

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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

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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 \$1,940 Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2014. 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://eLabelsforeducation) 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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*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.*  
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Has your mailing address or e-mail address changed? If so, please let us know. If you receive this by mail, but were expecting it by e-mail, we may not have your current e-mail address. To check, send us an e-mail.

## From the Pastor

In this issue of the TeePee Smoke, we are trying to introduce some of our Ministry Partners to you. Some of the Montana churches and one of our Montana ELCA camps are being highlighted. Through their voices, we hope to inspire you to imagine new ways you may be able to partner with us at in ministry.

## Imagination in Relationship – Pulpit Exchange – Pastor Robert Leaverton, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Absarokee



I along with other pastors of the Montana Synod attended the Bishop's Convocation in Helena in October 2013. Pr. Linda spoke of her ministry at Rocky Boy. One point she touched on was that she would welcome a pulpit exchanges between congregations. I liked the idea and we decided to schedule a pulpit exchange. We agreed on a date in February. So on Saturday, 15 February, I traveled to the

Rocky Boy's Reservation. The weather cooperated. I arrived in the afternoon and one of Linda's parishioners let me in the Mission House, and I settled in. I noticed activity at the Rocky Boy High School and I decided to check it out. There as a basketball game with Havre. I spent the evening watching some amazing basketball. I have never witnessed a high school team scoring over 100 points in a game. The Rocky Boy boys' basketball team truly amazed me. They lived in 3 point land, Their shots went in, one after another. They hardly ever missed. While seated in the bleachers I had a chance to speak with folks who had children attending the high school. I enjoyed a great game and a pleasant evening.

Sunday morning dawned and I prepared for Sunday worship at Our Savior's. I turned up the heat and organized the readings and made ready to welcome the congregation for Sunday worship. The faithful arrived and we worshiped together. The church provided an intimate and inviting setting for our worship. After worship we engaged in coffee fellowship in the Mission House. I really enjoyed my time chatting with members of the congregation. As with most such occasions this was a chance to learn and know each other. Connect dots which link us together in life, a life in Montana, as well as a life in Christ. Afterwards, I locked up the Mission House and headed home. Instead of traveling through Great Falls, I discovered a short cut through Fort Benton. This gave me the opportunity to travel on roads new to me and see new areas of Montana. It also saved much time in traveling.

When I returned to Absarokee and Immanuel, the congregation was impressed with the message Pr. Linda proclaimed. They greatly appreciated her gift of music and her singing voice. Pr. Linda stayed with my wife, Susan at our home and made use of her time in South Central Montana to catch up on errands down here.

I greatly appreciated my time at Rocky Boy and would do again. My wife Susan has been to Rocky Boy for the cultural immersion program Pr. Linda offers and valued her time at Rocky Boy. I thank her for offering to us pastors of the Montana Synod the invitation of have a pulpit exchange. I thank the congregation and people of Rocky Boy for their hospitality and welcome. I did not feel like a stranger when I was with you. God's blessing be upon Rocky Boy and the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

God's Peace.

## Imagination with Youth – Working with Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp – Mallory Waytashek, Counselor



Hi there! My name is Mallory Waytashek. For the past several summers, I have been a counselor from Flathead Lutheran Bible camp in Lakeside, Montana. I have recently graduated with a Psychology major.

I am happy to share with you a little bit of my experiences doing the Rocky Boy day camp in summer 2013. The summer was filled with laughter and challenges, lots of fresh air and a ton of growth on my part. However, through all of the outdoor ministry I did, my time at Rocky Boy was the most personally impactful.

I feel so lucky to have had the chance to stay on a reservation - something I had never done before - and to spend time with the spunky and sweet children of Rocky Boy. So, what did we do for a whole week? Well, we spent time praising God and jamming out with our guitars, eating yummy snacks, playing outdoor games, and who could forget water day?!

The experience on Rocky Boy's reservation has inspired me to learn more about the native culture in my own home of Northern Minnesota, a resolution that I take with me. So, thank you. Thank you for sharing your kids, your culture and your stories with me. I am changed because of it.

*Note: Working in partnership with FLBC, Our Saviour's is able to take kids to a week of camp in August.*

## Imagination in Partnership – Monthly Giving – Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT



Believe it or not, the relationship between Pella Lutheran Church in Sidney, Montana and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana began with a

mountain climbing trip to South America!

The year was 1987. The ministry of Our Saviour's had been supported mainly by congregations in the eastern region of the United States such as in Pennsylvania – but Pastor Dan Heskett wanted to build partnerships with congregations “closer to home” in Montana as well. He also

wanted to take a month off to climb the highest peak of the Andes in Argentina!

To be able to accomplish both purposes, he reached out to Pella Lutheran Church and invited its pastoral staff to each spend a week at Rocky Boy during his absence. As a result, Pastor John Gronli, Pastor Brad Ulgenes, and Youth Minister Laurie O'Shea each spent a week there – leading worship, meeting the people, and providing any needed pastoral care. They were warmly welcomed – Pastor Brad recalls that they were given moccasins at the conclusion of their time there as a “thank you”.

Pella's staff enjoyed their stays at Rocky Boy – and then later in the year, Pastor Heskett and about six other members from Our Saviour's travelled to Sidney and were treated to Pella's hospitality as well.

Through these personal contacts and experiences, a relationship was born. Pella officially became a sponsoring congregation of Our Saviour's ministry in 1987 and continues to be a major supporter of it to this day. In 2013, Pastor Linda Webster of Our Saviour's and Pastor Charlane Lines of Pella had a “pulpit exchange” in which they preached and brought greetings to each other's respective congregations. We look forward to continuing our partnership together for years to come!

### **Imagination in Giving – from Capital Campaign to Van – American Lutheran Church, Billings, MT**



When it came time for our congregation, American Lutheran Church in Billings, to undergo a capital campaign for some building improvements, it was important to us that we contribute 20% of what we

raised to ministry outside our walls. While we worked on adding a elevator and becoming more accessible in our "All Are Welcome" campaign, we sought ministries outside of ourselves that conveyed that sense of welcome, too.

We had previously sent a work crew to Our Saviour's to help after some flooding a couple of years ago. Through conversations with Pastor Linda, we knew of the need within the congregation for a 15-passenger van to transport their own members as well as those that would come on servant trips to the reservation. It sounded like a wonderful ministry of welcome to a congregation and their visitors. We knew this is something we could do. As we raised money for our own improvements, the pot of money to be given away grew. We reached the point where we could purchase the van and present it to the congregation of Our Saviour's. It was a day to celebrate. Our relationship did not end there however. An important piece of our campaign was building relationships with the other ministries we would help.

The summer after the van was delivered, a dozen youth and a few chaperones from ALC participated in a servant group at Rocky Boys. We learned about the ministry there, worked around the church, and benefited from the van as

Pastor Linda used it to pick up members of her congregation to bring them in and teach us about their culture. It was a thrill for the kids and adults present. Our hope is that this is part of an ongoing relationship between our congregations and the first a many visits. A visit to Our Saviour's is an ongoing lesson in "All Are Welcome" and that is a ministry to us all!

### **2015 Servant Events**

It is not too early to make plans to come for a Servant Event in 2015! Churches are already making inquires. The dates for summer servant events are posted on the website calendar. But, remember, these 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.

We have the ability to be more flexible than larger organizations. We can take smaller groups than they can, work with groups that are mostly adults, or only adults, and we can work with that want to focus on certain types of work, e.g. sewing with ladies of the community.

### **Immersion Events**

Not everyone is interested in coming to the Rocky Boy's Reservation to do mostly work projects. While our Servant Events include cultural learning, most groups want to do work. Our Immersion Events are focused on learning about the Chippewa-Cree people and their cultural. Some work is included, but is not the main part of the experience. Please go to our website find the Cultural Immersion link for more information. You will find an example of what we can offer. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

### **Personal and Small Group Retreats**

Personal retreat time is available at our facility during most times during the year. We have space set aside for individuals, couples, or a small group that would like to have a time of quiet and contemplation, individually and/or as a group.

After the cabins are closed for the winter (between the end of October to late March), groups are restricted to 10 to 12 individuals. Between September and October and April to mid-May, larger groups can be accommodated. If you have questions, please contact us.

### **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.

We have sold our old truck and received a few donations to go into our truck fund, which now totals \$4,650. 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 disposal diapers	2 bibs
3 receiving blankets	1 baby quilt
1 cap	1 wash cloth
3 sleepers	1 small baby oil
3 T- Shirts	1 baby wash or soap
3 pairs of socks or booties	1 baby powder

Some things are 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 ministry".

## **The New Kitchen Garden**

We are working on our sustainable kitchen garden. The raised beds are built and the top soil is in. The fence is going up. The seeds and plants are being planted. Our goal is to raise heritage plants organically, which will produce food for our Servant Groups and our elderly neighbors along Mission Drive.

## **The Education Fund**

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

In Summer 2013, there were about 60 kids, total, that came to two weeks of VBS. During the 2013-2014, we gave monthly stipends to 5 students from Rocky Boy attending college off the Reservation.

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

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

Computer for the office, computer projector, new-to-us truck (\$8,000 to \$12,000), snow blower (priced at \$1,100), mini bobcat, air compressor, chain saw, and circular saw. We always need:

Layette items and new items for Christmas gifts.

## **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 Ministry Partner**

Ministry Partners (aka 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.

## **Endowment Funds, Mission Outreach Funds, or Ministry or Community Foundations**

If your congregation has an endowment fund or funds set aside for mission outreach, please let us know if this is something we could apply for. Through various congregations and church and community-based foundations, we have received money that has helped us in various ways. We have been able to purchase the copier that we now produce the TeePee Smoke newsletter on. We have been able to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> new-to-us 15-passenger van. We have started our truck fund with a substantial donation. And, we have received money for general use.

All of these things would not have been possible without your help in letting us know what is available out there for us to apply for. And, you may know of others. We are open to suggestions. We recently received \$1,000 from a community foundation that someone in that community applied to for us. We appreciate all the help we receive!

## **Estate Planning**

We appreciate those who have remembered us in their trusts and wills. If you have not done so, we ask you to prayerfully consider Our Saviour's and the ministry on the Rocky Boy's Reservation in your estate planning.

## **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, as well as painting for some elders and the lawn work we do for them, too. This summer will be the time to paint the Parsonage. We hope to re-roof the shingle portion of the Big Church roof. In 2015, we are looking to install metal roofs on the four cabins we use for summer Servant Groups, do some renovation projects in the Mission House, and do a renovation project in a house on the Reservation.

## **Closing prayer**

Thank you, Lord God, for Ministry Partners who share in this ministry. Thank you for these companions we have with us along the Way. May we be a blessing to one another. Bless and keep them safe from all harm. May they always rest in you. Amen.