

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH -- FEBRUARY NEWS

Pastor Tobiason Writes . . .

It is with thanksgiving to God that I was allowed to serve you on and off since my first retirement 15 years ago. I especially enjoyed visiting with you before and after services. We have struggled together to maintain our worship life through three years of a dangerous and frustrating epidemic. You have graciously cooperated with the measures we used to keep us safe, and I respect you for that. There is a lot of love within this congregation for the people of Chimney Rock and for a very beautiful building. The reason for this church is mission in word and deed for the love of Jesus our Lord. I have always known that a church not in mission is doomed while a church in mission will survive. Mission doesn't necessarily mean collaring people for the Lord, but doing/showing the love of God where we live, work, and play. I look forward to what will happen with new pastoral leadership under Monica and David and wish you and them Godspeed in your life together. I will certainly miss my partnership with you. Just to know, what is sorely missing is the lack of interest in worship, for worship in the word of God is our life and inspiration. Finally, thank you to all of you and especially those in leadership. The firm and wise hand of Forrest, the great organizing ability of Barb, and the leadership of the entire council. The education ministry is in especially good shape due to the work of Jennifer and Jocelyn. Also one of the greatest grandpas in the world in Randy Olson, our confirmation teacher.

What Will Happen When Pastor Tobiason Retires?

Council President, Forrest Nutter, has been in conversation with Pastor David Sands and Monica Dejno, and both have agreed to lead worship two Sundays each month when Pastor Tobiason retires, beginning the first Sunday of March, 2023. In months where there are five Sundays, one of them may be able to lead worship OR area lay pastors will be contacted to supply. Note: Monica is now a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM for short). Forrest has also had more conversations with Pastor Randy Olson, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Synod. The synod has suggested one-year contracts and yearly evaluations to see how the arrangement is working out. This will all be discussed and voted on at our Annual Meeting on January 29.

Installation to be Held February 5

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve on council and other positions in the congregation in 2023. Installation of newly elected officers and those continuing in their positions will be held during the worship service on February 5.

Lent Begins on February 22

Pastor Tobiason will lead the Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 6:30pm. This year, we will continue in-person "round robin" mid-week services. More information and a schedule of themes and pastors will be included in the bulletins and in the March newsletter.

Come to Pastor Tobiason's Retirement Party on February 26

Pastor Paul is retiring this month, and his last day of leading worship will be February 26. That's when we're planning a little party for him at a potluck meal after worship. Hope you can come and wish him well in his second retirement!

Student Received Bible

On January 8th, the Sunday School presented Carson Bisek with a Bible. Congratulations and blessings to Carson as he studies and learns the word of God.

Students Received First Communion

God's blessings to the five students who celebrated communion for the first time on January 15. They are: Carson and Weston Bisek, sons of Codey and Alexis Bisek; Soren Hovey, son of Kevin and Elizabeth Hovey; Jackson McGee, son of Rob and Andrea McGee; and Brayden Mueller, son of Eric and Mackenzie Mueller.

We Offer Our Sympathy

- Richard and Beverly Paulsen's sister-in-law, Kathy Paulsen, passed away on December 28.
- Gerri Kolve's brother, David Kruger, passed away on January 25.

Please keep both families in your prayers during this difficult time.

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

- ❖ Allen Olson memorials to Chimney Rock General Fund given by Tammy Theobold and Rickey & Rebekah Krumrie
- ❖ Dale, Roxie & Terry Erickson memorials to the Cemetery Association given by Jerald Erickson.
- ❖ Gordie Twerberg memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Debbie Twerberg
- ❖ Oliver & Agnes Hawkenson memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Beverly & Daniel Brey
- ❖ Bennie & Florence Olson and Family memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Rickey & Rebekah Krumrie

Coffee Is Being Served After Worship

If you wish to serve for coffee hour after worship, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. The suggestion is to bring food for approximately 25, plus ½ gallon of milk and ½ gallon of juice. Coffee, hot chocolate mix, paper plates, napkins, etc. will be provided. This is a great fellowship time after worship and is also nice for the Sunday School and Confirmation students to have a snack after their lessons are completed. Hopefully enough people will volunteer to furnish food so we can continue to offer it.

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 served only on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm, and the suggested donation is \$4 for those who qualify (60 years & older). Reservations are required by 9am on Monday prior to dining that Tuesday 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. The January menu will be posted on the narthex bulletin board and in the bulletin when it becomes available. Just remember to call before 9am on Monday if you wish to eat the Tuesday meal.

Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry Open Twice Each Month

The Food Pantry at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Strum is open the first Saturday from 9-11am and the third Wednesday from 5-7pm. No appointment needed. They offer non-perishable foods and fresh milk, eggs and ground venison, hamburger, pork sausage. Visit and see what they have to offer.

“Reboot” Scheduled

Reboot: Middle School Youth Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 8am-5pm. All 6-8th graders are invited to join us for this one-day youth gathering! Together we will travel through the decades and be reminded that Jesus Christ doesn't change...yesterday, today and forever! (Hebrews 13:8). It will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, which is located at 35 W. Messenger Street in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

“Walking Together” Scheduled for March 11

This year's Walking Together Synod Event will be held on Saturday, March 11, from 8am-5pm. This will also be held at Bethany Lutheran Church located at 35 W. Messenger Street in Rice Lake. Join us for a day of ministry sharing, ideas and inspiration! More information will be shared when it is made available.

Synod Assembly Planned for April 29

The Synod Assembly will also take place at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake for one day—Saturday, April 29, from 8am-5pm. If you are interested in being a delegate, please let us know!

Holy Land Trip Planned for January 8-17, 2024

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is coordinating with Elias Tours to plan this transformative pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Visit the holy sites from the Bible in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan. Meet and worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Learn about the work of the Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital. Discuss relationships between Israel and Palestine. Hear first-hand stories of the living stones, the people of the land (See 1 Peter, chapter 2). Our tour group will meet monthly starting in August of 2023 (via Zoom) so we can begin to become acquainted with each other and prepare ourselves for this life-changing experience. We hope you can join us. More information will be shared at nswi.org.

Important Notice for Those with TCC E-Mail Accounts

TCC will be discontinuing tcc.coop and triwest.net email addresses for residential customers. Originally this was scheduled for the end of 2022, but the deadline has now been pushed back to June 30, 2023. Please let Barb Sylla know once you change your email. Barb's new email is bbsylla8246@gmail.com.

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.

Membership

If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please talk to Pastor Paul. His contact information is located on the calendar page and also in the weekly bulletins.

Newsletters

For those who can't access the monthly newsletters electronically via email, our church website, or Facebook, please pick up a printed copy located in your mailbox in the narthex. Check your mailboxes 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.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st--Mavis Erickson
6th--Lydia Hess
7th--Sophia Severson
9th--Fred Jacobson
19th--Haley Christianson
23rd--Robin Barhyte
24th--Jolie Wogh
25th--Aaron Barneson, Sophia Hess

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – January 10, 2023

Call to Order—Council President, Forrest Nutter, called the meeting to order at 6:03pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Members present—In addition to Forrest, Jon Flury, Brad Olson, Randy Olson, Bev Paulsen, Dan Solfest, Barb Sylla, and Pastor Paul Tobiason attended. Pastor left at about 6:45pm. Cristal Kingsbury was absent.

Devotions—Pastor Tobiason led in devotions and prayer. He visited Kent Melsness in a rehab unit in Bloomer after his surgery and also Raymond Knudtson, who is now in hospice care at Dove in Osseo.

Secretary's Report—Barb read the November 2022 and December 2022 minutes. Randy made a motion to accept, Bev seconded, and motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2022 was distributed. Barb and Brad motioned to accept, and motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Pastor Tobiason will lead the Ash Wednesday service at Chimney Rock, right before his retirement. He has consented to do the Wednesday round robin Lenten series this year, which begins March 1. After a brief discussion, Randy Olson made a motion to reimburse him \$500 for the round robin preaching. The motion was seconded by Jon Flury and carried.
2. Monica will be meeting with Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson on January 19 to discuss becoming a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM).
3. Pastor Tobiason will be gone on January 15, and Pastor David Sands will supply and do the First Communion Service for Carson Bisek, Weston Bisek, Soren Hovey, Jackson McGee, and Brayden Mueller. The Sunday School will have gifts for these five boys, and Barb will do certificates.
4. Forrest will meet with Monica Dejno and Pastor Sands after worship on January 15, 2023 to discuss several items, including Sunday worship beginning the first Sunday of March, visitations, wages, etc. Pastor Sands and Monica will also work out a worship schedule for part of 2023 on that date. Pastor Sands would like part of his wage as housing allowance. Monica will be paid an hourly wage and mileage when she does visitations.
5. Pastor Sands suggested budgeting \$200 for educational resources.
6. Remaining work on the exterior of the church will be completed by Jurowski Construction as early as weather permits in 2023. This includes some tuck pointing, power washing, and painting of fascia and soffits.
7. Per Pastor Lowell Bolstad, Constitutional amendments suggested by the ELCA can be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January 2024 or at a special congregational meeting prior to that.

New Business:

1. Proposed 2023 budget was set.
2. Agenda for the January 29th Annual Meeting was briefly discussed.

Next meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Adjournment—Jon and Bev motioned to adjourn at 7:28pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Sylla, Council Secretary

President	Brad Olson	715.694.2239 715.797.5559
Trustee	Randy Olson	715.985.3309 715.797.2988
Trustee	Richard Gunderson	715.797.3721
Deacon	Jon Flury	715.797.0152
Deacon	Bev Paulsen	715.287.3323
Deacon	Barb McGee	715.695.3448
Treasurer	Dan Solfest	715.985.3242
Secretary	Barb Sylla	715.985.3496 715.530.0338