



# Tee Pee Smoke



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-ROCKY BOY  
A CONGREGATION OF THE ELCA ON THE ROCKY BOY'S INDIAN RESERVATION  
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## IT'S TIME: 2007 SUMMER SERVANT GROUPS

The time is almost here again when we at Our Saviour's are blessed with the arrival of the Summer Servant Groups. While these groups are busy in their home churches doing fund raising, team building, travel arrangements and other preparation tasks, we here at Rocky Boy are busy getting contacts made for community projects, projects here at our facility, getting buildings ready and all sorts of other small details. It is a time of great expectation for us, and we hope also for the groups coming out this summer.

We are always happy to get together with friends from previous visits and the excitement of meeting new friends who are coming for their first visit. Some of the opportunities that are being discussed for the groups this summer are focused more on the community this summer, with only a couple of projects we would like to have done around the Mission. The main project here on the facility grounds is the preparation and painting of the exterior of the log Chapel. We want to restore it so it looks like the photo at the top of this page, complete with the white chinking between the logs. This will take a few groups as it will involve scraping the loose paint off first and then painting the main color with the white being painted at the end. We hope that a couple of the groups will

*(Continued on page 8)*

## 2007 SUMMER GROUPS SCHEDULE

**Groups Scheduled for Summer of 2007**

**June**  
June 11-19 St. Joseph Church of Downers Grove, IL

**July**  
July 1-6: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rochester, PA  
July 9-19: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Downers Grove, IL  
July 22-28: Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Renton, WA  
July 22-28: Kent Lutheran Church of Kent, WA  
July 29-August 5: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Telford, PA

**August**  
August 7-15: Zion Lutheran Church of Marietta, PA  
August 7-15: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD

## **SERVANT GROUP HOSTING CALLS FOR CHANGES IN ARRANGEMENTS**

A review of our summer income and expenses over the last two to three years revealed that we were spending various out-of-budget amounts to host our Servant Groups. A cost analysis of basic expenses and a totaling of special cultural activities indicated that where we thought we were “breaking even” we actually were “losing money.” We actually have had a good feeling about what we were providing and it fulfilled a part of our “giving spirit” here on the reservation. However, given our own deficits, it seemed not a wise approach since we have had to utilize reserves to help make these things happen. We found the overextending to be mainly in providing special trips to town or to points-of-interest and in providing cultural experiences with Native American crafts, dancing and information. In some situations, we had underestimated the cost of buying supplies and preparing meals.

The staff opted to make changes in registration forms and to provide spaces for choices as to what kinds of activities a visiting group might wish and to indicate an appropriate amount for what it would have cost us to provide those things. We also provided more definitive options for food purchase and preparation so that there would be greater clarity around what were receiving and spending for groups to be here. Groups can bring their own staff for providing meals, or they can let us know and we can contract out for a cook or designate staff time accordingly, or some combination to those choices.

We have also looked at ways that we can manage projects and fund materials as well as supervision. From a list of needed projects and helpful tasks, groups can select things to do which might meet their level of skills or personal interests. People have different ideas about how they would like to serve, and people bring a wide variety of training to offer through their service. Some serving can be done with little or no cost beyond personal time and effort. Other serving requires careful planning and special supplies. Some groups have expressed a desire to do fund raising to develop a specific project along with the support needed for their travel, food, and housing just to make the trip.

These efforts are being tried for this Servant Group season in order to increase the quality of relationships and effectiveness of the visiting groups. We will be seeking feedback and suggestions as to how to improve our program for groups of either youth or adults who wish to reach out in their own faith and come here to serve. We will continue to do what we can to provide genuine experiences of Native American culture as well as first-hand exposure to contemporary reservation life.

## **“ WEDNESDAY SCHOOL ” OFFERS ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** *by Pastor Barden*

Our Saviour’s is exploring a different pattern for reaching out to children and families. Usual Sunday School classroom-oriented approaches don’t seem to be helpful to people. The notion of a middle-of-the-week time of activities, sharing and a meal together all around a theme of spirituality or values is being tested as a way of giving children a priority for learning, attention and support, and with them their parents or guardians. Tribal Elders are invited in to share something of Traditional Ways, teachings and stories to connect the children with similar themes in their natural heritage. The vision is that eventually this format could be a weekly event following their time at school.

The first effort was set at Halloween with the theme of “All the Saints.” It offered an opportunity not only to explain the original religious background to Halloween, but also to talk about what happens to us after we die. We talked about the “journey to the other side” and “eternal life” as well as the heavenly spirits, angels and “being with God.” Children listened attentively to sitting with Pastor Barden and with the Elders. The craft was decorating a miniature pumpkin and thinking about some who had ‘gone on’ before us. Considerable interest was expressed in this activity, though a change of calendar led to conflicts; yet, five families with 8 children from little ones through high school participated.

The second effort was a Christmas event. Eight families plus two from a neighboring church in Havre brought a total of 33 children. Some children “acted out” the Nativity Story as it was told by Pastor Barden. Activities included decorating their own “Christmas bag” which then they were able to go through a line and fill with selected toys and goodies. A drawing was held for the adults for the table candle-based center pieces. While the children were making their Christmas bags, the adults gathered in a Talking Circle about the “highs” and “lows” of the Christmas season.

The third experience focused on the theme of “Our Heart of Love” on Valentines Day. Some new families brought different concerns and perspectives, and the topics seemed just right to serve the children in a time of loving fun and the adults in meaningful sharing. The activity was making cardboard heart-shaped Dream Catchers which were uniquely decorated with crayons and colored markers, and proudly taken home. A drawing was held for the stuffed animal used in the teaching time, a soft bright red dog named *Agape* (the New Testament Greek word for Love) and there were enough table candles and heart shaped boxes of candy for each family to take one home. Seeing people experience something of God’s Love and share Love with one another, inspired a congregation member to write an article about the evening for the monthly Tribal Newsletter.

## ALL WE NEED IS LOVE *by Nolan Billy*

The Beatles immortalized the famous line “all we need is love” in one of their hit rock-n-roll songs, and that is exactly what took place at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church on February 14, 2007. Many family members from Rocky Boy participated in a Valentines party that was hosted by Our Saviors Lutheran Church’s pastor, congregation, and staff members. The theme of the party was LOVE.

The party was kicked off with a prayer from Pastor Barden, which was then followed by a lesson for the youth from 1 Corinthians in the New Testament. The children were enthralled with the story Pastor Barden shared with them. Pastor Barden used a stuffed dog named Agape to illustrate the point of his teaching about God’s love for us and our love for one another. Agape is an ancient word from the Greek language which means love.

The Valentine party goers were then treated to pizza and sodas that were gifted by Mary Ruth St. Pierre. After the pizza and soda meal was eaten and the tables were cleared, the children were then treated to a craft making session which consisted of making heart shaped dream catchers for their friends and family. While the children made their crafts the adults took part in a Talking Circle. The topic of the Talking Circle was what Valentines Day meant to them. Many moving and meaningful issues were shared within the group. After all of the festivities were done with a drawing was held for the stuffed dog, and Tashina Hobbs, daughter of Correta and John Hobbs, Jr., won the red velvet dog, Agape. Laughter and joy filled the building and that is no better sign of sharing and love.

Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians which presents love as the best of God’s gifts to his people was the theme of the party. One does not have to follow Christianity to understand what love for Creator, family and friends means to them. This is a universal emotion that is felt by all of human kind. While I was in a sweat with Kenny Writing Bird and Kelly Eagleman, I was moved by the wisdom each of these men spoke. Kenny Writing Bird said it did not matter what religion one chooses to follow, all that matters is as human beings we are giving homage to Creator. And Kelly Eagleman said that we can pray all we want but if we do not help our prayers we are not going to get anywhere. As members of the human race and as members of the Chippewa Cree tribe we have to love and respect each other.

As a member of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and the Rocky Boy Tribe I would like to say that we are constantly trying to put together gatherings that include all peoples from Rocky Boy and beyond. I love my Creator, heritage, family, and my people and when Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church holds community gathering for the families of Rocky Boy. And all we the congregation and staff of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church are saying is come and enjoy the fellowship that God has given to us as people who love and care about our fellow human beings. A very, special thanks goes out to Rae Stewart, Susie Sutherland, Elsie Mitchell, and Carol Barden for their time and effort in making Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church Valentines Party a success. And all we needed was LOVE.



“Natalye” busy decorating her Dream Catcher.

“Kazmira” proud of her big smile and happiness.



“Kazmira” proudly showing off her heart-shaped Dream Catcher.



“Tasheena” proudly holding her door prize: “Agape”

## Raising Up Easter

Dear Friends of Rocky Boy's,

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church exists in a unique setting for ministry. We sit here with a history that goes back to the 1920s when believers from as far away as Eastern Pennsylvania reached westward to care about the people on this newly formed reservation. The population originally was about 400 people, and grew to about 2000 by the 1950s. The Lutheran Mission was the hub of community activity, cultural fellowship and social support. The Mission served as the post office, offered educational opportunities, stimulated early sports, and even provided practical health care. A Chippewa-Cree man named Malcolm Mitchell knew English and served as interpreter for general communication and for Christian worship and teachings.



In 1958, the mission became a formal congregation. People identified themselves as "Lutherans" and were recognized as a part of the national Lutheran Church. The primary support continued to come from people not only from Pennsylvania, but all over the country. In the 1990s, Servant Groups began to come from congregations from several states. Cabins were built, as well as a new church.

Around us, the reservation changed over time. Our own government was developed. We have our own medical clinic and social services, our own schools and college, and our own recreation program and fitness center. What will be the focus of the life and ministry of the congregation in the years to come? How will we connect with the spiritual and cultural heritage that is the very strength and identity of the Chippewa-Cree and others who live here? Is there a way we can contribute to a spiritual base which will uphold and enrich people growing in their Traditional Ways and Native Pride? Is there a way we can give care and support for those in need and provide assistance and encouragement for people who strive here to balance living in both worlds of their local community and the larger society? How can—how *should*—the Gospel of Jesus and the Resurrection be "raised up" here in words and deeds, programs and services?

Part of the issue is money, as you well know. With just the minimal staff we have and the consistent expenses before us, we are averaging \$2,000 to \$5,000 shortfall per month. In years past, local staff hours were greatly reduced over the winter to help make budget. But, there is too much to do, too many things that need maintenance.

It has been my joy to discover the depth and breadth of Indian ways. Religion for the people here is not a separate category of our life as it is for those of us of Western ways. It is a way of life. It is all of life. It is everything in life. To discover these things has caused me to be renewed and lifted up in my own faith in the Word of the Lord in our own scripture. Our faith is a way of life, too, in all of life—everything in life.

Eternal life is not just a doctrinal view of some place in the future. The Resurrection of Jesus is for every day of life—here as well as hereafter. When I see people here entrust their lives to God in Jesus' Name, I see that they have raised up within themselves new understandings and new life, in addition to and along with their Native heritage. The Easter story raises up God's love through our mission and ministry. We value your continued partnership in carrying forth God's Work here on the reservation. We thank you for all you send, both in goods and in dollars. It helps us to live—everyday. May the Lord bless you and yours with a Happy Easter!

**FACILITY EXISTING PROJECT STATUS** by Tom Tucker



**Walkways**

Update: This summer we will be doing some repair to the new concrete from the winter and settling of material, as well as a problem caused by the two different consistencies of concrete supplied by the concrete supplier. Most of this material we already have on hand and it is just a matter of labor time.

Needs: We would like one or more of our summer servant groups to take ownership of the front areas and maybe come up with some landscaping ideas. You can find more information in the "Summer Projects" article in this newsletter.

<b><u>Financial Status</u></b>	
Expenses:	\$ 2,567.37
Donations:	\$ 2,567.37
Balance:	\$ ZERO



**Log Chapel**

Update: We have not done any other work on the Chapel this winter, other than enjoying the time of worship we have in there. The new windows, attic insulation and new heater have been a great improvement to the environmental comfort.

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. We are hoping that a couple of our summer groups will express the desire to help in this exterior cleaning and painting. We will need to know soon so we can reserve the scaffolding.

<b><u>Financial Status</u></b>	
Expenses:	\$ 8,806.74
Donations:	\$ 8,856.74
Balance:	\$ 50.00



**Cabins**

Update: Nothing was done on the cabins over the winter due to a lack of funds and the inability to heat. We still have not been able to connect the septic tank to the Reservation sewer system. This earlier photo shows the wind damage (70 mph gusts) to the roofing of one of our cabins; subsequently this winter we had another series of heaving winds and now the black tar paper visible in this picture has been torn away.

Needs: . 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.

<b><u>Financial Status- Electrical</u></b>	
Estimate:	\$ 5,194.20
Donations:	\$ 180.00
Balance:	— \$ <b>5,014.20</b>

**New Church**

Update Floor Replacement: The new flooring material and adhesive are now onsite and work will begin on March 22 in the removal of the existing damaged flooring material. The contractor will be onsite on March 28th to install the new flooring and it is projected to take 2 days unless the sub-floor has defects. Gordon and Tom will be moving all the chairs, tables, piano, organ, fireplace and all other items and then they will be removing the existing flooring in preparation for the contractors. We hope to have the building all back in operation by April 6th.

Needs: (1) We need help financially in obtaining the additional amount that is required for the difference in the residential and commercial upgrade material for the floor replacement.

<b><u>Financial Status</u></b>	
Expenses:	\$ 14,747.00
Donations:	\$ 13,839.50
Balance:	— \$ <b>907.50</b>

**Metal Maintenance Shop**

Update: The Maintenance Shop survived the winter months in great shape with the new insulation, sheetrock, lighting, shelving, garage door, man door and of course the new propane heater. It has really helped Gordon out in keeping the snow clearing equipment readily at hand and warm. The stocking of the shelves is a continuing project that will be completed prior the summer season. We will be purchasing some storage containers over the next couple of months to better organize the smaller items.

Needs: Currently we are in a lot better shape than in the past and we would like to focus our financial blessings and efforts on some of the other buildings at the mission; such as the new church flooring replacement and the cabin electrical upgrade so we can put in space and hot water heaters.

<b><u>Financial Status</u></b>	
Expenses:	\$4,637.15
Donations:	\$5,237.15
Balance:	\$ 600.00

## TABLES AND CHAIRS MEET AT OUR SAVIOUR'S

Tables and chairs meet! It sounds like some kind of special program with a couple of unique group names. No, instead this is a very practical matter. Two different congregations, one in Montana and one in Washington State, each had some items that needed to find a new home., and those items met here at Our Saviour's.

Nativity Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington, had 100 chairs of the old orange molded plastic that to them were taking up valuable storage space. They heard of our new big church here at Rocky Boy's. In May of 2006, Pastor Barden was able to pick them up in Renton and transport them to Rocky Boy's. Since then, they have provided pleasant seating for many of our people in wakes, funerals and ceremonies. They also provided a bright new arrangement for the Christmas Eve services, since all we have had are the old style brown folding chairs. Recently, the new ones were spread around rectangular tables to host our Valentine's Day Event for learning and fun for children and families.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana, discovered that several 5-foot round folding tables were not being used except to take up some needed space. A phone call to Our Saviour's put the offer "on the table" that they were in good shape, and we could receive them if we could make use of them and have a way to get them back to Rocky Boy. We have four of them already, and expect to pick up the remaining four later this month. These tables *are* a bit heavy, and we hope to obtain a specially made cart for moving and storing them, but we are very pleased to have them, especially since several of our older tables are broken down. They will help us with more seating for "eating and meeting" and at the same time utilize "the circle" common to our Native American heritage.



**New Church**

Chairs donated by Nativity Lutheran  
Church of Renton, WA



**"Fireside Room"**

Tables donated by St. John's Lutheran  
Church of Great Falls, MT

## RAE'S CORNER

**Greetings!!! First of all I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

**Give – Away Store:** We are in need of more clothes for the store. With summer coming up, we are in need of summer clothes for all ages and sizes! I would like to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** to all our supporters for the Give-Away Store!

**Christmas 2006:** This Christmas, Our Saviour's reached out to fifteen families, which totaled out to 78 individual gifts! In the past we have tried to give out as many gifts as possible, but there were so many that our gifts were limited. So now, we are looking towards 2007 Christmas planning. Thank you, to all who have sent items for the gifts.

**Layette's:** For the year 2006, we gave out Layettes for 62 babies and 5 sets of twins! Thanks to all you folks for your generous donations of baby items. We are always in need of baby supplies, such as diapers, lotions, shampoo and bottles etc. Also, we do need more receiving blankets, little outfits for newborns. Everything that is sent to us is used with appreciation by the new mothers. Again, Thank You!!

## FINANCIAL REVIEW AND COMPARISON

<u>Year-End Financial Report</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Y-T-D (Jan 1—Feb 28 2007)</u>
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$ 202,741.08	\$ 11,240.88
Major Areas:		
General Donation	\$ 167,130.46	\$ 8,697.03
Servant Groups	\$ 7,534.54	\$ None
Sunday Offering	\$ 19,381.80	\$ 1,343.85
Ambassador 1000	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
Other	\$ 5,494.28	\$ 200.00
 <u>Total Expenses:</u>	 \$ 194,683.79	 \$ 29,964.68
Major Areas:		
Benevolence	\$ 2,995.47	\$ None
Scholarships	\$ 6,393.15	\$ 300.00
Capitol Improvement/Building Maintenance	\$ 31,272.55	\$ 150.00
Servant Groups	\$ 4,820.13	\$ None
Payroll	\$ 48,299.66	\$ 7,293.64
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 72,379.21	\$ 11,604.88
Other	\$ 28,523.62	\$ 10,616.16
 <u>Net Income:</u>	 \$ 8,057.29	 <del>\$ 18,723.80</del>

**Summary:** If you want to contact me directly you can do so at my e-mail address: [tom@oslcrb.org](mailto:tom@oslcrb.org).

Tom Tucker, Bookkeeper

## AMBASSADOR 1000 REPORT

### Three Ways to be “An Ambassador”



In the Fall of 2005, *Ambassadors 1000* was initiated to expand our overall support base with a three part effort: *talk, pray, commit*. With this combination of enthusiastic verbal outreach, spiritually “donated” prayer power, and expressed financial commitment, we believe it could happen. A form was created for people to make note of their desire to contribute through contacting others, praying about the support, or making a new commitment. Few people have made use of that form, so we are not able to demonstrate back to all of you an indication of numbers of “ambassadors” who are conversing, praying or committing—we are just very thankful for each and every one who extends their thoughts and concern on behalf of the ministry here at Rocky Boy’s.

We do track *Ambassador* dollars, however. As of the end of February 28, we have a total of 12 “ambassadors” whom have donated a total of \$1,000.00 for this new 2007 fiscal year. We do not have a definitive total of “pledges” as some of our partners have not filled out the *Ambassadors 1000* form but have noted with their giving for 2007 that they want the amount to be included in the *Ambassadors 1000* program. We are grateful for the people who have extended their financial support in connection with *Ambassadors 1000*. We need others who will commit to contacting people they know who may have a heart for ministry on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation, and we need others who will commit to praying that our support grow to an adequate new level.

We believe that over time, we will reach the goal of 1000 people committing at least \$25.00 per calendar quarter. If and when that happens, we will have added \$100,000.00 to our annual support by spreading out over many people a new commitment that would total a minimum of only \$100.00 per year each. This is needed to provide a solid foundation for a sustained budget to cover our outreach ministries, basic operating expenses, pastoral services, and staffing needs.

There is on the website [www.oslcrb.org](http://www.oslcrb.org) information and a form to complete regarding *Ambassadors 1000*. Interested persons may go there or call us at (406) 395-4307 about the need for financial resources or ways to help with this campaign. If you wish to indicate that you have been or are willing to contact others or pray for our support, you may e-mail us at [office@oslcrb.org](mailto:office@oslcrb.org) or drop us a note at Our Saviour’s Lutheran, R.R. 1-- Box 1070, Box Elder, MT 59521.

By Pastor Barden



OUR NEW WEB SITE:  
WWW.OSLCRB.ORG

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church-Rocky Boy  
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**Return Service Requested**

S U M M E R S E R V A N T G R O U P ( C O N T I N U E D F R O M P A G E 1 )

pray on this and feel the urge to help in this “restoration” project. It will be a wonderful thing to see the old Chapel look like the photo once again. It would also be nice for some in the groups that are talented in landscaping to look at and design something for the newly formed “planter areas” around the new concrete walkways.

The community projects we are discussing involve coordination with the Tribal Housing Department for work in specific villages including around houses and the village community spaces like picnic and play areas. These projects will involve work like trash pickup, weed removal, lawn mowing, possible painting and anything else that can be done in assisting the residents that live in these villages. There also is the possibility of berry gathering for some elders that use them in ceremonies and for private use; also, if the weather is right there will be the probability of bringing in hay bales on the Billy Ranch that some have helped with in the past. The biggest item to bring with you, besides your faith, is “flexibility” as all things are up to the Creator as to what will actually get done and what other needs will arise and be made known to us during your visits.