

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 \$1,382 in Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2013. Keep up the wonderful designating!

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.

FaceBook

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

Address Changes

Has your mailing address or e-mail address changed? If so, please let us know. Thanks!

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!

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 do e-Labels if you use a grocery store or merchant card. Points can be deposited directly into our account. Check this out. Find "eLabelsforeducation" on the Internet.

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

2013-2014 Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2013-2014 school year are due June 30, 2013. Policy and procedures, along with the application can be found on our website under "About Us," then "Our Ministry."

Upcoming Women of the ELCA Immersion Event

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will be hosting an Immersion Event for the Women of the ELCA from September 21-26, 2013.



Registration is through the Women of the WELCA. A minimum of six participants are needed to make the event happen. Please make plans to come!

Upcoming Vacation Bible School

Our Saviour's has been particularly blessed concerning VBS this coming summer. Through a generous grant from a family foundation and gifts from several mission partner congregations, our entire VBS program for Summer 2013 is almost completely paid for. (This program is free to the kids.)

Counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp will come for two weeks of VBS and be coordinated by Katy Freudenberg (see below). Two of our Servant groups will be working with the VBS program as well as doing other work on the Reservation.

From Pastor Linda

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Lent and Easter were an exciting time for us this year. We had a baptism on Easter Sunday and there was wonderful attendance at worship that day (14 children and young people under the age of 18 years old).

As we look forward to summer and Servant Groups arriving, there is gratitude in our hearts for those who give of their resources – time, talents, and treasures – to come and spend time with the people of Rocky Boy. The work that is done by the groups that come is amazing.

Some help around Our Saviour's as we work to maintain the 11 buildings on our site – painting, repair, and general upkeep. Some mow lawns for the elders from our community, taking our push lawn mowers and, sometimes, our riding lawn mower to various places – the elderly housing next to us or to more spread out homes. Some help remove part of our fence that is falling down and needs to be taken out. There are so many things that can be done with those willing to come and work!

There are many who cannot come because of age or family situation, but the generosity in giving from all corners of the United States sometimes overwhelms me. There are units of the Women of the ELCA who are faithful mission partners. There are congregations who support the ministry monthly, quarterly, and yearly. There are individuals who are the bedrock of our support. There are those who have given part of their estate. And, there are foundations and granting agencies that are part of our support. We could not do what we do here without any of these loving and generous gifts.

As I meet people through the notes they often write with the gifts they send, I wonder how so many people have

come to know about the ministry of Our Saviour's at Rocky Boy. I am curious and would love to know these stories and would love to share them with you here in this newsletter. These stories of faith are important to share with one another. Please, send your story of how you came to be involved with our ministry. We would love to hear it and share it!

I have one special prayer request of you. Please pray for the young people of Rocky Boy. Demographically, our population is very young. The average age is about 25 or 26 years old. Pray for the outreach of the Gospel to these young people and to the many children who are here, too.

Thank you!

With heart-felt gratitude, Pastor Linda

Meet Susan Sutherland

My name is Susan Sutherland. I am a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Box Elder, Montana. I am also an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. I am a first grade school teacher at Rocky Boy Elementary School and have been so for the last 28 years. I am married and have three grown children, Michael, Phillip, and Reyan.

When I was young, my family and I lived away from Rocky Boy and some of my earliest memories are of traveling here on family vacations with my mom and dad and my four brothers and sisters. We would stay with my grandparents, Paul and Leona Mitchell and I would dream about someday living and working here. This was always my favorite place to be.

When I was a teenager, I asked if I could live with my grandparents and go to school here. My grandmother encouraged me to go to church. I was baptized a Catholic but became interested in the Lutheran Church because they offered so many youth activities. Some of my fondest memories are of doing crafts at the church. I was confirmed at Our Saviour's before I graduated high school and have been a member ever since. I graduated in 1979 and then attended college in Missoula, Montana where I got my teaching degree. I am currently a member of the Church Council and have been so off and on for many years. I believe that Our Saviour's has so much to offer to our community. I certainly have grown spiritually throughout the years and feel very blessed and thankful for the experience.

Meet Phillip Sutherland – Graduating College Senior



My name is Phillip Sutherland. I am an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe. I attend college at Montana State University – Northern. Two years ago I was selected to receive a scholarship from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Rocky Boy, Montana. This scholarship has been helping with my college expenses and I am very grateful to the church and its members for choosing me as a recipient. I will graduate this spring with a degree in

Electrical Technology and I hope to continue to live and work here in Rocky Boy.

The Education Fund

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

One of the students we have supported through the scholarship program is graduating this spring. Phillip Sutherland is the son of Susan and Leon Sutherland. [You may have read their bios earlier.]

Rocky Boy Kids to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

In August 2012, three young people went to camp. Pastor Linda was serving a Camp Chaplains that week, too. The kids had such a great time. As they were getting packed up to leave, they were already asking if they could come back next year.

We will be taking kids to camp again this summer in one of our "new" vans. There are eight signed up and several others interested. We have already had a fund-raising rummage sale and will be doing several beadwork raffles to raise additional funds. FLBC has pledged that they will cover any camps fees we cannot raise, but we know their budget is always tight, too. Please consider giving a special gift to help our kids to attend FLBC in August 2013.

Katy Freudenberg, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp-Rocky Boy Counselor 2012 and FLBC-Rocky Boy VBS Coordinator 2013



Listening is the best way to grow. Whether it's a story, a new idea, wind in the pine trees, or your neighbor telling you about her crazy afternoon, if we listen hard we can learn to understand. Last summer, I was able to spend two weeks at the Lutheran Church on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation helping run the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program. This experience allowed me to start to listen to and understand another culture in a real way. I look forward to returning again, so I can understand more and share my own story as well.

I question and doubt my faith often, and try to be open to new ideas. Through my 20 years of searching, though, I have always been able to come back to a constant truth. It has helped me listen and understand myself and others more fully, and have peace. This truth is the love of God, which I have personally found through Jesus. The longer I spend listening to those around me on Rocky Boy Reservation, and reading books about this totally different culture, the more I am learning about this love, and the different and amazing ways God chooses to speak. He speaks so well that I don't always have to talk, but strive to live my life through Him in my actions. In this way, I hope I will be able to continue to share my ideas at VBS, as well as continuing to listen to those kids around me I work with. And I can't wait. Native American culture rocks. If we listen we

can all learn from the wisdom embedded in this beautiful and repressed culture, and learn to understand.

Ideally, VBS will be a place cultures, kids, and counselors can come together, develop an understanding, explore God's love, play, and have a good time. Realistically, VBS will also include cleaning goo off my face after arts and crafts, hot days, and trying not to disrespect another culture by my lack of knowledge. Whatever happens, I'm looking forward to another experience at Rocky Boy.

New Sewing Group

Church members: Lisa Crain, Anna Crain, Joan Mitchell, and Fran Morsette started a new sewing group in February. Anyone from the Rocky Boy community and the surrounding area wishing to join is welcome.

We meet every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00. There are plans to start a knitting and crocheting group, too.

At the present time we each bring our own materials and sewing machines and works on our own projects.

We plan is to incorporate Bible study – starting with the Ruth study from the Book of Faith series – and an exercise stretching program for half an hour before we start sewing.

There are very few gathering places on the Reservation where a group of women can work on projects of any kind and just sit and talk. This group will provide a time and space for women to gather and create their own projects. Eventually, we hope to focus on a group project, perhaps making quilts for the veterans.

If you would like to donate material or other resources to the sewing group, we would gladly accept it. We have also applied for grants from the Women of the ELCA and the Hetzel Foundation to help fund this project.

Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience

For the fourth year, Our Saviour's will host Cross-Cultural Experiences for seminarians. We are expecting eight students 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 and have recently been reaching out to non-Lutheran seminaries to introduce our program to them.

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

From a Seminary CCE Participant

Pastor Barbara Gwynn was participant in this program. We are passing along something from her.

I am so grateful for the requirements of a "Cross Cultural Experience" while attending Luther Seminary. I am especially glad that an opportunity opened up at Rocky Boy's Reservation. I was a member of the very first seminary group that linked up with Pastor Linda Webster



at OSLC. With just three other seminarians, I arrived in August of 2010. I was curious, openhearted and a little nervous. My two-week experience at Rocky Boy opened up new understanding for tribal ways, the history of injustice, and day-to-day life on the reservation. I was particularly honored to join with the children of "Camp Noah" VBS program, to learn beading and attend a memorial "give-away" ritual for a woman who had died one year prior to my stay. All of it was eye-opening. God created new compassion for a people that I had only begun to understand. What an incredible blessing this was for my current ministry as Pastor of First English Evangelical Lutheran, a downtown church in Great Falls, MT.

2013 and 2014 Servant Groups

There is still time and space for a few more groups in Summer and Fall 2013. Check the calendar on our website for available weeks.

And, it is time to consider coming in 2014. It is not too early to start your plans! There have been a couple of inquiries already.

Layette Ministry

Our layette program has been very popular. We are giving layettes to all new mothers on the reservation. In the last two weeks five babies were born.

We appreciate all the layette items we receive and want to say Thank you to all.

Our main items in a layette are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 onesies | 1 hooded baby towel |
| 10 newborn diapers | 2 bibs |
| 3 receiving blankets | 1 baby quilt |
| 1 wash cloth | 1 small baby oil |
| 1 baby wash or soap | 3 T- Shirts |
| 3 pairs of socks or booties | 1 cap |
| 3 sleepers | |

Layettes help new mothers on the reservation. We appreciate anything that we receive for the Layette program.

Our Saviour's "Wish List"

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

We need:

1. New-to-us, in good repair truck
2. Snow blower
3. Mini bobcat

We can also use:

1. Layette items
2. Christmas gift items

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

Since our last newsletter was sent out, we have been blessed by two of our mission partner congregations with the amazing gift of two new-to-us vans and a new-to-us riding lawn mower. We are grateful for these!

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!

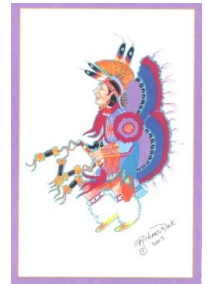
Becoming a Mission Partner

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 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.



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, removing and/or rebuilding fences, planting a couple of trees that will replace the large pine trees that had to come down next to the foundation.

Over the last five years we have been able to go maintenance – painting, repairs, etc. – on all of our buildings. It is time to start this cycle once again with painting and staining the Parsonage. There are also some maintenance issues to be dealt with in the Parsonage.

We are looking to install metal roofs in 2014 on the four cabins we use for summer Servant Groups. We are currently getting cost estimates on this project.

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.