



Church Family

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:2b

This verse has become our church family's theme

for 2017. It perfectly summarizes our aim, our goal, and one main objective; to keep our eyes (attention and focus) on the Savior of our souls, Jesus. With all that we experience on a daily basis here in Oglala (the good, the bad and the ugly), and also with all that is taking place in our nation and world, "looking unto Jesus" just seems more important with each passing day.

Our world, both here in Oglala and elsewhere, is filled with distractions, divisions and despair. If we were to dwell on those vile "realities," it would become easy for even the best of us to lose heart and give in to—at best—melancholy or callousness; if gazed upon "the world" too long, we could find ourselves in the shackles of fear and death. But if our eyes are fixed on Jesus, well, that's a whole other reality! To give Him our time, attention and focus, to abide in Him and He in us, is to have joy in the midst of sorrow, peace as the turmoil abounds, and life instead of death. I mean, how can we hold onto unforgiveness and hatred in our hearts, or be consumed with petty offenses, when we gaze upon His Awesome Beauty, seeing in His terrible Cross the very Love He showed us when He forgave us of our rebellion and sin? How can we be overcome with worry and doubt when we spend time in the warmth and security of His Ever Loving Presence? How can we despair when we gaze into His Eyes and see the Light of Hope, a Hope that does not disappoint?

"The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems" (A.W. Tozer)

To stand in the Perfect Light of Christ is to dispel forever even the deepest darkness. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, instead of focusing on everything that is *not* happening in Oglala or on all that the enemy is seemingly accomplishing here, we rather see what Jesus is doing through His Holy Spirit, and He is doing good things! Discipleship is taking place among the men, women and children in the church; we continue to pray together across Lakota country with other Brothers and Sisters in the Spirit of unity and love; and as I am writing this, today is Day Two of the closure of the four beer stores in White Clay, NE – a true testimony, among many others, of the power of persistent prayer, the eternal value of dedicated servants of the Kingdom, and the Compassionate Heart of our Loving Father. He is ridiculously, extravagantly and perfectly Good. And to further exemplify that truth in our personal lives, in October, Ela and I will be welcoming our first child, a perfect example of His Mercy and Goodness.

Hear the chorus of "The Heavenly Vision", a hymn written almost 100 years ago by Helen Lemmel, and let these words encourage you and spur you on to "look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith."

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of this world
Will grow strangely dim
In the light of His Glory and Grace."*

We love you, we appreciate you and we pray the Blessing of God in the Name of Jesus over your families, your homes, your churches, and your communities. Let us be those who seek His Face and do not stop until we take hold of that which we desire, His very Presence.

Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton



Youth Ministry

I am longing for the day when I can boast in Jesus about a strong & secure group of teens who follow Him no matter the cost! But it seems like the longer I minister to the youth, the harder it gets for a young person to commit to Jesus. Teenagers and even younger kids are now unashamedly harassed by this world to conform and be accepting of its standards of fake tolerance and false truths. By the time they get to middle school, the youth are already confused and constantly inundated with social media outlets geared towards drowning out God's voice. If ever a time existed when children and teens need our prayers, that time is now!

However, the Gospel has not changed, and it still has the power to save! Again this spring, we partnered with our friends from Oyate and took a group of teens to "Dare2Share" in Denver, CO. In application to a strong gospel message, the teens participated in door-to-door witnessing in the area. It was definitely a stretch for some, but as a result of that outreach, we were also able to do one back home here just three weeks later, when we co-hosted a teen night in nearby Red Shirt community.



The third weekend in May, we will take some of the teens on our traditional end of the school year day hike in the Black Hills again. Please pray that this will be a special opportunity for the Holy Spirit to soften hearts. Also later in the summer we will be taking a big group of teens to Warrior Leadership Summit, a week-long all Native American camp in Missouri. We are excited for this week and the fun we're going to have together!

Please keep praying for our native youth and specifically not just for salvation but also for commitment, spiritual growth, and servant hearts. We are looking forward to discipling tomorrow's spiritual leaders for Oglala and the great harvest field in God's kingdom!

Leon & Mary Schwartz, Youth Leaders



Kids' Church

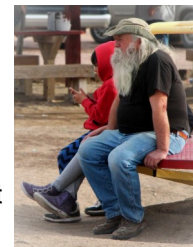
"Roses are red, violets are blue. We're still preaching Jesus— What about you?"

Terry's little rhyme summarizes the Michels' ministry in Oglala.

They have faithfully and lovingly been preaching Jesus to the children (and others) for about 15 years now, and have seen a great number of kids touched by God.

But now it is time for the "What about you?" part. Terry & Kathy are ready to retire, so we are officially looking for new children's pastors! We pray as the Lord Jesus Himself told us to pray; we are asking Him to send out workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:38). So, what about you—will you come? Or will you at least please pray with us that our need may be met and more servants be sent out into this precious ministry among the Lakota children. Thank you!

Terry & Kathy Michels, Children's Pastors

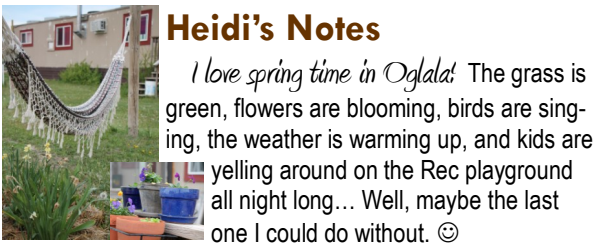


Royal Rangers

The Rangers are still a wild bunch of boys, but over the long, cold winter we found different fun activities for them to get rid of excess energy and learn something in the process. On President's Day camp we took the boys hiking in Nebraska farm country and did target practice with bb guns. Over the last weeks we have been practicing knots and lashings, getting the boys ready for several camps this summer, one in the Rocky Mountains. Please continue to pray for this ministry!



Heidi's Notes



I love spring time in Oglala! The grass is green, flowers are blooming, birds are singing, the weather is warming up, and kids are yelling around on the Rec playground all night long... Well, maybe the last one I could do without. ☺

Spring is also the time of year for graduations for all ages. For many this means looking forward to experiencing new people and places, but for some it means looking ahead to a lifetime without purpose. Last night I asked one teen that I am close to what she is going to do after her graduation and she told me, "I think I'll just be a bum." She is not without options or intelligence, but without family support to encourage her forward, she is at a loss as to what she should do, and has lost hope. That is a sentiment I see played out in people's lives here daily. Please pray with me that these teens will recognize that **true** purpose comes through God alone. And pray for me, "that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19).



The garden is started, thanks to the assistance from my faithful garden helpers, and I anticipate a bountiful harvest this year when I implement a new fertilizing technique called 'manure tea'. The plants can drink that, and my helpers and I will enjoy fresh meadow tea!

I enjoyed a great trip to Florida in April to visit my mom, my brother and his family, and of course the beach! Now I am ready to roll into summer and the opportunities I am given to serve Christ. Thank you to all who show your support through finances, letters, or phone calls; thank you also for continuing to lift me and our ministry in Oglala up in your prayers. I appreciate you all!

Heidi Martin

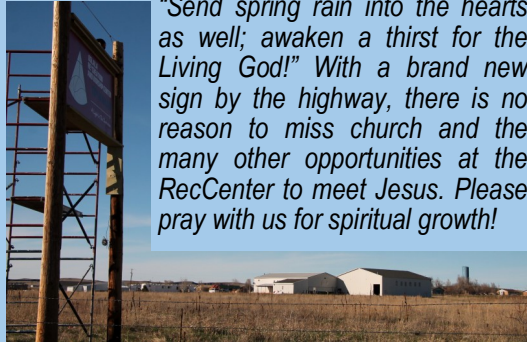
Spring 2017 around the RecCenter



BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

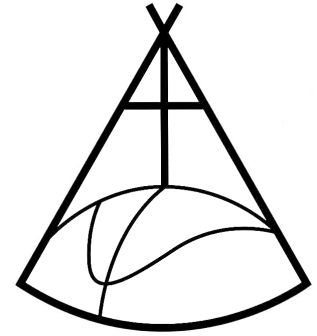
We have had a lot of snow and rain this spring, and by now the prairie is as green and beautiful as can be. Our earnest prayer is, "Send spring rain into the hearts as well; awaken a thirst for the Living God!" With a brand new sign by the highway, there is no reason to miss church and the many other opportunities at the RecCenter to meet Jesus. Please pray with us for spiritual growth!



Along with that, we would like to ask you to pray with us for more workers in God's Kingdom here on Pine Ridge Reservation. There is a desperate need for children's pastors, youth workers, school teachers, and servants in many other ministry positions. Please contact us for more information (www.oglarwc.org) or if you feel like you would like to take the next step into ministering alongside us (ejsutton@gwtc.net)!

MORE PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ Please pray for workers in God's kingdom—we are told to do so (Matthew 9:38)!
- ♥ Pray for spiritual growth in our church body on the reservation and for local leadership to rise up and serve faithfully
- ♥ Pray for us who have ministered in Oglala for many years now that we would not tire or despair but keep our eyes fixed on Jesus
- ♥ For the upcoming summer season and its many opportunities for us and our mission teams to reach out into the community with vacation bible schools, sports camps, family carnivals, swim trips, and sooo much more
- ♥ Pray for yourself and meditate on Isaiah 6:8 How will you answer God's question, where will you let God send you to share Jesus?



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



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