

Greetings from Pastor Linda

Spring was long and very wet this year, with occasional snow mixed in. This summer, so far, has also been very wet – unusual for this part of Montana. Hence, it is still beautifully green around here instead of drying out and becoming brown. Lakes, ponds, and streams are being replenished as has not happen for years. Hopefully, the underground water supply is becoming healthier, too.

Many things have been happening around Our Saviour's since the last issue of the TeePee Smoke. Some good things have occurred and some not so good.

The not-so-good was the fire we had on the property during Holy Week. It was quite startling to have one of the congregation members call me and say, "Did you know the hill behind the church is on fire?" Looking out one of the parsonage windows, I was amazed and concerned. The Tribe's Fire Dept. was on the ball and already there with a pump truck and digging fire lines in certain places.



The fire covered the hillside and made it almost as far as the white cross

on the hill. Though the cabins and other buildings along the pasture fence may have been in danger, the weather conditions worked in our favor. Thank you, God! Except for the singed trees, it is hard to tell that there ever was a fire in the pasture and on the hill behind the church buildings.

Some of the good things that have been happening include the involvement of more congregations in the life of Our Saviour's and the Rocky Boy's Reservation. This spring we were blessed with three adult Servant Groups from congregations in Montana. Men and women from King of Glory in Billings came and built 10 sets of bunk beds. Our Savior's from Thompson Falls came and the men worked on railings around the ramp to the Mission House and women from both congregations (ours and theirs) put layettes together. A small, but very mighty, group came out from 1st Lutheran in Havre and built eight more sets of bunkbeds. All of this occurred before the first summer Servant Group even arrived!

During one visit I made to Chicago for Mission Developer Training in February, I was talking with EOCM (Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission) staff person Marlys Waldo about some of the challenges I felt were facing Our Saviour's for the coming summer, especially concerning

some of our construction issues. She suggested that I contact the ELCA Mission Builders. I confess I had never heard of them before. I need to tell you what a blessing the four Mission Builder couples have been to Our Saviour's. It is hard to imagine just where we would be today without their help.

God is good all the time. All the time God is good!

Summer Servant Groups are now in full swing. This summer, the faithful – youth and adults – are coming from various parts Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Washington State. They come giving of themselves, their time, and their talents. I think they leave with much more than tired bodies and callused hands.

Under the direction of the Mission Builders, the cabins are almost completely done. Hot water heaters and wall space heaters have been added to each cabin. Flooring is going in the final two cabins this week. They have been hooked up to the Tribal water and sewer system. One cabin has a ramp, so as to be handicap accessible, along with having a handicap accessible bathroom. (Our one draw back to handicap accessibility is that we do not own a handicap accessible vehicle.)

Even as I write this, there is nail pounding in the basement and painting going on outside at the Parsonage. Where would we be without one another? What will the rest of the summer bring? I wonder. But, I rest in the assurance of God's wonderful care for Our Saviour's, for the visiting Servant Groups, and, yes, even for myself.

God is good all the time. All the time God is good!

Women of the ELCA Immersion Event!!

In September the Women of the ELCA will be gathering for an immersion event at Our Saviour's between the 9th and the 13th. Registration for this event is low and it may need to be cancelled unless at least eight women register by August 7th!

If you are considering coming, but have not yet registered, please contact Inez Torres Davis. Call 800-638-3522 ext. 2428, or write to Inez at 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631, or e-mail her at InezTorres.Davis@elca.org.

Meet a Member of the Congregation

My name is Lisa Crain. I am a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. I was baptized in the log chapel here. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has been my church for most of my life. My father and mother, Allan Crain and Anna Parker Crain, were married in the log chapel on November 18th, 1954. I was born in

Havre, Montana. Havre is a town 30 miles from here. My father is Swede/Finn from Nanty Glo, PA. He came here after World War II to work as a teacher for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He met my mother here.

My mother is an enrolled member of the Chippewa/Cree Tribe. My mother is an extremely talented homemaker. My father applied for a job in Round Rock, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. He got the job and we moved there. Our family consisted of me, my father, my mother, and my younger brother, Matt. My sister Kim was born in Ganado, AZ during our stay there. We lived there for one year. I don't remember much about Round Rock except sand storms and scorpions in the bath tub.



My father applied for a job in Brigham City, Utah, as principal of a BIA boarding school there. He got that job, so we moved there. While we were in Brigham City, I was able to go to a Lutheran Church there. That was the first time I went to Sunday school. I

remember thinking, "Why can't I go to church?" I also attended kindergarten in Brigham City.

After that, my father applied for a job as principal in Busby, MT on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. He got that job, so we moved there. The Busby School was a boarding school for Native American students from reservations in Montana and I attended this school. While we were in Busby we attended a Mennonite Church because there wasn't a Lutheran Church there. One of the "highlights" of my time in Busby was traveling to Billings, MT on a field trip to listen to President John F. Kennedy speak. Afterwards I got to shake his hand.

Then my father applied for another job with the BIA. This time it was in Sitka, Alaska. He became the Superintendent of the Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding

School. This was a very large boarding school that most of the Native Americans in Alaska attended. I attended school in Sitka at Lincoln Elementary school. This was a public school, which was a major change in my life.

Because Mt. Edgecumbe was an island next to Sitka (another island), I had to take a boat every morning and evening across a channel of water to get to and from school. I was no longer on the prairies of Montana. I was now on an island and the only way to travel was by boat or plane. This change also came at a time in my life when I had to get used to the idea that I had to do homework.

In Sitka we were able to attend the Lutheran Church again. I was confirmed in Sitka and I graduated from high school there in 1974.

I decided that I wanted to go to college in Montana and attended Eastern Montana College in Billings. I still didn't know what I wanted to major in at college, so I returned to Rocky Boy and got a job as a teacher's aide at the elementary school in Rocky Boy. At the same time, I attended night classes at the school.

In 1980, I started working at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as the parish secretary. I worked there for three and a half years. It was a lot of fun. During this time I got married and had two babies - Jason & Allan "Carlos". The marriage didn't work out. I got divorced and decided I needed a change. I moved to New Orleans with my sister and her husband. While I was in New Orleans, I tried to find a job, but I was either over qualified or under qualified. It was then I decided I needed to go back to school to get a good paying job.

I moved back to Montana and attended MSU Northern in Havre. I graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Minor in Art. In 1988, I applied for a job at Rocky Boy Elementary school. I have been teaching in the Rocky Boy School District ever since. During this time I met my better half, Mike Lame Bull.

We have a beautiful daughter, Mia Lane Bull. I have been attending church here at Our Saviour's since 1988. My two boys and daughter were all baptized in the log chapel. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has a very, very special place in my heart.

Reflections by Gail Mikyska

(Gail came to Rocky Boy for the first time during Summer 2008 with Jeff Mikyska, who wrote a reflection for the last TeePee Smoke. They are now married!)

From the first moment I arrived at Our Saviour's, I knew it was a very special place. Stepping out of the van, I gazed at the old chapel standing proudly beside the new sanctuary, nestled comfortably at the base of the ridge. A part of me felt instantly at ease, as if I had been there before. I took in my surroundings and, as I gazed upward, my eyes found the rocks of white cross halfway up the hill, reflecting the light and making a statement all its own. Taking it all in with a big sigh, I accepted the incredible sense of peace that had settled over me. One of my favorite verses from Matthew came to mind; "Come to me all of you who are weary from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest"



My primary reason for getting on the train 2 days before was to help the ministry, to combine my efforts with the many others, to do whatever it took to help Our Saviour's Lutheran Church grow and flourish. What I didn't

expect was to feel the incredible "specialness" of this place and the people who I barely knew. An added benefit I had not expected was the strong sense of accomplishment we felt with work well done and a sense of renewal that I needed as I escaped from the rat race for 10 days. Each day would start out with a climb to the top of the ridge to the Chapel in the Sky for a devotion, and a chance to take in the incredible beauty of the reservation, and then a day of work, a meal with people that were fast becoming friends, and in the evening a chance to take a drive, go to the rodeo, or talk with and get to know the people of the reservation.

As the days progressed, and our time with the people of Our Saviour's was coming to an end, I reflected on the people I had met and the friendships I had made and I just knew that my time here had changed me forever.

New Roof on the Big Church

The repairs to the roof of the Big Church finally got underway in May and were completed in June. As you can see from the picture there was a good sized crew working on the project.



Unfortunately, none of the cost was covered by insurance (~\$5,100). But, even knowing that, the congregation decided to go ahead and have the remaining portion of the domed roof recovered with the membrane roofing in order to prevent additional water damage in the future. For those of you who may remember, a small portion of the roof had been done a couple of years ago around the center skylight. We hope this will mean no major repairs to the Big Church roof for many, many years to come!

Who are the Mission Builders?

I don't know about you, but until several months ago, the answer to this question would have eluded me. Now, at least, I can give a partial answer.

First, I know these are men and women who are dedicated to God in what they do. They lead devotions every morning, take care of, not only themselves, but others around them, and work hard.



This is a group of men and women who help others build their church structure, or their church addition, or help a congregation like ours, or a camp, finish cabins and work on a renovation project, like our basement, so that the ministry may continue to grow and flourish.

Headquartered out of Colorado, the group is affiliated with the ELCA, but not supported through the church-wide office. Most of the members are retired men and women, who seem to have a passion for building things. They did not

come into this, necessarily, with a construction background, but have learned much and share this wealth of knowledge with the volunteers from the congregations they work with, or as in our case with the Servant Groups coming to the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

This summer they have helped finish cabins that have been standing for ten years in a semi-finished state. One of the biggest accomplishments is that all the cabins are now hooked up to the Tribal water and sewer system.

The Mission House basement, in need of re-finishing after the floods of last spring, is nearly complete due their hard work and diligence with the visiting Servant Groups.

All we can say at this time is a big "thank you" to Clarence and Marlene Strabel, Steve and Carole Schenk, Odean and Lois Odegard, and Rich and Lindsay Hofer. We love you and will miss you when you are gone from here – but, you will certainly not be forgotten!

The Layette Ministry is On-going

The layette ministry continues to be a strong part of the ministry at Our Saviour's. Some of the



women of our congregation had the opportunity to bond with some of the women from Our Savior's in Thompson Falls. They brought items for layettes with them. Then the two groups spent time together assembling the layettes. We shared a meal and time of fellowship. Building of the Body of Christ occurs as our

community is being served. Thank you one and all for your service.

A Visitor from Bolivia

In early June, our congregation was privileged to have a visit from the president of the Lutheran Church in Bolivia, which is one of Montana's companion synods. The Rev. Luis Cristobal Alejo Fernandez wanted to visit and meet with indigenous people in our synod. He was welcomed with an Indian taco dinner and conversation with congregation members.

Pres. Cristobal had the opportunity to meet with the Tribal Council of Chippewa Cree Tribe. In the picture, he is seated in the front row at the left.

Since English is not his first or second language, he spoke through an interpreter. He brought

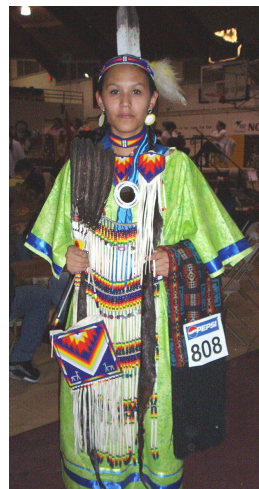
greetings from one indigenous leader to others. Though his visit was very short, he was graciously received and invited, on a return visit, to participate in a sweat lodge (forgive my non-Indian



attempt at a short explanation, but it is a ceremony which is a time of prayer in sauna-like conditions).

Meet One of the Youth from Our Saviour's
Mia Lame Bull is one of the youth at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. She has been asked to share something about herself.

Hello my name is Mia Lee Lame Bull. I am 16 years old and I am a member of the Chippewa Cree and Gros Ventre Tribes. I regularly attend the Rocky Boy Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.



I am a junior at Rocky Boy High School, and in my free time I enjoy participating in pow-wows. I am a teen girls Traditional dancer, but I occasionally dance Fancy-shawl and Jingle. My

grandma, Anna Crain, makes most of my outfits. I regularly perform at the Lutheran Church on Tuesdays or Wednesdays for the youth groups that come to help out. My favorite thing about pow-wows is meeting new people and getting to jam to a new intertribal song.

After high school I plan on joining the Army National Guard to pay for college. I hope to continue my education at Montana State University Bozeman. Go Bobcats! I'm planning on majoring in Marine Biology, Criminal Investigation,



or Teaching.

I'd like to thank Pastor Linda Webster for giving me an opportunity to work here at Our Saviour's this summer. I hope you all have a good summer.

A Visitor from Japan

Eric Anspach-Hanson, who is currently serving as a missionary to Japan, came to visit Our Saviour's in July during a home visit. This congregation is one of many that help support Eric through the Division for Global Mission of the ELCA.

When we first got the mailing about helping support a missionary, we discussed this issue a lot as Our Saviour's is itself a very small congregation. Together we decided that as recipients of so much generosity from others, we must be generous in giving, too.

We looked over the names of those we could support and one name jumped out at members of the congregation and Pastor Linda. As a seminary intern, Eric had come to Rocky Boy with a Servant Group. He had also been in the same discipleship group as Pastor Linda at seminary. Therefore, Eric was a "friend" on several different levels. This made it a really easy decision to help support his ministry in Tokyo. May God richly bless the work taking place in Japan.

Adjusting the Heating System

Everyone knew the heating system in the Mission House wasn't working properly. But, until we had to work on the basement because of the flooding issues, we didn't really think about fixing that problem.

The flood prompted us to gut the basement completely - except for the existing bathrooms. We found a number of



issues that have been remedied, but one of the biggest was concerning the heating system.

Unknown to many, some time during past renovations, part of the duct work and return air vents between the basement and first floor had been taken out or covered up. Return air vents to the second floor also no longer existed. These issues now appear to be fixed and we hope this winter will

be warmer in the Mission House and, maybe, we will spend less on propane heating this year!

Campbell Soups Labels

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church welcomes you sending the UPC part of the label from Campbell's products. Sending the entire label is no longer

necessary, which is good because it is less bulky to send.

This includes not only the UPC from the various soups, but also V-8 juices, Swanson's broth, Prego, Pepperidge Farm, Franco American products. This information can be found on the Campbell's website of eligible products at -



http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible_products.pdf

Early Summer Servant Groups

The first three Servant Groups of the summer have literally spanned the United States. The first was from Pennsylvania. The second was from Wisconsin. And, the third was from Washington State.

This summer has brought a number of new Servant Groups to Our Saviour's and the Rocky Boy's



Reservation.

Our first group was from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. They brought a group that was mostly adults, but still widely diverse in age. There was a wealth of experience that was shared within and by everyone. It was wonderful to see. From having VBS for the kids to putting in plumbing, framing and drywalling in the cabins to pouring a portion of the concrete floor in the Mission House basement, this group accomplished a great deal. Several of the group fell in love with the dogs that "hang out" around here and two puppies found new homes in Pennsylvania (lucky puppies!).

The next Servant Group was from Lutheran Church of Peace in Platteville, Wisconsin. This was also their first summer coming to Our Saviour's. They arrived by train in Havre, Montana.

This group of younger and older folks worked well together with the Mission Builders. They continued painting (mostly the fence around the entire property and the ramp to the Log Church) and building the handicap ramp and shutters for the cabin windows. They mowed lawns, here and in the community.



While this group was here, there was a very special delivery from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. An upright freezer, a commercial stove, refrigerator, and

dishwasher were donated and delivered to Our Saviour's. Several of the "servants" from Lutheran Church of Peace helped move these items into the Big Church kitchen and move out the old stuff.

The third Servant Group was from St. Mark's at the Narrows Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA. They also arrived by train in Havre, Montana, but coming from the opposite direction of the previous group. [This appears to be a great way to travel with groups of young people and you can get group rates!]

It is the second time a Servant Group has come to Our Saviour's from St. Mark's. It was wonderful to see some of the same leaders and young people. It was exciting to hear that they had so many more people come this year than last because of the enthusiasm of the group when they returned home last summer.



Once again more work was done towards finishing the cabins completely and work in the basement began in earnest. Framing went up in the basement. More shutters were constructed, varnished, and put up on

the cabins. A group went to the Sangrey Rodeo grounds on Monday to pick up after the weekend rodeo. More of the fence got painted. The ramp to the Log Church got another coat.

Our Saviour's "Wish List"

The Wish List we published in the last newsletter prompted all kinds of response. For that we are very thankful.

We must thank Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, located near Kalispell, Montana, for their generous gift of kitchen equipment, including a commercial refrigerator, stove, and dishwashing unit, along with an upright freezer. They not only gave us this equipment, but ended up delivering it to us, too. Many, many thanks. We are waiting to install the stove and dishwasher (have to move some cabinets around), but the refrigerator and freezer are in use at this writing.

Much work has been done this summer on the cabins and the Mission House due to the hard work of the Mission Builders crew, their wives, and all of the Servant Groups that have been here so far this summer. (We are not through yet!)

We still have on-going needs that we hope other may be able to help with. As you can see some will have priority over others.

- ❖ New Bibles to be given away. Please contact us to see what our greatest need is – children, young people, or adult.
- ❖ 15 to 25 new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnals.
- ❖ Roof gutters and 2 additional window wells for the Mission House.
- ❖ 2 used (but in great shape!) 15-passenger vans.
- ❖ 1 used (but in great shape!) truck.
- ❖ 1 new heavy-duty electric stove for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 new, over-the-stove microwave for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 new residential stove for the Mission House.
- ❖ 4 to 6 8-foot plastic (not heavy particle board) tables for use in the Big Church. (We move these around so much they need to be the lighter-weight ones).
- ❖ 1 or 2 caddies to store the 8-foot tables.
- ❖ 2 new computers with good graphics capabilities.

- ❖ 2 family-sized tents and ground tarps to do under them.
- ❖ Items for layettes.
- ❖ New and gently used clothing for the Thrift Store.
- ❖ New clothing and toys to be set aside as Christmas gifts.
- ❖ Purchasing a refurbished copier (~\$6,000 to \$8,000) that will handle producing the TeePee Smoke newsletter and other mailings.
- ❖ Financial support for the new roof on the Big Church (~\$5,100) and upgraded heating system in the Mission House (~\$2,900).
- ❖ Financial support for an on-site construction foreman for Summer 2010 (~\$7,000).
- ❖ Financial support for a seminary intern (deaconess, MDiv, etc. – ~\$25,000 for salary and benefits).

Your Spiritual & Financial Giving is Important to Us

In this time of economic stress, we cannot thank enough for your continued support of the ministry of Our Saviour's on the Rocky Boy's Reservation. Please continue to pray for us, as we do for you. We hope you are able to continue with your financial support as well. The struggles many are going through across the face of our world make it a very difficult time for all.

Mission Partners are very important to us and we have had a number of people ask us how to become one. There are several different ways this can happen. One way is to go directly through the ELCA office in Chicago. Another way is through the Montana Synod or through your own synod, if it is different. Lastly, you can covenant directly with Our Saviour's. Any of these partnerships could have a specific timeframe and/or have a specified monetary amount associated with them. Always, any commitment involves on-going prayer and communication.

This past year we have kindly been remembered by several people in their wills. About 10 years ago another donor gifted her Thrivent annuity to us and has continued to pay the premiums on it for us. People are being very creative in their giving to us! We thank God for this creativity.

We are working with Thrivent so that if you desire you can donate directly into our "education" fund account we have with them. Just let us know if this is what you would like to do and we can make sure the arrangements are made.

One of our partner congregations had a great idea this winter. They asked us to purchase beadwork for them from the local craftspeople, which they reimbursed us for, and then sold at their own craft fair. We are very willing to do this as a "fair trade" partner with any congregation. Contact us and let us know what you might be looking to sell, i.e. earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc. or more religious items, e.g. crosses, Luther roses, etc.

We constantly thank God for each and every one of you who remember us when you so generously give. Thank you!

The Ambassador 1000 Program Continues

We are continuing the Ambassador 1000 program started several years ago by Pastor Barden. If you



would like to participate in this program, please indicate your pledge of support on your first donation. On your subsequent donations write "Ambassador." This will help us be more organized, too.

If you would like more information about the Ambassador 1000 program, please write, call, or e-mail,

and will we get this out to you.

Upcoming and On-going Projects

Work continues to make repairs and stain the decking around the Mission House and Big Church, paint and stain the exteriors of the Parsonage and Mission House, and finish the basement renovation.

With the help of Tribal member and grant-writer, Bruce Meyers, a \$6,000 Hunger Grant has been applied for from the ELCA for 2010. Receiving this would mean working with the Commodities Program of the Chippewa Cree Tribe to help provide fresh, in-season fruits and vegetables from May to October for twenty-five of the neediest households, which include the elderly, the disabled, and single parent families. Keep us in your prayers as we go through the selection process.



Ladies with quilts made at the Mission.

This photo will appear in a book being published by the State Historical Society on quilts and quilters of Montana.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at office@oslcrb.org.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

A congregation of the ELCA
on the Rocky Boy's Reservation
499 Mission Taylor Road
Box Elder, MT 59521-8983

Phone: 406-395-4307
Fax: 406-395-4076
E-mail: office@oslcrb.org
Website: www.oslcrb.org

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