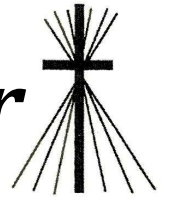


Pine Ridge Retreat Center



krn.rpp@gmail.com

pineridge.center@gmail.com

January/February 2013 Newsletter

(605) 867-5262



Photo credit: Doug Dill

5...4...3...2...1.....2013 IS HERE!

The Christmas decorations have come down and Lent has begun. The last two months have been snow-filled and fun!

We hosted seminary students in January—check out the article below from one of the students. It was a great group of leaders in the Church and we're thankful for their time in Pine Ridge.

The staff of the PRRC participated in a Faith-based Community Organizing training on the Rosebud Reservation in Mission, South Dakota. This was organized by the South Dakota Synod in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese. The desire to have this training arose out of discerning how to support the Young Adult Intentional Community located there in Mission. You can also find an article in this newsletter about that joint Episcopal-Lutheran new ministry.

While we've had less retreat groups in these last two months, we've kept busy in the community with funerals, basketball games, the children's Sanctuary program and the sandwich ministry. Those of you who have visited us in the past are often asked about, even if you were only here for one week or a few days. Thank you for your dedication to God's people!

2013: All Are Welcome!

So far, our schedule for 2013 shows that we'll have visitors from the following areas:

- Conscious Alliance
- Augustana College
- Lutheran Outdoors
- Sheridan, Wyoming
- Mercy College of Nursing
- Taize brothers
- Augsburg Nursing
- Cresco, Iowa
- Belmont
- Herndon, Virginia
- Excelsior Covenant Church
- Good Shepherd Church, Warren, Illinois
- Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City
- First Lutheran Church, Algona, Iowa
- Baltimore Learning Camp
- Bethania, Roshgelt, South Dakota
- Grafton, Wisconsin
- Fairmont, Minnesota
- Mineral, Mount Pleasant, Virginia
- Smoky Hill/Parker
- Bethel Lutheran Church, Hudson, Wisconsin
- Owatanna Lutheran Church
- Sanford School of Medicine

Be sure to confirm your stay with us and book a visit if you haven't already! We've still got openings, especially in the fall.

Focus on: Cross-Cultural Immersion

This January, we hosted 18 students from four different seminaries across the country for a cross-cultural immersion program. We were happy to host such a fun group of bright leaders in the Church. Jen Southworth, a student at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C., shares her thoughts on tiling the floor in the basement of the Pine Ridge Retreat Center.

January 8, 2013.

Today was a different kind of day. Today I learned how to tile a floor with peel & stick vinyl tiles. I got dirty and tired and frustrated and even a little bloody. I made mistakes, found some weaknesses, and felt accomplished at the end of the day.

In the main recreation area, Karen decided she wanted to redo the floor. The carpet was old and gross and the kids who come here everyday deserve more. So she enlisted us to do it. The unskilled willing volunteers.



I'm loving these people. Today a small group of us started with 1,390 tiles and the ugly brown carpet.

Because mostly this room is used for kids, Karen wanted us to integrate games into the flooring. So we decided to do a chess/checker board, hopscotch and four square. Menard's in Rapid City was not

really prepared to meet our needs in terms of tile, so instead of buying just four colors, we ended up with seven. But we knew we'd make it work. So up came the carpet.



And down went the tiles in the general pattern. The picture below is just of our plan laid out... There was much floor scraping to be done yet, and many backs to be peeled off of tiles. But at the end of the day, we had more than this much finished.



You can find a pattern almost anywhere. Here, I'm learning a lot about myself, surprisingly, and the patterns of thought that are so often destructive when they don't need to be. Or, if my ideas about myself are not destructive, they're sometimes missed opportunities to learn or grow.

We talked about spiritual gifts tonight in the devotion time – somehow something that I've spent little time focused on. Through this dedicated time of thinking and meditating on gifts I've really begun to believe that I have gifts too. For a long time I've believed that *everyone* can teach me something. That *everyone* has something to share. But sometimes I fail to extend that 'everyone' to myself.

We had a speaker tonight named Will Peters – a NAMMY (the Native American Grammys) award winner and amazing prophetic speaker. He talked and sang with his daughter and grandson and I felt so lucky to be there for it today. He talked about remembering that we all have part of the spirit within us – I can't come close to making it sound as awesome as he did, but – and that we need to acknowledge that in ourselves and each other (making a special point of the children). Now, I've heard this before and it's just gone right through me, another piece of mumbo jumbo to weed through some other time. (Someone I love has described seminary as drinking from a fire hose. Try to get as much in without drowning.) This time, I think I heard it, and I want to believe.

Photos credit: Jen Southworth

WORK WANTED!

Often, our visitors find themselves asking, "How can I help?" As Americans, we often define 'help' as what we can fix or build. This is certainly needed at times. If you've ever visited with us at the Center before, you have likely participated in a "service project," where you work alongside

community members to build or repair homes, porches or whatever needs some attention.

As we move more and more into a model of "accompaniment," where we work alongside the community and even remove ourselves from the role of "helper," then we can vision together a broader scope of where we can work beside one another.

Additionally, we often receive a knock at the door or a phone call asking if there's any work to be done. Community members *want* to work and *want* to help themselves. The staff at the PRRC do their best to come up with projects, but funding is often an issue.

With this in mind, we invite you to consider making a financial contribution to the center to hire local people to do "service projects" on their own homes or the homes of their relatives. You can still help, but your support from a distance can nourish autonomy and pride in our own community here.



Focus on: Conscious Alliance

We regularly host folks from Conscious Alliance, a national non-profit agency based in Boulder, Colorado. We're thankful for the work that they do and for all of our partners near and far.

We at Conscious Alliance want to take a brief moment to thank the Pine Ridge Retreat Center for all their wonderful hospitality over the past five years! The PRRC has been kind enough to provide housing to our staff and volunteers whenever we travel to the Pine Ridge Reservation to work on our hunger relief and youth empowerment projects.

While staying at PRRC, we maintain a full time food bank in the Red Cloud Community. This facility provides us the capacity to operate an Emergency Food Relief effort that is overseen by a community of elders. The program is designed to provide relief to hundreds of families during times of crisis and at the end of the month, when many families have exceeded their budgets and cannot afford to purchase food.

The food bank on Pine Ridge is one of our primary ongoing projects, and our goal is to keep this facility permanently stocked at all times. PRRC graciously hosts our organization each time we deliver food to the community. We also stay at PRRC every year while hosting our annual Holiday Meal Delivery and Toy Delivery, helping to bring holiday cheer to those in need.

Conscious Alliance also facilitates a sustainable housing project on Pine Ridge alongside the Native American Sustainable Housing Initiative and students from the University of Colorado (CU) and Oglala Lakota College (OLC). These students from CU and OLC work together to design and build energy-efficient homes that are affordable and meet the cultural needs of families on the

reservation. Another goal of the project is to give Lakota students at OLC the chance to acquire the necessary skills to foster future economic development opportunities in sustainable housing and construction for the Pine Ridge community.

We have accomplished so much under the welcoming roof of PRRC. The people we have met and worked with at PRRC have truly made us feel at home whenever we visit the reservation. We look forward to seeing all those wonderful people again and again as we continue to travel to Pine Ridge Reservation with the goal of giving back to the community. We extend a huge thank you to the Pine Ridge Retreat Center for being such an amazing host!

For more information on Conscious Alliance, check out their website at: <http://www.consciousalliance.org/>

Young Adult Intentional Community, Rosebud Indian Reservation

In support of our ecumenical partnerships and our sister reservation, we invited the members of the new community at Rosebud to share some information about who they are and what they're up to!

"The Rosebud Young Adult Intentional Community... aims to embody a new approach to ministry on the reservation. This approach will be marked by the virtues of **prayer, listening, and hospitality**, in a context of faithful presence. It is hoped that the intentional community will be a mechanism for building meaningful relationships between native and non-native people in South Dakota that will serve as a basis for the pursuit of genuine reconciliation that will lead to greater flourishing of both native and non-native communities inside and outside the church." (from our Draft Rule of Life, by Sam Adams)

Founded over the Summer 2012 with young people from various backgrounds as a joint project of the Episcopal Diocese and Lutheran (ELCA) Synod of South Dakota, our community seeks to be a humble, relational presence among our Lakota neighbors, inspired by the self-giving, hospitable Way of Jesus. Our lives are centered on daily morning and evening prayer open to the community. We are "taking things slow" in our work to respect the values and autonomy of the Lakota people and be mindful of the history of mission in this region. This first year has therefore been more about building relationships with various churches and non-profits and discerning ways our Lakota neighbors would like us to be involved, rather than rushing to create new "projects." That said, we are very active weekly in visiting and assisting various mission parishes, leading a Young Person's Fellowship for the youth of Mission, as well as community potlucks, and Bible studies. We also host mission groups, retreats and trainings to benefit both the local people and wider region. We are actively seeking other young adults of diverse church/faith backgrounds interested in joining our community, normally for a year commitment. Some further links, followed by a gathering we are very involved in:

Facebook (other sites in progress):
<https://www.facebook.com/YoungAdultIntentionalCommunityOnRosebud>

Daily Prayer times are as follows, at Chapel of Bishop Hare Center, Mission SD:
Weekdays (M-F) 8 am & 9 pm
Saturdays 10 am & 9 pm
Sundays 9 pm only

Email us if you'd like our newsletter!: intentionalcommunity.rosebud@gmail.com

More from the Rosebud YAIC...

Taize Red Shirt Gathering

May 24th-27th, 2013, Register now!

A few years before our community's founding, a remarkable dialog began in our state. Taize is an ecumenical community in southern France, emerging out of World War II, that invites young adults around the world to pray with them for peace and reconciliation. A series of mutual visits of Taize monks, and young Native and non-Native people between France and South Dakota led to an invitation by a Lakota family to host an event for reconciliation and understanding on their land at the edge of the stunning Badlands on Pine Ridge Reservation. This camp gathering will include meditative prayer together three times a day, Bible study, workshops, small group sharing, and meals together, provided by the local Lakota people. The event is meant for young people aged 18-35, a voice rarely heard in the church or in society. Please see the following links for more information.

Main Registration Page:

http://www.taize.fr/en_article14640.html

Story by one of our Lakota hosts:

<http://sojo.net/magazine/2012/08/come-together-and-listen>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/118459614971122/>

Interest in helping to organize, volunteer or get more details? Email Tom Emanuel to be on our newsletter:

thomas.emanuel@coyotes.usd.edu



Wish List/List of Needs

We again thank all of the awesome donations of time, talents and money to the ministry that happens here at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center. It is truly moving to get telephone calls and emails asking "How can I support you?" and "I met so-and-so while I was there. Could you give me their contact information? Our young people often ask if a former retreat group visitor will be back soon, even if the visit was months ago. THANK YOU!

The following list is of things we would like to add/replace:

- *Pool cues
- *A new pool table
- *A new bumper pool table
- *A new set of pool and bumper pool balls
- *12 twin mattresses
- *4-6 Leap Frog learning pads
- *12 Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship (ELW) hymnals

Other Retreat Center/Community Needs:

- *Gift certificates for Shell or Sinclair
- *Monetary donations to support the staff and ministry here
- *Funds to produce Retreat Center t-shirts
- *Donations for community assistance (to help out with food and energy needs)
- *Play equipment for the young people

If you or your group would like to contribute to meeting any of our wish list/needed items, please contact Reverend Karen by email or phone. We thank you for all your prayers and support for our ministry here! May God continue to bless and keep you!

The Mission of the Pine Ridge Retreat Center is to strengthen the congregational ministry of our ecumenical partners and to offer cross-cultural retreats for the purpose of building respect of, and understanding for, all of God's people.

Pine Ridge Retreat Center is a joint ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms the covenant, which the Lord your God swore to your ancestors, as it is today." Deuteronomy 8:17-18

In recognition of what God has provided for you, would you consider making a donation to the Pine Ridge Retreat Center? Attach this slip to your check or money order to "Pine Ridge Retreat Center" and send it to PO Box 862, Pine Ridge, SD 57770.

Name: _____ Donation amount: _____

Address: _____

In honor/memory of (circle one): _____

We thank you for your support of the ministry that happens every day at the center. As a ministry based solely on donations, we appreciate your gift to assist us to work with the community. Blessings on you!

