

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH – OCTOBER NEWS

SAM Monica Dejno Writes . . .

Greetings to ALL. As I am writing this, the fall harvest has started at the farm. It is my favorite time of year. After the seeds were planted this spring and then you watch them emerge and then worry all growing season if we are getting enough rain or too much rain. Every time you hear that we are supposed to get storms and they are predicting high winds and hail and my gut just sinks and I start praying that all will be well. We have been so far more than blessed this growing season. Rains came when we needed it, the crops were not damaged by storms and even though I don't like the heat, it was great for the crops. We started chopping corn last week and the harvest is bountiful. The cows should have plenty to eat. We give God thanks for all that we are receiving, and may it continue to be good, and ALL who are involved in the harvest be safe.

I am grateful for all that we have been blessed with. However, there is a silent story that is going on out west that I would like to bring to light to ask for prayers for those individuals and families who are being affected by this. Due to the current conditions of the United States, the export market for Agriculture commodities has decreased dramatically. China is a very large importer of American Agricultural goods, however, due to the current status of things, China is purchasing much of their Agricultural needs elsewhere. Due to this, out west there are many grain elevators that are still full from last year and farmers have been notified that the elevators will be taking in very little to none of the crops that were grown this year. So, as a result, unless you have your own storage facilities there are no places to go with the crops you grew. I became aware of this after Max went out west for a week a couple of weeks ago to help the guy he worked for last year as a combine operator. I was made aware of this again when someone I know that works as a farm mental health counselor, along with other people, were asked to go out west to help with the suicide crisis of American farmers. There isn't much in this world that saddens me; however, for me this hits home and is very personal. Agriculture is one of the few sectors in the world where you have no control of whether there will be a market for the products you grow or produce and you as the producer of those products can't set the price you receive for what you produce. You are at the mercy of those that are much higher in the process. However, a person cannot live without food. Please pray that these individuals who feel that there is no other way out of this than by ending one's life, that there is help and give them the ability to reach out to find solutions other than suicide. We pray to God to send the Holy Spirit upon them to find solutions, and no matter the situation let them know they are worthy of being all that God created them to be and that they are important and worthy of being human. Please, if you know of anyone who is in need of mental support or is having a mental health crisis, share that 988 is a National Suicide Crisis line available to anyone at any time, 24/7, and it is free.

I would like to thank everyone who is involved in leading our youth in their Christian education and teaching this year. Thank You ALL for your time energy and dedication to the youth of Chimney Rock to see that they be offered Christian education and formation. Your role is vital to the Faith Formation of these young individuals and what you do does not go unnoticed. May God send the Holy Spirit upon you All in your use of your gifts that were given to you by the Holy Spirit to teach the young about God. These educational instructors are: Sunday School Superintendent and Middle School Teacher Jennifer Perry, Elementary School Teacher Rachael Hovey, Confirmation Teacher Randy Olson and all the parents that were willing to fill in for Jennifer while she is attending to other obligations.

I am sure Barb will have all the information about the 155th Anniversary Celebration happening at Chimney Rock on October 19, 2025. I look forward to this event and meeting everyone that attends this celebration.

God's Blessing and Peace to All,
Monica A Dejno

Cemetery News

All urns and summer flowers should be removed from the cemetery by October 1. Thank you!

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes Have Begun

Sunday School and Confirmation began on September 7, so they've already been in session for one month. Classes are held from 9:30-11am on Sunday mornings. Thank you to all the helpers!

Chimney Rock's 155th Anniversary Will Soon Be Here!

In a nutshell, here's the information to know about our 155th Anniversary celebration:

- ❖ The date is Sunday, October 19, 2025.
- ❖ The Worship Service will be held at the usual time of 9:30am.
- ❖ Guest speaker will be Pastor Diane House, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Synod of WI
- ❖ The Lorn & Royce Band will provide the music.
- ❖ A meal, served by Council members, will follow the morning worship. The menu will include pulled pork sandwiches, grilled brats, potato salad, potato chips, baked beans, pickles, cake, and beverages.
- ❖ RSVPs are not required.
- ❖ A free will donation will be accepted for the meal.
- ❖ There will be lots of time to mingle and visit, especially during and after the meal.
- ❖ Please continue to spread the word to anyone you know who has ties to Chimney Rock.
- ❖ Come and celebrate with us on October 19 and encourage others to attend, too!

God's Blessings to These Couples Getting Married in October

- ❖ Kyle Suchla and Sam Ceransky on October 4, 2025
- ❖ McAdam Kensmoe and Brooklynn Olson on October 11, 2025

Worship Assistants Needed

Please check the sheet in the narthex and sign up to read, greet, or usher on open dates. We appreciate everyone who volunteers—including our Confirmation and Sunday School students.

Coffee Servers Needed

Thank you to everyone who served coffee in September! We need more people to sign up in the narthex. The Confirmation and Sunday School students work up an appetite during their classes and really appreciate a snack each Sunday. Remember, you don't have to furnish a meal! Just bring one or two items, either purchased or homemade, enough for about 25 people. Beverages, paper plates, napkins, and tableware are provided.

Thank you to . . .

- ❖ Eric and Mackenzie Mueller of Olson Pest Control for spraying the exterior of the church in September.
- ❖ Steve Stendahl of Whitehall for painting the storm windows.

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

- ❖ Dale, Roxie, and Terry memorial to the Cemetery Fund given by Jerry Erickson.

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.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st--Heather Holstad Hensley
3rd--James Pederson
7th--M/M Todd Severson
8th--Sophia Woychik
9th--Jean Tentzohua
14th--Lloyd Lee, M/M Sam Hess
15th--M/M Tom Kensmoe
16th--Elizabeth Hovey, Laura Rustad
18th--Hailee Olson
19th--M/M Christopher Severson
20th--M/M Eric Mueller
21st--M/M Norman Johnson
23rd--Brad Olson
25th--Olivia Severson
26th--Cheryl Solfest, Brandon Stevens
27th--Alexandra Loewenhagen
28th--M/M Billie Loesel
31st--Rachel Gullicksrud, Dallas Solfest

East Bennett Valley Church Fall Service Planned

Everyone is invited to East Bennett Valley Church on Sunday, October 5th at 2pm. A church service will be held with Lorn and Royce plus others. Coffee will be served.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Fall Bazaar Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5, 2025, when Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church will have a Fall Bazaar. Here's the schedule for the day:

10-11am:	Worship Service
11am-1:30pm:	Bake Sale, Crafts, Basket Sales, and Charcoal Chicken Dinner (\$12)
1:30pm:	Raffle Drawings (1/2 hog, cut, wrapped, and frozen; Meat bundle (\$150 value); 1 queen size quilt; 2 separate Kwik Trip gift cards; and face cord of firewood; Raffle participants need not be present to win.

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – September 15, 2025

Call to Order—Trustee Forrest Nutter called the Monday, September 15, 2025, meeting to order at 6:26pm. Members present: Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Richard Gunderson, Barb McGee, Forrest Nutter, Mary Olson, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, and Barb Sylla. Don Solfest was absent.

Devotions—Pastor Sands read various verses from Luke 16:1-13 and led in discussion. Monica shared an opening prayer.

Monica gave her report at this time, since she had to leave at 7pm. Tonight is the first of six online webinars throughout the ELCA relating to the Castle Project Grant, which is proceeding very quickly. Synod Authorized Ministers will each receive \$250 scholarships through this project. Every SAM in the Northwest Synod has a mentor, and the number of SAMs in this synod keeps increasing. This past weekend, the lay school classes resumed. Monica also shared that she has ordered the pulled pork for the 155th Anniversary from Bushy's and will soon order the potato salad at Family Farms.

Secretary's Report was read by Barb. Richard and Jerry motioned to accept, and motion carried, with one clarification: the brats will be donated by Forrest and Jeanne Nutter—not just Forrest.

Treasurer's Report—Dan distributed the report ending August 31, 2025. Barb S. made a motion to accept, Mary seconded, and motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1) Small windows—Dan and Jacob Solfest have now completed repairing and painting the six small windows, including three in the bell tower, two in the balcony, and one above the side door. The north bell tower window also had to be rebuilt.
- 2) Barb gave a thank you to Duke and Mary Berg for rebuilding the outdoor display case.
- 3) Storm windows—As of this date, Steve Stendahl has scraped, puttied, and primed the storm windows and plans to paint all 17 tomorrow, weather permitting.
- 4) Gus Hovey, who qualified for a trip to Action City because of summer worship attendance, wants to go during the winter.
- 5) 155th Anniversary on October 19—Richard Gunderson donated bottled water and pickles; Don & Cheryl Solfest will purchase the buns; Jerry offered to pay for advertising in the Ad-Delite; Barb McGee showed the paper products, tableware, and shared her decorating ideas.
- 6) Weddings—Kyle Suchla and Sam Ceransky will be married October 4; McAdam Kensmoe and Brooklynn Olson's wedding is on October 11.
- 7) Sunday School began on September 7.

New Business:

- 1) Thanksgiving Eve Service—Chimney Rock is hosting this community event this year at 7pm on November 26. Coffee will be served following the worship service. Choirs from Eleva Lutheran, Elk Creek Lutheran, and Immanuel Lutheran will provide the music.
- 2) Fall Bazaar—Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church has a fall bazaar on October 5, and Pastor Sands delivered posters from them to be displayed at Chimney Rock to advertise their event.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 13, at 6:30pm.

Adjournment—Mary and Richard motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:27pm.

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