

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
A congregation of the ELCA on the Rocky Boy's Reservation
499 Mission Taylor Road
Box Elder, MT 59521-8983
Phone: 406-395-4307
Fax: 406-395-4076
E-mail: office@oslcrb.org
Website: www.oslcrb.org

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Box Elder, MT
Permit No. 1

Return service requested

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 over \$2,100 in Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2013. 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>.



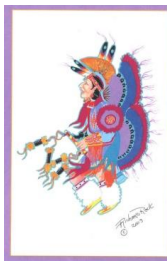
You can now do e-Labels if you use a grocery store or another merchant card. These points can be deposited directly into our account. To check into this, look at [eLabelsforeducation](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) on the Internet.

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".

We would like to send more newsletters out by e-mail. If you are able to receive it by e-mail, please contact Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at office@oslcrb.org. Also, we keep current mailing addresses on file in case the e-mail address fails.

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

2014 Servant Groups

It is time to make plans to come in 2014! It is not too early. We have several times weeks throughout the year reserved already. Remember that servant events are not limited to summer. Groups are welcome year round. Check out the information and the availability of weeks on the calendar on our website.

Meet Loni Whitford and Gigi Many Bears

Tansi! My name is Loni Whitford. I was recently elected Council president for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. I have a close connection with our church. My late great-great grandfather Malcolm Mitchell helped build our Log Chapel and Mission House in the 1920's. He was also an interpreter for our pastor. He spoke our Cree language, so our community could understand our church sermons. My maternal grandmother was raised in our Lutheran church, baptized, and married there. My parents were also married and had myself and my brothers baptized. I have a daughter, Aynjel'Lya (Gigi) Many Bears. She is seven years old and is in first grade at Rocky Boy Elementary School. She is also Rocky Boy Junior Princess for our annual powwow and represents our Tribe, family, and herself. She attends powwows throughout the U.S. and Canada and attends our traditional ceremonies and other public functions. She was also baptized at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy.



My parents are Lisa and Gordon Whitford. I have two younger brothers, Dustin and Gary Whitford. My maternal grandparents are Ervin and Sharon Watson and my paternal grandparents are Eddie and Pearl Whitford. I am very thankful that I can still say, "grandma and grandpa!"

I would like to send an invitation to each and every one of you to come and visit our beautiful reservation. We may be the smallest in Montana, but we definitely have some of the most beautiful "sights."

Women of the ELCA Immersion Event

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church was to host an Immersion Event for the Women of the ELCA from September 21-26, 2013. Though officially canceled because of too few participants, yet through one person's tenacity and fortitude, the event happened anyway. Peggy Steinfurth for PA, not having received the notice of cancelation, showed up on Pastor Linda's doorstep on the evening of September 21st. Having rented a car in Great Falls, because no one was there to meet her at the airport, she made her way to Rocky Boy. Not knowing exactly where she was going, having gotten lost at least once, she arrived only to find out the Immersion was canceled. Finally settled into one of the cabins for a well-deserved, good night's rest, she woke the next day to find out, indeed, she did not have to change her flight plans to leave immediately, but that the offer was

made to have her stay for the entire time as originally planned, but with a slightly altered schedule – one more suited to an individual rather than a larger group. She felt the time was well spent.

Summer 2013 Servant Groups

The Servant Groups this year came from across the country, from as close as Billings, MT, from coasy-to-coast – Tacoma, WA and Glenside, PA, and in between, from Cook, MA.

The confirmation group from Billings was from two congregations, American and King of Glory Lutheran Churches. Their three days at Rocky Boy was the end of a week of servant activities they had been doing.

This was the 6th summer for St. Mark's at the Narrows Lutheran Church (Tacoma, WA) to bring their junior group. One of their major activities was to assist the counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC) with VBS. They built stairs and gates and stained decks and worked on a lot of other projects.

The intergenerational group from Trinity Lutheran Church (Cook, MN) included teenagers and grandmas.

Their creative talents put to use during the 2nd week of VBS. The adults worked with the kids teaching crafts, reading with them, and, generally, lending their teaching and artistic skills to whatever was needed, while the young people build a couple of picnic benches.



St. Paul Lutheran Church (Glenside, PA) brought a group during the Rocky Boy pow-wow. Not only did this group prime and stain the small log barn, but on the Saturday through Monday, part of the group was up very early and over at the pow-wow grounds working clean-up duty, which was very appreciated by the organizers of the pow-wow.

Meet Maia and Thomas from St. Mark's at the Narrows Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA

The junior youth group, along with supporting senior high students, parents, and other adults, has been coming to Rocky Boy since Summer 2008. They have returned every year since then.

Please read the accounts of Maia and Thomas who started coming as junior high students and have continued to come even as they enter senior high school.

Maia: Montana has one of my favorite landscapes by far - rolling hills with a sea of grass eventually giving way to the foothills and then the mountains with their pine forests and flowing rivers. But the landscape isn't what makes me keep going back every year on the Youth Service Journey. While on that trip, my faith becomes stronger, I feel like I'm making a difference in at least one person's life, and I feel closer to the youth that I serve with.

As a young adult in the church, there's not as many ways for me to become involved in my faith community as there is for older members. But going on this trip and seeing the wonderful landscapes and people that God created, all while hearing their stories and their interpretations of the scriptures really helps me to grow in my faith and feel involved. Also, serving the faith community of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and the greater community of Rocky Boy, gives me a sense that I am helping to make an impact in at least one life, hopefully more. That is really the goal for me personally when I go on the Service Journey, to serve other people in whatever way they need.

Over the several years that I have gone, there has been important meetings and several wakes that have occurred at the church while my group was there. Seeing those events happen reminds me that by serving the church, I'm helping serve the greater community by giving them a place to have these important gatherings. But I don't go on this journey of serving alone, just this past year we had our largest group yet of youth and adults traveling from Tacoma, Washington to Rocky Boy. At the very beginning of the trip we barely knew each other's name, and by the end we were singing along to mix CD's while sitting in the van.

Thomas: I'm often asked about the time I've spent on the Montana Servant Trip. Sharing my Montana experiences has always been a great way to introduce people to what the trip is about and how it works. My four trips to the Rocky Boy's Reservation are all unique, but have many things in common.

When the trip is in preparation, we spend a few months fundraising and meeting other members of the group. It's easier to spend 24 hour van rides with people you get to know beforehand, and our service community is a big part of the trip. Everyone contributes to the many projects at we undertake at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the reservation, and we eat our meals in a communal dining area. There's no internet or cell phones to distract from the experience, and it feels great to spend some time away from the constant communication. You can talk with your cabin instead!

The Native American community we get to take part in on the reservation is an eye-opening exchange. Most people have never had this level of cross-cultural experience before, with a performance by traditional dancers and opportunities to meet Chippewa-Cree tribe members. Coming year after year develops strong relationships with older and younger people and memories of the amazing landscape we live on for almost a week. The mission trip is a fantastic opportunity to step back from everyday life and take time to just "be" in fellowship with others.

Vacation Bible School

Our Saviour's was been particularly blessed concerning VBS this past summer. Through a generous grant from a family foundation and gifts from several mission partner

congregations, our entire VBS program for Summer 2013 was completely paid for. (This program is free to the kids.)

Counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp will come again for two weeks of VBS in July 2014. So, far there is one Servant Group coming during one of these weeks. We would love to have another group or interested individuals come during the 2nd week. Please look at the calendar on our website for the dates.

Donations to help fund our VBS program are greatly appreciated. The cost for two weeks is about \$3,500.

Rocky Boy Kids to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

In July and August 2013, twelve young people went to camp. In August, Pastor Linda served as one of the Camp



Chaplains that week. The kids had such a great time that as everyone was getting packed up to leave, they were already asking if they could come back next year. The ride home filled with singing camp songs and looking things up in their new

Spark Bibles!

The kids' weeks were mostly funded through a generous gift of camperships from FLBC itself. Please consider giving a special gift to help our kids to attend FLBC in August 2014.

Stitching and Knitting Together

This past year we applied for grants from both the Hetzel Foundation (of the MT Synod) and the Women of the ELCA in order to re-start the sewing group that was once an important ministry of this congregation. We were pleased to receive the Hetzel, which funded more than we asked. This has allowed us to purchase cabinets in which to store the sewing machines on the 1st floor of the Mission House, along with fabric and knitting and crocheting supplies.

The sewing machines have been given to us by our "Sewing Lady," Jessie Kilian. She uses them once a year to teach sewing and is willing to let us use them during the rest of the rest.

If you have donations of fabric and yarn you would like to send for this group to use, it would be very welcome.

Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience

In May, eight students from two ELCA seminaries (Pacific Lutheran Theol. Seminary, Berkeley, CA and Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, MN) came to participate in this experience. This is a time of learning for future leaders in the church. They read, discuss, meet people, observe and participate, and experience many different things. Often students are from different seminaries and connections are made that will last a lifetime.

If you are a seminary student or know of one who may be interested in this experience, please check out our

website and e-mail or call with any questions you might have.

Working Towards Getting a New-to-Us Truck

Earlier this year, a foundation was contacted about applying for a grant. The current foundation president was in our area this summer and stopped by to learn more about our ministry. It was wonderful that he took the time and the result was a grant of \$4,000 towards the purchase of a new-to-us truck. Having talked with a local dealer, we will need to raise a total of \$8,000 to \$12,000 to get one that is in good condition and will meet our needs. But, we are about 1/3 to 1/2 of the way there! This is particularly good news as our old truck died this past fall. If you would like to make a special contribution towards the purchase of the truck, we would greatly appreciate it!

Layette Ministry

Our layette program has been very popular. Layettes help new mothers on the reservation. We appreciate anything that we receive for the Layette program. On behalf of those receiving this gift, we say "thank you".

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	

Some things we like to include are heavy or bulky. If you would like to send a gift to buy diapers, lotions, soap, etc., please designate it for the "layette program".

Plans for a Kitchen Garden

We have been making plans to start a kitchen garden this coming spring and summer. A space was cleared of an old swing set and clothes lines this past summer by one of the Servant Groups. We have applied for a Hunger Grant from the ELCA, which we hope to receive, which will help with the start-up costs, i.e. 8-foot fencing (to keep out all variety of animals – wild and domestic!), lumber for raised beds, soil, seeds, and plants.

The Education Fund

Donations for our Education Fund are greatly appreciated. This fund is used for college scholarships and Vacation Bible School expenses. Currently we are giving monthly stipends to five students from Rocky Boy.

Our Saviour's "Wish List"

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

New-to-us truck (\$8,000 to \$12,000), Snow blower (priced at \$1,100), Mini bobcat

Unfortunately, we lost a few pieces of equipment in a recent theft and need to replace:

Air compressor, chain saw, and circular saw.

We always need:

Layette items and 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 vans and a riding lawn mower.

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.

We constantly thank God for each one of you who remember us in any way. 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.

Estate Planning

In the past, this ministry has been remembered by several people in their trusts and wills. This last year alone we received a \$5,000 gift from a Mission Partner's estate when she passed on to eternal life. It came at a very crucial time. We ask you to prayerfully consider this ministry in your estate planning.

Upcoming Projects for 2014

With as many ramps and decks that we have around our buildings, we are looking to replacing the rear ramp on the Big Church and the front deck on the Parsonage. This summer will be the time to paint the Parsonage. We are looking to possibly installing metal roofs on the four cabins we use for summer Servant Groups. There may also be some renovation work going on in the Mission House. There may, also, be a bigger renovation project in the works at a house on the Reservation.

Closing prayer

Thank you Lord God, for all your good gifts to us and for the companions we have with us along the road. Bless and keep them safe from harm and resting in you. Amen.