

## **CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH – MARCH NEWS**

### **Message from Pastor Sands . . .**

In his year-end message, our Bishop Martin Halom focused on the theme of connection. Connection for the life and future of the church. Given his emphasis on this theme, I would like to also share a few ideas on the theme of connection.

First of all, connection to others is a very basic human need. Most of us need some cooperation with others for our basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter. We need our parents to protect us when we are young and to teach us how to behave when we are older. If we get sick or injured, we need someone to care for us. We need socialization with others if we are to marry and have families of our own. We need others to talk to if we are sharing feelings, thoughts, or ideas. We need others to offer our help to if we are to share our instincts of kindness and generosity. We need a connection to a community of people we can share emotions. Emotions such as: love and joy, and sometimes grief and sadness, as well as the emotions that go with singing and worship.

More important than those, however, is our connection to God. We thank Him as our maker, who has given us life and all that sustains us. And the most important connection of all, is our connection to God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Because He paid the price for the sin of the whole world. He can offer us the gift of eternal life in His Heavenly home, where our connections with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are forever!

The good news is, we have those connections here at Chimney Rock, and we can make further connections to others in the community. We can invite them to church to make connections with our members. My understanding is that our young people are already doing that with their classmates at school. We currently have two new students in our Sunday School because of this type of conversation. We also have a family renewing their attendance at Worship because of the encouragement of their High School aged daughter. And when people visit us here at Chimney Rock, we can hope that they will feel the presence of the Holy Spirit here among us. And we can pray that they will make their own connection with Jesus as their Savior. Then we will have made the connection God really wants us to make!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Sands

### **Lent Continues**

Again this year, we decided NOT to be a part of the Dairyland Conference Round Robin. Lent began on February 18, with our Ash Wednesday service, our only mid-week service. We'll also have a service at Chimney Rock at 7pm on Good Friday, April 3. Easter is April 5th. Feel welcome to attend midweek Lenten services at other area churches.

### **Special Music Service on March 1**

Lorn Schultz and Friends were here twice in 2025 and are returning to share their music during a special worship service on Sunday, March 1, at 9:30am. Please pass the word to your family and friends and encourage them to attend.

### **Daylight Saving Time Begins**

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8, so remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour. One way to remember this is: "Spring ahead—Fall back."

### **"Walking Together" Scheduled for March 22**

This year's "Walking Together" Synod Event will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 8am to 4 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church located at 35 W. Messenger Street in Rice Lake. The theme is "Church without Walls." Registration fee is \$25 per person. Register online at [nswi.org/walking-together-event](https://nswi.org/walking-together-event).

### **Cemetery News Shared**

Please remove all winter wreaths and decorations from the cemetery by April 1st. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Synod Assembly Planned for April**

The Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, April 25, at Bethany Lutheran Church located at 35 W. Messenger Street in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Our church can send two voting delegates—one male and one female. Registration is now open. More information is available at [nswi.org/2026-synod-assembly](http://nswi.org/2026-synod-assembly).

### **Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner Scheduled for April 26, 2026**

**Contact People**—Forrest Nutter 715.695.3487, Barb McGee 715.695.3448, Barb Sylla 715.985.3496  
**Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9:30am**—we'll package buns, bars, and beans 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 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 26, at 9:30am—Worship Service.**

**Our Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner will be held from 10:30am until gone.** 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.

**Monetary Donations** would be appreciated to offset dinner expenses for food and supplies (chicken, charcoal, chips, buns, paper products, water, etc. need to be purchased). \$70 if you want to donate a case of chicken plus charcoal. Make checks payable to Chimney Rock Lutheran Church and place them in the offering plate any Sunday or submit to Dan Solfest. Please note on your check/envelope that your donations are for "chicken dinner expenses." Because of your generosity in 2025, we cleared \$5,465!

**Workers Needed**—We've had wonderful cooperation at our drive-thru dinners with about 50 people helping in one capacity or another each year. Let's make sure that this year is a success, too! Please volunteer or say "yes" when asked to help. Thank you!

**Parking**—Because our dinner is a drive-thru, we can't park in the usual places on April 26. Please park north or south of the church or alongside the newest cemetery, leaving Church Road open for customers who will drive in the church driveway and go north past the hill cemetery and exit on Solfest Road.

### **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 really appreciate these treats!

### **Chimney Rock Church Increases Support to Campers!**

It was decided at the January Council Meeting that Chimney Rock Lutheran Church will support our youth by paying for half of the early bird registration fee for each student for each year they wish to attend Luther Park Bible Camp. This year that amount is \$460 if students register by March 31st (so \$230 will be paid by the church in 2026). This is the lowest price of the season, and a great way to secure a spot at camp. To register, visit [lutherpark.org/summer-camps](http://lutherpark.org/summer-camps). Explore session dates, themes, and what's new for 2026 in their brochure. Whether your camper loves arts and crafts, canoeing, campfire songs, or jumping into the pool, there's a place for them at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, Wisconsin!

### **Worship Assistants Needed**

Don't be shy! 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.

### **We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .**

- ❖ Dale, Roxie and Terry Erickson memorials to the Cemetery Fund given by Jerry Erickson.
- ❖ Theodore and Evangeline Olson memorial to the Cemetery Fund given by Mike Olson.

### **We Offer Our Sympathy to . . .**

- Dick and Bev Paulsen. Dick's brother, Dennis Paulsen, passed away on January 24, and his funeral was held February 3.
- Nancy and Dennis Dubiel. Nancy's sister, Pam Lien, passed away January 22, and her memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

### **Please Support Area Food Pantries**

We will continue to collect items for area food pantries, and they can be placed in baskets in the narthex. All food pantries accept monetary donations, personal hygiene products such as soap, shampoo,

deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry soap, dish liquid, as well as non-perishable foods such as peanut butter, cereal, instant pudding, Jell-O, and muffin and cake mixes, to name a few items.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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.

### **March Birthdays and Anniversaries**

1<sup>st</sup>--Alexis Bisek, Sandy Jacobson, Ron Severinski  
2<sup>nd</sup>--Chris Severson  
4<sup>th</sup>--Hank Buggert  
7<sup>th</sup>--Randy Lenhertz/Donna Olson  
8<sup>th</sup>--Jennifer Perry  
9<sup>th</sup>--Dennis Dubiel  
10<sup>th</sup>--Bethany Onstad  
11<sup>th</sup>--Todd Severson  
17<sup>th</sup>--Kevin Hovey  
20<sup>th</sup>--Roselia Jacobson  
21<sup>st</sup>--Anna Hieb

## Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – February 9, 2026

**Call to Order**—President Don Solfest called the Monday, February 9, 2026, meeting to order at 6:30pm. All members were present: Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Kris Flury, Forrest Nutter, Mary Olson, Randy Olson, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, and Barb Sylla.

**Devotions**—Monica read Exodus 24:12-18. After discussion, Pastor Sands led in prayer.

**Secretary's Report** was read by Barb. She corrected the auditing date to read January 18. Randy and Mary motioned to accept, and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**—Dan distributed the report ending January 31, 2025. Jerry and Forrest made motions to accept and motion carried.

### Old Business:

- 1) More discussion was held about the ramp by the side door.
- 2) Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on Wednesday, February 18. We're welcome to attend midweek Lenten services at area churches of choice.
- 3) Forrest will print ministry team contracts and have them signed.

### New Business:

- 1) Monica reported that some Sunday School students may attend a Luther Park Retreat to be held from Friday, February 27, at 5pm through Saturday, February 28, at 4pm. This is for grades 3-12, and the cost is \$50 per student.
- 2) Monica will be on vacation from February 27 through March 3. Lorn Schultz and Friends will lead the music worship service on March 1.
- 3) Luther Park early bird registration fee of \$175 is due March 31.
- 4) Students planning to attend Luther Park must be members to qualify to receive \$230 from the church.
- 5) Monica will discuss baptism dates for Alissa and Blaine Dingfelder with their parents, possibly before April 1.
- 6) On May 3rd, both Chase McGee (who will be graduating from Eleva-Strum High School on May 22) and Soren Hovey (who will be confirmed on May 17) will be honored with cake and coffee after worship.
- 7) Memorial Day Service on May 25—Barb will check with Rob Rasmussen from Eleva Legion Post 459 to see if they are planning a service at Chimney Rock again this year.
- 8) July 5<sup>th</sup> Chimney Rock will worship at the Pleasantville Ballpark during their tournaments, as we have done for several years. There will be no service at the church that day.
- 9) Wreaths Across America on December 19, 2026—the council agreed that our church should invite Eleva Legion Post 459 again and assist them with placement of wreaths on approximately 80 veterans' graves.
- 10) Copier—The defective toner was replaced free of charge by One Source Imaging, and the service call was also free because of the defective toner.
- 11) Chaplains are needed at the American Lutheran Homes.
- 12) The Synod's supply pastor rate is \$175 per service plus mileage.
- 13) It's the Council's responsibility to find supply pastors.

**The next council meeting** is scheduled for Monday, March 9, at 6:30pm.

**Adjournment**—Don and Randy motioned to adjourn at 7:32pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Sylla, Secretary

### 2026 Council

Trustee	Don Solfest	715.287.4562 715.797.3014
Trustee	Forrest Nutter	715.695.3487
Trustee	Randy Olson	715.797.2988
Deacon	Jerry Erickson	715.530.2079
Deacon	Mary Olson	715.694.2239 651.587.6126
Deacon	Kris Flury	832.668.4367
Treasurer	Dan Solfest	715.985.3242
Secretary	Barb Sylla	715.985.3496 715.530.0338