

## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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

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Non-Profit Org

US Postage

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Box Elder, MT

Permit No. 1

### *Return service requested*

#### **Upcoming Events for 2017**

Registration begins **January 1<sup>st</sup>** for youth grades 4<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>+  
to go to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on July 23 – 28

Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience I – May 22 – 31

Intensive Cross-Cultural Immersion – June 5 – 9

#### Summer Servant Events

Week 1 – June 10 – 15 (reserved)  
with VBS Day Camp – June 12-14

Week 2 – June 17 – 22 (reserved)

Week 3 – June 25 – 30\*

\*Registration for this week is through Upper  
Missouri Ministries, Epping, North Dakota

Week 4 – July 1 – 6, 2017 (open)

along FLBC VBS Day Camp – July 3-7

Week 5 – July 8 – 13 (open)

along FLBC VBS Day Camp – July 10-14

Week 6 – July 14 – 18 (reserved) \*\*short week

Week 7 – July 19 – 22, American Indian-Alaska

Native Lutheran Association Meeting

Week 7 (cont.) – July 23 – 28, Rocky Boy youth to  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Week 8 – July 29 – August 3 (open)

Week 9 – August 4 – 9 (open)\*\*\*

\*\*\*during the Rocky Boy Pow-wow celebration

Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience II – August 16 – 25

Kogodus "Contrast Community" Retreat – August 27 – 29

Sewing classes with WI Sewing Ladies – September 10 – 14



## From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. This is the time of year when we think of endings and new beginnings. Winter, for those of us in the northern hemisphere, brings the end of growing things – at least for those things outside. There is less light and greater darkness. It is a time of settling in and, though we don't hibernate, it is a time of slowing down. Yet, with the advent of Christmas, we experience the sense of a new dawn coming, a brighter time, a time full of life and expectation, a blooming into full flower. I pray that winter and the Christmas season are good for you.

## Several Reminders

People have called Our Saviour's Lutheran Church many things over the years, i.e. the Lutheran Mission, Rocky Boy Lutheran Church, and a few other things. Our bank has gotten very particular about how checks need to be made out in order for us to deposit them. Some of you have gotten checks returned to you for this very reason. Please make donations out to "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church."

### What's in a Name?

With the inception of the 911-system in our area several years ago, our mailing address changed from a rural route-box number address to a regular street address. Our mailing address is 499 Mission Taylor Road, Box Elder, MT 59521. We are very lucky that our local post office will still deliver mail addressed to the rural route-box number address. If you have not made this change in your address book or on your mailing list, please do so.



Please make sure to include your name and return address inside a box or package when you send it. Often things are sent from a mail store and do not include this information. Sadly, we have no idea who sent those donations and, therefore, no one to thank.

Thank you for your kind attention to these details!

## God's Work – Our Hands Sunday

For the very first time, on September 18<sup>th</sup>, we participated in God's Work – Our Hands Sunday. We invited the Rocky Boy Emergency Medical Service teams and their families to brunch.

That Sunday morning saw the EMS teams and their extended families, along with members of our congregation, sit down (minus, of course the team that was on-call and out on a call) and enjoy a meal together. In this small way, we were able to thank them for all the tremendous work they do in the Rocky Boy community where the closest hospitals are at least 25 miles away (Havre and Big Sandy) and the closest major medical center is about 100 miles away (Great Falls).

Here is some of the response we heard from the team and their family members –

"Very humbling – to know we matter."

"My family and I enjoyed it very much and thought it was nice to be appreciated for [my husband's] hard work."



[We] "greatly appreciated being acknowledged for our work. Thank you so much."

## Meet Our Summer 2016 Servant Groups



Summer 2016 brought new groups and new experiences to Our Saviour's. Two of the servant groups were "blended groups" as individuals and families that came and joined larger groups that were coming the same week they wanted to be here. There is always a thing of beauty in seeing people who did not know each other before come together to work and fellowship and learn.

The groups and individuals came from: the Allegheny Synod, PA (two people) – Montana Synod's sister synod; Flathead



Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside, MT (a servant group); Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Helena, MT; St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, Reading, PA (the Knox family); Trinity Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan, WY; Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove, PA; and, Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD.

This was the summer we decided to have each servant group make a set of bunk-beds, like those we have in our cabins, to give away to families in our community. Members from the Rocky Boy community participated in a drawing to see who would receive the bunk-beds.

Each of the five sets of bunk-beds turned out a little different, but each was made by many hands. Each group cut, sanded, stained, pre-assembled on-site (to make sure everything went together okay), then disassembled, and then re-assembled the bed in its new home. Along with the bunk-beds, new bedding was given. This included two twin-sized mattresses, two pillows, two sets of bedding along with two mattress pads, and two quilts. Many of the servants groups came with the bedding and quilts for the beds they would be making.



By the time we left the house, the bunk-beds were set-up and the mattresses unwrapped and put on the frames. The beds were made-up and ready to be slept in that night. It was truly a gift to each person there to see how excited the kids were and how grateful the

parents and/or grandparents were to receive this gift. Each servant group spent time with a local craftsperson making something to take home. This year the project was beaded crosses. Much more simple than sewing, the craft was to glue various kinds of decorative beads onto wooden crosses. Imaginations can run wild!



## Site Work that has been Done and is Yet to Come

The summers of 2015 and 2016 brought a number of

improvements to some of our buildings. There is always painting and staining occurring, but these were slightly larger jobs than that.

All four of the cabins got new metal roofs which replaced the old rolled asphalt roofing. What a change this has made for us in maintenance! Workers came together from several different congregations to accomplish this tremendous feat. Thank you to volunteers from congregations in Minnesota, Wyoming, and Montana.

Because of inadequate ventilation in the crawl spaces, the floors in Cabins 3 and 4 had to be completely replaced. The ventilation problem also got corrected. Thank you, in particular, to volunteers from another congregation in Wyoming.



The Big Church has two sections of asphalt shingle roofing on the east and west ends. In Fall 2015 and Fall 2016, the south-facing portions of these roofs were replaced by members of congregations in Wyoming and Montana. One half of the roof on the Parsonage garage was also done in Fall 2016 by this same crew.

One of the goals for summer 2017 is to do substantial work on the Log Chapel. This is one of our oldest and most historic buildings. The roofing needs to be replaced, but the style of the roof (a gambrel) gives it an extreme pitch. Therefore, we have decided to have this done professionally. There are, also, several logs in the walls that are rotting. We don't have the exact costs for all of this work yet, but if you would like to contribute to this project we would appreciate it. You can send a donation that is designated for the work to be done on the Log Chapel.



Other work to be done includes some remodel/renovation work on the Mission House, the Big Church, and the heated maintenance garage.

## 2017 Servant Events

We still have several weeks open in summer 2017 for servant groups. The two weeks for VBS Day Camp are still open. If you are interested in working with some of our kids in small groups this is a great time to come.

Please remember that these events are not limited to the summer months! Groups are welcome year round. Sometimes it is easier for adult groups to get away at other times of the year. There is always the possibility of school break servant events, too.

We have the ability to be more flexible with our servant events than some other organizations. We can take smaller groups, work with groups that are mostly adults, or only adults. We can work with those that want to focus on certain types of work, e.g. sewing with ladies of the community.

After the cabins are closed for the winter (which is between the end of October to late March), groups are limited to twelve persons. Between April and October, when the cabins are open,

groups as large as forty participants can be accommodated. If you have questions, please contact us.

Check out the availability of weeks on the calendar on our website. Other information and the necessary forms will be found there, too. Some people are already thinking about and making plans for their 2018 servant group.

## Immersion Events

Not everyone is interested in coming here to do work projects, but is interested in learning about the Chippewa Cree people and culture. Our immersion events focus on this learning. A small work project is usually included, too, but that is not the main part of the experience.

On June 5 to 9, 2017, we are offering an Intensive Cross-Cultural Immersion. A flyer with more information about the experience can be found on our website. The registration information is included there, also.

If you have a group interested in planning their own immersion event, please contact our office by phone or e-mail. We would be happy to plan an event like this for you.

## Kogodus Renewal Retreats at Rocky Boy

The Bear Paw Cluster, which Our Savior's is part of, decided to have a retreat at our place. The Montana Synod has a ministry called Kogodus Renewal Retreats. One of the pastors in cluster had participated in one of these retreats at a women's prison in North Dakota. Upon her recommendation, we sponsored the Kogodus "Lament and Laughter" retreat in April 2016.

Pastor Greg Karlsgodt, director of Kogodus, gathered a team of pastors and lay people from the Bear Paw Cluster and other parts of the Montana Synod to lead the retreat. Participants, pastors and lay people alike, came from various congregations in the Montana Synod.

Despite the late spring snowstorm that raged during the retreat, the experience was a good one for all who came. It even inspired one of the pastors from this cluster to join the Kogodus board.

We will be having another Kogodus Renewal Retreat on August 27 to 29, 2017. This will be the "Contrast Community" based on the Beatitudes. The retreat is open to everyone. If you would like to come, you will find a flyer on our website.

## Personal and Group Retreats

Personal retreat time is available year round. We have space set aside for individuals, couples, or a group that would like to have a time of quiet and contemplation.

## Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience

Twice each summer we offer an opportunity for seminary students to come to the Rocky Boy's Reservation. These types of experiences are often offered during J-term, but coming to Montana for ten days in January could be a little overwhelming for some people if we have a week of -20F weather and snow storms!

This kind of experience is important for seminary students. Not only do the students learn about another culture, but they take time to read and discuss what Native Christian leaders have to say about Native culture and the Christian faith. They take time to read some history of the Chippewa Cree people. And, they take time to read and discuss the stories that some

of the modern day Native writers are telling. It is an intense ten days that may be life-changing for these students.

This is an inter-denominational program that can't help but have Lutheran influences since it is at Our Saviour's. If you know a seminarian or your congregation sponsors a seminarian, encourage them to check into this program. Information concerning the May and August 2017 Seminary Cross-Cultural Experiences can be found on our website.

### Vacation Bible School Day Camp

Every year we have two weeks of VBS Day Camp with counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC). VBS Day Camp is open to all kids on the reservation. There is no fee to participate and transportation is provided.

For the last several years, one of the FLBC counselors acted as the coordinator for both weeks. This has helped give continuity to the entire experience for the kids and those helping out, counselors and other volunteers



alike.

Beside the Christian education the kids are receiving, this experience introduces them to "safe" non-Native young adults. It, also, brings a new cross-cultural experience to future leaders of the Church. What happens here is very much a two-way experience.

If we have a servant group here during VBS, some of them become part of the VBS Day Camp team. The day starts with Pastor Linda picking up kids who need a ride in one of the church vans. They get dropped off at the Rocky Boy School cafeteria where the counselors meet them for breakfast. After eating, they all walk down to the church together – about .5 mile – and begin the VBS activities. Around noon everyone – the kids, the counselors, and the entire servant group – head down to the school for lunch. After lunch, the kids get a ride home and the servant group and counselors head back to the church to do a little more work before breaking for the afternoon.



At the end of the second week of VBS, we all eat a meal together and there is a program for the kids

to show their parents and grandparents all the songs and things they learned. They have a great time!

From the designated gifts we have already received, both weeks of VBS Day Camp with FLBC are completely paid for. Thank you for this tremendous gift to our kids!

### Rocky Boy Kids go to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Each year we try to take some of the kids from Rocky Boy to camp at FLBC. For the first couple of years, the same three kids went with Pastor Linda. The program started to grow and we were taking a vanload. Then we needed to take two vehicles. This past summer we ran into a snag because the week we had been going for the last years conflicted with the Rocky Boy pow-wow. Needless to say, we could not go that week as it is important for the kids to be at the annual pow-wow. The 2016 pow-



wow was very special this celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Presidential decree that established the reservation.

Choosing to go a different week meant, that once we registered, there was not enough room at camp for all the kids that wanted to go. The solution we came up with was to go a second week so more kids could go. And, that worked.

This time at FLBC is so important for our kids in many ways. They get to have an intense Christian experience in a wonderful camp setting surrounded by beauty and good energy. They get to experience the world around them in a totally different way and meet many non-Native people who care for them, love them, and want to help nurture their faith and life.

We want to thank the many of you who have helped sponsor our kids with your gifts that contribute to their camp scholarships. Words cannot express what a difference this may make in all of their lives.

We will be going to FLBC again in late July 2017. We will begin registration after January 1, 2017. If you would like to help sponsor Rocky Boy kids to go to camp, we invite you to send designated donations to us which we will pass along to FLBC. Hopefully, this year we will have two full vanloads of kids and volunteers to take to camp!

### The Kitchen Garden

Through a Hunger Grant received from the ELCA in 2014, we were able to start our kitchen garden with nine raised beds. We added two more raised beds this summer and are working at getting a good watering system going.

Many of the plants in our garden this past summer were given to us by a local greenhouse. We got a really good start with those and some of our own seeds.

The beds are now covered with plastic and a layer of snow. This coming spring we look forward to starting seeds early indoors and getting them in as soon as possible. That, of course, will all depend on the weather!

Our goal is always to provide for our summer servant groups and for our elderly neighbors who live just down the road from us. We appreciate all the hard work of the servant groups who come and help with the planting and weeding. The work and the produce get shared!



### Layette Ministry

This ministry is well used! Layettes help new mothers on the reservation. The space we are now using as our "Layette Room" was completely reorganized by one of the servant groups this past summer. Almost everything got put in bins for better storage and was clearly labeled in order to help those assembling the layettes.

#### Items that go into our layettes

- 1 baby quilt (everything gets wrapped in the quilt and then put it in a garbage bag for protection)
- 20 newborn or size 1 disposal diapers
- 3 receiving blankets
- 1 swaddling blanket
- 1 cap or knitted hat
- 2 bibs
- 3 pairs - socks or booties
- 3 pairs - mittens
- 3 onesies - colored or patterned (short or long-sleeved)

- 3 onesies – white (short or long-sleeved)
- 1 outfit (generally a 2- to 4-piece outfit)
  - 3 sleepers
  - 3 wash clothes
  - 1 hooded baby towel
- 1 baby powder (cornstarch, not talcum)
  - 1 baby oil
  - 1 baby wash or soap
- 1 petroleum jelly or Vaseline
  - 1 pkg diaper wipes
- (optional – diaper rash ointment)

We may include other specialty items when we receive them, e.g. baby toys, winter clothes (jackets, snow suits, etc.).

Some things we like to include are heavy or bulky. If you would like to send a monetary gift to buy diapers, lotions, soap,



etc., please designate it for the "layette ministry". Another option would be to order things on-line and have them delivered to us. Also, there are Dollar Tree and K-Mart stores located in Havre. You could order things on-line that we could pick-up at those

stores, thereby saving you delivery costs.

Someone asked how much we spend on a layette. It depends on what we can get on sale and where we buy things, but the estimate is that each layette costs between \$100 and \$150 dollars. Therefore, we appreciate everything we receive for this special ministry. On behalf of those who receive this gift, we say "thank you."

## Thrift Store

The Thrift Store underwent a tremendous reorganization this past summer. There were boxes of things to be sorted and put out. Several of the servant groups took this task on.

Because of the limited amount of space that we can give to this ministry in the basement of the Mission House, serious decisions had to be made about what to keep, what to re-gift, and what to throw away. May boxes and bags of things were taken away.

Wire shelving that we already had was put up, new shelves built in storage spaces, rods on which to hang coats in one closet were installed. Clothing was separated and labeled in order to be found more easily.



We don't want to seem too picky, but there are certain things we would ask you not to send, because we won't be able to keep them. And, we would not want you to waste your money on sending these things.

The Chippewa Cree people, as a whole, are modest people; therefore, we cannot use short skirts or revealing tops. There are very few people who wear high heels shoes. Because of our limited space we have chosen not to put out t-shirts that have logos on them. With limitations of staff or volunteers who work in the Thrift Store, we do not have the time to launder and mend items that are sent that need this kind of attention.

All of the proceeds from sales in the Thrift Store go to support our Youth Ministry. This is mostly used to help with

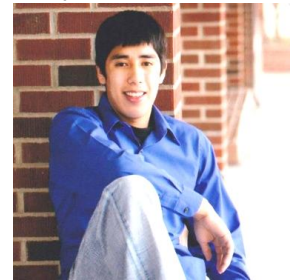
camp scholarships and will, also, be used to help fund our new children and youth programs we are working on.

## From a Past Scholarship Recipient

Dear Scholarship Donors,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support over the last few years while I attended college. I have been honored to be an annual recipient of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Scholarship.

I received my Bachelors of Science in Business Administration in spring 2016, with honors, from Upper Iowa University. I was able to maintain a 3.64 GPA throughout my college year, while being a member of the Upper Iowa Men's Basketball team. In my senior year, I was also able to join a student development committee. My goal now is to continue my education and attend law school.



Throughout college, with your support, I was able to buy groceries, shoes for basketball, and supplies for school. Receiving this scholarship motivated me to maintain a high GPA and to graduate. After I start my career, I intend to give back to my community and support my high school.

Once again, many thanks for your generous support over these years. I am exceedingly grateful to have received the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Scholarship.

Sincerely, Jessie Big Knife

## Meet Our 2016-2017 Scholarship Recipients

Each student who applies for a scholarship must meet certain criteria, fill out an application, and submit certain paperwork. The deadline to apply is June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. This information is available on our website.

Each year we select up to six students to receive a monthly stipend that may vary from year-to-year between \$50 and \$100 per month. There is no restriction on where they attend school, but first preference is given to students attending off-reservation institutions.

For the current school year, five students applied and were selected to receive scholarships from Our Saviour's. They are:

Quinton Big Knife – Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College

Shana Henry – Montana State University - Northern  
Mia Lame Bull – Montana State University - Northern  
Kristie Lyn Russette – Montana State University - Bozeman

Reyan Sutherland – Brandman University

The scholarship, with the bonuses paid for good grades [based on a semester grading system], totals about \$1,100. These funds are sent to the students as a monthly stipend.

Many years ago an education fund was set-up after a special gift was given to Our Saviour's. That gift has now been exhausted, but we continue to fund this program because we believe it is important to encourage the young [and old] in their pursuit of education and doing something worthwhile to serve others. You can help support these young people with your gifts to our scholarship program.

## New Programs for Children and Youth

We face many of the same challenges other congregations



are facing in trying to answer the question, "What can we do for our young people?" Some of the mothers from our congregation are working at making things happen. For Halloween, we had a kids' afternoon after worship on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Lunch was macaroni and cheese and

hot dogs and other "kid-friendly" food. There were several different crafts the children and youth could do. And, there were dozens of cookies to decorate and eat and take home. A fun time was had by all and we look forward to doing something again in January or February. Maybe, it'll be a Valentine party next time!



### **Thank-you for the New-to-Us Truck**

After years of gathering donations and saving, we were finally able to purchase our truck earlier this year. Generous gifts from a Ministry Partner endowment fund and a bequest from a Ministry Partner's estate brought this dream into a reality for us. With the help of a member of First English Lutheran Church in Great Falls, who did all of the scouting for us at dealerships and in the local paper there, a truck was found that would meet our needs and was within our price range. We say a big "thank you" to all who were involved in this process.



### **Meeting Our On-going Van Needs**

Over the years we have owned several different 15-passenger vans. With the help of different Ministry Partners congregations, we have received a gift of a very low-mileage, 2012 15-passenger van and purchased, with a trade-in, another older high-mileage 15-passenger van. This second van ended up not being such a good fit for us and we have now sold it.

We kept another 15-passenger van that is older, but has lower mileage. This van, which is a V-10, is in very good physical condition, but needs a new engine. This major repair will cost between \$9,000 and \$10,000. We have received a donation of \$4,500 to go towards this repair. Along with the sale of our other van, we have about \$7,000 so far. If you or your congregation could help with this project before next summer, which is when we will need to use this van, we would greatly appreciate it.

### **We Need a New Copier**

Six years ago one of our Ministry Partner congregations saw on our "Wish List" in the TeePee Smoke that we needed a new copier. At the time we had a very simple desk-top copier.



Our goal was to have a copier that we could produce all of our mailing on. They asked what they could do to help.

Working with a company in Great Falls, we had been pricing new-to-us copiers for about a year. They were also willing to take two different machines we had on-site for trade-in value. Through a generous gift of \$8,000 from the Ministry Partner congregation we were able to purchase the

used machine we have today.

It is now time to replace our current copier with a newer model as replacement parts and supplies are going to be phased out and completely discontinued in the near future. Our Church Council has discussed the matter and we would like to buy something brand new this time. We are looking at a lease-to-own option, but purchasing the model we are looking at that will meet our needs will cost about \$11,500. Before we enter into a lease-to-own option, we would like to raise funds to make a substantial down-payment first, thereby reducing the yearly commitment to lease payments.

Your help with this project would be greatly appreciated. Any funds designated for the copier that we receive before January 31, 2017 will go towards the down-payment. Any designated funds received after that time will be applied to the lease payments.

We thank you for your help with this project. Having a copier that interfaces with our office computers, does color copying, does different kinds of stapling, does booklet printing, and more things, too – is such a wonderful thing! Beside a mailing such as the one you are reading here, we produce flyers and newsletters we send to the Rocky Boy community, we produce devotion booklets for our servant groups and immersion events, we produce mailings that go to all the seminaries in the United States and Canada concerning our Seminary Cross-Cultural Experience, to the Montana Synod churches and all of the ELCA bishops, as well as the typical church things like worship bulletins and programs for special services, i.e. funerals.

We may be a small congregation, but we have a large ministry! Our copier in one tool we use a great deal!

### **Working to Establish a Permanent Endowment Fund**

Working among the poor always presents many challenges. Funding is always an issue and how to become "self-sustaining" is one of the bigger challenges. For us, working at becoming self-sustaining will always involve our Ministry Partners, because we need your support and will never be able to do with it. But, we can work at depending less on things like the yearly Domestic Mission Grant we receive from the ELCA, which helps us meet our daily and on-going expenses. Nothing more would please the people in charge of those grants and us, too, for the time to come when we could say we no longer need that support.

With that goal in mind, we have been talking about setting up a permanent endowment fund. We must raise a minimum of \$25,000 to establish the fund. A designated savings account is being set up in order to accumulate the initial amount needed. Once the endowment fund is set up, the yearly interest will become available to us for us to use as support for the ministry.

Because of the "Giving Tuesday" letter we sent out, we have already received our first designated gifts of \$1,200 from some individuals and a Ministry Partner congregation. Our commitment, as a congregation, is to put 5% of all of the non-designated gifts into this special savings account and into the endowment fund once it is established. We are investing in our own future and are asking you to join us in this endeavor.



One thing we would ask of you, our generous supporters, is that any gifts to our endowment savings account would be the "second mile" gifts. We still need the "regular" donations you make to sustain our current and on-going work.

Our goal is to reach \$1M in twenty years or less. It is an ambitious goal. We have years of work and many donations ahead of us to make this happen. Baby-step by baby-step, maybe even by leaps and bounds, you can help make this happen. If you know of others who would like to join us in this new challenge for our ministry, please spread the word. Along with your help and the help of many others, we can make this happen.

### **American Indian-Alaska Native Lutheran Association Meetings**

In July 2015, the AI-AN Lutheran Association meeting was held in Oaks, OK at Eben Ezer Lutheran and Oaks Indian School. One major area of discussion was concerning putting the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery before the upcoming Church-wide Assembly in August 2016.

We did a "blanket exercise" which showed how much Native people have lost over time since non-Native people showed up on the coasts of the American islands and continents. All-in-all the meeting was good and productive. The networking that happens is always tremendous.



At the business meeting of the Association, Loni Whitford-Taylor, our church council president, was elected Secretary of the Association. Congratulations, Loni!

It was also decided, at a later meeting of the new AI-AN Association board, that the next Association meeting would be hosted by us at Our Saviour's in July 2017. We are now in the midst of planning for this upcoming event. Now that the Church-wide Assembly approved the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, one of the interest areas of discussion will be, "Where to we, as the Native ministries of the ELCA, go from here?"

More information about the upcoming gathering will be on the Association's webpage and FaceBook page in January 2017.

### **Water Protection Action at Standing Rock in North Dakota**

In October, Pastor Linda Webster and another Montana Synod pastor, Ron Martin-Dent, traveled to Standing Rock to meet up with other Lutheran and non-Lutheran clergy and lay



people who going to serve as witnesses to the on-going water protection action occurring concerning Dakota Access Pipeline and be present as non-Native allies. They delivered quilts, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for those who would be staying on-site during the cold winter months ahead.

During the time they were at the camp north of the Cannonball River, from October 7-10, there was a sense

of watchful anticipation as everyone was waiting for the Court to hand-down its decision on the appeal made by the Tribe concerning the easement for the pipeline to go under Lake Oahe that had to receive approval from the Army Corps of Engineers. This time of waiting people were brought together to pray, to show peaceful strength and resistance, and to just be together being of one mind and one spirit.

It was wonderful to see young people riding their horses through camp and to watch in amazement as the western coastal tribes put their long boats in the water up the Missouri River and paddle down to the encampment, asking for permission to land once they arrived. There were ceremonies and prayers all the time. The encampment was a place of peace.

Within the last few weeks the Army Corps of Engineers has affirmed that they will not grant the easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline to run under the Missouri River and the Lake Oahe. Though all might not agree, we believe it is the environment that it the winner here. The water has been protected at this time and in this place.

### **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!

### **Receiving and Giving Gifts**

We have all heard the phrase, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." At Our Saviour's we receive many gifts from all over the country. For this we are very thankful.

It is very important that we give back, too. There must always be an inlet and an outlet, so that we do not become like the Dead Sea. There must be gifts flowing out, too, for us to be a healthy community of faith.

Not only do we help and work within our own community, but we give to the needs of others as well. We know what it is like to be a ministry that is not self-sustaining from within. For this reason, we have chosen to give to ministries like our own. Though the gifts may be small, our mission-giving goes to several other Indian ministries within the ELCA, the Montana Synod prison ministry, and the two Montana Synod campus ministries. We also give to Lutheran Disaster Response, from whom we received so much help after our floods in 2010 and 2011. We pray we can always be a community through which God's rich blessings may flow in and back out.

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

We are so thankful for all the gifts that we do receive. We need: a new copier, a small flat-screen TV, a computer for the office, computer projector, mini bobcat, chain saw, jigsaw, a small trailer for hauling things with a van or truck, and various other small pieces of equipment for general work around our site and other places we may go to do work projects. We need to fix our second van. We can always use layette items and new items for Christmas gifts. We can use quilts, hats, scarves, and gloves.

We are looking for an architect who would be willing to donate some time to consult with use concerning particular

remodeling/renovations we are considering undertaking. These changes would help make parts of the Mission House more accessible, i.e. changing stairways to the basement and second floor.

We are looking for an electrician who could donate time to work on several projects. Some are indoor and some are outdoor, so the time of year might be a factor to consider.

### Why Become 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, Trusts, Mission Outreach Funds, and 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 our "new-to-us" truck. We have put new metal roofs on all four of the cabins and re-shingled parts of the Big Church and Parsonage roofs. We have started savings to establish our Permanent Endowment Fund. With your help we are working towards getting the new motor in our second 15-passenger van.

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. For the last several years we received \$1,000 from a community foundation that someone submitted our name to. We appreciate all the help we receive!

### Leave a Legacy through Estate and Trust 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 naming Our Saviour's and the ministry on the Rocky Boy's Reservation when you plan or review your trust and estate.

Over the last two years, we have received gifts from several estates. These gifts have enabled those of us working in this ministry to have several years that have been almost worry-free concerning the financial needs we face.

### The Ambassador 1000 Program

The Ambassador 1000 program is one way we hope to create a stable donor base. Information about the program can be found on our website. If you are not a computer person, write or call. We will send you the information.

If you would like to participate, please indicate your pledge of support on your first donation. On your subsequent donations write "Ambassador." Thank you.



### Donate On-line on Our Website

Donations may be made securely through PayPal on our website. It is as easy as clicking on the donate button and following the directions.



### Thrivent Choice and Dividend Giving

Thrivent Choice giving is important to us. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider designating Our Saviour's for your Thrivent Choice gift. 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 \$1,932 Thrivent Choice dollars so far in 2016. Keep up the wonderful designating!

Thrivent members who own certain types of investment vehicles may also donate yearly dividends to a charity of their choice. We have been fortunate to receive these gifts.

### Amazon Smile

Donating to Our Saviour's through the Amazon Smile Foundation is very easy. Every time you want to purchase something at Amazon.com, go to **Smile.Amazon.com** instead! Designate Our Saviour's as your charity of choice. A percentage of each purchase price will be donated to us every quarter.



### Campbell Labels



Campbell's is discontinuing their Labels for Education program at the end of the 2016-17 school year. We can still send in labels that specifically have the Labels for Education logo on them. Please send any labels you might have as soon as possible so that we can send them in and get them processed through the system.

Thank you for your support in this program over the years.

### USPS versus E-mail

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](mailto:office@oslcrb.org). We keep current mailing addresses on file just in case the e-mail address fails and we have to send it out to you. We do not share or sell our database information.

### Address Changes

Has your mailing address or e-mail address changed? If you received this TeePee Smoke by mail, but were expecting it by e-mail, we may not have your current e-mail address. Send an e-mail to [office@oslcrb.org](mailto:office@oslcrb.org) to update your information.

### Closing Prayer

As we celebrate Christmas, we thank you, Lord God, for sending your Son, Jesus, to be born on earth for the salvation of the world. Thank you for Ministry Partners who share in our work among the people of Rocky Boy. Thank you for all the companions we have along the Way. May we be a blessing to each other. May we always rest in You. Amen