



# 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.

*Fall 2014*

## **Native American Heritage Month**

**In November, our congregations are encouraged to set aside one Sunday as Native American Sunday.**

**We pray for the pastors working with the Cheyenne people at Muddy Cluster and with the Crow people at The Crow Agency and in Lodge Grass.**

**At Muddy Cluster Rev. Park Timber knows what it is to be both a Christian believer and a Native American. Park Timber, a long time member of his congregation is able to make an impact in his community for Christ's Kingdom. He serves with Rev. Dennis Bauer who has always been his pastor.**

**At the Crow Agency Rev. Dan Jacobs often uses the traditional language and culture to share Christ's message of love, compassion and redemption.**

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations in Montana are committed to sharing the Gospel message of forgiveness and acceptance by God's Son, Jesus Christ, with all Native American people.**

**Watch a video of Rev. Don Johnson, Makah Native American-Christian as he encourages Native Americans at: [www.LutheranIndianMinistries.org](http://www.LutheranIndianMinistries.org)**

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## The new booth to be used at gatherings!



Wolf Point --Mike Aswegan talking with children about the Father and Jesus.

With grant money from a project at a LCMS District Women's Convention, a portable booth was purchased to be used at Native American gatherings and Pow Wows.

This summer provided two new opportunities to use the booth, sharing the Gospel message with children and adults.

A bit of history on how God works in His time. Some things come slowly; some more quickly.

In 1999 Pastor Dan Jacobs and Bobbi Schenderline, a Native American, visited with Pastor Draper and his wife. While in the area they became aware of preparations for the Wadopana Celebration. So began a relationship with the Assiniboine and Sioux people in the area.

For the next 15 years, Dan continued to visit his new friends, sometimes alone or accompanied by his wife Lonnie, daughter Bobbi or friend Mike Aswegan. Along the way he was asked to help in the community's prayer life.

This year that spiritual help expanded and the booth was added to the gathering. A Vacation Bible School, adult discussions and Bible reading took place. People often wonder what God's attitude towards us really is. We discussed God's love for all people in Christ Jesus and how we can through Christ see the Father's heart and know He seeks our good and not our hurt. That love is guaranteed in Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Dan was asked to be the leader for Sunday Worship at the arbor.

Approximately three years ago, (2011) Bobbi Schenderline moved to the Ashland area to work at St. Labre School. As relationships developed, an opening came for her and Dan to begin Bible and prayer ministry. In 2013, Dan was asked to hold Sunday Service at the arbor and that invitation was extended again this year.

Dan and Bobbi also set up a booth for the gathering where VBS was held and Bibles were distributed. Here we looked at how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work together to help us and to restore us to a good relationship with our Creator. We saw how God's love removes the barrier of our impurity and sin from us by His forgiveness. So it is that we can come directly to God without fear on good days and on bad days.



Dan helping with VBS in Ashland

## Booklets and Study Sheets for Native American People

There are people with the gift of writing so that those reading it feel comfortable and understand the thoughts. Pastor Dan Jacobs has written numerous study sheets, devotions and booklets for use in ministry with the Crow people during the past twenty years. These booklets are available to you. Several are written in the Crow language and often he preaches in their native tongue.

Some of the booklets have illustrations to hold the interest of the reader and to make the message very clear. One of my favorites is: What Happened? In this booklet there are few words and each page is accompanied by an illustration. Very succinctly you hear the story of how sin came into the world and how God saved us. Having Peace With The Creator: again the story of sin and salvation ending with prayers from three of the Psalms.

Topical booklets: Grief: a Time to Mourn and Living without Fear are easy to read and share with believers or unbelievers. In the booklet on grief are three laments from the Psalms. Both booklets have powerful timely messages.

In the category of general topics is God's Eyes—God's Mouth—God's Hands. Pastor Jacobs uses Bible passages to convey basic concepts: Matt.4:4 “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of God's mouth.” He shares Moses' illustration, among others, how baby birds are fed from the mouths of their parents....and we are not usually eager like baby birds to be fed...yet here in His Word is the power for true life.

For the Crow population he has written several in their language:

Jesus Akbaleeileesh Kanmishik

Jesus Saak Chilaak Kaka Bilaxpaakak

Crow Christian Apologetics

Crow Stories Point us to the Creator's Truth---Vol. I and II

If you have an interest in seeing the complete list of topics which numbers close to one hundred, contact Rev. Dan Jacobs for a complete list or one of the booklets described in this article.

Barbara Going, editor  
MT District Indian Committee Member

## WORK AT MUDDY CLUSTER

Circle of Life Lutheran Church at Muddy Cluster is the hub of this community. There are several groups from around the country who send teams of workers to this area to work with this congregation and in the community of Lame Deer. Often the workers stay in the cabins already in place on land behind the church building. It is in this area where the lodge is being built to house seasonal volunteers who come specifically to fellowship with the youth of the community.



In the picture to the left, taken in June, the preparation for the foundation is visible. By September the summer volunteers had poured the footings and foundation walls, put in the north and south drain tiles and had started putting on the floor. Rev. Bauer hopes to have the floor in place before the cold weather hits. Various grants were received enabling this project to move forward under the supervision of Rev Bauer with the help of volunteers on the reservation and seasonal workers.

Many logs have been milled by Rev. Bauer in preparation for the lodge. They are pictured here on the grassy knoll with Circle of Life Lutheran Church in the distance.



Rev. Dennis and Carol Bauer have raised their family of four in this community since 1982. The cabins have been and the lodge will be used by the community. Rev.

Bauer welcomes contributions or groups from Montana who would like to come help with building the lodge. Contact Rev. Bauer at Box 458 Lame Deer, MT 59043 or [circleoflife@rangeweb.net](mailto:circleoflife@rangeweb.net).

## In Great Falls

The Little Shell Chippewa Powwow had scheduled their third annual powwow at the First Peoples Buffalo Jump in Ulm for the weekend of August 23-24. The monsoon type rain necessitated that it be moved inside, so it was held in the NorthWest Center in Great Falls. The beauty of the Grand Entry, the dancers young and old, the colorful garments, the joyful sound of the drums was enjoyed by this observer at the closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.



