South Zumbro has a lot to offer and they suggested that this should be made a committee, not just two people coordinating mission work.
 - Chris Purvis asked if there would be consideration for more local support as there are many students in the schools that could use the support. Cindy informed the congregation that there is a local benevolence given to the food shelf and the back packing program at the KM panty and Byron and Triton schools also.

Cindy confirmed the council will look at other options of local community support.

- LCMC convention: this will be held in Cedar Rapids Iowa on September 28- October 2, 2024. South Zumbro will need 2 delegates to go and the congregation was encouraged to speak with Pastor Jeff and Cindy or Bill and Michele Stromme to get information about the convention if interested.

Meeting adjourned M/S/A.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

~Val Bohle



Mary Sue Sandeno has stepped forward to help with the Mission Coordinator duties at SZ--Thank you, Mary Sue! Five others have expressed an interest in being active in the Mission outreach of SZ as well. I am grateful to each of you!!! The next Mission committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 19th.

Update on the Adult Mission Trip for Fall of 2024:

The name of the mission organization we will be working with is Big Creek Mission out of Bear Branch, Kentucky. From their website:

- Big Creek Missions is an interdenominational Christian ministry center and is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 non-profit organization. We work alongside multiple organizations, individuals, and dozens of churches seeking to glorify Christ in Appalachia and in the hearts of believers.
- Based in Bear Branch, Kentucky, we work to connect churches and volunteer groups from across the country with needs that exist in the Leslie, Clay, and Perry County areas. Our newest location is based in Wheelwright, Kentucky and ministers in Floyd county.
- Our primary task is to connect mission groups with needs in our community. We provide accommodations and direction for those teams. By connecting those churches with needs, we are able to offer services and ministries to our community that otherwise would not be available. <https://www.bigcreekmissions.com>

PLEASE let Lu Clifford or Mary Sue Sandeno know if you're interested in joining us on this trip! Dates will be decided soon. Our next meeting for those interested in going on the Mission trip to Kentucky will be Sunday, March 24th, after church.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

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

Mary Sue Sandeno, 507-208-8672, rbmsand@gmail.com

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Faith Circle has duties this month.		Family Service Group Leader: Steve Jurrens		March is food share month.	1 11 am SZ on the Move in fellowship hall 	2 7 am MOB
3 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:05 am Mtn Movers 11:15 am WOW Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser 6:30 pm FPU	4 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	5 7 pm FIRES @ parsonage	6 6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Sr Choir, Confirmation, Jr Choir 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service	7 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch	8 11 am SZ on the Move @ EmpowerYou Wellness	9 9 am Esther Circle @ Church 
10 Daylight Saving Begins 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Baptism 11:05 am Mtn Movers 6:30 pm FPU	11 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Council meeting	12	13 6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Sr Choir, Confirmation, Jr Choir 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service	14 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch	15 11 am SZ on the Move @ EmpowerYou Wellness	16 7 am MOB Wilke baby shower in fellowship hall
17 St Patrick's Day 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship with Baptisms 11:05 am Mtn Movers Swanson lunch in fellowship hall 6:30 pm FPU 	18 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	19 7 pm Health & Wellness mtg @ Church 7 pm Mission Committee meeting @ Parsonage	20 Start of Spring (6 pm Lent Supper 6:30 pm Sr Choir, Confirmation 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service 	21 9 am Quilting; bring sack lunch	22 11 am SZ on the Move @ EmpowerYou Wellness	23 9 am Food Safety Class
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am Palm Sunday Worship 11:05 am Mtn Movers 11:10 am Mission Trip meeting 	25 1 pm Matter of Balance @ NE Clinic 7 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm Worship Space Committee meeting	26	27 1 pm Matter of Balance @ NE Clinic	28 Holy Thursday 6 pm Sr Choir 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion 	29 Good Friday 	30 
31 Easter 7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 am Breakfast 10 am Easter Worship with Brass Quartet 	Vacation Bible School June 24-28, 2024 					

South Zumbro Lutheran Church

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(507) 365-8110 church

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