



Tee Pee Smoke



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-ROCKY BOY
A CONGREGATION OF THE ELCA ON THE ROCKY'S BOY INDIAN RESERVATION
RR1 Box 1070 BOX ELDER, MT 59521-9728

2006 SUMMER SERVANT GROUPS

The summer of 2006 was looked forward to with great joy, expectation and a bit of the unknown. It is always a great joy to have all the visitors come out during the summer months and to finally meet some of those we only communicate with via e-mail, snail mail or telephone during the rest of the year. There is always a mixture of expectations from both sides, the visitors and we here at OSLCRB, as summer approaches; can we at OSLCRB meet those expectations of our visitors and can we fulfill the projects we have set up without making it seem like a "work camp" instead of the spiritual and cultural experience we all hope it will be? For me, Tom Tucker, the unknown was what it was going to be like as the "recipient" instead of the "giver" of a mission/servant group. Up until now I had always been the one going someplace and trying to help, but this time the role was reversed. My fears were soon to be shown to be unnecessary as the groups friendliness and willingness overshadowed any fears I had. To all of you who were able to visit us here: **THANK YOU!**

This past year we had visitors from churches, organizations and some couples. Our church and organization visitors were from the following: Gloria die Lutheran Church of Downers Grove, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church of Ralston, NE; St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Telford, PA; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Marietta, PA; Zumbro Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN; and the Lutheran Social Services of Utah of Salt Lake City, UT. We also were visited by some couples who help on various projects: Bob and Shirley Feik of Lake Stevens, WA; Charles and Susanne King of Terre Haute, IN; James and Jean Tufano of Ambler, PA; and Perry and Regina Miller from Lansdale, PA. In addition to these visitors we also had a few adventurous supporters who drove hundreds of miles to deliver goods they or their groups had gathered for our "Give-Away-Store" and for our Layette Ministry whose names I am purposely leaving out so as to keep them anonymous. These came from places like Cheyenne, WY; Boscobel, WI; Camas, WA, and Chula Vista, CA. These are all in addition to the generous support we receive throughout the year from so many people, churches, and organizations throughout the USA that arrive weekly via USPS, UPS, and FedEx. To all of you: **THANK YOU** for your generosity and heart for the mission here on Rocky Boy.



For some who came this summer it was a long journey by bus, others came via train, plane and automobiles.



One of the big hits this summer were the cinnamon rolls made by Jenny LaSalle; although, sugar was not needed to keep up the energy levels of our groups.



When we say that the grass is greener on the other side, we also mean that it grows tall out here in Montana, as is evident by one of our visitors working his way through an area around the Parsonage lawn. Despite the roaming cows and horses there is still the need to do some mowing around the facility, and Gordon appreciates any help he can get with this task. We are working at trying to find designs to lessen the amount of mowing that must be done on almost a weekly basis.

SUMMER GROUP PROJECTS

This past summer saw a lot of projects started around the facility at OSLCRB, vacation Bible Study and youth programs, community service projects, cultural programs and opportunity for spiritual growth. These photos are just a glimpse at some of these activities, as well as a couple of quotes from some of our visitors.



The transition of our Maintenance Shop from a metal shed with no insulation to one with insulation, sheetrock, new lighting, new shelving, and even a heater, is something that Gordon has wanted for many years and he is very appreciative for all the work that was done in the upgrade. It will make it a lot easier for him to work during the winter months and also will be better storage for our supplies and equipment that is temperature sensitive. We much appreciate all the work that was done on this project.



The removal of the one wooden walkway from the parking lot to the Mission House and subsequent replacement with a concrete one, was another summer project. We also connected the parking lot with the Mission House and other buildings with new concrete walkways, and with the fall rains and new winter snow these have already proven to be a great improvement and will reduce the wear and tear on all of our buildings.

Cultural exchanges were a "group" effort.



Vacation Bible School and craft programs were a big hit with the youth. It was evident that much work had gone into the planning and presentation of these programs.



Community projects often involved yard work at an elder's home.



"In one short week I felt connected to so many people... members of our group, Pastor Bardon and his lovely wife Carol, the staff at Our Saviour's and the people of Rocky Boy... Each day I was cognizant of so many blessings I received during this trip... (I learned that) the people of Rocky Boy are just like me who have every right to be happy, to live their lives and take pride in their heritage... We had many opportunities to pray together. Many times people prayed in the Cree language. Although we could not understand the words we could feel the intention of the prayer being offered. It was a blessing..."

"As a teacher I am always aware of how I may share my experience with my students back home. This year I was most fortunate to meet a flute teacher at Stone Child College... I was able to learn how she teaches her students the art of playing an Indian flute. My 5th graders don't know it yet but they are about to receive an authentic lesson... I attended the Pow Wow for the first time. It seemed to me the whole tribe gathered for this event. Tee Pee's were constructed, extended families set up camps, food was always cooking for friends and family who stopped by, kids and dogs were running around. It made a big impression on me... I could imagine how society might have functioned in the old days, before the reservation system. We were invited to a feed on the last day of our visit, which was a great honor."

"The day we arrived at Rocky Boy it was my 16th birthday. When people found out that it was my Sweet Sixteen birthday a few of the kids from Chicago sang happy birthday to me. After that we went to the Chapel in the sky for a service. The next day we went out on work crews and cleaned some elder's homes and other people worked on making forms for sidewalks around the church. Every morning I met with other people for coffee on the back porch. We were invited to a sweat lodge, went to Bowry Peak to watch the sunset, visited Havre Underground, and attended the Pow Wow. It was an experience of a lifetime."

P A S T O R ' S P R A Y E R S & P O I N T S

THE STATE OF THE LUTHERAN MISSION AT ROCKY BOY

Ministry here on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation faces a complex set of dynamics that all interplay on one another in the contemporary setting. These include the history between our First Nation people and the White Settlement, resulting in displacement and establishment of human reserves across the land for most Indians; a strong sense of cultural identity and spiritual grounding of Native Americans through Traditional Ways; the change of the local Chippewa-Cree situation from a fledgling reservation to self-determining government that provides human services, education and economic development; ongoing racism in blatant and subtle ways combined with the issues of life on the reservation and life beyond the reservation; the ever-present challenge of maintaining sovereignty and dignity in light of a contrasting and in many ways controlling larger society; a mix of similarities and differences regarding the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Traditional Ways; the losses of spiritual grounding in both Christian and Traditional contexts and the resulting negative impact on family life, social interaction and moral development; the modern development of reservation "politics" that interplay old and new values, clan issues and community concerns, unemployment and tribal development, formal education and social structure in "both worlds"; and generally through all of the above, a distinct contrast between Western-oriented functioning and Indian-based functioning in life meaning, existential purpose, human goals and interactive styles.

And in the midst of these, as Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, we have our own up and down history. We were a thriving and active mission that was virtually the hub of human services, social activities, first level health support, and even post office connections, as well as a place of Christian teaching and inspiration. As a congregation since 1958, greater and fewer numbers have related to the church as interests, resources and preferences shifted from one primary group to another. Grants and bequests in the 1990's brought significant dollars to the congregation, and enabled the pastors and congregation to envision new programs and to build several new structures. These facilities remain in varying stages of development now in need of completion, repair, and upgrading. Coming here to pastor this mission and this congregation in 2005 is not the same as coming here even 20 years ago.

Re-visioning and Restructuring We are a 50 year mission followed by a 30 year congregation. Yet, our support remains 95% beyond the congregation. We are for all intents and purposes, a mission. Because the sociological, political and economic changes on the reservation present a different set of needs and concerns, the "glory days" of the mission as a center of tribal interaction no longer apply as the substance of our calling. It is becoming increasingly clear that the place of Our Saviour's on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation will need to be redefined with a new vision and a new mission. New hopes need to be followed by a change in structure that serves people in the here and now, and guided by a coordinated long-range plan for ministry that involves self-determination and reflects Native dignity. I am now developing strategies and engaging conversations that I believe will help move us toward this re-visioning and restructuring.

Financial Deficit and Growing the Support Base Our general support has remained somewhat stable for several years as nearly as we can determine. However, the demands upon staff time to

maintain the facilities, manage existing programs, develop spiritual foundations, interact with community concerns, and provide pastoral services, combine with ongoing rising costs and older building expenses to put us in a deficit for monthly income of between \$2000 and \$5000, depending on the issues and needs by season and by situation. A year ago, *Ambassadors 1000* was implemented to grow the support base with a modest per unit commitment of \$25.00 per calendar quarter, which would add \$100,000 to our annual income and enable us to continue employing our maintenance, services, and administrative staff. Since that goal is less than 5% reached in a year, it means that we have had to utilize volunteer staff time and reduce paid winter hours plus draw upon reserves in order to survive the winter months. We are also evaluating our costs for hosting summer Servant Groups and proposing ways to more fully share these costs with our visiting helpers while striving to keep down their expenses for transportation and program.

Pastoral Work and Inculturation Pastoral work has largely represented Western Christianity through liturgical worship and ecclesiastical goals. Given the complex mix of historical, spiritual, economic and political dynamics reviewed above, I believe the time has come for shaping ministry here "in-culture"—that is, shifting the focus of our work from conversion and service toward enhancing the community good and enriching Native American dignity, and perhaps finding ways "to give" to the larger society some of the depth and breadth of First Nation belief in the Creator and practices of honoring the Creation. This means respecting our First Nation people as a part of "The Nations" whom God promises will be a part of the Kingdom both here on earth and in heaven to come. It will mean learning Traditional Ways and striving to function in a style that befits Native American manner and meaning. This way, the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be able to take on new life and enable the people of Rocky Boy's to apply the good things of God's peace, love, and hope in the context of who they are and how they live as 21st Century Native Americans.

This is not meant to be an intellectual analysis or academic report of where we are now. It is meant to provide a description of past experiences impacting current challenges, and to cut to the core of what I believe God is calling us to be and to do in the years to come. I am working now on how we might move into the future, but to make it really short and to the point, it will take an intentionally extended time, it will take significantly increased resources, and it will take courageously persistent faith.

We ask your partnership—with your continued prayers, your personal involvement, and your financial support.

In Christ,

Pastor Arden K. Barden

FACILITY EXISTING PROJECT STATUS by Tom Tucker

After a year here at Our Saviour's I have had the opportunity of working with the Summer Groups and with Gordon on getting some of the projects completed and a big step forward in getting some off the ground. I have also now had a full year of witnessing the condition of the facility overall, through all the seasons and summer group visitors, and have a better priority list of what needs to be done to prepare for the next summer of visitors and what the facility overall needs in the way of overdue maintenance. For some who visit during the summer months, you might be asking "Why is money being spent on this project and not some other one?" Many projects build on one another, and some things have to be done first before others can follow, and doing "remodel" work is always a lot harder and requires more financial outlay, than does the job being done completely in the first place. The history of these buildings, and length of time here, have meant they have undergone many remodels over the years, so this is a natural progression for the facility here at OSLCRB. Please rest assured that all projects we are working on are an attempt to preserve what is already here through better maintenance, capitol improvements and replacement of failing items. I welcome any feedback on these projects or suggestions of projects you would like to see done here.

These are high priority projects which we needed to complete this summer in order to prevent further damage to some of the buildings, aid in access to all who use the facility and reduce maintenance costs. After careful prayer, if you feel called to partner with us in any of these projects in addition to your present support levels, please indicate such on your donation. Thank you.

New Church

Update Roof Repair: This summer we repaired the suspected area which the water was leaking into the "New Church" building. A membrane material was put on the top and is sealed to the skylight assembly. This was done by an outside contractor and comes with a 15 year warranty. It looks a bit like a little cap, but the color is very similar to the existing asphalt shingles and practically disappears. This repair was not covered by our insurance company as no shingles were displaced, so we had to fund the repair ourselves at a cost of \$1,200.00. This winter of rain, snow, ice and thawing will prove the repair to be effective or not; but at least it is under a warranty.



Update Floor Replacement: The water damage to the floor of the "New Church" building from the leaking roof was inspected by our insurance company and it was agreed they would replace the floor. The existing floor is a first generation residential Pergo installation and was not rated for the type of use this building gets with all of the funerals, wakes, feasts and social events. that it is used for. The insurance company has agreed to fund the replacement 100% of similar product and have also agreed to include the preparation for an upgrade to a commercial grade material that will have the same appearance as before.

Needs: (1) We need help financially in obtaining the additional amount of \$xx that is required for the difference in the residential and commercial grade material for the floor replacement. (2) In order to reduce the mud tracked into the church and kitchen, we would like to replace the back deck with a larger one, extend the roof to cover the new deck and construct walls sections that can be screened in for summer and replaced with solid clear plastic panels for the winter months. This will also reduce the risk of injury when using these steps and deck during the winter months of snow and ice buildup.

Metal Maintenance Shop

Update: The Maintenance Shop was insulated and sheet rocked this summer by our friends from Messiah Lutheran Church of Ralston, Nebraska; which gave us a great start to preparing the building for winter use, which was long overdue. We have had a gas heater installed, purchased new metal shelving, installed peg board for tools, installed additional lighting and installed a full size insulated garage door and a man-door. Gordon is in the process of organizing the space and it will be a great improvement for the work through the winter and the years to come in maintaining all the buildings and grounds here at OSLCRB.



Financial Status

Expenses: \$4,637.15
 Donations: \$1,289.32
 Balance: -\$3,347.83

Needs:

We are still needing to purchase some storage bins for spare parts and repair supplies, but the greatest need is financial partnering to help offset the costs we have already incurred. As summer gets nearer we will have a better idea of any additional tools that are needed.

FACILITY EXISTING PROJECT STATUS (Continued)

Walkways

Update: We have replaced the wooden front walk (which was very slippery in the winter months) with a concrete one and put additional concrete walks around the Mission House. We can now walk between the Mission House, the New Church and the Log Chapel without trudging through the mud and snow. This will also allow our visitors who need the use of mechanical assistance to walk, a more secure access to all of our buildings. This summer there was great effort put forth by three of our Summer groups, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Downer's Grove, IL, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Telford, PA, and Zumbro Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN, in the preparation and installation of the forms for the concrete walks. We have now poured the concrete and have some finish work to do in the spring. So far the comments have been very favorable, considering we have already had snow and are now getting rain and snow.



<u>Financial Status</u>	
Expenses:	\$2,567.37
Donations:	\$1,485.40
Balance:	-\$1,081.97

Needs: (1) We would like to have some treated timber flowerboxes installed in the "triangles" between the walkways this summer and hope one or more of our 2007

Servant Groups will take ownership of them. This will entail the purchase and installation of the timbers, topsoil fill and some local bushes and flowers that are of the low maintenance variety.

Log Chapel

Update: The winter of 2005/2006 gave me first hand experience on the urgent need to do some much needed major maintenance and improvements to our beautiful Log Chapel. The windows were the old wood framed-single pane style which had severely deteriorated over the years. We have now replaced these windows with a white vinyl frame-double pane glass; and as you can see in the photo, we have not changed the look from the original style. We also replaced the inefficient propane wall heater with a new propane forced air furnace and where there was no insulation in the attic we now have over 13 inches! What a difference this has made to the comfort during worship for those who live here year round and occupy this building in the cold and windy winters on Rocky Boy.



Needs: (1) We still have to finish trimming the windows interior, stain the interior trim, another coat of paint on the interior and purchase/install some blinds and curtains for the interior to help in the summer months. (2) This coming summer we want to repaint the exterior and paint the "chinking" white again so it looks like the log construction that it is (see photo on front page).

<u>Financial Status</u>	
Expenses:	\$8,806.74
Donations:	\$5,052.00
Balance:	-\$3,754.74

Cabins

Update: This summer showed how important it is to get the cabins up and running for the Summer Groups, along with the need to have them in a condition such that they can be used year-round. What is clear is that with the construction of a bathroom in each of the cabins the septic system (which was never completed with a drain field) needs to be connected to the reservation sewer system. This will require trenching and piping from the existing septic tank to the connection point with the reservation system which is at the east end of the drive around the church. The Pastor is working with the Tribal Council to see if they will donate the labor and equipment to do this connection as the large church building is used for so many activities in our mission to the people of this reservation; but if this is not possible then we will have to come up with the funding. At the time of this printing we have not had any decision on this request as we too here are going through an election process.



Needs: This photo shows the recent wind damage (70 mph gusts) to the roofing of one of our cabins. We are in need of purchasing and installation of heaters (3) and instant hot water units and four (4) sets of bunk beds for each cabin for this summer. We would very much like to have three cabins set up for the 2007 summer's groups.

2006 SERVANT GROUP REFLECTIONS

Rae: "WOW! This summer went by so fast! I would like to say **THANK YOU!!** To all the servant groups for all the hard work they did for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church here on the Rocky Boy's Reservation., and for the community. Sometimes things got a little hectic, but it was still good!! And also, I would like to say **Thank You** for all your patience. I look forward to next summer seeing old friends and making new friends."

Gordon: "Well, another year under the belt, and a very productive one at that. I would like to acknowledge all the servant groups from this past summer for all of their hard work as well as their great ideas from the survey. We were able to accomplish a lot of projects this year and the Mission grounds look great. Our community workers also got good comments from the people here, and wonder if they are coming back. We look forward to your return for the summer of 2007." **Blue Thunder Bird Man in White Cloud**

Tom: "I would like to extend my thanks to all you who were able to come out to Our Saviour's Luther Church-Rocky Boy and who participated in work projects around the Mission and in the community. Also a thanks to those who put on the Bible Study programs, as this involved a lot of preparation work prior to your visit. You all are responsible for making my first summer here at Rocky Boy a memorable one, sometimes a bit stressful as it was my first one here, but always a heart filled one of working alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ that have a heart for this mission. Thank you for your patience and understanding when I did not know the answers to your questions. I look forward to the summer of 2007 with great anticipation of what the Lord has in store for us all; and the chance to meet new friends made this last summer."

AMBASSADOR 1000 UPDATE

Pastor Barden was called to Our Saviour's Lutheran on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in the Summer of 2005. He found a mission without the necessary funds to carry forward the ministry that is before the church to do, and he found a congregation very depleted in regular involvement and attendance. In summary, he says, "We have a congregation without a mission, and we have a mission without a congregation." There is a lot to do in developing the present base of only a few active members, and in expanding the mission support to meet current needs.



Support has been marvelous over the years from congregations and from individuals all over the country. Special gifts have enabled the ministry to develop new things from time to time, but the overall support has not kept pace with increasing needs, rising expenses and potential ministry. The campaign was initiated to increase the support base through word of mouth support from current contributors. It was designed so that a few might be more evangelical about finding new support while recognizing that many might just find one or two to join them in supporting this ministry.

If	20 Supporters	each recruited	5 Ambassadors	that would be	100
If	50 Supporters	each recruited	4 Ambassadors	that would be	200
If	100 Supporters	each recruited	3 Ambassadors	that would be	300
If	200 Supporters	each recruited	2 Ambassadors	that would be	400

So then only 370 supporters would average 2.71 Ambassadors and the total would easily reach the goal of **1000 new Ambassadors** committed to this ministry! And then, if **an additional 1000 Supporters** each recruited **1 Ambassador** it would quickly double the goal! We believe this is a very realistic goal...it somewhat follows the old mission method of "each one tell one." Please let us know if you have already recruited new support or plan to in the weeks to come—we would like to recognize this help you are providing.

As of the end of November 1, 2006, we have 37 of the 1000 new "ambassadors" pledging \$4880.00 of which we have received \$3100.00. We have to estimate because not all people identify themselves as *Ambassadors 1000* contributors, and we have had some additional contributions from other connections. In addition, a few people have requested special giving through their congregation, either through annual budget, Lent/Easter offerings, or other fundraising. We are confident that as the year concludes and a new year begins, more *Ambassadors* will begin to participate as current supporters spread the word.

We are grateful for those who have already been champions for the Rocky Boy mission: a leader in the women's assembly in Illinois who has secured additional support from area women's groups and individuals; a pastor in Montana who has assured continued monthly partnership from the congregation he serves; a person in Pennsylvania who supported the truck fund and encouraged others to do so; some folks in Washington State who not only have arranged special offerings from their churches, but are developing a Servant Group for 2007; an elder in Washington whose love for books translated into a gift for our emerging library; a retired pastor in Arizona who has become an "Ambassador Plus!" with contributing through his own giving, addressing the congregation he attends, and making contacts in his community.

There is on the website www.oslcrb.org information and a form to complete regarding *Ambassadors 1000*. Interested persons may go there or call us about the need for financial resources or ways to help with this campaign.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND COMPARISON

<u>Year-to-Date as of November 1st</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
<u>Total Income:</u>	<u>\$ 150,993.86</u>	<u>\$ 103,937.92</u>
Major Areas:		
General Donation	\$ 119,212.86	\$ 76,464.39
Servant Groups	\$ 7,534.54	\$ 14,283.25
Sunday Offering	\$ 17,220.52	\$ 7,685.94
Ambassador 1000	\$ 2,175.00	\$ 475.00
Other	\$ 4,850.94	\$ 5,029.34
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>\$ 169,731.73</u>	<u>\$ 132,292.52</u>
Major Areas:		
Benevolence	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 4,849.00
Scholarships	\$ 5,193.15	\$ 5,181.10
Capitol Improvement/Building Maintenance	\$ 21,670.81	\$ 16,893.03
Servant Groups	\$ 4,820.13	\$ 10,742.23
Payroll	\$ 41,669.59	\$ 44,052.36
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 58,312.70	\$ 21,040.41
Other	\$ 35,265.35	\$ 29,534.39
<u>Net Income:</u>	<u>-\$ 18,737.87</u>	<u>-\$ 28,354.60</u>

Summary: Halfway through this year we changed over to QuickBooks Premier-Nonprofit Edition, which is an upgrade to the earlier version of QuickBooks we were using. This will allow us to better track the income/expenses as they pertain to our type of organization. The year 2007 will see some changes to the way we track our funds that will give us a better picture of the financial state of our ministry and easier to track the different categories. In the large picture of things you can see an increase in the Total Income while there is also an increase in the Total Expenses areas. The end of 2005 and the whole of 2006 has seen an increase in the Capitol Improvement/Building Maintenance category over the previous years because of the need to complete some of the projects that had been started over the years but never completed, some urgently required maintenance to the main electrical supply system to the mission and upgrades to the Log Chapel, Workshop and grounds. There is still much more that needs to be done to better prepare the buildings and premises for our ministry to the local population, the day-to-day operations, improvements for the visiting servant groups (both summer and winter). We will continue to strive to be good stewards of the generous financial support you all provide this mission and welcome any suggestions, comments or questions you might have on this report. If you want to contact me directly you can do so on my e-mail address: tom@oslcrb.org.

Tom Tucker, Bookkeeper

STAFF NEWS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Barden Loses Mother in October

Please forgive the delays in communication in October for contribution acknowledgements and for the newsletter. Pastor Barden traveled to Spokane, Washington, to visit his mother in the nursing home only to find her in her final days. He needed to return the next week for her memorial service on October 24.

Hilda ("Teddy") Barden was 90. She loved horses, having raised and shown American Saddlebreds and National Show Horses; she last drove her English Pleasure horse at the age of 79. She dressed as Mrs. Santa on horse-and-buggy for mall openings for the holiday season and enjoyed being in area summertime parades. She served as a leader in church and community in Pastor's younger years, and became the manager of the family dairy farm and later family milk business. She was always interested in her son's work as a pastor, and Our Saviour's and the ministry at Rocky Boy's was designated as one of the options for memorial to her.

Rae Stewart

Rae Stewart, our coordinator for the Give-Away Store and for the Servant Groups, has been approved as a donor for a kidney for her sister. This has been in the process of being scheduled, but has been delayed for a time due to some complications with her sister's health. Please pray for them as they continue on this hopeful venture for renewal and healing.

Tami Big Knife

Many of the Our Saviour's constituency and Servant Groups know Tami Big Knife who was the Administrative Assistant for this ministry for about four years. Tami's husband, Shawn, will begin a new position with the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon in December. Tami, Shawn and family will be moving to Madras, OR. They will be missed for their commitment and involvement in the life and ministry of Our Saviour's.



OUR NEW WEB SITE:
WWW.OSLCRB.ORG

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church-Rocky Boy
A Congregation of the ELCA on The Rocky's
Boy Indian Reservation
RR1 Box 1070 Box Elder, MT 59521-9728**

Return Service Requested

N E W W E B P A G E U P D A T E b y T o m T u c k e r

I would first of all like to offer my apologies to those who were looking for the daily photos from the Summer Servant Groups on our web site but found them not to be there. I did not get the layout and procedure quite set up before the hectic activity of summer arrived and found myself too distracted and busy to finish this particular project. I am sorry for any disappointment that you might have experienced; but I will have it up and running for this next summer.

My using the web site over the last year (I even used it in discussions with the flooring supplier for the New Church flooring replacement during a meeting in Great Falls) has shown me areas in which it needs much improvement and information that is obviously lacking or needs updating; areas I hope to rectify in phases over the winter months. Please check back every month or so and see what is new. Also, please e-mail me at: tom@oslcrb.org if you have any comments (positive or negative) or things you would like to have there.

Projects I am going to work on this winter:

- Inclusion of church websites that wish to have them, especially those that are partnering with us. If you want your church site linked please let me know.
- Section for staff "bio's" and a photo.
- Better directions, including a map, on how to find us if you happen to be in North Central Montana!
- More information on the Rocky Boy's Reservation history and possible links that are approved by the Tribal Council.
- Current and future project needs and status with photos, expenses to date and donations received. This will hopefully be a good tool for those churches or individuals who want to partner in a specific project and will help in getting a team together with the needed skills.
- Get some information on the history of the Lutheran Mission and put in some of the old photos that were so kindly scanned for us a couple of years ago by one of the Servant Group members.
- Change out the photos for a more current and "seasonal" look from around the Reservation.