Lord, he had trusted in men. In that rebuke, God says, His, God was not pleased. God sent one of his prophets to the assistance of a foreign army. Though the victory was time, instead of going to God for help, King Asa sought Judah’s brothers to the north, the nation of Israel. This who, later on, was confronted by a much lesser enemy, came from with their tail between their legs. The victory enemy army was wiped out and sent back to where they the God of Heaven for help, and help He did. That vast of Judah. But King Asa knew where to go. He prayed to the throne ready to annihilate the nation of Ethiopia. What I am learning from this story is that God wants to show Himself Mighty on our behalf. He wants to fight for us, He wants to protect us, He wants to provide for us. He wants to bring us the Victory in all areas of our life; HE WANTS TO! The scripture above tells us that He is looking (purposely seeking, actively searching) for those He can be Strong on behalf of. It is not out of obligation, duty or begrudging commitment that He deals with us; no, not even a little bit. It is His Desire and Heart! King Asa got into trouble because he decided to do it on his own rather than ask God for help. He wants to help us, no matter how big or small our troubles are. He wants to show Himself Mighty on our behalf. The question is, do we trust Him? Does He have our loyalty? Do we have the faith to come boldly before His Throne of Grace to ask for help in our time of need? HE WANTS TO! Let us trust Him in everything and with everything and allow Him to show Himself Strong on our behalf.

Sincerely in Jesus, Pastor Eric & Elsa and Matilda Sutton

Youth Ministry

In July, I took another small group of youth and young adults to Warrior Leadership Summit, an all-native camp in Illinois. A few younger students followed an altar call to accept Christ; their hearts are always easily touched, and we hope to see these good seeds bear rich fruit one day. One of the adults from our group went up too. She was water baptized a couple days later and has since been growing in her faith in Christ. Her life and even her countenance have completely changed, bearing witness to the transforming power of the Gospel, but also bringing her persecution from within her family and the community. Please continue to pray for our Lakota Brothers and Sisters in Christ that He might strengthen and uplift them daily.

We continue to reach out to the youth on Friday nights, through personal relationships, during open gym at the Rec, and within every other opportunity our crazy daily schedules provide. Recently some of the older teens have come and asked for prayers; they are dealing with addictions, demonic oppression and hopelessness, but are yet too afraid or stubborn (or both) to commit themselves into Jesus’ hands. Pray for the courage to go against the flow. Life is very often cut off too early around here, and the battle for souls is intense!

Leon & Mary Schooartz, Youth Leaders

Church Family

I really do not know where to begin. These last months have been so filled with trials and triumphs, challenges and victories, that to fit it all in one newsletter seems impossible. Holy Spirit laid it on my heart that I have been thinking about lately. There is a story in the Bible (2 Chronicles 14-16) about King Asa that I have been thinking a lot about lately. It has changed my perspective in a very dramatic fashion. Early on in his reign, King Asa was confronted with an impossible problem when an army of one million Ethiopians was standing on his border ready to annihilate the nation of Judah. But King Asa knew where to go. He prayed to the God of Heaven for help, and help He did. That vast enemy army was wiped out and sent back to where they came from with their tail between their legs. The victory belonged to the Lord. The story continues with King Asa who, later on, was confronted by a much lesser enemy, Judah’s brothers to the north, the nation of Israel. This time, instead of going to God for help, King Asa sought the assistance of a foreign army. Though the victory was his, God was not pleased. God sent one of his prophets to King Asa to rebuke him because instead of trusting in the Lord, he had trusted in men. In that rebuke, God says, ‘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)

Just in the last six months, we have seen curses spoken over our children broken, our church family has grown in love for Jesus and one another, and we have experienced a maturity and steadfastness of faith in each of us that we have never seen before. On the other hand, we have lost a maturity and steadfastness of faith in each of us that we have never seen before. On the other hand, we have lost people we love, watched our society slip further into depravity, and heard the whispers of a coming persecution of the Church. But I don’t have the time or space to detail all of these incidents, but feel free to contact me personally if you’d like to know more. The Lord is looking for those He can be strong on behalf of. It is not out of obligation, duty or begrudging commitment that He deals with us; no, not even a little bit. It is His Desire and Heart! God sent one of His prophets to rebuke King Asa because instead of trusting in the Lord, he had trusted in men. In that rebuke, God says, ‘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)

Kids’ Church After 17+ years of faithful and loving service, the Michels have decided it is time to take a step back. Because of circumstances out of their control but firmly in the control of God, they had to move back to Ohio. We will miss our Brother and Sister. Even in the short time that they have been gone, we all feel incomplete. They are missed, and not just by us but also by the community of Oglala, especially the children that they have sacrificially loved and served all these years. They are the pure example of a disciple. For 17 years, they have faithfully denied themselves, taken up their cross and followed Jesus. I know they will continue that journey until Jesus returns. We love them and count them closer than family. Terry and Kathy, you are and will be missed.

Please join us in prayer for them as they navigate this new road in their life. Also pray that the Lord would send or raise up workers in His Kingdom to minister to the children of Oglala. We are actively seeking someone to take over our Rec Center children’s ministry, a person or family as dedicated as the Michels to loving Jesus and loving the children and community of Oglala. Thank you for praying with us. These children need Jesus, but how will they know that unless somebody tells them, not just in word but also in deed, displayed through a Christlike life shared with them.

Royal Rangers Our wild boys went camping, swimming, and hiking this summer. Now they are working on their archery skills again, before starting a new Christmas craft project. Their numbers are up, and the fun is on!
Heidi’s Notes

Snow has fallen four times already in October after I and my friends were still swimming in the lake and hiking through green forests in late September. Life on the prairie is certainly a dichotomy of extremes.

As I look back to summer, two noteworthy things stand out to me. In June I graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor’s degree in Horticulture. For that occasion, my mom and I took a fun trip to Oregon to attend the ceremony. And then in July, a friend from Oglala that I have known since probably the early 2000s, accepted Jesus Christ as her savior! It has been so encouraging to see what the Lord is doing in her life and the hunger she has to learn and grow in her faith. Because of this decision she has faced push-back from family and friends. Often they are trying to draw her away from Christ, yet she is firm in her faith. The seed definitely has fallen on good soil, but as a new believer she needs lots of prayer. Would you lift her up today?

I am in the midst of a new adventure: Leading the Rec Kids’ Church program on Wednesday evenings. This was an unexpected addition to my duties, and one I find myself looking forward to each week! I love to hear the kids quote the Word of God and sing songs about Him, and I can see their growing understanding of what we are talking about. Would you also please lift the kids and I up in prayer today!

Thank you all for your encouragement in the Lord, for your faithful prayers and financial support!

Heidi Martin

Smiles Gallery

BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our church family is grieving the loss of our dear Brother LeRoy, who passed away on October 13, 2019 due to several difficult health issues. He was a faithful and generous host for our men’s Bible study group and long-time member of our small church family. LeRoy will be greatly missed and always remembered by all of us!

Winter is already upon us with the first several rounds of snow come and gone, and temperatures falling as low as 0F! But we are still basking in many good summer memories, pictures of which you can find (as usual) on our website www.oglalarwc.org Come stay warm with us! 😊

And please stay in prayer for us as well! Use this list, just sit with Jesus, listen to Holy Spirit, and be assured that our Heavenly Father knows exactly what we need before we even ask Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS

❤ Thank God that He WANTS to fight for us, WANTS to bless us, WANTS to provide
❤ Please pray especially for our Lakota Brothers and Sisters for their Light to shine; for protection, wisdom, and perseverance
❤ Pray for the Oglala youth to become fearless, bold, and desperate enough to seek Jesus
❤ Pray for new Kids’ Church leaders for our children’s ministry at the RecCenter
❤ Pray for the Royal Ranger boys and the Kids Church kids for spiritual growth and an ever deeper understanding of God’s Word
❤ Pray for our Rec staff for health, the right priorities, strength, wisdom, and provision
❤ Pray for the Church Family on Pine Ridge Reservation for unity and a clear testimony
❤ Pray for our upcoming Christmas Outreach
❤ Pray for continued provision for our daily financial, spiritual, and personal needs
❤ Thank God for who He is and what He does!