

NEWSLETTER

# CHRIST THE ROCK

FIRST TRIMESTER EDITION



## Letter from Pastor

As we turn a page on our calendars, we also begin a significant season together as a congregation. Our Anchored initiative is more than a construction project. It is a visible reminder that the Lord has planted us here, together, and that He continues to renovate us, as His people for the sake of the Gospel (Ephesians 2:19–22).

Our “togetherness” will matter in the months ahead. Construction brings inconvenience, change, and dust-literally and figuratively. Unity does not always come naturally to sinners; we need to be intentional and sustained by Christ Himself, because Satan loves to separate us. We are anchored not to preferences, or plans, but in Jesus, crucified and risen, and to one another in our confession of Him and this work for us. We come together, humbly, with our differences to work for a common goal and we are stronger together.

Together we embark on this project not just for spaces, but for the people that can gather. We'll be able to continue and expand chances to gather around Word and Sacrament, tables, Scripture and interests. In the months ahead, there will still be opportunities for fellowship, Bible studies, youth gatherings, family events, and shared meals. These are not extras or add-ons; but they are the ordinary ways God strengthens His people and unites them together.

As we roll into 2026 thank you for your participation and your investment in our Anchored Initiative and the ministry here at CTR. I have three requests for all of us:

- 1-Continue to attend and participate in worship, studies, fellowship, and other chances to gather, grow and serve.
- 2-Introduce yourself to new faces and unknown faces at different church events.
- 3-Pray for our unity.

I am eager to see and celebrate the good work God is doing among us. The construction will be finished in time, beyond that though, the Lord is building something far more enduring, a people joined together in faith, hope, and love, to the praise of His name.

God be praised in all we do!  
Pastor Jim

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TOGETHER  
WE GROW TO  
KNOW JESUS  
AND SERVE TO  
MAKE HIM KNOWN  
  
CALENDAR FOR  
EVENTS,  
BIRTHDAYS, AND  
ANNIVERSARIES  
ON THE BACK  
PAGE



**Anchored**  
We'd love to have you step up with us!  
Get info and a commitment card

## Council

Have you ever taken a moment just to look at your hands? They are a marvelous work of God — intricate, capable, and designed with purpose. With them we build, work, comfort, protect, and create. Yet because of sin and the brokenness of this world, our hands also experience injury, strain, and sometimes lead us into trouble.

Throughout my life, my hands have been through quite a journey. I've stapled my thumb (twice), collected more cuts and scrapes than I can count from farming and landscaping, and jammed every finger playing sports. In high school chemistry, a container of hydrogen exploded and sent glass into my hands. I've sliced my hand open working on a combine header. And that's not even mentioning the "interesting" things farm life brings — falling in the cow lot, delivering calves, fishing parts out of Roundup, and being covered in gas, diesel, grease, fire, chemicals, and hot metal. It's a wonder my hands look normal today.

But my hands have also held some of the most sacred moments of my life. I've held my wife's hands in joy and in hardship. I held Tabitha the day she was born, and her little hand on the way to school. I held my grandma Kapperman's hand as she passed away. I made it home just in time to hold my dad's hand as he entered eternity. These moments remind me that our hands are not just tools — they are instruments of love.

As meaningful as our hands can be, they pale in comparison to the hands of our Savior.  
**"He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside." — Mark 8:23**

The hands of Jesus healed the sick, lifted the broken, blessed children, and washed the feet of His disciples. And ultimately, those same hands were stretched out on the cross for our salvation.

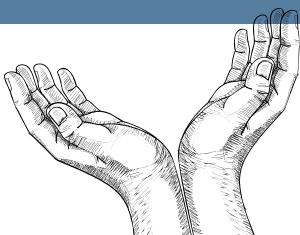
**"See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself." — Luke 24:39**

His hands bear the scars of His love — scars that speak of grace, sacrifice, and redemption. One day, by His mercy, we will see those hands face-to-face.

**"I give them eternal life... no one will snatch them out of my hand." — John 10:28**

My hope is that when that day comes, Jesus will reach out His hands to me and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May we use our hands — imperfect as they are — to serve, to love, and to reflect the One whose hands saved us all.



Kevin Jensen

# COUNCIL NEW MEMBER

## NEW VICE PRESIDENT



Christ the Rock is pleased to welcome Jared Clay as the new Vice President of the CTR Council. Jared and his wife, Stephanie, along with their children, Elyse (8th grade) and Warwick (7th grade), have been part of the CTR family for nearly two years. Jared serves as an attorney with Reno & Zahm LLP here in Rockford. During his time at Regent University, he was the Executive Editor of the Regent Journal of Law & Public Policy. He also brings valuable experience from serving on other boards. Jared is excited to contribute his professional expertise, leadership experience, and love for God to the mission of Christ the Rock. We are grateful to welcome him into this important role.

# Thank You

We would also like to extend our thanks to Scott Milbourn for his faithful service as Vice President of the CTR Council. His leadership, dedication, and willingness to serve have been a blessing to our council and congregation, and we are grateful for the time and care he shared in this role.



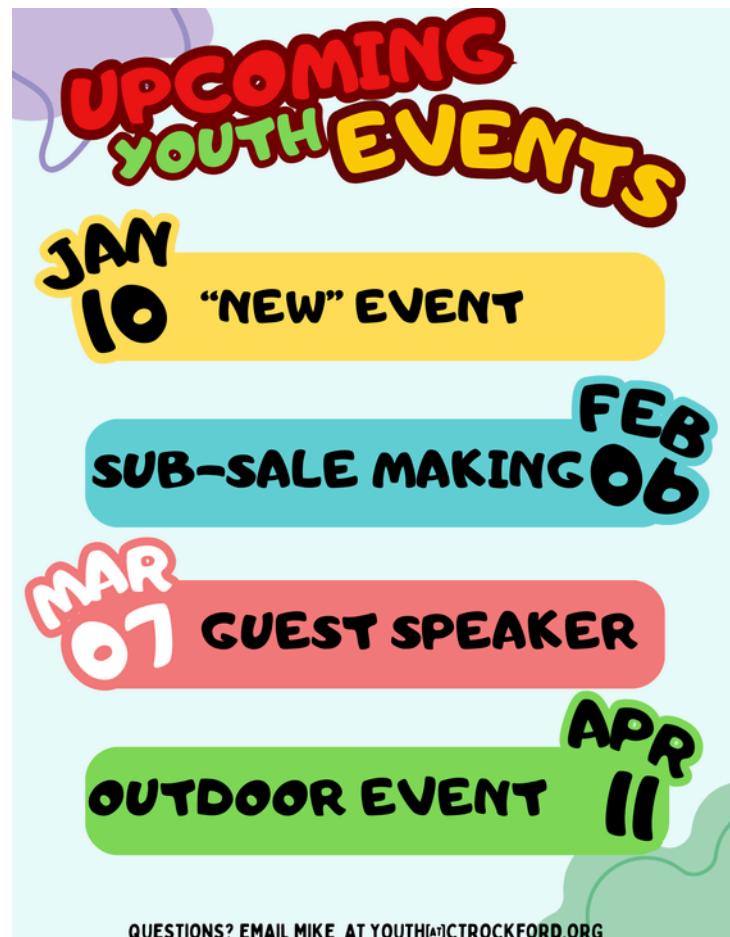
# YOUTH

As we look ahead to a new year in the life of the Church, there is so much to be excited about. We are grateful beyond words for the continued support, prayers, and encouragement you have shown while at Christ the Rock, it truly makes a difference. With that strong foundation, we step forward with joy and anticipation, especially as we look toward the Anchored Campaign and the many opportunities it will bring for growth, ministry, and outreach. Through it all, we are confident and comforted knowing that God is guiding every step, opening doors, and shaping our future according to His perfect will.

We are also looking forward to a full calendar of upcoming youth group events, filled with fellowship, faith formation, and fun as our young people continue to grow together in Christ. More details will be shared soon, and we encourage families and students to stay connected and involved. If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mike Fanuke, he is always ready to help. Thank you again for being such a vital part of this community. We are excited for what God has in store in the year ahead.



Purchasing any amount of subs will help the Youth Group enjoy more adventures together and grow!



QUESTIONS? EMAIL MIKE AT [YOUTH@CTROCKFORD.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@CTROCKFORD.ORG)

# MOMCO

We are so thankful for the opportunity to share what our MomCo group has been up to this season.

Recently, we were able to sponsor seven moms through Carpenter's Place. Each mom received everything she asked for on her wish list and then some. It was such a blessing to be part of spreading encouragement and care to these families.

We also hosted an Advent meal at church, where we shared pizza, salad, rolls, and cookies while taking time to reflect together during the Advent season. Several of our moms also attended the church's Advent by Candlelight for Women. We had the joy of hosting a table and inviting both MomCo moms and KidCo caregivers to join us for a meaningful evening of fellowship.

Most recently, we celebrated with our MomCo Christmas party. We exchanged socks filled with goodies and shared awkward Christmas stories, perfectly fitting MomCo International's theme this year, "Make It Awkward." It was a fun and laughter-filled way to wrap up the season and strengthen our connections with one another.

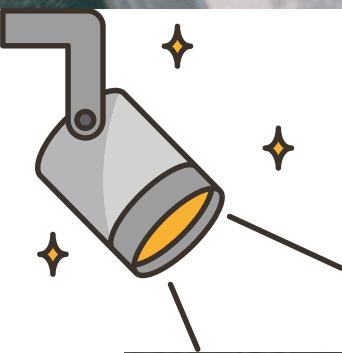
Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the MomCo ministry. We are grateful to serve alongside such an encouraging church family.

MomCo

Thank You  
Lisa Bredemann, Emily Potocki, Sara Shanks and Julie Peterson

**MAKE**  
**IT**  
**AWKWARD**

# SPOTLIGHT



Meet Jim and Sandy Renwick. Married for 45 years and blessed with 3 daughters. Kimberly, Cindy, and Jenny. They also have 7 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Number 13 will be due in May. Before moving to Belvidere to down size living space, they lived at Lake Summerset for 27 years.

They were church members at St John's Lutheran Church. Jim was an elder, participated in skits, and setup a Baptism, assisting with fill in Pastor Allan Buss. Sandy worked many years at VBS. Outside the church Jim and Sandy sold tickets at the Winnebago County fair.

Jim served in the Navy 1955-1961, He was on the flight deck. He thought his service was completed and his mother sold all the uniforms. Jim was then reenlisted and had to go to Grayslake to buy uniforms.

During that same time Sandy worked quality control and retired after 32 years. After Jim served our country, he did factory work up until the age 72. Now Jim 88 and Sandy 85 are enjoying retirement, family time, and attending Christ the Rock.

Thank you Jim & Sandy for being in our Church Family.

## Member Thank You

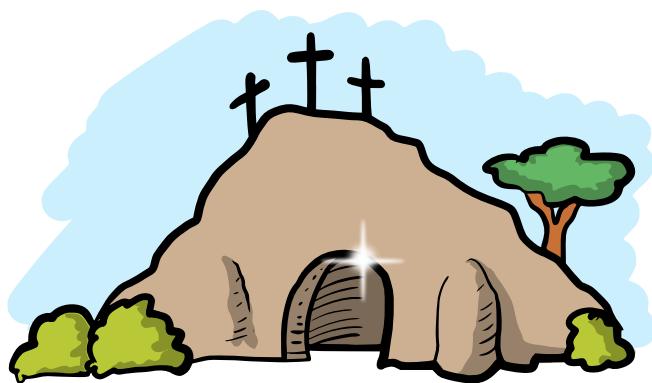
Thanks be to God for a successful surgery. Also a huge thanks to CTR members for your prayers; rides to the doctors, cards, phone calls, food and visits. Blessings to you all,  
Pat Lakowske



# HOLY WEEK/EASTER

## LENT REMINDER:

Due to construction, we will not be holding Lent services or dinners. We encourage you to join one of our sister congregations this Lent season. List of Churches and times of services to come!



# 2025 RECAP

## ANCHORED ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



## NEW MEMBER WELCOME



## CONFIRMATION



## EASTER



## BAPTISMS



# 2025 RECAP

## VBS



## YOUNG ADULT OUTING



## TRUNK OR TREAT



## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



## WALCAMP



## MOMCO



# 2025 RECAP

## CHILI COOK OFF



## YOUTH SUB SANDWICH



## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY



## WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY



## FUN4SENIORS



## KIDS PROGRAM



# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 No Preschool 6:30pm NO Ladie's Lifelight 6:30pm NO Men's Life Light	2 No Preschool	3 9am Undecorate Church 4:15pm NO Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/Communion 6:30pm Meal after service
8am Worship/Communion 9:15am NO Adult Bible Study 9:15am NO Children's Sunday School 10:30am NO Worship/Communion	4 9:15am Preschool Resumes	5 6pm Elder's Meeting	6 Announcement Deadline 5:30pm NO Choir Rehearsal	7 11am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Ladies' Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light	8 9am MomCo Meeting	9 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship 7pm Youth Group
8am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship	11 6pm MomCO Meeting	12	13 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 5:30pm Choir Reh. 7pm Young Adult B.S.	14 6:30pm Ladies' Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light	15 16	17 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/Communion/ New Member Welcome
8am Worship/Communion/ New Member Welcome 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion/ New Member Welcome	18 6pm MomCO Meeting	19 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	20 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 2pm Fun4Seniors 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30pm Ladies' Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light	22 9am MomCO Meeting	23 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship
8am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Worship	25 6pm MomCO Meeting	26 9:30am Women's Bible Study 2pm SENIOR BIBLE STUDY	27 Announcement Deadline 9:30am Homeschool Group 10:30am Card Ministry 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Young Adult Bible Study	28 6:30pm Ladies' Lifelight 6:30pm Men's Life Light	29 30	31 4:15pm Adult Bible Study 5:35pm Worship/Communion

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Michaela Richardson's birthday	2	3
4	5 Roger Schmidt's birthday	6	7	8 Michael Buhl's birthday	9	10 Storm Crouch's birthday
11 Bruce Potter's birthday	12	13 Erich Haanpaa's birthday Linda Ross's birthday	14 Carson Jones's birthday Linda Spinker's birthday	15 16	17	
18 JulieLynn Erdman's birthday	19 Barb Gerber's birthday Brenda Pierson's birthday Rhonda Vaccarello's birthday	20 Brandon Reisinger's birthday	21 Linda Copeland's birthday	22 Rich Keske's birthday	23	24
25	26 Becky Frost's birthday	27	28 Nicole Higdon's birthday	29 Cecilia Higdon's birthday	30	31