

CHIMNEY ROCK LUTHERAN CHURCH – APRIL NEWS

Message from Monica Dejno . . .

As I have been thinking about this article, the words “whiplash” and “for US” are what keep coming to my mind. In real life these events did not happen back-to-back. In real life they happened 30+ years apart in the timeline, but for me it feels like a whiplash. Okay, what am I talking about, right? In December – Advent season we celebrated the birth – coming of Jesus Christ as a very humble King born in a manger for US. As I am writing this article approximately 3 months after Jesus’s birth we are currently in Lent Season and Sunday March 29th is Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while people laid down palms and garments in honor of Jesus. Friday April 3rd is Good Friday when Jesus is crucified on the cross for US. Sunday, April 5th we celebrate Easter when Jesus raises from the dead to return to heaven and is seated to the right side of his heavenly Father for US.

Wow, a whiplash! Three months ago we celebrated Jesus’s coming to earth through His birth, and this week we choose to crucify Jesus on a cross, but before we take Him to the cross, we have him brutally beaten and bloodied, because we didn’t think HE was the Messiah or King that that the Old Testament foretold of. He just did not fit the picture whatever we thought the Messiah or King was supposed to be, do, or look like. We did not see this Jesus as HE. Jesus knew this. He was not oblivious to what was being said and done to Him and behind his back. Yet he chose to follow his Father’s will for US. So, OUR sins can be forgiven and that through the waters of baptism and our belief in the Triune God, that when our earthly life’s journey has ended, that we also like Jesus may have the opportunity to live eternally in the Heavenly Kingdom that God has prepared for US.

This Sunday, March 29th we welcome through the waters of Baptism Alissa Lynn Dingfelder and her brother Blaine Robert Dingfelder to the family of Christ. Born to Robert and Simone Dingfelder. Blessings to Alissa and Blaine as they start their faith journey. May we all encourage, support, and pray for them throughout their journey.

God’s Peace, Comfort, Health, Healing and Blessings to ALL!
Monica A Dejno

Two New Members Welcomed

Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Alissa Lynn Dingfelder and Blaine Robert Dingfelder were welcomed to the family at Chimney Rock on March 29th. Alissa (born September 11, 2013) and Blaine (born May 6, 2017), are the children of Robert and Simone Dingfelder. Alissa’s sponsors are Christine and Jon Dodd and Bobby Jo Dingfelder. Blaine’s sponsors are Christine and Jon Dodd, Brittany Helgeson, and Kevin Johnston. Congratulations and welcome!

Cemetery News Shared

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

Holy Week Worship Services Listed

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday worship on March 29. Good Friday worship will be held at 7pm on April 3, and we’ll celebrate our risen Lord on Easter Sunday, April 5, at 9:30am. Hope you can join us for these important services in the church year.

“Lighthouse:” Middle School Youth Gathering in April

All middle school students in grades 5-8 are invited to “Lighthouse” for a day of fun workshops, inspiring guest speakers, energizing music, a meaningful service project, and a time of friendship. The event will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 9am – 4:15pm at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event. Online registration deadline is April 1st.

First Communion to be Held April 12

Five young people will receive first Communion on April 12th. They are Bryson Bisek, Nolan Bisek, Alissa Dingfelder, Blaine Dingfelder, and Augustus Hovey. Congratulations to all of you on this important milestone in your life. First Communion Instruction will be held at the church at 1pm on Saturday, April 11.

Luther Park Spring Work Day Coming Up April 18

Spring Work Day at Luther Park is one of those special days when the community shows up with sleeves rolled up and hearts ready to serve. Volunteers gather to help prepare Luther Park for the busy season ahead. It's practical work, shared laughter, and a tangible way to care for a place that means so much to so many. If you want more information or wish to sign up, go to info@lutherpark.org or call 715-859-2215.

We're Invited to Immanuel Lutheran's Prayer Breakfast

Strum WELCA's Annual Prayer Breakfast is set for Wednesday, April 22, at 9:30am to accommodate their speaker, Jamie Halverson. Jamie and his family will be back in Wisconsin for a couple of weeks and comes from Papua New Guinea. He joined the Wycliff Bible Translators in 2004. In 2006, Jamie arrived in PNG as a pilot/mechanic and flies a Cessna 206. The Cessna 206 is a versatile, six-seat, high wing utility aircraft known as the SUV of the air. It's excellent for families, cargo, and bush flying due to its robust build, large cargo doors, and ability to operate from short, unimproved strips. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast and a very interesting speaker! Please RSVP by April 15th to the church at 715-695-3511 or to Karen Franson by calling 715-695-3553 or emailing her at fransonkaren17@gmail.com.

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. Online registration is now open, and registrations are due by April 3. More information is available at 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 8:00am (please note earlier time this year!)—we'll package buns, bars, and beans for the Sunday meal. Please bring bars by 8:30am. We're asking for 9 x 13 pans of bars that can easily be packaged (no sticky bars, 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). 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.

Thank you in advance to everyone for your cooperation and continued support!

Any Graduates Beyond High School?

We'll honor one high school graduate in May and would like to give honorable mention in the May newsletter to any others who are graduating from post-secondary schools (technical colleges, universities, etc.). Please let us know about any members who will be completing schooling beyond high school so we can share their accomplishments with the congregation! It's hard to keep track of what everyone is doing, so we'd really appreciate your help with this. The newsletter deadline is April 20.

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!

It's Time to Register for Camp!

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 \$230 will be paid by the church. To register, visit 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 Memorial . . .

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

We Offer Our Sympathy to . . .

- Barb and Larry McGee. Larry's sister, Mary McGee, passed away on February 24, and her celebration of life will be held in May. Please remember to keep the McGees 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) 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.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd--Collin Koval

4th--Alexandria Loewenhagen

5th--Nathan Olson

6th--Barb Sylla, Virginia Howard

9th--Michele Barneson

11th--Kayden Kensmoe

13th--Chuck Girtman

14th--Mary Hermanson

15th--Diesel Berg, Jackson McGee

16th--Matt Olson

21st--Pam Flikkeshaug, Arne Olson

25th--Denise Loesel

26th--Bob Kolve, M/M Randy Pederson

27th--Jenessa Perry

30th--Kris Flury



Chimney Rock Congregational Council Minutes – March 9, 2026

Call to Order by President Don Solfest at 6:30pm. Present: Monica Dejno, Jerry Erickson, Kris Flury, Forrest Nutter, Mary Olson, Randy Olson, Pastor David Sands, Dan Solfest. Absent: Barb Sylla.

Devotions—Pastor Sands summarized and read portions of John 9:1-44. Discussion followed. Monica led in prayer.

Secretary’s Report was read by Mary. Randy made motion to accept; Jerry seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report—Report ending February 28, 2026, distributed by Dan. Correction: Cemetery Fund-February 26—Memorial is \$1,000, not \$100. Department of Gaming (raffle license) \$25 check returned and voided. Yearly cost is now \$50 so we’re not keeping license. Motion to accept by Forrest, seconded by Randy, carried.

Old Business:

- 1) Ramp discussion on hold until spring.
- 2) No Lenten service until Good Friday.
- 3) Monica hadn’t had time to talk to Jennifer to see if some Sunday School kids attended Luther Park Retreat.
- 4) Monica had a good vacation.
- 5) No Luther Park registrations yet. Soren Hovey may want to go.
- 6) Tentative dates:
 - March 29—Blaine and Alissa Dingfelder baptism
 - April 12—First Communion—five kids including Blaine and Alissa
 - May 25—Memorial Day Service
 - July 5—Worship at Pleasantville Ballpark during tournaments
 - December 19—Wreaths Across America
- 7) Copier works again.
- 8) Chaplains needed at American Lutheran Homes in Menomonie. It is a paid position.
- 9) It is Council’s responsibility to find supply pastors. Rate is \$175 plus mileage.
- 10) Forrest emailed contracts to Pastor and Monica. They will sign cardstock hard copy and leave at church for Barb S. (to place on file).

New Business:

- 1) Chicken Dinner—Barb S. and Barb M. are going through supplies for chicken dinner that will be held April 26. Forrest ordered chicken; same quantity as last year; 7 boxes mixed @ \$45 and 2 boxes dark @ \$26. Forrest got \$250 from Thrivent and T-shirts. Barb S. and Barb M. will solicit workers for Saturday and Sunday and also to bring bars.
- 2) Synod Events:
 - Walking Together, Saturday, March 21, 8am-4pm
 - Synod Assembly, Saturday, April 25 (day before chicken dinner drive-thru). Need to apply online before April 3—1 male/1 female. If we have any resolutions, they must be in by March 15. Forrest wants to attend.
 - American Lutheran Homes Annual Meeting—May 26 in Menomonie. Bev unable to attend. Register by May 1.

Adjournment—Don motioned to adjourn at 7:13pm, Mary seconded, motion carried.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Next meeting Monday, April 6, 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Olson, Acting 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