

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH – AUGUST NEWS

Monica Dejno Writes . . .

I can't believe how fast the summer seems to be going. I place a guess that I may not be the only one that feels that time and days just seem to be flying by. For the first time in my life I attended the service to celebrate the 4th of July in Pleasantville. I was very impressed with the work done for a wonderful service. It was fairly warm that day but surrounded by trees and a light breeze it was very pleasant. The service was very well put together, organized, good music and a wonderful sermon. After the service was completed the Lions Club awarded Mary Olson with Citizen of the Year Award. This award was given for all her service to organizations in the community and I also know service to people also--not just organizations in the community. Congratulations to Mary and Thank You and God's Blessing for using your gifts of the Spirit to serve the neighbor. Soren Hovey attended Luther Park camp in July. We pray that he enjoyed his experience, made some new friends and was able to grow and strengthen his faith life. Soren, I am looking forward to hearing your stories about camp. We have had a few parishioners in the last couple months that have had surgery or suffered from medical issues and I want to give Thanks and Praise to God that all individuals are doing well and doing well enough that not only are they back home but have been able to return to church and join in the hearing of the Good News and connect with the community and family of Chimney Rock. We Thank God for healing these individuals and supporting their families during his time of concern. We ask that God continue to send the Holy Spirit upon them for continued healing and strength and continue to be with their families. Praying that all are having a safe and enjoyable summer.

God's Blessings, Monica A. Dejno

Chimney Rock's 155th Anniversary to be Held October 19

In September of 2019, a committee was formed and began meeting monthly to plan for Chimney Rock's 150th Anniversary, which was originally scheduled for September 20, 2020. Due to Covid in early 2020, we had to cancel that date, but in those few months many things on our list were accomplished:

- We chose a new theme, "By His Grace, For His Glory," based on several verses in the book of Romans.
- We began using this theme on weekly bulletin covers.
- We designed and ordered a 150th indoor banner from Supreme Graphics.
- We commissioned Bob Speltz from the Whitehall area to paint a new outdoor sign, again using our theme.
- We ordered and sold trivets with a picture of Chimney Rock Lutheran Church.
- And we also helped a family from Malawi, Africa (our companion Synod) by purchasing farm animals through ELCA Good Gifts, earning \$715 for that mission.

Now, the council has decided to complete what began over five years ago! As we mentioned in the June-July newsletter, we're still in the planning stages for our 155th Anniversary on October 19 and want to keep the celebration simple and more informal than previous anniversaries. This is what we have decided:

- Worship will be held at the usual time of 9:30am, with guest speaker Pastor Diane House, Assistant to the Bishop in the Northwest Synod.
- The Lorn & Royce Band will provide the music for the service and perhaps other musicians will be added.
- A meal in the church basement will follow the morning worship. We aren't requiring RSVPs. A free will offering will be taken for the meal instead of setting a price.
- We want this to be like a family reunion of former and current members, including those who have been baptized or confirmed at Chimney Rock and may have moved away from the area.
- There will be lots of time to mingle and visit, especially during and after the meal.
- Please help us get the word out. So far, we've been announcing the 155th in our weekly bulletins, monthly newsletter, on Facebook, on our church website (www.chimneyrockchurch.org), and via personal texts and emails. We're asking all of you to help too by telling your family members and friends who have ties to Chimney Rock. A flyer/poster is attached which you can forward to others if you receive the newsletter via email OR take a picture of the flyer with your cell phones and text to others.

We're looking forward to seeing you on October 19 to celebrate Chimney Rock Lutheran Church, which began in 1870. We have reason to celebrate all those who went before us, those who built this beautiful church building, worshipped here, and supported the congregation for 155 years, spreading God's word from generation to generation. This is a time to thank God for all His blessings!

"Heart for Luther Park" Scheduled for August

Luther Park's Annual Fundraising Event will be held Saturday, August 2, 2025. The schedule: 10am Viewing of Quilts, Silent Auction Begins, Canteen Opens. At 11am there will be Lunch in the Dining Hall and Viewing of Quilts Ends. At 12 noon the Live Auction Begins, and at 1pm the Silent Auction and Lunch End. Please note that this event has usually been held on Sundays, but this year is on Saturday!

Engaging Children Initiative

The Engaging Children Initiative is a ministry of the La Crosse Area Synod, in partnership with Sugar Creek Bible Camp and Luther Park Bible Camp. It is generously funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. The Engaging Children Initiative (ECI) equips ministry leaders to creatively engage children in prayer and worshipful experiences through the arts, movement, playful curiosity and story. Children of all abilities and their families will feel welcomed in congregational worship and the life of the church. Congregations of the Luther Park Bible Camp Association are invited to participate in this initiative. Details about events and training opportunities that the initiative are hosting can be found in the narthex. Church staff and volunteers are invited to the equipping and training event (at no cost) on Saturday, September 6th at Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, Wisconsin. The optional lunch will be available at a minimal fee. If you would like to learn more about the Engaging Children Initiative, look at our website, eci.lacrosseareasynd.org and sign up to receive occasional updates about events, resources and initiative findings.

Congratulations, Mary Olson, Recipient of Pleasantville's Citizen of the Year Award!

"Mary is an active member in our community with the Pleasantville Women's Club and quilting projects. She also applied for and received a \$15,000 grant for the Hale First Responders this year. She's always willing to lend a helping hand. Thank you, Mary, for all you do for our community!"

Congratulations, Nancy Dubiel, for Going the Extra Mile!

"At the ADRC, we're lucky to have many dedicated part-time drivers — and one of them recently received some well-deserved recognition! Nancy Dubiel, who serves as both a Home-Delivered Meals (HDM) and ADRC Transportation Driver, has only been with us a little over a year, but she's already made a big impact. Nancy joined the ADRC team after retiring from her full-time career, and we're so glad she did. Known for always having a smile on her face and a heart full of compassion, Nancy helps brighten the lives of those she serves every day. She's also the first to raise her hand when we need someone to pick up a shift or take on an extra assignment — a true team player through and through. Just recently, two different clients reached out to share how much they appreciate her. One called to say how thankful she is for "everything Nancy does." Another followed with a similar message of gratitude. Nancy loves her job so much, she often jokes that she shouldn't be paid to have this much fun. And it shows — her kindness, reliability, and positive spirit are felt by everyone she meets. Thank you, Nancy, for going the extra mile. We love having you on our team!"

Thank you to . . .

- ❖ Ione Jacobson and family for the beautiful flowers they placed in the planters by the church steps.
- ❖ Dan and Jacob Solfest and Duke Berg for repairing and painting the small bell tower windows. They look like new!
- ❖ Duke and Mary Berg, who rebuilt and stained the display case near the church entrance which shows time of worship, along with the names of our pastors. It's such an improvement!

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

- ❖ Dale, Roxie, and Terry Erickson memorial to the Cemetery Fund given by Jerry Erickson.
- ❖ A memorial to the General Fund given in memory of Mary Hermanson's brother Ron and her sister-in-law, Vicky given by Susan Solli.

Worship Assistants Needed

Please check the green sheet in the narthex and sign up to read, greet, or usher on open dates. We appreciate all of you who have volunteered—including our Confirmation and Sunday School students.

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.

Membership

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

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.

Useful Information Available in Narthex

The La Crosse County Health Department has sent information on public benefits and/or community resources, including BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare Wisconsin. This can be found in the church narthex.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd--Randy Olson, M/M Codey Bisek
4th--Lucas Olson
5th--Leeta Lee, Montana Mish
6th--Katie Solfest Buggert
7th--Soren Hovey
8th--Leslie Coburn
9th--Logan Bautch, Weston Bisek, Eden Ottum
11th--Mandy Olson
12th--Vanessa Loesel
15th--Pastor David Sands
16th--M/M Dennis Dubiel
19th--M/M Chuck Girtman

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – June 9, 2025

Call to Order—Trustee Forrest Nutter called the June 9, 2025, meeting to order at 6:35pm. Members present: Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Richard Gunderson, Barb McGee, Mary Olson, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, and Barb Sylla. Don Solfest was absent.

Devotions—Monica read Romans 5:1-5 and led in discussion. Pastor Sands shared an opening prayer.

Secretary's Report was read by Barb. Mary and Barb M. motioned to accept, and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report—Dan distributed the report ending May 31, 2025. Richard made a motion to accept, Jerry seconded, and motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1) Jurowski Construction will soon submit a bid for repairing/painting small bell tower windows. Stendahl Painting has been contacted for a bid on painting storm windows.
- 2) Forrest and Monica swapped keys, so she now has a front-door key.
- 3) Summer attendance incentives—one student has been attending.
- 4) Synod Assembly—Pastor Sands reported on the April 26th Assembly. 298 voting delegates attended, all resolutions passed, including "love your neighbor."
- 5) Pastor Sands and Chimney Rock's delegate Bev Paulsen attended the annual meeting of the American Lutheran Home. The new CEO is doing a good job of managing, with a positive operating increase of \$554,000 in 2024.
- 6) No service at Chimney Rock on July 6, 2025, as we will attend the July 4th Ecumenical Worship at the Pleasantville Ballpark.
- 7) 155th Anniversary on October 19, 2025—Pastor contacted and confirmed the Lorn & Royce Band. There was more discussion about the menu, invitations, notifying people, and other details. It was suggested that we ask Jason to place information in a prominent place on our website and to post on Facebook.

New Business:

- 1) Grant—Monica reported that a \$7.4 million grant has been awarded to Wartburg Seminary (Castle Project), which will benefit SAMS (Synod Authorized Ministries) in rural, small-town parishes across the ELCA throughout the United States. This is in the very early stages.
- 2) Monica is scheduled to preach on June 29, the fifth Sunday of the month.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 10, immediately after worship.

Adjournment—Barb M. and Mary motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Sylla, Council Secretary

2025 Council Members

Trustee	Richard Gunderson	715.797.3721
Trustee	Don Solfest	715.287.4562 715.797.3014
Trustee	Forrest Nutter	715.695.3487
Deacon	Barb McGee	715.695.3448
Deacon	Jerry Erickson	715.530.2079
Deacon	Mary Olson	715.694.2239 651.587.6126
Treasurer	Dan Solfest	715.985.3242
Secretary	Barb Sylla	715.985.3496 715.530.0338

No Council Meeting was held in July.

The next meeting is scheduled immediately after worship on August 10.