

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH – JUNE-JULY NEWS

Pastor Sands Writes . . .

The Sunday School year has ended, and as many of you know, we celebrated Confirmation Day last Sunday, May 18th. Jackson McGee, with the affirmation of his Baptism and accepting personal responsibility of the promises by his parents and sponsors, became the newest adult member of Chimney Rock Lutheran Church. What many of you do not know is that in preparation to be confirmed, I ask the students to write a Personal Faith Statement. Usually, when I give this assignment in the fall, and get that wide-eyed look of bewilderment, I suggest the students use the Apostles Creed as a model and write about their faith in terms of their understanding of, and feelings toward God as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This year however, Jackson wrote about his faith with a more comprehensive view, including his thoughts on community and the environment. I think that you will find his thoughts to be interesting as well as thought provoking. Maybe his statement will cause you to think about your own faith as well.

Jackson McGee's Faith Statement

My faith is a love and compassion, also trust. I believe that these values are essential for building a better belief. I will strive to embody these values in my daily life, through acts of service, kindness, and generosity.

My faith is also rooted in the concept of my community. I believe that faith is not a solo journey, but rather a shared experience. Chimney Rock, in particular, has played a significant role in my faith development, providing a sense of belonging, support, and accountability. Through my involvement in church activities, I have formed meaningful relationships with others who share my values and passions.

In addition to community, my faith is influenced by my experiences of nature and the beauty of creation. I believe that the natural world is a reflection of God. And that it has the power to inspire gratitude, and humility. Through my encounters with nature, I have come to appreciate the connections with people, and the importance of living in peace with the earth.

In conclusion, my faith statement is a growing expression of my beliefs, values, and experiences. It is rooted in a commitment to love and compassion, and a sense of community. I am thankful for my church family at Chimney Rock. This is my personal narrative that is shaped by my relationships, encounters, and reflections, and it continues to improve as I journey through life.

Summer Worship Challenge

Every congregation that I have served has members that have commented to me that when we don't have Sunday School, our attendance goes down, and when we have a special Sunday School event our attendance goes way up. Well, I have this idea that this summer our youngest members can influence their families to have better Worship attendance. I am challenging the kids to attend Worship at least 8 times during June, July, and August, and if they do, we will treat them to a party at Action City!

June and July Newsletters Combined

Since there isn't much news in the summer, this edition contains calendars and information for both June and July. Any updates or additional information not available at the time this newsletter was printed will be shared via email.

"Sleep In Heavenly Peace" Building Beds on June 7

A little background information: Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully furnished beds to children ages 3-17 in need. SHP's mission is to tackle childhood bedlessness, which is estimated to affect nearly 3% of the population. Luke Mickelson, founder and executive director, started Sleep in Heavenly Peace in 2012. By the end of 2022, SHP has grown into a charity spanning 44 states with 300+ chapters and operating in 4 different countries. SHP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Federal ID: 46-4346568. Current information: bed building will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, beginning at 9:30am at Black River Falls Fire Station, 30 S. Water Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615. Come one, come all! Volunteer walk-ins are welcome or reserve a spot by calling either Tom Twesme at 715-797-6488 or Reverend Dave Christianson at 612-817-4582.

Update on Members

Bushy's Meat Market in Independence, owned by Codey and Alexis Bisek, experienced smoke damage on May 8th due to a structure fire behind their main store. Because of their hard work, in only a couple of days they were open for business. We thank God the damage wasn't worse!

Congratulations to Drew Christianson

Drew, son of Tony and Heidi Christianson, was confirmed here at Chimney Rock and graduated from Independence High School. We've just learned that he recently graduated from the University of Virginia with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. His research was specifically focused on Astrochemistry, so he is technically an Astrochemist! He is currently a professor at Normandale College in Minnesota, teaching Chemistry. Wow! Good job, Drew!

We're Invited to a Salad Luncheon in June

Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls is having a WELCA Salad Luncheon on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 12 noon, with speaker Stacia Christenson to follow. Stacia serves as a Women's Ministry and Prayer Director in the Minneapolis area, and her motivational message will be "Must Be Present to Win." After volunteering in a ministry organization, she discovered a new calling: presenting encouraging talks and devotions. She loves that she gets to blend her roles to help equip and encourage women internally, externally, and eternally. RSVPs encouraged but not required by June 6 to 715-983-2242.

We Welcome a New Member Through Holy Baptism

Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we will welcome Beth Adelaide Buggert to the family at Chimney Rock on June 22nd. Beth, the daughter of Avery and Katie (Solfest) Buggert, was born on February 14, 2025. Her sponsors are Tommy and Kate (Kensmoe) Torkelson. God's Blessings to Beth and her family!

Remember to Remove Cemetery Flowers

Please remove in-ground artificial flowers and decorations from the cemetery by July 1. Flowers in urns/stands may remain until October 1.

Worship on July 6 to be Held in Pleasantville

We will not have worship at Chimney Rock on July 6th. Rather, we will join in the community ecumenical worship service at the Pleasantville Ballpark, as we have for the last several years, to celebrate the 4th of July holiday. As of this printing, the event is in the early planning stages. We know that it will be held at 10:30am again, and Scott Brown will probably be the worship leader. Music/musicians have not been determined yet, but in the past music began at 10am. Following worship, the food stand will be open and ball games will be held.

Have a Great Week at Camp, Soren!

Soren Hovey plans to attend Luther Park Bible Camp the week of July 6-11 this summer. We hope you have a great week experiencing the variety of activities and adventures provided by Luther Park, which are all centered on daily Bible Study and worship that focuses on this year's theme, "God's Word Comes Near!" We'll be anxious to hear about your experiences, Soren!

"Heart for Luther Park" Scheduled for August

Luther Park's Annual Fundraising Event will be held Sunday, 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.

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

This has been talked about at every annual meeting for five years. Since we were unable to celebrate Chimney Rock's 150th Anniversary in 2020 due to Covid, the council has decided to celebrate our 155th Anniversary this fall on Sunday, October 19. We're in the early planning stages and want to keep the celebration simple and manageable. We'll share information when more plans are made. For now, save the date!

Thank you to . . .

- ❖ Everyone who contributed food and served coffee after worship on Sunday mornings during fellowship time. Coffee will resume in September when Sunday School and Confirmation classes are back in session.
- ❖ Forrest and Jeanne Nutter for bringing a decorated cake on May 4 to honor this year's high school graduates, Carson Coburn and Broc Coburn, as well as Jackson McGee who was confirmed in May. Thanks also to Barb McGee for furnishing ice cream and Kris Flury for providing all the toppings.
- ❖ All who attended the outdoor Memorial Day service on May 26.

We Acknowledge the Following Memorials . . .

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

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.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd--M/M Dave Hovey
3rd--Rachael Hovey, Dave Hovey
5th--Angela Bohlinger
7th--Dan Gullicksrud
9th--Johnathon Fonstad
13th--Annah Sluga
16th--M/M Kevin Hovey, M/M Forrest Nutter
19th--Beckett Mueller
20th--Lisa Schultz
21st--Richard Gunderson, Robert Twerberg
24th--Rob Hart, Sadie Rustad
25th--Riley Loesel
27th--Jessica Peterson

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

6th--Matthew Kolve
9th--M/M Tony Christianson
11th--Andy George, Brian Jacobson, M/M Dan Gullicksrud
12th--Brendan McGee
15th--Nancy Dubiel
17th--Mary Steffenson
18th--M/M Nick Onstad, Kaine Severson
19th--Heidi Severson, M/M Robert Dingfelder
21st--Kirk Nysven, Rita Hovey
24th--Wayne Berg
25th--Helen Nysven
26th--Dan Solfest
28th--M/M Travis Perry, M/M Don Solfest
30th--Josh Conrad

**People are often unreasonable and self-centered
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY**

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives
BE KIND ANYWAY**

**If you are honest, people may cheat you
BE HONEST ANYWAY**

**If you find happiness, people may be jealous
BE HAPPY ANYWAY**

**The good you do today may be forgotten
DO GOOD ANYWAY**

**Give the world your best and it may be never be enough
GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY**

**For you see, in the end it is between
YOU AND GOD**

It was never between you and them anyway

~~Mother Teresa~~

Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – May 12, 2025

Call to Order—Trustee Don Solfest called the May 12, 2025, meeting to order at 6:41pm. Members present: Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Barb McGee, Forrest Nutter, Mary Olson, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest, and Barb Sylla. Richard Gunderson was absent.

Devotions—Pastor Sands read John 13:31-35 and led in discussion. Monica shared an opening prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report—Dan distributed the report ending April 30, 2025. Barb M. made a motion to accept, Barb S. seconded, and motion carried. Dan distributed the report for the Spring Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. Forrest made a motion to accept, Mary seconded, and motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1) No bid yet from Jurowski Construction for repairing/painting small bell tower windows. Storm windows need painting, and we'll seek bids for that also.
- 2) The Certificate of Deposit held in First National Bank was reinvested into a CD at Independence State Bank in April when it reached maturity.
- 3) The chicken dinner on April 27th went very smoothly, with net proceeds of \$5,465, due to more donations and fewer expenses.
- 4) Member updates were given on Kim Jacobson and Mavis Erickson.
- 5) Forrest will swap keys with Monica, so she will have a front-door key.
- 6) Soren Hovey will attend Luther Park Bible Camp from July 6-11, 2025.
Dan has reimbursed the Hoveys the \$100 that the church donates, as well as an anonymous \$100 donation from a parishioner.
- 7) There was more discussion about incentives for youth who attend summer worship and recording of that attendance.
- 8) High school graduates, Carson and Broc Coburn, were recognized on May 4. Thank you to Barb McGee for furnishing ice cream and to Forrest and Jeanne Nutter who donated a decorated cake to honor both graduates, as well as Jackson McGee who will be confirmed this month.

New Business:

- 1) Jackson McGee will be affirming his baptism on May 18.
- 2) No service at Chimney Rock on July 6, 2025, as we will attend the July 4th Ecumenical Worship at the Pleasantville Ballpark.
- 3) 155th Anniversary—Two possible dates are September 28 or October 19, depending on when the Lorn & Royce Band is available.
- 4) Monica reported there are now 35 SAMS in the Northwest Synod, and the number is growing.
- 5) Pastor Sands attended the Synod Assembly on April 26 and will give a brief report at our June council meeting.

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

Adjournment—Mary and Barb M. motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:51pm.

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