

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

FaceBook: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – Rocky Boy, MT

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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 received over \$2,000 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.

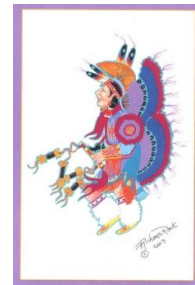
More than that, we need your commitment to & prayer for this ministry. We cannot be in this alone. We need those who are our companions along the way.

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

Having donors committed to our ministry is important. This is one way we look to create a stable donor base. Information about the program can be found on our website. You can also write, call, or e-mail, and we will make sure this information reaches 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

We are looking forward to having a busy spring, summer & fall this year. We still have plenty of space to take more servant groups throughout the year.

Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop, made a servant event for Montana youth happen on a weekend in the middle of winter! Thank you, Jason!

This issue, though containing some other news, is dedicated to the Montana Synod Youth Servant Event which occurred over Presidents' Day weekend in February.

I asked leaders in the group to send pictures & articles. Enjoy the pictures & the writing!

Montana Synod Youth Servant Event Thoughts from our Rocky Boy servant trip by Evan Ceaicovschi (10th Grader)



"My overall experience on the trip was insightful, but also very revealing to how the Natives were treated & how much poverty there is especially since most of America isn't in it. Building the bed was just another task to us, but to them it was a blessing. In the end I feel very grateful that I'm not living in those kind of conditions"...I

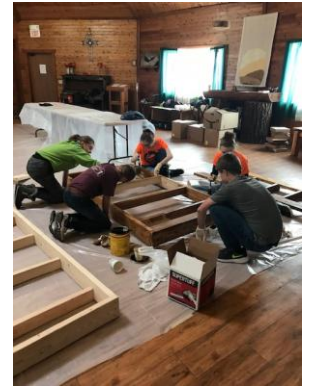
enjoyed the trip up to Rocky Boy Reservation. It was an eye opening experience that I will never forget."... "Pastor Linda said servant groups usually build one set of bunk beds in a week but we built 4 in a day...in below zero temps."

As some of you may already know, the St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Group (Helena) recently traveled and stayed 2 nights on the Rocky Boy's Reservation. Around 17 people went on the trip, including a family from



Choteau. We spent our 1st day sanding & staining rough cut boards to make 4 sets of bunk beds for needy families. On our 3rd day, we delivered the beds to the homes &

assembled them in for the children. Many of the families on the Rocky Boy Reservation lacked basic necessities, such as beds & just slept on the floor. Many of the children were overjoyed with these beds. Pastor Brad (from St. John's) led us in a prayer of blessing. During our down time, we played games & had discussions with Pastor Linda. During our stay, we dressed warmly because the temperature was regularly at -10 degrees. Although we have already built & delivered the beds, we can continue to help,



even from a distance, by tithing our due to the Church & also donating food to homeless shelters. Everyone is familiar with Matt. 26:11, "You always have the poor with you, but you do

not always have me" (Christian Standard Bible). This is an important reminder to live by Deut. 15:11, "For there will never cease to be poor people in your land" (Christian Standard Bible), but it also clearly states that we much serve the Lord first.



Montana Synod Youth Learn and Serve Together on the Rocky Boy Reservation by Pastor Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus was having a conversation with a religious lawyer when the question came up, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responded by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. In short, Jesus' answer was "a neighbor is someone who cares."



Care is shown in little & big ways. Sometimes it is simply taking the time to stop & learn about your neighbor. Other times, being a neighbor means taking up a hammer alongside them.

Youth from Helena & Choteau joined together Feb. 15-17 to partner with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to learn about their neighbors & share their time & talents to

build bunk beds for families in need on the reservation. It was a special time to learn about the people & culture of the Chippewa Cree Tribe & the ministry of Our Saviour's.

Youth from St. John's Lutheran in Helena & Trinity Lutheran in Choteau, attended the event where they took time to experience life on the reservation, learn more about ministry with native people, play together & work together. After the beds were complete, we were able to deliver them to families in need in the community.



Thank you to the congregations who helped to make this event a success by donating quilts & money; to Pastor Linda Webster for helping to organize the event; and, to Thrivent for an Action Grant to

cover the cost of some of the materials for the beds.



(All 13 youth, 1 pastor & 1 youth leader at one of the homes with an assembled bed)

A note from Pastor Linda on this particular servant event:

It would seem that what could go wrong did go wrong during this servant event. This group exhibited great patience as I discovered the blower fan on 1 furnace in the Mission House quit working & the other furnace wouldn't hold temperature (figured out later it was a frozen drain pipe). The building has a woodstove & the youth cheerfully brought wood up from the woodpile at the parsonage so the building could be heated that way.

Unknown to me, until we were checking out the workspace in the heated maintenance garage, our propane guy had not filled that particular tank on his last round (why he skipped that one we'll never know!) & it had run out. All the youth were really good about helping to move all the paint (and there was a lot) into a warmer space. We got the tank filled the next day, but the paint will remain where it is for the time being.

The leaders & youth that formed the MT Synod Youth Servant Event were good sports & willing to pitch in no matter what the circumstances. On behalf of Our Saviour's, I give them hug & a thank-you for all they did to overcome a few unexpected circumstances!

An Amazing Finish to the FY2018 ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant

With the shutdown of the Federal government in January, things got pretty tight for many people at Rocky Boy. Thanks to many who gave monetary gifts so that we could increase our "end-of-the-month emergency food supply" from 20 bags of food to 70. Rose DeBerry, who works at the Office of Victim Service, is our point person there. This office

distributes the food & tracks how many individuals & family units we are reaching through this program.



OVS works hard on their end to make this program a success.

We received the same \$3000 ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant for FY2019 (this started Feb. 1, 2019).

We have already

augmented our FY2018 grant with a small grant from Walmart & hope to do the same this year. The local Gary & Leo's IGA where we purchase the food routinely gives us wonderful discounts.

We have increased our food donations to 30 bags, but need more financial resources to continue this increase. You can help with this. Gift a designated gift!

Help with a Formidable Project

We need to replace the roof on the Log Chapel. This is a job we cannot leave to volunteers. Can you help with a monetary donation? The estimates range between \$12,000 to \$15,000.



As supporters of this ministry, we count on you to be a part of our capital fund campaign for this project. Many of you have been here & love this ministry, support

it in prayer & share your resources.

Can you can make a special gift, an "extra mile" gift? Please make sure that any funds you want to go to roof project are identified as "Log Chapel Roof".

Thrivent Action Grants

If you own a qualifying Thrivent investment, have you thought about applying for a Thrivent Action Grant that could be used to help with projects like our bunk-bed making?

These grants can be used to buy some of the supplies we use to make these beds & for the bedding, mattresses & pillows we purchase to go on the finished beds. When we deliver and setup a set of bunk-beds, it is ready to be used when we leave.

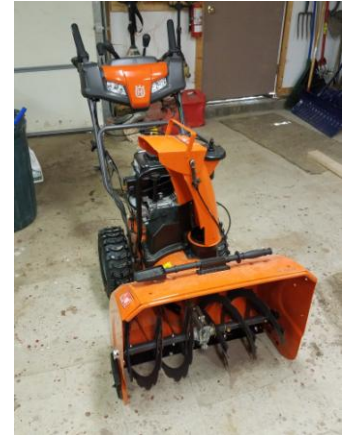
For example, someone ordered 2 mattresses from the company we get them from & had them delivered to Our Saviour's. All the bedding & pillows were ordered on-line & delivered directly to us. These are a

few helpful ways to use this grant money for servant events.

A Much Needed Gift

Last winter (2017-18) was a landmark year for snow, but it didn't have the sustained -20F temperatures we have had this winter.

Throughout the winter, I continually posted pictures on our FaceBook page of the snow &, quite frankly, complained about all the shoveling I was having to do. Well, a donor took pity on me & purchased us a new snow blower.



We "talked" through messaging on FaceBook & determined what our needs were. I did ask that the purchase be make locally so that it would be a brand we could get serviced here, too. Thank you for this wonderful gift! All we had to do was pick it up!

Looking Forward to 2020

In 2020, Our Saviour's will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary. The date for our celebration has not yet been decided, but it mostly likely will not be during the summer as that is the time our servant groups come.

We'll keep you posted on when it will be happening. We would love to have you come!

A Few Reminders

Please make donations out to "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church."

Our mailing address is 499 Mission Taylor Road, Box Elder, MT 59521.

Please make sure to include your name & return address inside a box or package.

What's in a Name?

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. 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.