

Woyatan Lutheran Annual Report - January 2014



Woyatan Doka Hwo? (What's Happening at Woyatan?)

I hope this letter is finding you well. Last year was a good year at Woyatan and this year we are looking for even better things here. Some of the highlights have been we officially joined the ELCA back in April, we had a great celebration and really enjoyed the day. Yes we were getting quite experienced at being a New Mission start but it was definitely time to officially join. Our Sunday school program is finally on the right track and kids are having fun and learning about God. It is always fun to see what they have made and the pride they take in it. Confirmation has finally taken a hold here all because of a kid who went to Outlaw Ranch, a local ELCA Camp. She came back and said I need to know so much more and she has been the catalyst for Woyatan's first



Confirmation class. I almost forgot how much I love teaching confirmation, and yes I am not lying. Our Lakota Culture night has become bigger and bigger, it seems every Wednesday there are people wall to wall and enjoying themselves and taking pride in who they are. It is amazing who they dance for, they dance for people from all over the world and even our own Governor. One of my favorite memories is seeing them dance for a group of older adults up at Outlaw Ranch in the fall. One of those adults was Pastor Larry Peterson

who spent so long on Pine Ridge and was here at Woyatan before I got here and encouraged me to interview. I take great pleasure in seeing him looking at all the kids and thinking now this is what it is suppose to be. We continue to serve 3 meals all year long, I estimate that serving about 200 meals a week all year long is over 9,000 meals a year. We have even found proof that the Pastor can cook, most of the time.



This is all done on a wing and a prayer. More and more people are finding Woyatan a place where they can find acceptance after getting out of jail, prison or a place where they can find help from a life of addiction.

This year was a very good year but it was not without some sadness. Jon Old Horse who was our TEEM candidate decided to pull out of candidacy. We at Woyatan might have hoped for a different outcome but we support his decision and more importantly him. We are happy that although he has taken a step back in his role here, we did not have to say goodbye. Here at Woyatan we do what we do best, pick ourselves up and move forward.

As usual we rounded out the year with a good Thanksgiving celebration and had about 100 people here enjoying a great meal. Our float in the parade of Lights won an award. Santa was here Christmas and passed out about 50 gifts, Santa was definitely skinnier than usual. Our dancers danced 2013 away and ushered 2014 with a local Pow wow that started with leaders from this church.

Pilamaya yelo!

Thank You and God Bless you!

Rev. David Piper, Mission Developer