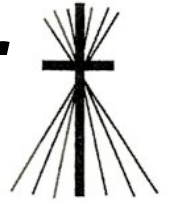




# Pine Ridge Retreat Center



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## March/April 2012 Newsletter

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### **Worship Renewal Grant**

Before departing, former intern James Muske wrote a grant proposal on behalf of the Retreat Center to the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship for a Worship Renewal Grant. We were very honored to be a recipient of this grant, and have been working with our ecumenical partners to host events to encourage worship renewal. We have held three events so far, the first in Oglala, the second in Batesland, and the third in Pine Ridge.

At the end of March, the Retreat Center held it's third Worship Renewal Grant Event as a joint effort between the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church and the Pine Ridge Retreat Center. We had the pleasure of hearing Rev Loren Robinson, Carmen Blake, and Cecil Weston speak on healing and reconciliation as well as music by June Blake and puppet skit by the Pine Ridge Puppeteers.

After hearing the speakers and performers at Pine Ridge Presbyterian, all came over for a community meal at the Retreat Center. We had around 60 people attend the services and meal.

We are very thankful for the opportunity to be able to build stronger relationships with our ecumenical partners, and the occasion to jointly host this event.

### **Spring Break!**

In March, we hosted two groups who came to the reservation to participate in service projects instead of spending their time on a beach or skiing in the mountains! Our groups were young adults from the University of Wisconsin and Augustana College.

The UW group came through Lutheran Outdoors and stayed with us to learn about the cultural aspects of the area. After staying with us three days, they departed from the reservation to go to Rapid City and build with Habitat for Humanity.

The Augustana group was able to build a set of bunk beds for a family while here. They also helped out with Kid's Time, attended Sunday services at Pine Ridge Presbyterian, and heard from various speakers.



## ***A Tisket, A Tasket, We Made Baskets!***



As March rapidly came to a close and April began, talks for Easter egg hunts and goodies abounded! About two weeks before Easter, we pulled out many of the craft supplies (which have been generously donated) as well as ice cream buckets and coffee cans. Children had the opportunity to create their own baskets from these items. They loved this as well as came up with some really great



designs! They were able to fill their baskets with eggs, treats made by the staff of PRRC, and donated Bibles when we had our Easter egg hunt on April 7. We had a great group of children participate, and are blessed that we were able to provide enough eggs, treats, and Bibles for everyone.



***Honor all people. Love everyone.***  
***~1 Peter 2:17***

## ***Growing Ecumenical Relations***

During the month of April, we were blessed to be able to interact and grow with many of our ecumenical relationships in the area. On Palm Sunday, we were blessed to be a part services at Pine Ridge Presbyterian and Makasan Presbyterian, hold services for St. John Episcopal and Cohen Home, and attend a memorial dinner at Pine Ridge Presbyterian. It is a blessing to be able to have multiple staff members so we are able to worship with and assist in more congregations on Sunday mornings when the needs arise.

During Lent and Holy Week at Makasan, we assisted with mid-week services as well as helped out with preparations for the Easter meal. Easter day was spent with Makasan for their Sunrise and Morning Worship services and holding services for St. John.

We had enough extra stuffed animals from Christmas donations that we were able to use them for Easter egg hunt prizes. We are fortunate enough to have had enough to share with the children of Makasan and St. John. Every child was able to receive at least one stuffed animal on Easter.

Currently we are involved in the planning and execution of a youth rally that will be held at Christ Episcopal in Red Shirt on April 21-22. It is one rally point of about five that will be happening at same time across South Dakota. We will play games, sing songs around a campfire, hike in the badlands, hold an evening prayer service, and so much more! We're very excited to participate in this ministry at Christ Episcopal!

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”  
~Jeremiah 29:11***

### ***Growing God’s Ministry***

We are very pleased and excited to see our ministries here growing and strengthening! With growth comes more ways than ever to help out.

For the past nine months Alicia Koon, a Diaconal Minister candidate for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been assisting with the ministry of the Retreat Center. Our vision is to add a position for a Diaconal Minister here at the Retreat Center, increasing our staff in order better serve the needs of the center and the community. In order to add this staff position, donations are needed to support this position. The Retreat Center is a self-sustained ministry, primarily funded through the money paid by groups to stay here and donations to the center. We hope you prayerfully consider contributing to our efforts.



### ***Wish List/List of Needs***

With growth comes the need for help, and here are some of the items on our list:

- \*Folding chairs
- \*Pool cues
- \*A new pool table
- \*A new bumper pool table
- \*Baby diapers (especially larger sizes)
- \*Gift certificates for Shell or Sinclair
- \*Donations to support the staff and ministry here
- \*Donations for community assistance (to help out with food and energy needs)
- \*Remodeling of the play/worship area downstairs
- \*Paving the parking area
- \*Play equipment for the young people
- \*Lawnmower(s)

We thank you for all your prayers and support for our ministry here! May God continue to bless and keep you!



Alicia with some of the children during Kid’s Time

*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.*