



Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission

The Navajo Way - Ho'zho'ni (Beauty)

June 2010

Welcome to the second issue of The Navajo Way, the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission's electronic newsletter!

Dear Friends:

I write this introduction on the 21st day of June, a day of ancient celebration of the summer solstice. The name is derived from the Latin sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still). As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The apparent movement of the Sun's path north or south comes to a stop before reversing direction.

The Celts and Slavs celebrated the first day of summer with dancing & bonfires to help increase the sun's energy. The Chinese marked the day by honoring Li, the Chinese Goddess of Light. Perhaps the most enduring modern ties with Summer Solstice were the Druids' celebration of the day as the "wedding of Heaven and Earth", resulting in the present day belief of a "lucky" wedding in June.

This day of ancient celebration finds the Mission in a very exciting time of transitions and new beginnings. We are busily working on our new school curriculum and the renovation of our class rooms to improve the quality of education we offer to the children of Rock Point. We are also beginning plans to expand our Health clinic both in terms of services and physical space.

I hope that you are enjoying this season of new beginnings and are taking the time in your life to "stand still in the sky" and enjoy the beauties of mid summer.

Pastor Lynn Hubbard

Navajo Lutheran Mission School



The future of tomorrow
is being shaped
by the teachings of today.

School Ministry *A Core Knowledge Education*



MISSION:

The mission of The Navajo Lutheran Mission School is to provide each student with a choice for a

The Navajo Lutheran Mission, in partnership with the Navajo People and rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is a community seeking to meet the educational, health, social and spiritual needs of the Navajo People

In 1961, the school building was completed and 30 students were enrolled on a continual basis. Eventually a larger school was built and today can house up to 70 students. The old school was transformed into the Mission Office .

Things we really need!

Gift Cards, Check or Cash to be used towards the purchase of:

- Steve Spangler Science
- Reading Horizons Interactive Phonics
- Core Knowledge Library Books
- Oriental Trading

All donations are tax's deductible and will be spent in the manner you request from the list above.

The idea behind Core Knowledge is simple and powerful: knowledge builds on knowledge. The more you know, the more you are able to learn. This insight, well-established by cognitive science, has profound implications for teaching and learning. Nearly all of our most important goals for education—greater reading comprehension, the ability to think critically and solve problems, even higher test scores—are a function of the depth and breadth of our knowledge.



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By outlining the precise content that every child should learn in language arts and literature, history and geography, mathematics, science, music, and the visual arts, the Core Knowledge curriculum represents a first-of-its kind effort to identify the foundational knowledge every child needs to reach these goals—and to teach it, grade-by-grade, year-by-year, in a coherent, age-appropriate sequence.

high quality, college preparatory educational experience in a caring, nurturing environment designed to stimulate the students for lives of leadership and service.

“Navajo Lutheran Mission School is building the leaders that will lead a Nation.”



Am I in the House of God?



Three weeks ago today on May 16th eight of us from Christ Lutheran Church, Sedona, drove up to volunteer for five days at the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ. Our church has had close ties to the mission for many years.

The men in our group tackled two projects, both involving sheathing buildings. The first was a storage shed on the grounds of the mission. That was finished and looking great at the end of our first day. The real work started on Tuesday when they were asked to sheath a dilapidated stucco home way out on the reservation. An elderly Grandma was raising two young granddaughters there in pretty grim living conditions. What stucco remained on the original chicken wire construction was almost gone. Over two days time our guys made that dwelling more airtight and dust-resistant by covering the exterior with a solid surface. One of our team said "this is what I came to do - help in the community".

While the men in our group were busy building Marla Banks set up a beauty salon in the back of the church since there were no other empty rooms at the mission where she could cut hair. Before our arrival notices had been posted in the community that someone would be giving free haircuts from 9 - 5:00 each day. People walked for more than 2.5 miles to get a haircut! They brought their babies for their first haircuts. Women with waist long black hair waited their turn as young boys wanting a summer crew cut sat in Marla's chair. In the course of three days Marla did over 65 free haircuts for the Rock Point community. Her resilience and cheerful personality put everyone at ease.

Late one afternoon I walked into the church to see if Marla wanted a snack. A precious little girl about 8 or 9 years old came running up to me to say hi and to tell me she was getting a haircut next. "Is this the House of God?" she asked? "I've never been to God's house before." I was momentarily taken aback and then replied, "Yes - this IS the house of God, and I think God is very happy that you have come to His house today."

I walked around the church with her pointing out the Bible, the cross on the altar, the images of Jesus on various posters in the church while she asked me a million questions. I'm sure it might have been first to have a makeshift beauty parlor set up in a church, but it was a definite draw for the community including this child who was excited to be in the House of God for the first time. She looked darling when her haircut was finished.

Many centuries ago the psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said unto me let us go to the house of the Lord." Four weeks ago those words echoed in the voice of a little Navajo girl who was excited to "go into the House of God". God has linked our church in Sedona with this remote Navajo community in the Four Corners and is bringing us closer together in a mission partnership that has mutual respect and integrity. We are fortunate and indeed blessed to see God at work in our outreach. I am sure that in December we will once again load a truck or SUV with gifts and make our way back to Rock Point. Each one of you is welcome to come along and be touched by these children who lead us into the house of God.

Would you like to help?

We invite you to become part of
"A Mission With a Mission,"
and to invest in the lives of the
Navajo children and families of Rock Point, AZ.

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