

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH -- APRIL NEWS

Message from Pastor Sands

New Beginnings. I think God is a fan of New Beginnings. It seems to me that the theme of New Beginnings is common to many of the major figures of the Bible: Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Joseph in Egypt, Moses and the Exodus. Even Jesus himself came to Earth to start a New Beginning in God's relationship with the human race. With these world-changing New Beginnings as a backdrop I want to point out a New Beginning of our own here at Chimney Rock. I, David Sands, am part of the new ministry team that has begun since Pastor Paul's retirement.

I will be sharing the ministry duties of this congregation with your Synodically Authorized Minister, Monica Dejno. She has a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and a good sense of humor. I am really looking forward to working with her. I am also looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you, the members of Chimney Rock. Together we can seek the Lord's guidance for the future of the congregation. May God bless us all in the coming year.

Holy Week Schedule Listed Below

Our Wednesday Lenten services in March focused on biblical saints and others. The various pastors involved in the round robin were very interesting. In April we will celebrate Holy Week with services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Date	Pastor	Theme of Service
Sunday, April 2 at 9:30am	Paul Tobiason	Palm Sunday
Friday, April 7 at 6:30pm	Monica Dejno	Good Friday
Sunday, April 9 at 9:30am	David Sands	Easter Sunday

Planning to Bring Easter Lilies?

If you want to share Easter lilies or other spring flowers in church on Easter Sunday, please let Barb know by Good Friday so they can be acknowledged in the bulletin. Thank you.

W/ELCA Dairyland Conference Morning of Renewal Set for April 12

The W/ELCA Dairyland Conference annual Morning of Renewal is set for April 12 at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls. The \$15 registration fee for the event includes a program, meeting, speaker, and lunch. Guest speaker Deacon Lidix Montoya will present on the Neighbor to Neighbor program, antiracism, and generalities and misconceptions about the Hispanic culture. A flyer with more information will be out soon.

Youth Advocacy Retreat Planned for April 14-16

Join high school youth from around Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to explore your interests in social justice. What do we have to say about social problems related to hunger, biases against people who are not part of a majority, the environment, and other concerns you have? How is our faith connected to it all? Develop concrete ways to use your voice for positive change with faith and hope, and build relationships with other youth interested in advocacy in Wisconsin and the U.P. This event will be held at Holiday Inn West, 1109 Fourier Drive, in Madison, Wisconsin from April 14 (6pm) to April 16 (1pm). Cost per participant is \$75. Youth in grades 9-12 and adult leaders are eligible to register at <https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/>

Luther Park Plans Spring Work Day

If you're available on April 22, come to Luther Park's Volunteer Day and help get the camp ready for the summer. Last year about 100 people from 15 congregations assisted. Email good2bike@gmail.com to volunteer.

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. This year's assembly will gather around the theme "Rebound: From Worry to Wonder" as we explore Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34, "Do not worry . . . but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness . . ." Voting members and non-voting participants for Synod Assembly 2023 are encouraged to attend one of three pre-assembly forums where we will preview and discuss assembly resolutions and answer any questions you may have about procedure or content. These forums will be held via Zoom from 6-7:30pm on April 23, 24, and 25. Registration deadline is April 19, and cost is \$50 per adult. Register online at nswi.org. If you are interested in being a delegate, please let us know!

Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner Scheduled for April 30

Contact People—Forrest Nutter (715.695.3487) Barb McGee (715.695.3448) Barb Sylla (715.985.3496).
Saturday, April 29, beginning at 9:30am—we'll package dinner rolls and bars for the Sunday meal. Please bring bars by 10am. We're asking for 9 x 13 pans of bars that can easily be packaged (no sticky frostings, no cakes or refrigerator desserts, please). Please don't cut your bars; we'll do that on Saturday so they're all the same size.

Sunday, April 30, at 9:30am—Worship Service.

Our Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner will be held from 10:30am till gone. Everyone should get to their assigned work places immediately after worship. The menu will include 1/4 charcoaled chicken, bag of chips, beans, dinner rolls, bars and bottle of water at a cost of \$10 per meal. There won't be a raffle or bake sale—only the dinner—and Forrest has ordered 50 more pieces of chicken because of a decision made at the Annual Meeting, so we'll be selling approximately 300 meals this year.

Monetary donations would be appreciated to offset dinner expenses for food and supplies. Make checks payable to Chimney Rock Lutheran Church and submit to Dan Solfest (chicken is approximately \$60/case). Please note on your check/envelope that you're donating towards the chicken dinner. Because of your generosity in 2022, we cleared \$3,505.46!

Workers Needed—We had wonderful cooperation at our first drive-thru dinner held last year, with nearly 50 people helping in one capacity or another. Let's make sure that this year runs as smoothly as last year! Please volunteer or say "yes" when asked to help! And be in your assigned places by 10:15am so we're prepared for those early customers! Thank you!

Parking—Because our dinner is a drive-thru, we can't park in the usual places on April 30. Please park north or south of the church or alongside the newest cemetery, leaving Church Road open for customers.

Time to Register for Luther Park Summer Camp

Luther Park Summer Camp brochures are available on a table in the narthex or you can find information online and register at lutherpark.org. Programs run from mid-June until mid-August and are available to students in Pre-K, elementary, middle school (confirmation camp), as well as family camp. Our church made a commitment several years ago to pay \$100 towards the registration fee for confirmation students who wish to attend. Please notify the council if you have any questions.

Luther Park Bible Camp Has Summer Job Openings

Spend your summer in the north woods of Wisconsin exploring your faith as part of a supportive community and teaching youth as they engage in Christian community in the outdoors. We are hiring faithful, dedicated, and energetic young adults who want to participate in a summer of ministry and community, with fun, games, music and lifelong friendships along the way. To apply, visit lutherpark.org/summer-staff. See the poster in the narthex and scan the QR code for more information.

Luther Park Needs Volunteer Nurses

We are currently looking for volunteer nurses to help for a week at a time at Luther Park Bible Camp. This is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and help ensure others can thrive in a safe and loving community. Your duties: be on duty from Sunday at 1pm until Friday at 1pm; administering medication; medication intake forms; administering standard first aid; on call all day, but can spend the majority of the day relaxing or participating in camp activities. All meals will be provided! A room with a cozy double bed will be available in the air-conditioned Welcome Center. Bringing your children is an option! Please contact our office to set that up! Email info@lutherpark.org or call 715-859-2215.

Tri-Synod Youth Gathering to be Held in July

All high schoolers who are currently in grades 8-12 are invited to join us for JOURNEY at UW-River Falls where we will encounter God and one another in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. This event, scheduled for July 24-27, will include participants from the Northwest Synod of WI, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Save the Date for "Heart for Luther Park"

Luther Park's Annual Fundraising Event will be held Sunday, August 6, 2023. The day begins with worship at 9:15am, followed by a chicken dinner, pie and ice cream, silent auction, live auction, and children's activities. Donated items including quilts, silent auction baskets, art, and new items will be welcomed and appreciated. The raffle tickets will be sold until 3pm that day, when the quilt drawing takes place. More information can be found at www.lutherpark.org, info@lutherpark.org, or by calling 715-859-2215.

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. Beverages, 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. Thank you to those who have served so far.

Schedule a Kids Night Out or Youth Lock-In at Your Church

Kids Night Out and Youth Lock-In are programs offered by Luther Park Bible Camp during the school year, a Friday or Saturday night of supervised programming at your church for the children and youth in your congregation. This is a great way for parents to have a night to themselves and children to experience camp in the convenience of your own church. The cost includes staff for up to 30 children or youth and program materials. Snack or meals are the responsibility of the church. Kids Night Out is for children in grades K-6 on a Friday or Saturday night from 6:30-10pm. Youth Lock-In participants are youth in grades 6-12 on a Friday or Saturday night from 6:30pm until the next morning. Activities include songs and skits, faith lesson, games, arts & crafts, large group activity, science project and more. Call Luther Park at 715-859-2215 to schedule a program.

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. Menus will be posted on the narthex bulletin board each month. 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.

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 nswsi.org.

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

Dale, Roxie and Terry Erickson memorials to the Cemetery Association given by Jerald Erickson.

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 David Sands or Synod Authorized Minister Monica Dejno. Their 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.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st--Tony Rustad
2nd--Roger Kensmoe, Collin Koval
4th--Alexandria Loewenhagen
5th--Nathan Olson
6th--Barb Sylla, Virginia Howard
9th--Michele Barneson
13th--Chuck Girtman
14th--Mary Hermanson
15th--Jackson McGee
16th--Matt Olson
21st--Pam Flikkeshaug, Arne Olson
25th--Denise Loesel
26th--Bob Kolve, M/M Randy Pederson
27th--Jenessa Perry

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – March 13, 2023

Call to Order—Council President, Brad Olson, called the March 13, 2023 meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Members present—In addition to Brad, Monica Dejno, Jon Flury, Richard Gunderson, Barb McGee, Bev Paulsen, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, Barb Sylla, and Forrest Nutter (Memorial Secretary) attended. Randy Olson was absent.

Devotions—Monica read Ephesians 5:8-14, and Pastor Sands led discussion about “the light” talked about in this passage. Pastor Sands then led in an opening prayer.

Secretary’s Report—Barb S. read minutes from February 13, 2023. Forrest made a motion to accept, Richard seconded, and motion carried.

The Treasurer’s Report through February 28, 2023 was distributed by Dan. Richard and Barb M. motioned to accept, and motion carried.

No Old Business.

New Business:

- 1. Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on April 30**—Forrest has ordered the chicken and once again has applied for a \$250 Thrivent debit card to offset dinner expenses. Anyone wishing to help with charcoaling should contact him. Barb M. and Barb S. will be in charge of getting supplies (carry-out containers, cutlery, etc.) and other food (chips, beans which are being donated by Bush’s in Augusta, buns which have been ordered, water, etc.). Some members have already volunteered to bring bars for the carry-out meals and others will be contacted. Some have already volunteered to help as well for setup on April 29 and April 30, the day of the drive-thru meal, which starts at 10:30am.
- 2. Council Meetings**—There was discussion about changing the day and time when the council meets. Jon made a motion that we meet right after worship the first Sunday of each month from May through September. Bev seconded the motion, which carried.
- 3. Visitations**—Monica and Pastor Sands will be on call the weeks following their Sunday morning preaching. Monica, paid as a supply pastor (\$150 each Sunday she leads worship), will submit her visitation hours and mileage to Dan once she has shadowed Pastor Sands and feels comfortable doing visitations on her own. Pastor Sands is receiving a monthly salary, so he will not be submitting visitation hours or mileage.
- 4. Pastor Sands mentioned some upcoming dates**, including that Confirmation Sunday is May 21st for Emily Hovey.
- 5. SAM Meeting**—Following the council meeting, Monica went to take part in an online meeting via Zoom for Synod Authorized Ministers.

Next meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday, April 10, 2023.

Adjournment—Jon and Richard motioned to adjourn at 6:42pm. The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Sands.

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

Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Matthew 28--After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation:

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it. The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.¹

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that.

https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ,
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/TURKEY-QUAKE/AFTERSHOCKS/dwpkdkzlevm/>