

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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

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This photo appears in
the book Border to Border published by
the Montana State Historical Society on
history of 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.*

FaceBook

You can now find Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – Rocky Boy, MT on FaceBook. Find us and “like” us!

From Pastor Linda

All-in-all it has been a busy summer & fall and a great deal occurred here. This summer we were truly blessed & had Servant Groups come from Minnesota, Montana, South Carolina & Washington. Some came in large groups and some came in small. We even had our first group comprised of 4 smaller groups – and it worked wonderfully.

There was a great deal accomplished around Our Saviour's between June & August. A lot of maintenance was done to the Big Church. The top of the front deck was replaced along most of the front steps. The entire exterior was stained. Layers of old shingles were removed from the parsonage roof and new shingles put on. The cupola on the Log Chapel was scraped and painted. Fence rails were replaced.

Our neighbors up Mission Dr, which is elderly housing, benefited from our purchase of 1 new push lawnmower and the repair of our riding lawnmower. Their lawns were mowed & weed-whacked by many of the “servants” throughout the summer. Several other elders in the community also had their lawns periodically mowed and weed-whacked.

We had 4 weeks of VBS Day Camp with 14 different counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. There were 56 children who registered altogether, with the largest daily attendance being about 30.

There was a 2-week Seminary Cross-Cultural Immersion Experience in August. Nine students attended from Luther and Wartburg seminaries.

Our Saviour's is often the place the community looks to have wakes and funerals. This past summer several of the elders in the community passed on to the next life. We mourn the passing of their knowledge & experience from among us, but rest in the hope of God's grace & mercy for his children. But there was great sadness at the passing of the young, too. For those deaths, we can only come to the Creator asking for acceptance, if not understanding, in the midst of lives that seem to have ended too soon.

I am part of the Women of the ELCA “Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality” racial justice team in Montana. I am honored to have been asked to do several workshops so far this year. In June 2010 the Montana Synod approved the Apology to the Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the United States. On October 7th, Bishop Jessica



parsonage roof and new shingles put on. The cupola on the Log Chapel was scraped and painted. Fence rails were replaced.



Crist and several other local Lutheran pastors and lay people attended the Chippewa Cree Tribal Council meeting. The apology was given, along with a special star quilt and gifts of tobacco and sweet grass to the Tribal Council. The Apology can also be found on the Montana Synod website at <http://www.montanasynd.org/Apology/MontanaApology.pdf>.

I have not talked about all of the things that have gone on because many have written of their own experiences here for you to read and enjoy.

May God – Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit bless you all – now and always!

A Wonderful Opportunity from Thrivent Foundation

We have received a \$5,000 Economic Outreach Bridge Grant from the Thrivent Foundation. This grant will enable us to continue the flood remediation work in the basement of the Mission House. We look forward to making the Rummage Sale Room a dry, healthy and safe place for year-round use.

Along with that initial grant, we have the opportunity to receive another grant that will be matched up to \$10,000. These funds will be used for our outreach programs - Rummage Sale Room, layettes, diapers, etc. The donations that will be matched must be received between Nov. 1, 2011 and Jan. 31, 2012. Please indicate on your donation it is for the Thrivent EOB Grant. Though we would love to take pledges (and we will), the funds must actually be in our hands by Jan. 31, 2012.

We ask for your prayers concerning this. If it is possible give an additional gift to Our Saviour's to meet this wonderful goal, it would greatly appreciated.

A bulletin insert and/or flyer will soon be posted on our website. If you are willing to make an announcement to your congregation concerning this, please do. Or, if you do not have access to the Internet, call. We will send you one by mail that you can reproduce. If you have questions do not hesitate to call, write, or e-mail.

A “New-to-Us” Copier

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

One of our Mission Partner congregations looked at our Wish List last spring & called Pastor Linda to say, “We have mission funds to give. Write a letter to us by Sept. 1 telling us of one or two specific needs – & look at the more expensive things.” Pastor Linda wrote the letter & almost by return e-mail got a note from the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, OH, saying, “The check is in the mail.”

A generous donation was made that enabled us to purchase the copier on which this TeePee Smoke was reproduced. It is with grateful thanks we acknowledge this donation and include a picture of the “new-to-us” copier with Janice Parker, our bookkeeper.



Stretching Our Wings – TeePee Trails Newsletter

In the month of November, Our Saviour's started a new monthly newsletter, TeePee Trails, that will be going out to our community. November's issue talked about All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day & All Souls Day. An invitation was issued for all to come and light candles in memory of loved ones who have walked on into eternal life.

The newsletter shared that we have a prayer list that we pray through together every Sunday to which we would gladly add a name given to us. We also reminded the people of some of our other ministries – layettes and diapers.

We look forward to this being a learning/teaching tool to talk about things like what are Advent and Lent and why do we as Lutherans celebrate them.

Getting the new copier has made a task like this much easier to do. Making 725 2-sided copies is now a breeze and the machine will do a certain amount of folding, too.

Please keep us in prayer as we do more outreach in different ways into our community.

A Reminder for All You Generous Givers

Please make sure to include your name and return address inside when you send a package or box. Often things get sent from a mail store of some sort and do not include this information. Then, sadly, we often have no idea where those donations have come from. So, if you have not received a thank-you note from us, we apologize and thank you now!

Renewing the Vision

This past Spring Rev. Gordon Straw, Director of Native American-Alaska Native Ministries for the ELCA, visited us. During this time we affirmed our new Mission and Vision Statements we had written with Liz Gaskins, President of the AI-AN Association.

Mission Statement - "We are a Christ-centered community of faith that lives, shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!"

Vision Statement - "We seek to faithfully fulfill God's call by proclaiming Jesus to the people in our families, neighborhood, community, and world through worship, family ministry, Christian education, fellowship, stewardship of creation and mission outreach of the glory of God.

Our time with Gordon went well and we look forward to stronger, more focused ministry on our reservation.

2011 Summer Servant Groups

We at Our Saviour's and others on the Rocky Boy's Reservation want to thank every person who came & was part of a 2011 Summer Servant Group. Accompaniment with our ministry has been and continues to be invaluable to us. Thank you and God's blessings!

Messiah Lutheran Church, Mauldin, SC – June 18-23, 2011

Feeding the Elders, Rocky Boy's Agency, MT – June 25-July 2, 2011.

Christ English Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN – July 9-14, 2011

St Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows, Tacoma, WA – July 23-28, 2011

Sewing Ladies, Platteville, WI – August 20-27, 2012.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Butte, MT & **Montana Synodical Women's Organization** Board members – August 20-25, 2011

Meet Elsie Mitchell

My name is Elsie Mitchell. I am a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy, Montana. I was baptized by Dr. William Gable about 71 years ago at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. My grandfather, Malcolm (Yellow Bird) Mitchell was a long time interpreter of the ministry. He interpreted the English words into Cree. As a teenager he worked for a white rancher. He was unable to speak a word of English but by daily contact with fellow workers, he quickly gained a speaking knowledge of the English language, including profanity. His boss was a Christian. When they worked together, Malcolm picked up on numerous swear words. His boss had to explain the difference between the bad and the good words.

In 1950, the Reverend John E. Dehaan became the third missionary at Our Saviour's. I worked as a baby sitter and part-time housekeeper for the Dehaan's. After high school graduation, Pastor Dehaan sent me to Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska. I never liked school so I only lasted two years.

At the age of 21, I became an aid in the Deaconess Service in Pennsylvania. I worked as a house parent at RiverCrest which was a school/home for mentally retarded children in Pennsylvania. This proved to be one of the most fun and rewarding experiences of my life.

Because of the Dehaan's, I have seen most of the northern half of the United States and parts of Europe. This would not have been possible without their help.

Meet Dominic Meyers

Boozhoo' (Hello), Indaw (I am) Having a Sundance Whistle, Indaw (I am) Anishinaabeg (Chippewa or Ojibwa) and Neiyahw (Cree), my English name is Dominic Meyers (nitsikahso-n). I seek bimaadiziwin (a good life) for my Chippewa Cree relatives at Rocky Boy and for my family and for myself. Gichi-manidoo (God Creator) has helped me and blessed me through my Chippewa Cree relatives at Rocky Boy. My great grandfather was Malcom Mitchell (Yellow Bird) a full-blood Ojibwa man who served at the Lutheran mission here at Rocky Boy. I am the first born grandson of the first born son to Donald Meyers. Bruce Meyers is my father. As majikiwiis (first born son) I know I have a responsibility to help my relatives and to be a good man, which I try to do through the help of God & his son Jesus. I must be zoongide'e (courageous) to help all my relatives here at Rocky Boy as they have helped me to realize who I am. Miigwetch (thank you).

Above I wrote some of my feelings about Rocky Boy & I used some of the Ojibwa and Cree languages, which I am trying to learn. I follow my cultural ways through dancing. I dance old style grass dance, which is a dance with a bustle on the back. I also dance contemporary grass dance which is dancing without a bustle. I have

learned these dances through the Creator and my relatives here at Rocky Boy. The grass dance was a way for warriors to tell of their courageous exploits in battle by dancing and telling a story through the dancing and honoring God Creator for his gifts.



When I was ten years old I began to go to a religious church that told my father we could not practice our culture. I was told to stop dancing and I went through a long period of not knowing who I really was. I came back to dancing in 2006 through the encouragement and help of my wife Naomi Billedeaux-Meyers, a Chippewa Cree Salish woman. She bugged me to not be so religious about my culture and to

dance was okay. It was a part of me. I thank her and I love her to this day. I still had been a believer in God and Jesus up to this point just religious though.

When I began to dance for the first time again my heart was happy. I had a very spiritual experience that showed me a way to still worship my God and Jesus and yet be an Indian man and practice my culture through dancing, a way to honor my culture through honoring God for his gift of dance to me and my Indian people. I follow the Jesus Way and I am still an Indian man who dances for the Creator God.

Dominic Meyers is working on a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at University of Montana, Missoula which is focusing on the history of the Chippewa people on the Rocky Boy's Reservation. He worships with us when he is back visiting at Rocky Boy.

ELCA Hunger Grant for 2011

Doing ministry in any community has many different facets and the ministry at Our Saviour's is no different. In an effort to meet one special need on the Reservation, a 2011 ELCA Hunger Grant was applied for and received. The stated object of the grant was to provide locally-grown fresh food – vegetables, fruits & eggs – to the 25 most needy families on the Reservation as identified by the Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program. As the food is to be fresh, distribution was geared to occur during the growing season.

As we all know through life experiences, plans sometimes have to be laid aside in the face of greater need. In June 2011, there was once again flooding on the Reservation. A decision was made to use these funds to help those most affected, particularly the elders in our community. Though not directly caused by flooding, many who are on private wells found them to be contaminated and the water undrinkable. These were the people we sought to help.

After getting the okay from the grantor, we changed the focus of the grant and other flood relief funds we

received. The new focus was called "Feeding the Elders" and a call went out to all of the ELCA congregations in Montana for volunteers for 1 week to cook, assemble, and deliver meals to elders and other families affected by lack of potable water and flooding conditions. We had 6 volunteers from 3 congregations for various amounts of time and volunteers from the Tribe's Cultural Resource Department (CRD).

The time was intense 12 to 16 hours days for the entire week. Approximately 120 to 140 meals prepared and delivered for breakfast and dinner. Relationships were developed between volunteers and recipients. Needs were met.

We heard from many who received the meals how grateful they were. We pass along the thank-you to those who made special donations to help meet this need.

Reflections on Serving by Abby Eichenberger from Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bozeman, MT

Abby Eichenberger (an incoming high school senior) and her mom, Bonnie, prepared and delivered meals to elders affected by flooding as an outreach project of Our Savior's from June 25 to July 2.

When my mom and I entered Rocky Boy's Reservation for a week of volunteer work, we didn't know that we were entering into an entirely different world, set apart from the world that we knew, and we did not know what to expect. We didn't expect to be surrounded by stories of people whose lives appeared broken and breaking, whose families were hungry and sick, but yet whose hearts were still beating with gratitude and love that far surpassed the outward shell of brokenness. But that is what we found. Up at 6 am in the morning each day and cooking and delivering meals until 10 pm each night was frustrating and testing at times and every minute of it was a challenge.

The most memorable part of the journey was visiting the homes of the elders we were feeding meals to. Most houses were run-down, dirty, cluttered, yards full of dogs, cars and kids. The first house we drove up to seemed a



little scary to enter. And with a loud shout at me to come in, it appeared to be a place of danger, bitterness and fear. However, this is quite the

opposite of what we found behind the doors of the homes. Genuine gratitude and kindness without shame or embarrassment radiated from the elders and young ones alike. I felt blessed to be welcomed into their presence and privileged to feed them a meal. This honest gratitude naturally comes from their genuine need; however, it seemed to be more than ordinary thankfulness. The gratitude they expressed to us for our visit appeared to be a conscious choice each person made when they asked us to come in.

The combination of obvious need and crystal clear gratitude caused an aching in my heart for each person behind the door and a longing to serve them, bless them, pray for them and love them MORE, which began to humble me and mold my heart to better reflect that of my Savior with each door I knocked on. This process was deeply satisfying for me because the truest desire of my heart is to be consumed with the Lord, refined in His fire and shaped to properly represent Him to the people God calls me to reach out to. Romans 6:22 says, "But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification." My Bible dictionary defines sanctification as: the act of God by which a believer conforms more and more to the image of Christ. This lights up my soul.

The thing about sanctification, however, is that it is a process of being humbled, and it's no longer about me. It's about the receiver of the service, the least of these. It's about them being blessed and welcoming Jesus into their home (as Matthew 10:40 says, "whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me."). It's about the fact that the Spirit dwells in Rocky Boy and that He is working miracles there every day. That a seed might now be planted in the heart of one non-believer or that a family can get by easier for another week. Humility and sanctification allow for me to disregard myself and my desires, good or bad, and to rejoice in the work that is being done in the Lord's name. Blessings have a way of bouncing back without creating excess arrogance, pride, or selfishness. It is freedom, and cannot be found anywhere but in the courts of God. This is my prayer, that as the Lord uses us as a light, His glory alone would be illuminated, and that mine would be hidden. To Jesus be all the glory and praise for having compassion on people of all nations, tribes and cultures; for humbling Himself for the sake of the Cree and Chippewa Nations, that they might have an example to live by and true and great freedom in His name.

ELCA Deaconess Community Grant for 2010-2012

Our Saviour's has been blessed to receive a 3-year grant from the ELCA Deaconess Community. Summer 2011 was the 2nd year. We were pleased to have Sister



Ruth Ellen Rebelein come and spend our 1st week of VBS with us.

This funding, upon which our VBS program is dependent, was underfunded by about \$5,000. We

made certain cuts that allowed us to still have 4 weeks of VBS Day Camp working in partnership with Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. In all there were 14 camp counselors in 4 weeks. Additionally, this grant allowed us to hire one part-time young person from the Tribe for the June, July, and part of August.

We look forward to receiving this grant for Summer 2012 to continue to help fund VBS Day Camp and other needs during the summer months. Thank you, Deaconess Community!

Reflections from Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein

Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein (now retired) has been a deaconess since 1997 and served 14 years in the mission field in Papua, New Guinea. She is the ELCA Deaconess Community representative to Our Saviour's.

Recently I had the privilege of spending a week visiting and trying to help in small ways. What a week!

What an experience! I arrived there on a Friday. Saturday Pastor Linda and I went shopping in Havre, about 25 miles away. The following week we were going to have a servant group of 9 adults, 3 counselors from a Bible camp and who knows how many children to feed! That evening the servant group from a Lutheran church in Minneapolis arrived. Sunday evening 3 counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp arrived.

Monday morning the VBS day camp began. Most of the children were transported to and from the church by the mission van. That meant 3 or 4 trips twice a day. When the children arrived, they were given a breakfast of usually a cereal bar and box of juice. While children were arriving, the counselors kept them occupied with reading to them and playing games. When most of the children had arrived, the VBS began. The 3 counselors had been well trained by the staff of their Bible camp and had a well-written curriculum which they followed. At noon, the children were fed a good healthy meal. After lunch was wrap-up time for the day of VBS and by about 1:30 pm children were beginning to go home. By the end of the first week, more than 40 children had registered for VBS! This compares to about 7 or 8 children who came last year! Wow! This day camp will be 4 weeks long; it is actually the only Christian education ministry the congregation has, for a variety of reasons.

There is more to the ministry than a 4-week VBS day camp. Servant groups come throughout the summer. The servant group this particular week did a variety of kinds of work. Some of them did carpentry and painting; some of them helped with VBS. Every evening was a special cultural program. One evening a local woman taught us how to do beading. Another evening we were privileged to have a young Chippewa Cree girl do some traditional dances for us, dressed in traditional dress, along with a drum group of 4 teenage young men. Another evening some of the local people came to show and sell their craft work. Thursday evening was the VBS program, which consisted mostly of the children singing some of the songs they had learned. Also, on August 9 seminary students will come for a 2-week cross-cultural experience, compared with 4 students last year.

Reflections from FLBC Counselor Lisette Langdorf

Dear Friends in Christ,

This summer I was a counselor at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. It was a joy to be able to work with kids, spread the word of God and travel around the state. While

employed at camp this summer, it was my turn to spread God's love to the children of Rocky Boy's Reservation.

The ELCA Deaconess Community teamed up with FLBC and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to have counselors come to Rocky Boy for 4 weeks and teach of God's love. Each week the camp sent a team of 3 or 4 counselors to be in charge of VBS Day Camp. At VBS the children were taught that Jesus is Life. He is our savior, friend, healer, teacher, and



God's son. Each day the kids had arts and crafts that would go along with the theme - anything from Popsicle stick God's eyes to cotton ball sheep. The part the children loved the most was the music & liveliness the counselors brought. Ask the kids next time you see them what their favorite song was, and have them sing it to you. You'll be impressed.

The week that I went, was the last week of VBS. By now the kids knew all the songs, had done all of the crafts and learned the lessons. So, my team and I had to create a new week plan of studies & crafts. It was not easy to think of a new week worth's of lessons for a group of kids that I have never met, much less heard some stories about. But we were able to do it.

My week spent at Rocky Boy was a short one, but it has changed my life. Having the chance to teach these wonderful kids about God was an opportunity of a life time. I had never been on a reservation for more than a couple hours at a time, but the people of Rocky Boy welcomed us with open arms, just as they had done in weeks before. Upon arriving I could feel the welcome smiles and excitement when the kids climbed the stairs of the church. There were times throughout the day that were challenging with nearly 30 kids a day!

My team and I were surrounded by many differences, but one major thing was the same. We were learning about Jesus & the love God has for us. It warmed my heart when saying goodbye to the kids, knowing that I had touched their lives and they told us they would always remember us. Each child came from miles around to VBS, but the amazing thing was they all made it each day eager to learn and sing loud!

I have never had a more fulfilling week then I had at Rocky Boy. The stories will last me a life time. The memories will forever be in my mind & are an experience I want to share with everyone. Each time I think of Rocky Boy, I thank God that I was chosen to empower these children and teach them of God. I thank the previous counselors that also did this, FLBC for choosing us & last, but not least, Pastor Linda for helping us all through this life changing time.

I thank God every day for time that I spent at Rocky Boy.

In Peace, In Him,
Lisette Langdorf

Lisette is a 22-year old senior at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. She is an education major who has a passion to work with kids of all ages. She grew up in Helena, MT, attending St. John's Lutheran Church. This is where she took her First Communion, attended Sunday School, got confirmed, and later taught Sunday School and VBS. She has spent 3 summers as a counselor at FLBC. Lisette looks forward to teaching in small Montana town after she graduates. In her words, "God has blessed me in so many ways and given me the drive and determination to follow my dreams, because after all, its Gods work through my hands."

Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience

For the 2nd year, Our Saviour's hosted a Cross-Cultural Experience for seminarians. There were 9 students this year, 3 from Wartburg and 6 from Luther. Every ELCA seminary requires its Master of Divinity students to have a cross-cultural experience. Many of these are held in January during J-term, but winters in the Bears Paw Mountains on the Rocky Boy's Reservation make this an uncertain time to try to come here.

From August 13-28 2011, these students experienced many different things. Though not originally planned to be part of their experience, some were able to be part of a Youth Empowerment camp. They also spearheaded an impromptu rummage sale, of which 1/2 of the proceeds went to help the Youth Empowerment Program.

They were required to read several books & articles, participate in discussions and keep journals. The students met with spiritual and cultural leaders from the Tribe and participated in learning experiences off the Reservation

We will be offering a Seminary CCE twice in 2012 - May 19-June 1 and August 18-31 2012. More information is available on our website.



Layette & Diaper Ministries are On-going

The layette ministry continues to be a strong part of the ministry at Our Saviour's. Any one in the community is welcome to come and receive a layette for a newborn. This is one way we can help families and Christ is shared with others through this small gift. Donations of new items for layettes is always welcome. Baby quilts are used to "wrap" the layette items.

An emergency supply of disposable diapers, sizes 1 to 5, are given out once a month to anyone in need.

Additionally, we are sometimes given food by people. We don't have a food pantry, but keep this on-hand for when someone is in need and asks for assistance.

Bear Paw Cluster Confirmation Retreat

On Sunday, Oct. 9, confirmation kids from three of the parishes in the Bear Paw Cluster came for a retreat. A good time was had by all! Most of these teenagers had never met one another. What a wonderful thing it was to get Lutheran kids together to interact with each other.

An introduction activity and Bible Trivia contest were Pastor Linda's (Our Saviour's—Rocky Boy) part, along with organizing dinner and leading worship. Lee Christianson, one of the parents and our faithful local Thrivent rep, lead the kids in a trust exercise and analysis afterward.

Pastors Brad Ulgenes (1st Lutheran—Havre), Joel Skidlov (Christ Messiah Parish—Big Sandy and Havre), and Ellen Ayres (American Lutheran Church—Harlem, Hogeland, and Turner) went with the kids to the Chippewa Cree Wellness



Center to shoot hoops and use the exercise equipment.

Pastor Mike O'Hearn (1st Lutheran-Havre), Pastor Linda, and parents Lee Christianson and Tammie Almas stayed behind to get the hotdog and chili dinner ready. The evening ended with worship and the kids going home with new friends within the Lutheran community along the Hi-line and candy treats from the winnings at Bible Trivia.

Our Saviour's "Wish List"

This Wish List has prompted all kinds of response in the past. For that we are very thankful.

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.

- ❖ 2 used (but in good shape) 15-passenger vans.
- ❖ 1 used (but in good shape) truck.
- ❖ Freezer for the Big Church.
- ❖ Riding lawn mower.
- ❖ 1 gas, push lawn mower (2 would be great).
- ❖ Weed whacker (a 2nd one for Servant Groups).
- ❖ Snow blower.
- ❖ Mini Bobcat for year-round use.
- ❖ 1 new heavy-duty electric stove for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 new, over-the-counter microwave for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 new residential stove for the Mission House.
- ❖ 2 loads of gravel for the rear driveway behind the Big Church all the way down to the Parsonage.
- ❖ Items for layettes.
- ❖ DVD projector able to interface with a computer & TV.
- ❖ 4 to 6 8-foot plastic tables for use in the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 or 2 caddies to store the 8-foot tables.
- ❖ New and gently used clothing for the Thrift Store.
- ❖ New clothing & toys to be set aside as Christmas gifts.
- ❖ Financial support for full-time maintenance/grounds person.
- ❖ Financial support for a summer intern.

Your Spiritual and Financial Giving is Important to Us

In this time of economic stress, we cannot thank you 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 & 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 time-frame 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 and are the recipient of funds from several trusts. 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.

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.

Another option for donating directly to Our Saviour's is on-line on our website through PayPal.

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

Christmas Gifts and Giving

This year, as in the past 2 years, our Christmas gifts and giving will be focused on quilts to the elders and gifts for the foster kids on the Reservation. If you are planning on sending funds for us to purchase gifts, we ask that you send it by Dec. 1st, if possible, as we plan to buy around Dec. 8th and get things to the specific departments within that week, in order for them to deliver things to the kids before Christmas. Because of timing in the past, we have had to purchase gift cards instead of actual gifts.

We always appreciate whatever we receive in the way of gifts to give away or money to purchase things for the kids

Fair Trade Opportunity

There are many wonderful craftspeople – women, men and young people – on the Rocky Boy's Reservation. We would like to offer the opportunity to others to purchase items at fair trade prices. So, far we have done this with 1 partner congregation and with the Montana Global Mission Event. The items available vary, but include beaded earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc. or more religious items, e.g. crosses, Luther roses, etc., and paintings and drawings. We have been asked to put together a

brochure, which we will be working on which will show representative work.

Our Saviour's is very willing to partner with churches, women's groups & other organizations that are interested in this opportunity. Please contact us for more information.

2012 Servant Groups

The schedule for Summer 2012 Servant Groups is posted on our website. The 4 weeks in July that we are planning for VBS Day Camp are included. The updated forms for 2012 should be posted on the website soon. We already have 2 reservations for Summer 2012.

Servant groups, group retreats, and personal retreats are not limited to the summer months. If you are interested in coming at any other time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thrivent Choice

As you may know, Thrivent has changed how you can designate funds to be given to Lutheran ministries. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating Our Saviour's as a Thrivent Choice gift recipient this year. Click on the logo you see here on our website and designate Our Saviour's as your choice.



Through the generous designations of many of you, Our Saviour's has received \$2,022 in Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2011. Keep up the wonderful designating!

The Ambassador 1000 Program Continues



We are continuing the Ambassador 1000 program started several years ago by one of the previous pastors. 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 check our website or please write, call, or e-mail, and

we will get this out to you.

Sadly, the artist, Richard Rock, who did this painting for us, walked on into eternal life on Oct. 30, 2011.

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, as well as others. This information can be found on the Campbell's website of eligible products at –

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn/participating-products.aspx>.



You can now do e-Labels, also, if you use a grocery store or another merchant. These points can be deposited directly into our account. To check into this, search on the Internet for [eLabelsforeducation](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

Summer 2012 Construction Helpers

In the past Our Saviour's has looked to the ELCA Mission Builders to provide help with oversight on some of our Servant Group construction projects. We continue to look for individuals or couples who have construction experience who are willing to come & spend from 1 week to 1 month with us during the months of June, July, and August. Having your own RV, which can be hooked up on site is a plus. If you are interested please contact us.

Upcoming Projects

Working on the Big Church rear porch, side ramp and finishing the replacement of the front steps will be major projects for 2012. Other projects include reconfiguring & replacing the rear ramp on the Mission House, scraping & staining the dormer of the Mission House & staining the 4 cabins.

Some remodeling work needs to be done in the Big Church kitchen. This is more of an off-season project if there is a group interested! We also will be adding some closet/storage space in that building, too.

The work in the basement of the Mission House will continue in order to get the basement as water resistant as possible. The bathrooms built around the center core will have walls and elevated floors (due to the plumbing) removed. Then that part of the floor that has not been concreted will be finished and the bathrooms redone.

Always we are finding more ways to be out in the community in ways that are helpful to our elders through mowing lawns, small repair or painted projects, etc.

Upcoming Event - Women of the ELCA Immersion Event

An Immersion Event is being planned for September 15-20, 2012. Registration will be limited to 13 women from across the United States and Canada. Registration will be done through the Women of the ELCA. More information and registration information will be posted on their

website starting in March 2012. Inez Torres-Davis, Director for Justice for Women of the ELCA, will be one of the leaders.

Has your address changed? If so, please let us know.