

NEWS FLASH

Starting immediately Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has a new mailing address.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
499 Mission Taylor Rd
Box Elder, MT 59521-8983

The entire reservation is undergoing this change to actual street addresses, which better accommodates the 911 system of locating people. Our old RR-Box number will be good for one year, so don't worry as mail and packages will still find their way to us.

Micah 6:6-8 "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

From the Pastor

Greetings to all of you, our faithful companions in this journey of faith and life, from your sisters and brothers in Christ on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

It has been a while since some of you have heard from us. We have worked at getting our website updated, but I know many of you may not check that regularly. Also, we had a problem with the office computer which is now fixed. That was complicating lines of communication through our general address, office@oslcrb.org. But, all is well as of last week.



Pastor Linda's ordination at the Montana Synod Assembly, Billings, MT - June 2008. Fran Morsette, Anna Crain, Lynne Webster, Pastor Linda Webster, Delene Wells, Betty Haaland, Natalye Alvarez.

I have been at Our Saviour's since May 2008 and would like to share with this wonderful time of my ordination in June at the Montana Synod assembly with you by sharing this picture.

I was officially installed in August 2008 with friends coming from many places in the United States to share in the celebration.

My brief personal history is that I was born in Libby, MT, grew up in Spokane, WA, have lived a number of places in the United States from the West to the East coasts, and traveled a fair amount here and abroad. My formal education is in math and science, and I love tutoring these subjects which I have done a little since being at Our Saviour's.



Pastor Linda and Bishop Jessica Crist along with other from the Bear Paw Cluster at Linda's installation.

I have worked for small and large companies and even owned my own business for a few years.

I am a recent graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. I did many different cross-cultural and multi-cultural experiences during my time in seminary and sought out education in multi-cultural and cross-cultural ministry. Through the experiences I participated in, I was blessed to see what God is doing in many different places on Earth.

I have been truly enriched in my own faith life by encountering my Christian sisters and brothers in those places, seeing their daily lives and the obstacles they face that I can hardly image occurring in my own life. Their strength of faith and Christian daily living will, I hope, affect me for the rest of my earthly life.

I was raised as a Lutheran Christian, but have not always been Lutheran in practice in my adult life. Upon returning to the Lutheran denomination and hearing anew the message of God's grace in the midst of my brokenness, I realized why I was a Lutheran at heart and knew I had truly come home. So, here I am – now an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. No one is more surprised, or pleased, than I am about where I am today!

Please, always feel free to call or e-mail to see how things are going here.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Linda



From the Office

Greetings from Our Saviour's – Rocky Boy to all our good church friends all over the USA.

I answer your telephone calls and write you notes. I

have come to know some people by the telephone. It is great!

I act as "Our Girl Friday" for our new Pastor Webster. It gives her time to get the big things done.

Please keep writing and calling! The congregation is always happy to hear from others.

Yours in Christ, Betty Haaland

Meet our other staff members



Janice Parker is our bookkeeper and has been with us since summer 2008.



Our maintenance man is Tom St. Pierre. He, too, has been with us since spring 2008.

A Devotional Reading

The following is from daily devotion found in For All the Saint: a Prayer Book For and By the Church, vol. 4. It was written by Basil the Great of Caesarea, who was one of the

early church fathers, born 329 C.E. and died 379 C.E. This is taken from his writing entitled, "On Mercy and Justice."

You must therefore combine justice with mercy, spending in mercy what you possess in justice, as it is written: "Keep mercy and justice and draw near to thy God always." Because God loves mercy and justice, those who take care to do mercy and justice draw near to God. It remains, then, for each to examine themselves and for rich people to take careful inventory of the private resources from which they are to offer gifts to God - to make sure they have not oppressed poor people, or used force against the weak, or cheated those dependent upon them, thus exercising license rather than justice... Do not employ force because you are in command, and do not take advantage of another because it is within your power to do so. On the contrary, show forth the deeds of justice because you are able to perform the deeds of power. Your fear of God and your obedience to Him are not exhibited in abstaining from acts beyond your ability, but in this - that being in a position to violate the law, you refuse to transgress it. If you give alms to the poor after you have despoiled them of their goods, it were better for you neither to have taken nor given ... God will have no part in avarice nor will the Lord be a comrade to thieves and robbers. He has not left us the poor to feed because He is unable to do this, but He asks from us, for our own good, the fruit of justice and mercy.

The Layette Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has sent layette items or donations designated for the layette ministry this year. You have made it possible for Our Saviour's to give out over 30 layettes in 2008 in the Rocky Boy community. We have been encouraging the recipients of the layettes to bring their babies in so we can take pictures and share them with you!



Here are just a few of the recipients of our layettes.

Whenever possible, we have used the wonderful fleece baby blankets many of you have sent to wrap the layette items in. We are going to start using "gift" bags also for this.

We very much appreciate the designated funds that are sent which help us purchase items when we run low. Though

we have received a small grant through Marilyn Sorenson's office, which has enabled us to purchase some baby powder, baby lotion, and baby shampoo for newborns, we can always use more!

If you would like to contribute to the Layette Ministry we encourage you to send designated funds as these items are heavy and, therefore, too expensive to send. With designated funds, we will purchase these supplies locally.

Again, we say "thank you" for all of the Rocky Boy community for your generous support.

On behalf of all of the Layette Ministry volunteers –
Blessings, Fran Morsette

Reflection from Jeff Mikyska

(Jeff has been coming to the Rocky Boy's Reservation with youth groups for several years.)

The Tree on the Cliff

The tree stands tall over the cliff, acting as the backdrop for the Chapel in the Sky at Rocky Boy, Montana. Its limbs stretch out behind the altar, split in two like the temple curtain on Good Friday. It is unique, the only of its kind amongst thousands of other pines which are seemingly identical to one another. This particular tree grew out of the cliff, its trunk winding around the rocks so that the rocks almost become a part of the tree itself. It dares to stand behind the altar, while all others are at the sides of the Chapel.

Most of the branches are bare and long dead. But at the very top of each limb is strong and healthy growth, with hundreds of dark green pine needles. The dead branches act as a reminder of the path this life has taken. Each branch has come and gone, adding nutrients to the emerging NEW growth in the tree and, simultaneously, adding to its overall beauty. Every branch, regardless of its size or fate has brought this tree to where it is today.

And today, this tree is simply a reminder to us all of the promised Tree of Life from both Genesis and Revelations. For it provides all who come here with protection from the ominous cliff it is on. It provides food for the soul and feeds your spirit. As one limb stretches to the heavens and the other points to the

western sun, it reminds us to focus on the things of God's kingdom and to follow in the footsteps of God's Son. The beauty, shelter, and lessons this tree provides is medicine to provide all souls who see it with peace and healing love.

And, as all trees do, this tree even helps to provide us with the very air that we breathe. It breathes life into one's soul just as God's Spirit does the same for each of us. This Chapel, this place, is as beautiful as any that I have ever seen. God is present here. And this tree, God's unique gift to all who come here, this tree is truly our Tree of Life. As it reaches daily for the heavens, may we all do the same. Amen.

The Thrift Store

What was the "Give-Away" Store has become our new Thrift Store. We have moved the location from the main level of the Mission House to the small extension room off the back of the building. This room has its own outside entrance and doesn't have any stairs, which is helpful to the elders who come to shop.

Even though we have changed our hours (Tuesdays and Thursday 1 to 4 pm), this year the Thrift Store is being utilized by more people than ever. We sell anything you can fit into a brown grocery bag for \$1. The money raised will be used for various projects around the church. The first project is to get a heater for the Thrift Store!

The Thrift Store provides a great source for our community as a whole. For those are not able to pay, we gladly let them have what they need. Often we have people come from our Social Service Department to get clothes for needy children who are going into adoptive or foster care. Many of these people later return with a donation for the Thrift Store.

We at Our Saviour's thank each and every one of you who have been so generous and sent things for the Store. In winter we can always use all sizes of warm clothing, including thermal underwear, jackets, pants, shirts, socks, and boots. Many of the new items we received were set aside to give away as Christmas presents.

With spring and summer approaching, please consider starting to send those things within a month or two.

As always, we ask that the items you send be clean and gently used. And, again, on behalf of the Chippewa

Cree people of Rocky Boy, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

On behalf of all the Thrift Store volunteers,
Sincerely, Anna Crain

College Scholarships

Thanks to money we have set aside for education purposes in an account with Thrivent, Our Saviour’s has been able to continue to give scholarships to college students from the Reservation. The students who have received these scholarships are enrolled members of the tribe, but may attend any accredited college of their choice.

This support is given as a monthly stipend, with a “bonus” given for a GPA of 3.0 or better for the term. Please take a look at the criteria we have for the students by going to our webpage at www.oslcrb.org under “Mission.”

Special Scholarship Recipient

For the past four years, Charmayne Four Colors received a special scholarship which covered the cost of ½ of all her textbooks. This gift was generously, and anonymously, given by a Midwest chapter of the Women of the ELCA. Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church had the privilege of participating in the giving of the gift.



This past summer, while in transit to the WELCA Triennial in Salt Lake City, one of the women from this group came through Havre on the train. We were elated that several of us from the congregation were able to meet her and receive a gift to give to Charmayne to celebrate her graduation from the University of Montana in Missoula.

Join us in congratulating Charmayne in finishing her college education!

From Heatherly Priestly

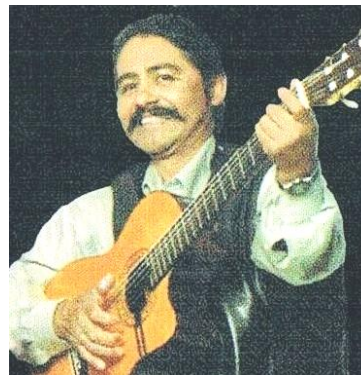
(Heather visited Rocky Boy for the first time this past summer. She is from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Norge, Virginia.)

This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to Montana to work on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation. It was, to say the least, a humbling

experience. Sixteen others of my church family and I packed our bags and headed to Box Elder, Montana. For four days we worked repairing and painting handicap ramps, staining cabins, preparing a local half-way house for use, and removing old sheetrock from a flooded basement. I was so busy with my “service” that at first I did not realize exactly what was going on around me. As the Indians on the Reservation and our group members ate together, worked together, spent time together, and learned all we could about each other’s cultures in the short time we had together we came to realize that, despite the color of our skin, where we live, the way we talk, or any of the other petty things that may set us apart, when you really get down to it, we simply are not all that different. This trip created a unique learning opportunity for everyone involved. There is a shared human compassion that no difference in race, religion, language, or culture can break. I walked into that trip expecting to change the lives of the Indians on that reservation and, instead, found it was they who would change my life and my perception of the world around me forever. This was truly a life altering experience; an experience that I would hope no one misses out on.

“2008 -- Musical Highlights” by Jose Bonilla

(Jose came with the Retreat group from LSS-Utah in August & September.)



Thanks to God for our safe comings and goings to Rocky Boy from Lutheran Social Service of Utah this year. Our purpose was to support the healing at Rocky Boy. We fulfilled our purpose through sweating and praying for this to happen

with Gordon and Tina and eating corn soup and traditional Indian bread. We are so delighted that Gordon has a new position and a new home and that he is so happy.

We were welcomed in a very, very gracious manner by Pastor Linda. We enjoyed her wisdom, Bible study, worship, preaching, problem-solving and constant welcome. We froze at the rodeo but still liked it and watched Nolan ride while Rae and her uncles cheered him on. Plus, Suzie made us Dorito tacos in a bag which were very yummy on a very cold night.

There is a lot of physical structure development since my first coming to Rocky Boy. This year we toured and swam at the recreation center which heals and prevents diabetes (thanks Mike) and toured the Center where people can heal from addictions (thanks Leona). We toured a new history archive at the Stone Child College library (thanks MaryLou and librarians).

The wedding of Deana and Wilbin was inspiring especially with Pastor Linda's message that focused on the importance of spiritually nourishing a marriage. Pastor Linda encourages us all to find our spiritual home and nourish our relationships there. And to top it all off, Sunday worship this week with the faithful at Our Saviour's was followed by a barbeque with the whole congregation!

While at Rocky Boy, we painted the kitchen a cheerful green and cleaned a few cupboards and ovens. We really noticed Tom's sense of humor gathering a 'bucking bronco' group together for a positive purpose. We also filled a food pantry for people at Rocky Boy.

Chapel in the Sky is always open. I was inspired to write a song there that I will share with you next year, God willing!

I realized this year that when we have a greater cause there are greater challenges. God is with us and always merciful!

Love, Jose

Servant Groups and Retreats in 2009

Spring, summer, and early fall 2009 look to be an amazing time for Our Saviour's. We have many groups coming who will be first time visitors and more "repeaters" than we had last summer. We have a confirmation retreat coming from one of our nearby congregations. And, the fall retreat for LSS of Utah will be happening again this year. The Women of the ELCA will be doing an immersion event here, too. All of this is very exciting!

But, as we seek ways to become more financially stable, we are looking to build our retreat and servant

group ministry even more. As the cabins are completed and the basement in the Mission House renovated, we are looking to be more of a year-round facility.

Youth groups focus on the summer months for necessary reasons – school vacation and such. Adult groups are more flexible and are, generally, smaller and more able to come on a year-round basis. We encourage you to think about this and would welcome you to come at other times of the year.

Hopes for an Intern

As the work of ministry grows at Our Saviour's, there is a need for additional staff to carry out the work of the ministry. We have the possibility of having a deaconess intern come to work for a 12-month period, if we can raise the funds to pay her salary and benefits.

As we have talked, she would be working with the Servant Groups, the ladies in the Thrift Store, and in the Youth program we are developing, centering around Bible study and the practicality of the living Word in daily life.

Pray with us concerning this possibility happening at Our Saviour's.

E-mail rather than Snail Mail

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is learning to be a better steward of creation. We believe that sending the TeePee Smoke by e-mail, as much as possible, can help in one small way.

For those who do have e-mail and would like to receive the TeePee Smoke link via e-mail when each new issue is posted on our website, please e-mail to office@oslcrb.org and indicate this. Please also include your mailing address, so we can make sure the e-mail address goes in the correct spot.

Do not worry, though. We are still sending out paper copies, too, for those who do not have e-mail or for those who prefer to get a paper copy. And, if for some reason you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please let us know this, too.

Thank you for helping us be better stewards of creation!

The Gift of Quilts

Every year Our Saviour's receives quilts sent from all over the U.S. Many were given out at Christmas.

After having gone to New Orleans, worked in the lower 9th Ward and handed out quilts in the neighborhood on behalf of Lutheran Disaster Relief, Pastor Linda thought, "Why not at Rocky Boy?"

Now, in an effort to gift every household on the Rocky Boy's Reservation, we are planning to go door-to-door and hand out quilts. If you have some already made, please, send them before winter is over!

Poem inspired by Pastor Linda Webster's

Hebrews Bible Study

God is daily bread

Manna

Appearing

Dissolving

Manifest

Sensuous Faith

Robust

Granular

Hearty

My heart rests

then starts

the dancing

Faith

The Hope

The Light

Blessed Coming

Star-filled Night

Across God's Open Sky

© Leslie Whited

(Leslie is the director of LSS-Utah and has been coming to the Rocky Boy's Reservation for a number of years. Her project for her D.Min. thesis was centered around women from the ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.)

Our Saviour's "Wish List"

There are many changes always taking place here at Our Saviour's. Because of this, we have many different kinds of needs, wants, and desires.

With that in mind, we have compiled a "Wish List" of things we hope to be able to obtain within the next year or so. As you can see some will have priority over others.

❖ Fix the roof on the Big Church (yes, it needs to be repaired again!) – about \$5,000.

- ❖ An architect's plan for the Mission House basement renovation.
- ❖ Renovate the gutted basement space in the Mission House, which was flooded several times in Spring/Summer 2008.
- ❖ Roof gutters and window wells for the Mission House.
- ❖ 2 used (but in great shape!) 15-passenger vans.
- ❖ 1 used (but in great shape!) truck.
- ❖ 2 new heavy-duty stoves for the Big Church.
- ❖ 2 new, over the stove microwaves for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 heavy-duty dishwasher for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 new residential stove for the Mission House.
- ❖ 2 new heavy-duty refrigerators for the Big Church.
- ❖ 1 up-right freezer for the Big Church
- ❖ 2 new residential refrigerators, 1 for the Mission House and 1 for the Parsonage.
- ❖ 4 to 6 8-foot plastic (not heavy particle board) tables for use in the Big Church. (We move these around so much they need to be the lighter-weight ones).
- ❖ 1 or 2 caddies to store the 8-foot tables.
- ❖ 4 large electric (110-V) wall heaters (1 for each cabin) with the capacity to heat a 450 s.f. room.
- ❖ 4 small electric (110-V) wall heaters (1 for each bathroom in each cabin) with the capacity to heat an 80 s.f. room.
- ❖ 4 80-gal. electric water heaters or 20-gal. electric, wall-mounted, quick recovery water heaters (1 for each cabin).
- ❖ Donations to help pay for running new 220-V service from the pole by the cabins into each cabin (~\$1000 parts and labor).
- ❖ 20 to 24 sets of bunk beds (5 or 6 sets per cabin). The cost of materials to construct each set is about \$200.
- ❖ 2 family-sized tents and ground tarps to do under them.
- ❖ 20 floor/tent pads for use with sleeping bags (non-inflatable).
- ❖ 1 shower and toilet kit for handicap accessibility in 1 of the cabins.
- ❖ Financial support for an intern, totally about \$25,000 for salary and benefits.

Your Spiritual & Financial Giving is Important to Us

In this time of economic stress, we cannot thank enough for your continued support of the ministry 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 was well. The struggles many are going through across the face of our world makes it is, indeed, a very difficult time for all.

Mission Partners are very important to us and we have had a number of people ask us how to become one. There are several different ways this can happen. One way is to go directly through the ELCA office in Chicago. Another way is through the Montana Synod or through your own synod, if it is different. Lastly, you can covenant directly with Our Saviour's. Any of these partnerships could have a specific timeframe and/or have a specified monetary amount associated with them. Always, any of commitment involves on-going prayer and communication.

This past year we have kindly been remembered by someone in her will. We have no idea exactly what this might mean for us. About 10 years ago another donor gifted her Thrivent annuity to us and has continued to pay the premiums on it for us. People are being very creative in their giving to us! We thank God for this creativity on your parts.

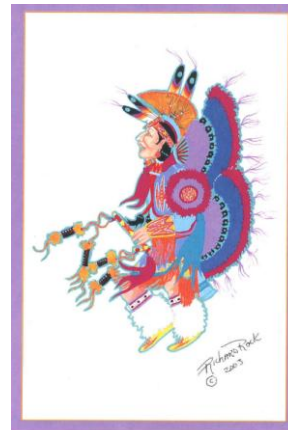
We are working with Thrivent so that if you desire you can donate directly into our "education" fund account we have with them. Just let us know if this is what you would like to do and we can make sure the arrangements are made.

One of our partner congregations had a great idea this winter. They asked us to purchase beadwork for them from the local craftspeople, which they reimbursed us for, and then sold it at their own craft fair. We are very willing to do this as a "fair trade" partner with any congregation. Contact us and let us know what you might be looking to sell, i.e. earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc. or more religious items, e.g. crosses, Luther roses, etc.

We constantly thank God for each and everyone of you who remember us in your giving. Thank you!

The Ambassdor 1000 Program Continues

We are continuing the Ambassador 1000 program started several years ago by Pastor Barden. If you choose to participate in this program, please indicate your pledge of support on your first donation of 2009 and on your subsequent donations write "Ambassador." This will help us be more organized on our end of things, too.



If you would like more information about the Ambassador 1000 program, please write, call, or e-mail, and will we get this out to you.

Campbell Soups Labels

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church welcomes you sending the UPC part of the label from Campbell's products. Sending the entire label is no longer necessary, which is good because it is less bulky to send.

This includes not only the UPC from the various soups, but also V-8 juices, Swanson's broth, Prego, Pepperidge Farm, Franco American products. This information can be found on the Campbell's website of eligible products at - http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible_products.pdf

Summer Bible Camp

Last summer we sent two campers to the Lutheran camp on Flathead Lake. They traveled by bus to camp with other kids from the Havre area.

We hope to be able to send more this year as we develop our youth programs. We have already received at least one donation designated for 2009 camperships. Flathead Camp is also generous in financially helping those young people who may not be able to afford to go otherwise.

Upcoming Projects

Painting and staining the exteriors of the Parsonage and Mission House, completing the cabins, starting a community garden, and building bunk beds.



Ladies with quilts made at the Mission.

This photo is to be published in a book on quilts and quilters of Montana that the State Historical Society is currently working on.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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