

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH -- JANUARY NEWS

Pastor's Message

I am writing this before Christmas, however by the time you receive this Our Lord and Savior Jesus' celebration of his birth will have passed, but not ended. Every day we should give Honor and Thanks for the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

I want to say Thank You to Everyone for allowing me to serve and be part of All people of Chimney Rock. I am Greatly Honored and Blest to be serving and a member of this congregation. I truly look forward to continue to serve and be a part of this congregation.

As we all start the New Year I have a challenge for us all to seek the presence of God and the Holy Spirit every day and in everything we do. As commissioned Disciples of Christ, we should spread the word of God by what we say and do and how we treat others.

A couple weeks ago I talked about forgiveness. I am talking about the type of forgiveness that Jesus does by his death and resurrection on the Cross. Since Jesus dies for our sins and forgives us for what we have done then we as Christian people need to do the same. Forgiveness does not mean we forget the acts or harm committed to us, or that justice should not be pursued, but that we release ourselves from the bonds of those acts that would harm our hearts by carrying them with us every day. Two weeks ago in Lay School our speaker said it better than I could and it was this. By not forgiving we have chained ourselves to the person and the acts or harm they caused. By forgiving we have said that the acts or harm committed are so bad that I no longer want to be chained to you or the acts and harm committed. Forgiving breaks that chains that keeps us bound together and sets us free. I would also like to share with you a Facebook post sent to me by one of the parishioners.

"You must forgive those who hurt you, even if whatever they did to you is unforgiveable in your mind. You will forgive them not because they deserve to be forgiven, but because you don't want to suffer and hurt yourself every time you remember what they did to you, forgiveness is your own mental healing. Forgiveness is an act of self-love." Don Miguel Ruiz – The Four Agreements

This most likely will not be something easily done and you may need help from others to walk with you this through process. I would like to recommend a book to you that I have read multiple times. I have found it to be very helpful and it is an easy read. The Book of Forgiving by authors Desmond and Mpho Tutu

Luke 23:34

"And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do.'"

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

God's Peace and Blessings to ALL!

Monica A Dejno

Annual Meeting Scheduled for January 26

Chimney Rock's Annual Meeting will be held immediately after 9:30am worship on January 26, and a potluck is planned after the meeting. All reports to be included in the annual report should be audited and submitted to Barb for copying on or before Sunday, January 19. Auditing Committee members are Leslie Coburn and Mary Hermanson. WELCA auditors, Cheryl Solfest and Mary Hermanson, audit only the Women of the ELCA records. Nominating Committee members are Nancy Edison, Mackenzie Mueller, Donna Olson, Randy Olson (outgoing trustee), and Bev Paulson (outgoing deacon), along with Pastor Sands and SAM Monica Dejno.

Winter Theological Event Scheduled for January 27

Rostered leaders and SAMs are invited to a mid-winter, one-day theological gathering. Guest speaker will be Jim LaDoux from Vibrant Faith Ministries who will share insight and tools into the theme, "Living Well to Lead Well." This gathering will be held on Monday, January 27, from 9am to 3 pm and will take place at Luther Park Bible Camp. Cost is \$60, and you can register online at nswi.org.

Luther Park Bible Camp Registration Open

Confirmation parents, if your students are interested in attending camp this summer, check out Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, where registration opened on December 1, 2024. We haven't received any printed materials, but you can go online (lutherpark.org) to get information and schedules, call 715-859-2215, or email the camp at info@lutherpark.org. Our church pays \$100 towards the registration fee.

Worship Assistants Needed

Please check the green sheet in the narthex and sign up to read, greet, or usher on open dates. Maybe you'd like to sign up for an entire month—or an occasional Sunday. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated. We would appreciate volunteers from our young members too! Also, if you're musically talented, contact Pastor Sands or Monica and volunteer your talents.

Join Us for Coffee

Thank you to those who have served coffee after worship on Sunday mornings. When you sign up in the narthex, be prepared to bring food for approximately 25 people. Beverages and paper products will be provided. Remember that our Sunday School and Confirmation students work up an appetite during their classes and really appreciate these treats!

Congratulations, Graduate!

Congratulations to Jocelyn Perry, who graduated from the FireMedic program at Chippewa Valley Technical College on December 12. Jocelyn has completed a difficult course and she'll be helping to save lives in the Eau Claire community.

We Welcome a New Member

Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we welcomed Hank Allen Buggert to the family at Chimney Rock on December 29. Hank, the son of Avery and Katie (Solfest) Buggert, was born March 4, 2023. His sponsors are Jacob Solfest, Zack Gebeke, and Brittany Rademacher. God's Blessings to Hank and family.

Thank You to . . .

- ❖ Katie Solfest Buggert for her "in person" organ/piano musical talents while in Wisconsin and for recording the worship music the remainder of the year.
- ❖ Mavis Erickson and family for donating two new stoves for our kitchen! It's such a nice gesture, and we truly appreciate it!
- ❖ the Sunday School kids for singing in church almost every Sunday.
- ❖ Barb McGee for leading the Christmas decorating and to Mary Hermanson and Barb Sylla for assisting. Thanks also to Dan and Jacob Solfest for getting the trees in place again this year!
- ❖ Jennifer Perry and her assistant Rachael Hovey for planning the Sunday School program.
- ❖ Sunday School and Confirmation students for sharing the Christmas message at their program on December 22.
- ❖ All who contributed food for the brunch following the Christmas program.
- ❖ Ione and family for the poinsettia they shared in memory of George.
- ❖ Brooklynn, McAdam, Aubree, and Kayden for the poinsettia they shared in memory of Ella.
- ❖ Everyone who participated in placing wreaths on veterans' graves during Wreaths Across America on December 16.
- ❖ The "Secret Santa" who donated bags of candy for the kids after the Sunday School program.

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

- ❖ Dale, Roxie and Terry Erickson memorials to the Cemetery Fund given by Jerry Erickson.
- ❖ Andy Dejno memorial to the General Fund given by Mary Hermanson.

Watch Out for Scams!

Almost every year someone in our congregation receives a text from a person who claims to be our pastor, who is helping someone in need, and asks you to buy gift cards for them. Our pastors' phone numbers are included in bulletins, newsletters, and on our website, so check before responding. Better yet, just delete these texts because our pastors would never make requests like this.

Please Inform Pastors of Illness & Hospitalizations

If you hear that one of our members is hospitalized, please let Pastor Sands or Monica know. Because of HIPAA laws, hospitals no longer contact pastors when someone is admitted. Also, please contact them about illnesses—even when the member isn't hospitalized.

Please Support the Strum Food Pantry

The Strum Food Pantry is seeing a large increase in the number of households we are providing with food. We are very appreciative of all the support we receive from churches and people in our surrounding area. All non-perishable items are great but other items we can use are paper products, cake mixes, Jell-O and instant pudding mixes, peanut butter and dish soap. Monetary support is also appreciated. We buy milk and egg vouchers from Feed My People so we can provide milk and eggs to the families also. If you choose to give a monetary donation, PLEASE make your check out to STRUM FOOD PANTRY and send to: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 109 Elm Street, Strum, WI 54770. We are located at Immanuel Lutheran Church and are open the First Saturday of the month from 9-11am and the third Wednesday of the month from 4:30-6:30pm (note change of time for Wednesday). THANK YOU in advance for your support of this Community Ministry.

Strum Is Senior Dining Site

Trempealeau County ADRC began offering Senior Dining at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Strum in 2022. The meals are catered by Sweet Temptations, are now served both Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30pm, and the suggested donation is \$5 for those who qualify (60 years and older). Reservations are required by 9am a day prior by calling 715-695-3511. This is not only for senior citizens from Strum—anyone can attend if you meet the age requirement and call ahead.

Membership

If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please talk to Pastor David Sands or Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) Monica Dejno. Their contact information is located on the calendar page and also in the weekly bulletins.

Church Offerings

Please remember that our church needs your continued financial support. Jason has put a "donate" button on our church website (www.chimneyrockchurch.org) for those who wish to contribute electronically. E-Pay information is also included in this issue. Of course, checks are the preferred method of donation and should be made payable to Chimney Rock Lutheran Church. If you don't attend Sunday worship, your offering can be sent to one of the addresses listed below.

Chimney Rock Lutheran Church
N43255 Church Rd.
Strum, WI 54770

Daniel Solfest
N43178 State Rd. 93
Strum, WI 54770

E-Pay Available at Chimney Rock

If anyone would like to send their contributions to the church electronically, please contact Treasurer Dan Solfest for the correct information. You will need the church's account name, account number, depository bank's name, and bank's Federal Reserve Bank routing number. You will also need to tell your bank the amount to send and frequency of remittance. Dan can be reached at 715.985.3242 or in church on Sundays. Thank you for your interest in supporting Chimney Rock Lutheran Church.

Newsletters

For those who can't access the monthly newsletters electronically via email, our church website, or Facebook, please pick up a printed copy the last Sunday of each month for the next month's calendar and news. Newsletters will be mailed to those who don't have electronic access or aren't in church to pick up a copy. Any questions, please contact Barb Sylla at 715.985.3496 or bbsylla8246@gmail.com. Information to be included in the newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each month.

Our Vision Statement

Be alive and well in ten years with healthy evangelism and vital family fellowship.

Our Mission Statement

We, as a family of God, rooted in the strength and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, are called forward facing challenges by the promises of God to reach out in love to our rural community, especially cherishing and welcoming children.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd--M/M Brad Olson
6th--Aubree Kensmoe, Brayden Mueller, Connie Solfest
7th--George W. Jacobson, Keith Rustad
9th--Alexis Bohlinger
10th--Isael Rosales Jacobson
12th--Kyle Koval
14th--Zoey George, Thor Hermanson
16th--Dalton Solfest
17th--Lori Gullicksrud, Vanessa Gullicksrud
20th--April Olson
22nd--Emily Hovey
23rd--Becky Franck
25th--Ethan Bautch
26th--Alan Barneson, Levi Loesel
27th--Bob Kensmoe
30th--Joan Halverson
31st--Jason Bautch

Council Members

Trustee	Randy Olson	715.985.3309 715.797.2988
Trustee	Richard Gunderson	715.797.3721
Trustee	Don Solfest	715.287.4562 715.797.3014
Deacon	Bev Paulsen	715.287.3323
Deacon	Barb McGee	715.695.3448
Deacon	Jerry Erickson	715.530.2079
Memorial Secretary	Forrest Nutter	715.695.3487 715.533.1720
Treasurer	Dan Solfest	715.985.3242
Secretary	Barb Sylla	715.985.3496 715.530.0338

Something to think about . . .

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith from your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you. And you need the church.

(credits to Michael Carl)

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – December 16, 2024

Call to Order—Trustee Don Solfest called the December 16, 2024 meeting to order at 6:38pm. Others present were Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Barb McGee, Forrest Nutter, Bev Paulsen, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, and Barb Sylla. Richard Gunderson and Randy Olson were absent.

Devotions—Pastor Sands read Luke 6:27-38 and led in discussion. Monica gave an opening prayer.

Secretary's Report was read by Barb. One correction: Don Solfest's name was omitted from those in attendance at the November 18 meeting and is now added. Forrest and Bev motioned to accept, and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report—Dan distributed the report ending November 30, 2024. Barb M. and Barb S. motioned to accept, and motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1) No bid yet for painting/repairing small bell tower windows.
- 2) Community Resources—Monica and Barb will meet soon.
- 3) Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at Immanuel was very nice.
- 4) Barb contacted the Mondovi and Osseo papers, and they will include our worship time free of charge. The Trempealeau County Times requires the purchase of weekly ads, so we won't be advertising with them.
- 5) Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, and Easter is April 20th. During discussion last month, it was the consensus to not be a part of the round robin in 2025 and to only have Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services. Forrest made a motion to this effect, Don seconded, and motion carried, with one opposed.
- 6) Monica attended the Living Nativity held at Elk Creek Lutheran on December 8 and said it was very nicely done.

New Business:

- 1) The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2025. The meeting will be held immediately after 9:30am worship, followed by a potluck. All reports to be included in the Annual Report should be submitted for auditing on January 19.
- 2) We may have a music service in March, which has five Sundays.
- 3) Joyce Olson was hospitalized but is back at the American Lutheran Home now.
- 4) Forrest had prepared the 2025 contracts and gave them to Pastor Sands and Monica for their review and signatures.
- 5) The 2025 budget will be discussed at the January council meeting. As of this date, our General Fund balance is nearly \$10,000 less than in January. There was discussion about having raffles and other fundraisers to make up for this deficit when we don't receive enough through offerings. This matter will be on the agenda and brought before the congregation at the Annual Meeting. (Note: the financial report is included in monthly newsletters, as well as the church address and treasurer's address for those who send offerings.)

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, at 6:30pm.

Adjournment—Jerry and Forrest motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Sylla, Council Secretary

