



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 2017 Issue #10

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

We will have a presence at five powwow's this summer. Lutherans have held Vacation Bible School at the Crow Fair for thirty years and at the North American Indian Days in Browning for thirteen years. Portable booths, as pictured below are available on the east and west side of the state to be set up for the several days of each powwow. Members of congregations commit time to sharing the Gospel message via crafts and stories each year based on a different theme from Scripture. Cool water is shared along with the refreshing message of forgiveness and love with the children and adults who stop to listen.



The powwows vary in length from two to four days when a holiday is involved. This year the dates for those at which we will have a presence are:

Arlee – Fourth of July Powwow **July 1 – 4.**

Browning – North American Indian Days **July 7 – 9.**

Wolf Point – Wadopana Celebration **August 4 – 6.**

Crow Agency – Crow Fair **August 18 – 20,**

Ashland – Labor Day Powwow **September 1 – 4.**

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WITH A THANKFUL HEART

Rev. Dan Jacobs pastor of the Crow Lutheran Church, at Crow Agency, shared these recent experiences in his ministry.

In the Fall of 2015, a woman who occasionally seeks help stopped at the house. She stated that her son was heading for treatment and asked if I would pray over him before he left. He was sitting in the car so we went out to the driveway and he came to meet us. I prayed over him and they left.

Perhaps six months later, one morning as I was coming out of the Crow Nursing Home, this young man was coming across the parking lot. (I assumed to see his mother who worked as a housekeeper in the Home.) He approached me and shook my hand. He said, "I just wanted to let you know I haven't had a drink since you prayed over me. I want to thank you." He continued on into the nursing home.

I don't get to see what the Lord is doing through this ministry very often. Yet, once in a while He gives me a little peek and when He does, it is stop-my-breath-humblng. It is an overwhelming experience to be privileged to be one of His instruments to rescue lives and souls.

In the last issue of this newsletter we addressed the subject of drugs, specifically Meth addictions. Around mid-spring of 2016 some cartel members linked up with a Crow woman who had a history of meth use. She lived in the house kitty-corner from our home. The group was quiet for the most part, but we'd hear some Spanish being spoken and Mexican music often filled the neighborhood. A couple of other families in the neighborhood worked for them as security, sales and repackaging centers. This group's primary responsibility seems to have been receiving shipments of meth from California, repackaging and distributing it (presumably to Billings). This continued into October.

During the later month or two I would stand in the street by the corner of our yard closest to their house and pray for the safety of all and for the deliverance of users and sellers.

In mid-October, a little before sunrise, a heavy military-style truck followed by a number of men in full combat gear rolled slowly past our house and into the yard of the drug house. They deployed around the house, threw in stun grenades and rushed in identifying themselves as FBI. The BIA, DEA and Big Horn County personnel rolled in as a helicopter came in low over the hills from the southwest. All adults in the house were rounded up for questioning and the children were turned over to CPS. After 4-5 hours it was quiet. The cartel has not returned and the house remains vacant.

Heavenly Father,

We pray that eyes are opened to see the dangers of addictions to self and family. We ask that You give strength to the leaders in every community as they guide people out of hopelessness to trusting in Your wisdom.

Help us to reach out with compassion and understanding when we see someone who is struggling. Use us as Your instruments of peace and love.

In Jesus Name, Amen



CIRCLE of LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Muddy Cluster

This pictured sanctuary was filled with 80 plus adults and children on Easter Sunday! Following the service many young children enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt on the church lawn. Rev. Dennis Bauer does the sermon each week and is assisted by Rev. Park Timber who does the liturgy and the children's sermon. Park Timber grew up on the Cheyenne Reservation with Rev. Bauer as his pastor. One of Rev. Park Timber's responsibilities is youth ministry and there are a good number of children in Sunday School. He also delivers the sermon once each month. Rev. Timber has a full time occupation in addition to his ministry at Circle of Life.



During the summer many groups come to Muddy to lead Vacation Bible School programs, help with maintenance projects, mill logs, or work on the lodge. Some groups have come for many years. The groups are composed of adult couples of various ages and young people. They stay in the four cabins that were built years ago. This year teams are arriving from Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Laurel, Maryland; Hastings, Nebraska; the Sacramento area in California; Wichita, Kansas and possibly students from Littleton, Colorado.

This past winter two tarps covered the "lodge in progress" to protect the floor boards. Trinity congregation in Billings help provide the tarps. The pictures of the facility sitting in snow banks was taken late winter, early spring. The snow had to be knocked off the tarps several times this winter. One good reason to have the roof on the structure by the end of summer. A blessing indeed that First Lutheran in Rice Lake, Wisconsin made a commitment to secure the money needed to construct the roof.

Currently the structure is 4 to 5 beams high on each side and Rev. Bauer indicated they are ready to start framing the windows. Since workers will be available, if the weather cooperates, the structure should be completed this summer; then the work begins on the inside! If you would like to spend time in a camp situation and help on a project, contact Rev. Dennis Bauer, Box 458, Lame Deer, MT 59043. circleoflife@rangeweb.net. (406-477-6791)



2015-- a view of the beams.



2017 The tarp pulled back to reveal the beams.

Everything Beautiful Thrift Store

A sight to behold!

The new building is ready to be finished on the inside. It is already framed for specific use.

The grant writer, June

Beartusk, who is married to a Cheyenne member of the community, has written a

grant requesting \$300,000 to The Murdock Foundation. If the grant is received they will finish the inside and move the original Thrift store from its current location, in an old school, to this structure. June Beartusk also wrote the grant that enabled the construction of this structure. It was for \$300,000 received in 2016 from the Montana Coal Board Impact funds. The community has also contributed funds to help this become a reality.

This two story building will have a small apartment in the lower level for the custodian of the building. This couple or person will also work in the Thrift Store. The apartment will have its own heat and air conditioning.

On May 19, 2017 the Thrift Store will celebrate their five year anniversary. Each year they have had a barbecue for the community but this will be a big celebration. There will be a tour of the new facility, a logo will be chosen from those submitted during a contest in April, and door prizes from each congregation represented by the Ministerial Association will be awarded.

This project is the concept of the Ministerial Association in Lame Deer. They have many plans for this facility. The apartment for a custodian and the Thrift store will be the first uses of the building. Soon a Food Bank will be added. The people who volunteer to help in the store will earn Thrift Bucks to spend for needed items. Other uses for the building were in the original dream stage which is now becoming a reality.

From the beginning volunteers have offered their expertise and work has been done by local contractors as much as possible. The goal is to provide opportunities for employment and growth for the Cheyenne people and the surrounding towns. They aim to be a “hands up” facility, not a “hand out” facility.

For a complete story, go to www.everythingbeautifulthriftstore.com.

The Thrift Store is receptive to household items: dishes, cookware, flatware, towels, sheets, and furniture. As with many thrift stores, they have an abundance of clothing. Winter hats, coats and mittens are always in need. Orphan Grain Train has brought items for the thrift store and will soon be coming with another shipment.

For answers to questions or to send contributions, contact: Everything Beautiful Thrift Store, Box 6, Lame Deer, MT 59043. (406) 477-3971)

Our Mission Statement is: **Reflecting God's love for all, in Christ Jesus, we seek to serve our people's needs, protecting each one's dignity.** Suzette Shreffler, Store Manager

