

## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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

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### Amazon Smile

Donating to Our Saviour's through the Amazon Smile Foundation is easy. Every time you make a purchase at Amazon.com, login through

**Smile.Amazon.com** instead! Designate Our Saviour's as your charity of choice. Every quarter we will receive a donation that is percentage of each purchase price. Thank you!



### Donate On-line on Our Website or on FaceBook

Donations may be made securely through PayPal on our website or on our FaceBook page. It is as easy as clicking on the donate button and following the directions. You can now set up regular weekly, monthly or yearly giving!

### 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. Through your generous designations, Our Saviour's has received \$2,191 so far in 2018.



### Our Wish List

Let your requests be known to God. It seems we are always in need of things, like circular saws, chain saws, building remodel, repairs & new roofs.

More than that, we need your commitment to & prayer for this ministry. We cannot be in this alone. We need those who are our companions along the way.

We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a regular donor, which you can do through a variety of ways, including through PayPal and FaceBook. Please consider a legacy gift to Our Saviour's in your estate planning. Our Region 1 ELCA Foundation gift planner, Beth Adams, can assist you in this.

### The Ambassador 1000 Program

The Ambassador 1000 program is one way we look to create a stable donor base. Information about the program can be found on our website. Or, write, call, or e-mail, and we will send the information to you.

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



## **From the Pastor**

Compared to Summer 2018, the summer of the ELCA Youth Gathering which had very few servant groups coming to Rocky Boy, Spring, summer & fall of 2019 is going to be busy. And, we love it! We rejoice in sharing of our ministry and walking in accompaniment with so many others!

We are facing some significant challenges in maintaining the Log Chapel. This includes log replacement and a new roof.

We continue to look ahead to the 100-year anniversary of Our Saviour's in 2020. The date of the celebration is not set at this time, but we will let you know as soon as we can so you can plan to be here, too!

## **Finishing up the FY2018 ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant**

We received a \$3,000 grant to provide an "emergency end-of-the-month food supply" for a limited number of individuals & families. Our program started in April 2018 and will end in January 2019. We had budgeted \$333 per month, but forgot to include January in the original calculation, forgetting that the fiscal year for the ELCA begins on February 1 and new grants won't start until then.

We are juggling a little to cover the cost for January 2019. If you or your congregation have sent donations designated for "families of Rocky Boy" or something similar, we want you to know we are using those funds to help us cover the January expense to keep this "emergency end-of-the-month food supply" going until we know if and what we might be receiving for FY2019.

If you would like to donate specifically to this need, please note on your check or PayPal donation that it is for FY2018 Hunger Grant expenses. Thank you!

## **Scholarship recipient – Quinton Big Knife**

*Quinton Big Knife, scholarship recipient for 2018-19, is the son of Shawn & Tami Big Knife. The family now lives in Oregon, but Shawn is from Rocky Boy & Tami is from Havre. Along with the historic connections to the Big Knife family, Tami worked as the Administrative Assistant for OSLC for several years before they moved.*

*A young man of few words, the following are two notes Quinton wrote to Pastor Linda.*



Here is a picture of me from this last summer working for Oregon State University. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management with a minor in Leadership at OSU. I plan to graduate spring of 2019.

Thank you so much for the OSLC scholarship. The financial assistance is truly appreciated.

## **Our Sewing Lady - Jessie Kilian**

For many years we have welcomed Jessie Kilian, from WI, along with others she has encouraged to come with her. They bring sewing projects they have put together. They help with projects the participants bring themselves.

This past summer Jessie came alone, having not twisted anyone else's arm quite hard enough to get them to come along. There was a fashion show already planned and at least two people got help with their "fashion statements" from her. Jessie loves a challenge and those projects for the fashion show did give her that!

This picture shows the ladies modeling aprons they made from blue jeans and some other patterned fabric used for the ties and ruffle.



## **Our Layette Ministry**

The layette ministry at OSLC is a joyful one! It is fun to give gifts for the newly arrived little ones whose parents, grandparents, or foster parents come to receive the bundle.



This picture is of Noelle, who is 4 days old. She is one of the latest recipients of a layette.

Recently, one of our Ministry Partners looked at the list we have on our website & sent some much needed supplies along with gift cards to be used at our local Dollar Tree store where we purchase the lotions, powder & wipes. If you would like to donate some new baby items for our layette ministry, you can find it on our website at [www.oslcrb.org](http://www.oslcrb.org). Go to the "About Us" link, then to "Our Ministry". You will find the Layette Ministry description there with a link to the list of items we include in each layette. Sometimes we have special things we might include, too, e.g. hand-knit baby sweaters for winter.

## Introducing Sara Putt, Lutheran & Teacher at Rocky Boy Senior High School

A hush falls over the gathered staff & students of Rocky Boy Junior/Senior High School. All 250 or so 7-12th grade students and staff gather every Monday morning at 8:20 am to smudge, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, hear the weekly announcement & sports updates, and draw the two STAR award winners for the week. Once done the rush is on to get to class on time.



Working at RBHS has been a very rewarding experience. I am consistently glad that I made the decision to pack up my things and move to this small and remote part of the world. I have to admit that I am a city girl at heart and sometimes miss the ease of access to restaurants, shops, and other luxuries I took for granted. However, living and working on the Rocky Boy Reservation brings its own pleasures. I love living in the Bear Paw Mountains. The air is fresh and clean. I have enjoyed participating in the weekly women's Bible study at OSLC. It has brought many things to ponder and reflect on. As this year comes further to a close, I look around at my students and am thankful for all the experiences living and working here has given me and will continue to bring me. Love and peace, Sara.

*Sara is the Rocky Boy High School special education teacher & the daughter of Thom & Pastor Valorie Putt who serve at American Lutheran Church in Chinook, MT. Originally from Washington state, she moved with her family to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN when her mother began attending classes. Sara attended Augsburg University in Minneapolis, worked in the public school system in Minnesota for several years before moving to Montana, choosing to work in the underserved community on the Rocky Boy's Reservation. She is in her fourth year of teaching on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.*

## A Big Thank You for Another Job Well Done

Pastor Michael O'Hearn and his wife, Pat, of Havre, MT, may both be officially retired, but their energy and dedication to God's people seem to be boundless. Both love music and play a plethora of instruments



between them. Pastor Michael continues to serve three small congregations in & near Havre, MT and



Pat volunteers with the music programs in the Havre public schools.

In between those things, they volunteer time at Our Saviour's.

In the past, they have helped fold & stuff donation envelopes into the TeePee Smoke newsletters & helped with VBS Day Camp. Earlier in December, along with Pastor Linda, they installed the orange snow/construction fence you see in the picture. About 150' long, with 24 fence posts that had to be sunk with a post driver by hand, the job took 3-1/2 hours to accomplish in the cold, wet & wind.

Volunteers, like Pastor Michael and Pat, are a treasure to any ministry & an example to us all. Thank you for being you!

## A Gift Anonymously Sent and Gratefully Received

Someone set us a wonder gift from Illustrated Children's Ministry, LLC, which is located in Racine, WI. There was a note included in the box that said, "Someone familiar with your community thought that you might have a good use for these Illustrated Nativity Sticker Sheets this Advent/Christmas Season. ...



We're excited to share these sticker sheets (as well as our "You Are Loved" Jesus Stickers) with you and your community. Consider these our gift to you this season."



Thank you to whoever it was that had these sent to us! One thing I love about these stickers is that Jesus and everyone else are more realistically depicted as people of color.

## Our Next and, Possibly, Most Formidable Challenge

Our Log Chapel is in need of repairs. The main floor was refinished almost two years and some rot issues dealt with then. There is still very old carpeting that needs to be replaced in the altar



area. Some of the exterior wall logs, which are hand-hewn, are rotting & need to be replaced.

The roof, which as you can see in the photos, is a gambrel-style and, therefore, very steep on the sides. We have decided we need to have this done professionally instead of by volunteers. We have not decided yet whether or not to do asphalt shingles or metal sheeting. The estimates so far range between \$12,000 to \$15,000. We need to raise this money before we can start the project.



As supporters of this ministry, we are turning to

you to become part of our capital fund campaign for this project. Our income stream is very fluid. We never know from week-to-week or month-to-month, exactly how much money we will have or how much will be coming in. This is a job we need to have done. So, we are turning to you – those people who love this ministry, support it in prayer & share their resources with it.

We would ask that if you can help with this project, that you make it an “extra mile” gift. We hope to not divert that donations that are part of your “regular” giving and our operating budget to this special project. Please make sure that any funds you want to go to roof project are properly identified as such.

## **2019 Servant Groups and Beyond**

Last summer we had very few summer servant groups because of the ELCA Youth Gathering. This summer presents an altogether very different story. Most of our summer weeks are already filled with youth groups and we have several adult groups coming in spring and fall.

We are thankful that word of our ministry is spreading! Groups are coming from the mid-west, west coast, and from within the MT Synod. Being easily accessible by road & train (Havre) & fairly accessible by plane (Great Falls), it makes the journey to Rocky Boy worthwhile.

We welcome servant groups year-round. Winter can be challenging in our mountain location, but we have MT Synod youth coming during Presidents' Day weekend!

If you are still considering coming sometime in 2019, check out the calendar on our website ([www.oslcrb.org](http://www.oslcrb.org)) for availability. 2020 is not far away!

## **A Children's Book to Share**

When We Were Alone, written by David A.

Robertson & illustrated by Julie Flett.

A friend, who is a book lover, recently gave me this book as a gift. It is the story of a Canadian Cree grandmother telling her granddaughter about the residential boarding school she was sent to when she was her age. As her granddaughter asks why her grandmother does certain things, the grandmother explains in very simple terms the trauma she experienced as her cultural ways were taken from her as her clothing was taken from her and her hair was cut, she was forbidden to speak her language, and she could not see or talk with her brother who was at the same school. The grandmother tells her granddaughter what she and the other children did to try to preserve their ways and language for themselves. The simplicity of the telling, without recrimination, is poignant.



If you want to help children (and yourself) understand institutional racism, this is a place to begin the discussion. Though this is set in Canada, the US boarding schools for Native children were not so different. The Canadian government has set about working towards restorative justice. The US government has yet to truly begin this work.

## **A Few Reminders**

Please make donations out to “**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.**”

Our bank will not accept checks for us to deposit that are not made out in this way.

Our mailing address is 499 Mission Taylor Road, Box Elder, MT 59521. If you have not updated your address book or 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!

## **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.

*What's in a Name?*