

Church Family

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." 2 Chronicles 16:9

We know that our Father God wants to work for us. He wants to show Himself Mighty on our behalf. He is searching throughout this entire planet for someone with whom He can share His Wonders, Power and Love; anyone whose heart is perfectly and wholly His. He is seeking out a people who have said enough is enough as they realize that all of their previous solutions to the problems they face, whether those solutions come in the form of religion, ceremony, politics, social programs or self-reliance, every one of them has failed; a people convinced in spirit, soul and body that there is only One Answer, One Solution to the great problems they face, and His Name is Jesus.

We hope His search ends here in Oglala among the Lakota people. We hope He finds us a people who are desperate enough and willing to forsake all our man made solutions, all our strivings, all our works. Instead, we want to Cry Out with a singleness of mind, purity of heart and with one voice to the One, the Only One who can deliver us and bring the complete Salvation that we need, the Salvation that cost Jesus His Everything.



In the last several months, we have experienced many victories as well as many defeats. We have continued to pray together with other Brothers and Sisters across the Rez. Moreover, just two weeks ago we celebrated as one big family in our third Unity Gathering this year. We have seen men and women come to faith in Christ as the Spirit has drawn them into the Arms of their Father by the Blood of Jesus. And we have experienced the Person of Holy Spirit as we have grown in our understanding of who He is and what we are to Him. Our God is Good!

But there have also been several shootings and violent deaths across the reservation as the influence of drugs increases and the despair among the youth prevails. The people are grieving, and we grieve with them. But in the midst of the turmoil and heartache, our God is Faithful as He takes what is in the darkness and drags it into His Marvelous Light; the enemy can no longer hide in the shadows. We are seeing evidence of this Divine Illumination every day as our God shines the Brilliant Light of Christ into our communities, our homes and the people we love. And as fear and despair were no doubt the objective of the enemy with these tragedies, the Holy Spirit has

instead used them to cause us to turn to one another in unity and brotherly love and to lift our voices together as we Cry Out in true desperation! We are praying with the words of King Asa when faced with an unbeatable army standing against him and the nation of Judah. *"LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"* 2 Chronicles 14:11

Jesus is our hope, our life, our everything. As we cry out to Him in desperation and faith, we know He is a God who keeps His Promises, for He Himself says to us, *"whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* Romans 10:13

Please know that He hears you, and He loves you, and He longs to show Himself Mighty on your behalf. Simply Cry Out and He will answer. We appreciate you, stand with you and love you in the Name of Jesus.

Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton

Youth Ministry

It's been a topsy turvy fall this year. Usually by this time the Ranger boys are driving Eric and me nuts, while our wives are having great Teen Bible Studies, but the opposite has been true this year. Some of the teens have become very argumentative with Ela and Mary in support of the traditional Lakota religion and ceremonies. Interestingly the most vocal of the teens go to catholic school where they teach the youth that we all serve the same God and that there is no difference between the Christian church and Lakota religious practices. Some of the priests have even confessed to not believing the Bible to be God's authoritative word. So please pray that the Lord will remove the wolves in sheep's clothing, and that the voice of Truth will be heard! The one good thing in these Bible Studies is that the teens are really warming up to the topics, and at least my wife actually enjoys discussing the Bible with them; which teacher would not love students who are involved and passionate. Please pray for wisdom on how to win not (just) arguments but hearts!

Over the summer, we did a lot of fun things with the teens and were able to keep the good relationships we have. We went on a couple swim trips and a great hike in the Back Hills, and some of teens even came to the VBSS we had at the Rec. Friday night devotions continue to be well attended; please keep praying with us that fruit will grow from these seeds soon!

As for the Royal Rangers, please just keep reading ... or check out my newsletter on our website www.oglarwc.org

Leon & Mary Schwartz, Youth Leaders



Kids' Church

I am often asked if I think we are having an eternal impact on the children. Well, some days I feel hard pressed to believe that way. But God keeps our faith up!

Last Wednesday I was getting ready to go to the Rec for kids' church. When I opened my front door there was a group of kids on the back porch of the building. I could hear them yelling, and my first thought was they were fighting. As I got closer they started yelling at me to come and watch them. They were pretending to be cheerleaders and their cheer was based on a song we sing in kids' church, "L.O.V.E." As I watched them do the motions (see picture above) and listened to them sing, I realized they were actually thinking about God outside of church! Please pray for the children to continue to let God impact their lives.

We would also ask you to pray for our big Christmas outreach as we are again getting ready to prepare for this event. The children really enjoy participating in the musical! It is our hope that as they practice, memorize and sing these songs, the words and music will bring lasting impact into their hearts and minds. Thank you!

Terry & Kathy Michels, Children's Pastors

Royal Rangers

One of the challenges we face in Rangers is getting about 15 boys to sit and be attentive. As we prayed for wisdom, God laid it on our hearts to choose leaders from among the boys and give them responsibility in our meetings. It started off as quite a challenge, but as the boys learned to persevere their lives were really impacted. This week we honored the leaders, and it is our continued prayer that they will allow themselves to be modeled after our servant-leader King Jesus!

Another thing we felt led to do was to lay hands on all the boys and bless them during our group prayer time. After we did this the first week we immediately felt a huge change in the atmosphere in the room. It made us wonder if anyone ever prayed over these boys to tell them they are precious and loved. One of the boys actually ducked and hid under the table, scared to hear anything good spoken over him. May God's love shine into their hearts as we continue to minister to them.



Heidi's Notes

A couple of weeks ago, one of the girls who is a regular at the Rec Center ganged another girl on the playground while her friends stood by and watched. For discipline, they were all told they couldn't be at the Rec for a while. Today the girls were allowed to come back, but Eric asked me to talk with them first. Eric and I told them the basics: No more fighting, no encouraging fighting, quit bullying, the Rec is here for everyone, etc. We then told them we loved them and they are wanted at the Rec too and then I prayed for them and we hugged each other and all was forgiven.

There are days that go by when I don't tell anyone about Jesus and I feel bad about that, especially because I am a missionary. Today though the Lord impressed upon me that it isn't always about quoting scripture or saying the word 'Jesus' but it is my actions that can speak louder than words. We sang a song on Sunday whose chorus goes, "Where God is, walk in the light..." When I walk in the light I won't have to only use my mouth to share Jesus because his presence will be evident in my life. Those girls walked away today knowing they were forgiven, loved, wanted, and accepted. I give God the glory because it is He who makes that possible for them as He has done for me.



There is another teen girl who is very special to me and we have had talks about the Lord as well as many other things, but tomorrow I get to "walk in the light" and show her that she is important by watching her play volleyball with her school team. Despite what we hear to the contrary, sometimes it is all fun and games!!!

Heidi Martin

More Summer Review in Pictures



BULLETIN BOARD



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We were blessed to baptize and welcome a new member into our church family. Lewis and his family have been living with us for a while and God used that time to speak into their lives. It is exciting to see him grow in his love for

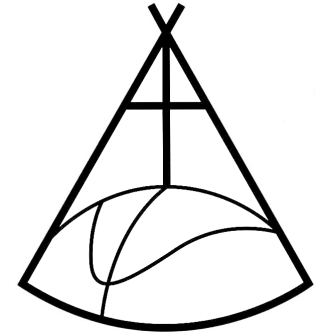
Jesus and understanding of the Word of God!

Thank you for praying with us for the help that we need for maintenance. Well, we had someone come and serve alongside us. But issues still need to be worked out. Please keep praying! The summer has been very busy; in fact there are many ministry opportunities during any season, and it would greatly ease the load if we could find more workers in the harvest!

Sorry this newsletter did not leave much room for pictures. Please come visit us! ☺ Or at least go to our website www.oglarwc.org to get a more colorful impression of the many activities that are going on at the Rec on a daily basis.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ *Please continue to pray with us for the unity of the church body, that we would grow in love for Christ and for each other*
- ♥ *For the Rec ministry team, that we would not cease to reach out in His strength and joy*
- ♥ *For our local church family, that we would be desperate in our prayers and cry out to God on behalf of this community and the lost*
- ♥ *For the teens, that they would hunger and thirst for Jesus and His truth only, and that the confusion will be overcome by His light*
- ♥ *For the Ranger boys, that they would grow in leadership skills and spiritual maturity*
- ♥ *For the children in our kids' church, that the songs and verses that they memorized will bear rich fruit in their lives*
- ♥ *For the upcoming Christmas Celebration for a meaningful outreach and for finances*



**Oglala Re*Creation
and Worship Center**
- TIPI WAKAN -
A Light In The Darkness



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