



Lutherans in Indian Communities

LINC is a newsletter by the Montana District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for Native communities and the Lutherans living in and/or serving those communities.

Spring 2015

Food For Thought
on Radio Station KVCK
Monday through Friday 7:36 AM

Mark 9:7 says: And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. hear Him!"

In the Old Testament, God often makes His presence known in the cloud; something mysterious, yet present!.

God makes His presence known in our text! Out of the cloud He speaks! "This is My beloved Son hear Him!"

Certainly the Father's voice from the cloud encourages Jesus in His task to suffer and die for the sins of us all.

In the words, "Hear Him!" God directs us all to the Gospel and forgiveness in Christ crucified and resurrected!

Christ does His work. He dies on the cross for our sin; rises on the third day! Gifted with faith, we work as well!

The disciples eventually talk about the Transfiguration. Jesus commands them to talk about it after He's risen! .

So we too talk about Christ in daily life! We live our Christian faith on the most basic level, at home, with family.

Confessing sin! Forgiving! Teaching God's Word!
Be befriending! Sharing! Done in the context of faith and family.

God encourages us here! The Transfiguration directs us to the friend of sinners, Christ Jesus! Hear Him! Amen.

*This is Pastor John Vallie from Trinity Lutheran Church,
Wolf Point, with "food for thought".*

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The “Food for Thought” radio program covers approximately 150 mile radius—Scobey to the north, Glasgow to the west, Culbertson to the east and Circle to the south. With help from various mission organizations, the Montana Indian Ministry has endeavored to use this means to reach the people of the Fort Peck Reservation. This radio program began under the title “The Gospel Minute” in 2007 by Rev. George Draper. It continues today through the ministry of Rev. John Vallie. Rev. Vallie serves a triple parish: Faith Lutheran in Glasgow, Trinity Lutheran in Wolf Point and Trinity Lutheran in Plentywood.

Pow Wow Schedule for 2015

A couple from Georgia support this ministry by making crosses and prayer pouches, from plastic craft sheets, enough to be distributed at all Pow Wows!

BROWNING—July 7-12 Members of Our Redeemer Lutheran congregation in Columbia Falls have held a VBS (by pulling a trailer of supplies to Browning), since 2008 at the Native American Days Pow Wow. Outreach work began three years earlier with help from Rev. Jacobs and the Montana IMC. This picture from the 2014 VBS conveys the joy of their presence at this event.



WOLF POINT—July 30-Aug. 2

The Wadopana Celebration in 2014 added a VBS booth and a worship service which was held at the dance arbor. The new transportable VBS booth was put to use at both this Pow Wow and at the Ashland Pow Wow. Bobbie Schenderline and Mike Aswegan (from Iowa) are often present to help with the ministry outreach at this Pow Wow, in addition to those at the Crow Agency and in Ashland.

CROW FAIR AND RODEO—Aug. 13-17 Since 1988 there has been a VBS outreach booth at the Crow Fair. Children gather for Bible stories and crafts. Bibles and water are available for the thirsty: (physically or spiritually). Rev. Dan Jacobs leads a Sunday morning worship service in the VBS booth during the Fair at Crow Agency.

ASHLAND—Sept. 4-7 At this Labor Day Pow Wow for the past two years, a worship service has been held in the dance arbor. New contacts are made and old relationships strengthened. VBS outreach began in 2014. Ashland is Bobbie Schenderline's community where she works at St. Labre.

If you would like some Lutheran brothers and sisters to come to your pow wow to have a booth from which to share the love of Creator in Christ Jesus, please contact Dan Jacobs at crowlutheranministry@gmail.com or Box 335 – Crow Agency, MT 59022

In the Lord's Life

You all are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then you all shall also appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4)

The banner read “Lord, be in my life.” This is not an uncommon plea. Yet the words hung there in the air, not settling, but demanding further reflection.

What does it mean for the Lord to be in my life?

Well, it is like having anyone else in my life—He would be a part of it. My life would basically stand as it is, with Christ as an additional part. He would have an impact on my life, as all relationships do, but He would define neither me nor my life.

That is exactly what we tend to want. We want to be in charge of our lives. We want to define who we are. We want to have self-determination.

But that would mean that Christ would be called by my name. Yet we are called by His name; we are *Christ-ians*. Our lives are not ours; they are His. We were bought with the price of His own blood.

More than that, in baptism we were killed, placed into His death and resurrection. So though we still breathe in this world, we have passed through the death of sin's wages and punishment. Now our life is rooted in Christ's resurrected and ascended life. So it is that we live with Him in God. This reality defines you for today and for eternity.

Yet this is not a reality that matches what we see. It is not obvious as we go through each day. We need help to know who we really are in Christ. We need help to know what it really means to be a *Christ-ian*. We need the Holy Spirit to train us in the fullness of the Word.

So our true prayer needs to be, “Lord, let me be in Your life.” Cause me to know what my true being is as part of You and Your perfect, eternal reality. Teach me what it is to have true identity in You. Focus me to take my eyes off myself so I may truly see You. Then I can know my true life hidden with You in God.

Lord, let me be in Your life. Amen.

Rev. Dan Jacobs, chairman
Montana District Indian Ministry Committee
Crow Agency, MT

WORK GROUPS AT MUDDY!

Out of the mud in Muddy Cluster on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation rises a gray concrete foundation waiting to hold the log beam structure that will when completed serve as the Lodge for Circle of Life Youth Camp.

Last year, by God's grace, we were able to get all the footings and the 5 ft foundation walls poured. We began construction of the support structure needed to put in the floor. We continue to mill our own boards and beams from the pine forests here on the Reservation.

Our construction project is getting a bit of local attention. One of the Tribal programs has visited us several times to look at the three cabins that were built several years ago. The Tribe is working toward developing a program which will assist members in building log cabins for their own homes. A local paper, A Cheyenne Voice, wrote an article about our project and the Tribal plan.



To date, we have three church groups planning to come this summer to work with us on building the lodge. We will have basically two crews working: a group of about four will be milling logs and the larger group will be constructing. Most of the groups who join us also plan VBS and gathering times with our people. All groups stay in the three cabins and use the showers and kitchen in the church.

We welcome groups would like to work with we can manage more if third summer on this we have had families week of work on the



from congregations in Montana who us. Twenty or less is a good number but you generate a big response. This is our project and in addition to Montanan's from California and Iowa join us for a lodge.

We praise God for all who have kept us in prayer, who have helped financially or who have come to work with us. We look forward to this summer and the blessings of relationships He has for us.

Proclaiming the Christ! **Rev. Dennis D. Bauer**
Muddy Cluster, MT

With joy Pastor Bauer shared the story of a Cheyenne elder and his family who recently moved back to the Reservation and began attending Circle of Life. After instruction, this grandfather and three of his grandchildren were baptized. He, his wife and family were received as members. What excitement to see God's Word reaching through the generations!