

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
A congregation of the ELCA on the Rocky Boy's Reservation  
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**Thrivent Choice**

Thrivent Choice giving is important to us. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating Our Saviour's as a Thrivent Choice gift recipient. If you already have - Thank you! If not, you can click on the logo on our website and designate us as your choice.



Through your generous designations, Our Saviour's has received \$1,093.40 in Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2012. Keep up the wonderful designating!

**Campbell Soups Labels**

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church participates in the Campbell's Labels for Education program. We welcome you sending UPCs and bottle caps from eligible products. Information on which products qualify can be found at: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/Earn/participating-products.aspx>.



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

**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 and do not include this

information. Sadly, we have no idea who sent those donations. So, if you have not received a thank-you note, we apologize and say "thank you" now!

**The Ambassador 1000 Program**

The Ambassador 1000 program is one way we look to create a stable donor base. If you would like to participate, please indicate your pledge of support on your first donation. On your subsequent donations write "Ambassador." Thank you.



Information about the Ambassador 1000 program can be found on our website. Or, write, call, or e-mail, and we will send the information to you.

**FaceBook**

Please "Like" our FaceBook page at "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – Rocky Boy, MT".

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

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*Has your mailing address or e-mail address changed? Please let us know.*

## From Pastor Linda

Blessed Advent and happy Christmas!

There has been great joy and sadness in our lives here at Our Saviour's over the last year. Two of our beloved congregation members have passed on into eternal life. (There is more about them in this newsletter.)

We received a generous matching grant from the Thrivent Foundation, which many of you helped contribute to. This helped us make the basement in the Mission House drier and safer for regular use.

Our Servant Group ministry is continuing to grow. It changes a little every year as we see different needs and wants from our community and from the group participants.

The Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience is bringing younger and older developing church leaders to learn more about cross-cultural ministry. The Women of the ELCA continue to come for Immersion Experiences.

There are the faithful "Sewing Ladies". They have been coming for five years to teach sewing and quilting in our community.

Ministry here is changing as new needs and wants of the community are made know. Interest has revitalized in having a weekly sewing group. We, once again, are looking for donations of material, thread, and other sewing supplies that can be used in quilt-making.

We held our first Winter Bazaar on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was well attended. Besides the things we were selling, there were craftspeople who came from Rocky Boy and Havre to sell their things. Our kitchen sold muffins and soup. We all felt it was pretty successful for our first try!

The downturn in the economy over the last several years has been slowly trickling down to us. Gifts and donations are down (a negative for our budget). People are traveling less abroad and staying closer to home (a positive for our Servant Groups). Things are tighter for everyone all around. These circumstances make us more appreciative of every single gift and donation we receive and every single person who comes and participates in a Servant Event.

Thank you for being the faithful people of God you are and thank you for caring about the ministry taking place at Our Saviour's on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

## 2012 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 2012 Summer Servant Group. Accompaniment with our ministry has been and continues to be invaluable to us. Thank you and God's blessings!

Sewing Ladies, Platteville, WI – June 9-16, 2012.

Big Timber Lutheran Church, Big Timber, MT – June 23-28, 2012.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kennewick, WA – June 30-July 5, 2012.

St Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows, Tacoma, WA – July 7-12, 2012.

Prairie Star Ministries, Windom, MN – July 14-19, 2012.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Telford, PA – July 21-26, 2012.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downers Grove, IL – July 28 - August 2, 2012.

## 2013 Servant Groups and Other Events

The schedule for Summer 2013 Servant Groups is posted on our website. The middle two weeks in July are when we plan to have VBS Day Camp. Groups interested in working with VBS should plan to come one of those two weeks. The updated forms for 2013 will be posted on the website by January 1, 2013.

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.

## Meet Allan Crain

*[Since this tribute was written by Allan's daughter, Lisa, he passed away on November 23, 2012. We have included this because we would still like you to know Allan. He will be greatly missed.]*



Allan Crain is the oldest male church member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. He is also the oldest male on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

Allan is a veteran of World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a school teacher to many

people on the reservation. He loves wildlife and spends as much time as he can in his yard.

Allan's earliest memories of the Lutheran Church are of listening to sermons in the Finnish language in Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania when he was four years old. Allan was confirmed in Nanty Glo's Finnish Lutheran Church. The church didn't have a full-time pastor but the family went every Sunday that they did have a pastor.

Allan has been a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for 63 years. His earliest memory of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church was the walking to Church from his home in Haystack School (which is about 3 miles).

Allan's words of wisdom for young Christians are to keep the faith and belief in Jesus as Our Savior.

## A Tribute to Betty Haaland

Betty Haaland passed on into eternal life on September 22, 2012. Even though she was over eighty years old, she worked at Our Saviour's part-time three days a week. She faithfully wrote thank-you notes to all who sent donations and gifts to our congregation.



Betty was a great correspondent and wrote letters to many of you. She developed liver cancer and had not been working here at Our Saviour's since late spring. Betty will be greatly missed by all of us!

Betty was our greatest correspondent and it is hard to fill her shoes. We apologize for the tardiness of thank-you notes being sent out as we try to fill in the gap she has left. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience**

For the third year, Our Saviour's hosted Cross-Cultural Experiences for seminarians. There were sessions in January, May, and August 2012. A total of nine students participated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA and Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Every ELCA seminary requires Master of Divinity students to have a cross-cultural experience. We do not limit this to students from Lutheran seminaries. Students from any seminary & denomination are welcome to come!

The students who attend have required reading, participate in discussion groups, listen to and interact with members of the Chippewa-Cree community, and go to several historical and interpretive centers.

If you know a seminarian who might be interested in this program, details for the May and August 2013 Seminary Cross-Cultural Experiences can be found on our website.

### **Layette and Diaper Ministries are On-going**

The Layette program is going strong and is well received by all new mothers in the community. Any new layette items are greatly appreciated. These are the items we put in a layette: 3 onesies, 10 newborn-sized diapers, 3 receiving blankets, 1 wash cloth, 1 dressy outfit, 1 small bottle of baby oil, 1 mild bar of soap (or bottle of baby soap), 3 tee shirts, 3 pairs of socks, 1 cap, 3 sleepers and or cold weather sleeper, burp cloths, 1 hooded baby towel, and 1 baby quilt (which we use to wrap everything). Other items, such as baby powder, are included as we have them on-hand. This is one way we can help families and share Christ with others through this small gift.

Through our Diaper Ministry, an emergency supply of disposable diapers, sizes 1 to 5, is given out once a month to anyone in need.

Additionally, we sometimes are given food. We do not have a regular food pantry, but keep these items on-hand for emergency situations.

### **News about the Rummage Sale Room**

Due to work around the exterior of the Mission House basement, the Rummage Sale Room has been closed since June. We thank all who have been contributing to our clothing store.

The Tribe has now opened a clothing give-away of its own at the Rocky Boy's Boys and Girls Club. Instead of

trying to compete with this, we are closing our Rummage Sale Room and will be taking those things we already have over to them to distribute.

Please continue to send you used and new clothing items to Our Saviour's. New things we will save for either Christmas gifts or our funding raising bazaar. We will see that used items are taken to the Boys and Girls Club.

Thank you for your on-going support.

### **2012-2013 Scholarship Recipients**

A number of years ago a special gift was given to Our Saviour's through someone's estate. This money is being used for educational purposes and helps to fund our scholarship program (see our website for details).

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the six scholarship stipends for this school year. They are: Kaylene Big Knife, Colton Galbavy, Mia Lame Bull, Rebeka Russette, Phillip Sutherland, and Reyan Sutherland. Congratulations!

Each student receives a monthly stipend during the regular school year, with the possibility was receiving a "bonus" at the end of each term if their GPA is above 3.5.

Information about and deadlines for applying for these scholarships can be found on our website.

### **Women of the ELCA Immersion Event**



From Inez Torres Davis –

Women of the ELCA has been coming to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Rocky Boy for a few years.

We come as often as we have enough women interested in learning about life for the Chippewa Cree to make the trip affordable.

In addition to cultural history, learning to make fry bread, and beading, this year's trip was enriched by our ability to attend Betty St. Pierre Haaland's funeral. As the staff person who handles the immersion for the ELCA's women's organization, I had the opportunity to meet Betty on more than one occasion as I visited Our Saviour's in preparation for this year's immersion experience. She was a direct woman with a clear faith. It was painful to hear of her diagnosis earlier this spring!

Our experience was enriched a hundredfold by being included in Betty's wake and funeral. It was a blessing to each of us to be present! One of our participants Kathleen West even provided the piano music for the funeral! The rest of us Lutheran women contributed what we could to the meal that followed the funeral. While it was not my first time attending a funeral at Our Saviour's, it was a special blessing for us Lutheran women to add our farewells to Betty's home-going.

While Pastor Linda attended the feast the following day, Jonathan dug and we women planted two daffodil beds in front of the mission house. We have named it the Betty St. Pierre Haaland Memorial Garden or more simply

stated: Betty's Garden. A plaque will be coming to Our Saviour's to be included along with the bird bath and pavers.

Hopefully, we will receive six more registrants for 2013; and, we will be able to return to Rocky Boy in the fall of 2013! I want to thank everyone! Mike Lame Bull, thank you for sending Jonathan Nepoose to help and bringing your beautiful and spiritual daughter, Mia, to speak to us! Thanks to Evelyn Eagelman for once again showing her patience as we non-beaders learn to bead! Tina Wolf Chief, your talk about domestic violence reminded us that women and men everywhere must stand up against domestic violence! May God richly bless your organization's efforts! Samantha Nault, your sweetness and patience in getting all of the women to make fry bread will be a lasting treasure each time we recall our time on Rocky Boy. Kathleen Goggles and Ed Spotted Eagle, the medallions you made are treasures we will each keep for a life time!

Each of you contributed to making our immersion a success! And, thanks to Pastor Linda for being such a great host!

### **Our Saviour's "Wish List"**

We are so thankful for all the gifts that we do receive. We need:

1. A good running truck
2. A riding lawn mower
3. A 15 passenger van
4. A snow blower
5. A mini bobcat

We always need:

1. Layette items
2. Christmas gift items

Without your generosity we would not be able to continue to do God's work.

### **Thank you for Your Spiritual and Financial Support**

In this time of economic stress, we cannot thank you enough for your continued support to 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.

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

### **Becoming a Mission Partner**

Mission Partners are very important to us and we have had people ask how they or their congregation or organization can become one. There are several different ways. One is to go directly through the ELCA office in Chicago. Another is to go through the Montana Synod or through your own synod, if it is different. Lastly, you can

covenant directly with Our Saviour's. These partnerships may have a specific time-frame and/or be for a specified monetary amount. Always, any commitment involves on-going prayer and communication.

Donations can also be made on-line at our website through PayPal.

### **The Education Fund**

Donations for our Education Fund are also greatly appreciated. This fund is used for college scholarships and Vacation Bible School expenses.

### **Christmas Gifts and Giving**

This year, as in the past several years, our Christmas giving will be focused on quilts to the elders. Also, we are going to focus on one or two families from our community and give gifts to them.

### **Fair Trade Opportunity**

There are many wonderful craftspeople here – women, men and young people. We would like to offer the opportunity to others to purchase items at fair trade prices. We have done this with one 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 willing to partner with congregations, women's groups & other organizations that are interested in this opportunity. Please contact us for more information.

### **Estate Planning**

In the past this ministry has been remembered by several people in their trusts and wills. About ten years ago a donor gifted a Thrivent annuity to us and has continued to pay the premiums for us. People are being very creative in their giving to us! We ask you to prayerfully consider this ministry in your estate planning.

### **Upcoming Projects**

With the work that was done around the Mission House basement to install a French drain system, we have a number of things that need to be done to complete that job, such as re-seeding the lawn, rebuilding fences that had to be removed for the project, planting a couple of trees that will replace the large pine trees that had to come down next to the foundation.

We are looking at installing metal roofs on the four cabins we use for summer Servant Groups.

### **Closing prayer**

Thank you Lord God, for all Your past benefits and for Your promises of future mercies. Direct us so that we learn to praise you for the favors of today. Amen.