

# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

A congregation of the ELCA on the Rocky Boy's Reservation

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## Campbell Labels Program is Ending

Campbell's is discontinuing the Labels for Education program at the end of December 2017. Campbell's is only accepting labels that have the Labels for Education logo on them. We can still send these in until January 2, 2018. Please send any labels you still might have as soon as possible. We want to get them processed through the system. We are working to get a pre-paid Visa card, which we will use to purchase things for our youth programs. Thank you for your support in this program over the years.



## The Ambassador 1000 Program



The Ambassador 1000 program is one way we look to create a stable donor base. Information about the program can be found on our website. Or, write, call, or e-mail, and we will send the information to you.

If you would like to participate, please indicate your pledge of support on your first donation. On your subsequent donations write "Ambassador." Thank you.


## Amazon Smile

Donating to Our Saviour's through the Amazon Smile Foundation is very easy. Every time you want to purchase something at Amazon.com, go to **Smile.Amazon.com** instead!

Designate Our Saviour's as your charity of choice. A percentage of each purchase price will be donated to us every quarter.



## Donate On-line on Our Website or on FaceBook

Donations may be made securely through PayPal  on our website or on our FaceBook page. It is as easy as clicking on the donate button and following the directions.

## Thrivent Choice and Dividend Giving

Thrivent Choice giving is important to us. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating Our Saviour's for your Thrivent Choice gift. Through your generous designations, Our Saviour's has received about \$1,500 so far in 2017.



## **From the Pastor**

The work at Our Saviour's is never done! There is the work that occurs on the church property itself, but there is the work within the community and for the community that happens at Our Saviour's or at other places.

Hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves given to us are given out at Our Saviour's and some are taken to the Rocky Boy schools to be given out to the kids.

The quilts that are sent to us, depending on the size, may be used on our twin-sized bunk beds for our servant groups. They may be given to families when we give away a set of bunk beds made by one of our servant groups. Or, they may be given out to elders and others in need during the winter months.

Our ministry is not confined within our walls or limited to things that happen on our property. It is bigger than we maybe even know.

I have had a bit of fun this fall teaching an English composition course, as adjunct faculty, at Stone Child College, which is the tribal college at Rocky Boy. I have also been doing mentoring and tutoring through a special program at the college for future teachers. It is a joy to be doing this. I love touching the lives of these different age groups that I am meeting.

## **Servant Events from 2017 and for 2018**

The Summer 2017 servant groups were invaluable in helping us get ready for the AI-AN gathering we hosted in July. Once again groups arrived from the east coast to the west coast and in between.

Our schedule for 2018 summer servant events is posted on our calendar on our website. Servant groups can come year-round, but we have special times set aside for the summer months. Please take time to look at the information and consider coming individually or with a group.

## **From the 2017 Columbia Falls, MT Servant Group**



*Written by Pastor Peter and Tonja Erickson of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls, MT*

On behalf of the youth group from our church I would like to say thank you to Our Saviour's Lutheran for hosting our youth group for a week of service, learning,

and worship. We came to Rocky Boy from Columbia Falls, MT unsure of just about everything since we had never been to this community before (even though we live in the same state). We knew we would be well

taken care of with meals and cabins to sleep in. We were quite certain there would be service projects for us to work on. We were excited to learn about the Chippewa Cree people and culture. But, we were very unsure what all of that would be like. So much newness! It was exciting to anticipate.

What we experienced was beautiful! We were well taken care of and, indeed, there was good hard work for us to do. Of most impact for us, though, was the chance to meet the people of Rocky Boy and learn about life on the reservation. Thank you, Elaine Arkinson, for teaching us beading! Thank you to the drummers and dancers who Pastor Linda invited to demonstrate their talents for us! And thank you, Pastor Linda, for your educational tours of the reservation, as well as your patience and thoughtfulness in answering our questions.

We enjoyed seeing the beauty of the land, being in the high mountain air of the Bear Paws, and seeing the green vegetation in the hills that was persevering deep into late summer. We appreciated eating lunch at the school with young families of Rocky Boy. We were impressed by the Wellness Center. We found great relief in the pool during those hot afternoons.

We left Rocky Boy with a deeper sense of God's graceful creativity as we experienced it through the Chippewa Cree people and the hospitable Word and Sacrament ministry of Our Saviour's Lutheran.

Thank you Pastor Linda and Our Saviour's.

## **Thank-you from a Scholarship Recipient**

My name is Reyan Sutherland. I recently graduated from Brandman University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. I am grateful to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and to all its donors for the support I received for my education. It was difficult financially to be a full-time student and work full-time as well. Many times, I was short on cash to buy my schoolbooks or to keep up on my monthly bills. The monthly stipend I received always provided much needed support.

Now that I have graduated, I plan to look for work in social work. I have not quite decided where I will go, but I am thinking about returning to Rocky Boy and working for the Chippewa Cree Tribe. The Tribe also supported my education and I would like to give something back in return. There is a shortage of social workers on most reservations and I am sure that I would find employment.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity!

## **American Indian-Alaska Native Lutheran Association Meeting**

Between July 19-22 we hosted the biennial

meeting of the AI-AN Lutheran Association. The meeting had attendees from Montana, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, California, Illinois, and from our sister church in Bolivia, including its president.

We had three bishops in attendance, Bishops Jessica Crist (Montana), Guy Ervin (Southwest California), and Elizabeth Eaton (Presiding for the ELCA).



## **Kogodus Renewal Retreats at Rocky Boy**

*Written by Pastor Bob Nagy of Unity Lutheran Parish (Malta Lutheran and Whitewater Lutheran), Montana*

A little back story, to help you understand where I'm coming from.

In the first few years of my call in Unity Lutheran Parish, I had only known about Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as a fellow cluster member congregation. We had cluster meetings there and heard about the marvelous, but challenging, ministry on the Rocky Boy's Reservation by Pastor Linda Webster. Over the years I would visit, even had a pulpit exchange with Pastor Linda (which was a joy).

In April 2016, Our Saviour's hosted a Kogodus Renewal Retreat. I knew that I was in need of such a renewal of my faith. I attended and was truly blessed. Not only did I get to see the importance of the ministry in its area, but also the retreat facilities they offer are truly a blessing. The cabins were a great place for fellowship for the other men attending the retreat.

So ... How I spent my summer vacation this past summer.

Our Saviour's hosted another Kogodus Renewal Retreat in August of 2017. I was blessed again. I stayed in a room in the Mission House. Again, nice enjoyable facilities! As I have been blessed with these two Kogodus retreats, I can also see Our Saviour's as a place for spiritual renewal.

Thank you to all who continue to support this necessary and inspiring ministry. As you support Our Saviour's, you help proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, you reach out to those in need in the area, you provide a place for gathering and, I now add to that, a place where the Holy Spirit has renewed me.

God Bless you all.

## **Vacation Bible School Day Camp**

For several years we have had two weeks of VBS Day Camp with counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC). This year one of our servant groups ran their own week of VBS Day Camp. All three weeks were greatly enjoyed by the kids. These camps are open to all kids on the reservation and

there is no fee to participate. We provide transportation.

Beside the Christian education the kids are receiving, this experience introduces them to "safe" non-Native young adults. It, also, brings a new cross-cultural experience to future leaders of the Church. What happens here is very much a two-way experience.

The kids start and end their time with us at the Rocky Boy School cafeteria eating breakfast and lunch which is available to them through the Federal school meal program.

We appreciate designated gifts that help support our Youth programs. Thank you for your gifts for our kids!

## **Rocky Boy Kids go to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**

Each year we plan on taking a group of kids from Rocky Boy to FLBC for a week. This year our plans were in flux until absolutely the last minute. The kids we thought were going decided not to go and kids we thought could not go because we had no more room in the vehicles were able to go. It was a surprising and God-filled turn of events. I was on the phone with people from the camp on the Saturday evening before we were leaving on Sunday morning! We worked out all the details and they were able to come. In the end, only three young girls went, but they enjoyed themselves tremendously.

## **Layette Ministry**

This ministry is well used! Layettes help new mothers on the reservation. You can find a list of what we include in our layettes on our website. We estimate the cost of a layette is between \$100 and \$150 dollars. We appreciate every donation we receive for this special ministry. Thank you.

## **Our Thrift Store**

Thanks to the things you send, our store is becoming more successful. Every dollar that comes in goes to our Youth Ministry programs, which include VBS Day Camp, FLBC camp scholarships, and our renewed Sunday School program.

## **From Sister Ruth Rebelien**

It was in 2011 that I was introduced to the ministry of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy's Reservation in Montana. The ELCA Deaconess Community of which I am a member gives grants to various ministries in and



out of this country. One of our grants has been to the Lutheran ministry on Rocky Boy's reservation. I was asked to be a "mission partner" to this ministry.

As part of this responsibility, I made the trip from Nebraska to Montana to visit this ministry. My visit was during the first week of the annual vacation Bible school. The mission grounds was over-run with children! There were children everywhere!

About four years later, I went back to Our Saviour's. This time I led a small servant group to do some work there. That was another learning experience for me.

And now, my support of this ministry continues, both by prayer and by monetary gifts. My annual gifts are used to help provide the vacation Bible school at the Mission.

### Immersion Events

In June we offer an Intensive Cross-Cultural Immersion open to anyone. There is a flyer posted on our website. We can also set up an immersion event at a different time for your group following this same program.

### Personal and Group Retreats

Personal retreat time is available year round. We have space set aside for individuals, couples, or a group that would like to have a time of quiet and contemplation.

### Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience

Twice each year we offer a unique experience for seminary students. If you know a seminarian or your congregation sponsors one, encourage them to check into this program. Information concerning the May and August Seminary Cross-Cultural Experiences can be found on our website.

### Thank You for Your Help

Thanks to all who contributed to help get our 1997 Ford van repaired. With a rebuilt motor and transmission, we hope it will serve us and those who visit us for many years to come.

### Still Working on Getting a New Copier

Several years ago one of our Ministry Partners saw our "Wish List" included a new copier. At the time we had a very simple desk-top copier. Our goal was to have a copier on which we could produce all of our mailing. They helped by giving us donation that paid for a new copier.

It is now time to replace that copier with a newer model as replacement parts and supplies are going to



be phased out and completely discontinued in the near future. The model we are looking at that will meet our needs will cost about \$11,500. We would like to raise funds to make a substantial down-payment before we enter into a lease-to-own agreement. This would reduce the yearly commitment to lease payments. Your help with this project would be greatly appreciated.

### Our Permanent Endowment Fund

We are raising money to start our Permanent Endowment Fund. Along with designated donations and 5% of our non-designated donations, we now have about \$4,200 in our Endowment Savings. We need to raise \$25,000 to start our Permanent Endowment Fund.

Our goal is to raise \$1M in twenty years or less. Along with your help and the help of many others, we can make this happen.

### A Few Reminders

Please make donations out to "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church." Our bank will no longer accept checks for us to deposit that are not made out in this way.

Our mailing address is 499 Mission Taylor Road, Box Elder, MT 59521. If you have not updated your address book or your mailing list, please do so.

Please make sure to include your name and return address inside a box or package when you send it. Often things are sent from a mail store and do not include this information. Sadly, we have no idea who sent those donations and, therefore, no one to thank.

Thank you for your kind attention to these details!

### USPS versus E-mail

We would like to send more newsletters out by e-mail. If you are able to receive it by e-mail, please contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at [office@oslcrb.org](mailto:office@oslcrb.org). We keep current mailing addresses on file just in case the e-mail address fails and we have to send it out to you. We do not share or sell our database information.

### Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, Advent fills us with anticipation and hope. Thank you for all the good gifts you have given us and continue to give us every day. Thank you for Ministry Partners who share in our work among the people of Rocky Boy. Thank you for all the companions we have along the Way. May we be a blessing to each other. May we always rest in You. Amen



*What's in a Name?*