



VENTURA VILLAGE

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Honoring Sacred Waters Gathering at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

By: Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

On November 21, we at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church hosted a gathering of 15 faith communities across the Twin Cities metro to support the ministries of All Nations Indian Church. We made over 100 pizzas from our backyard pizza oven – involving folks of all ages in rolling dough, topping, and of course eating! After the dinner, the gathering continued in the sanctuary. Representatives of all 15 congregations shared in an opening litany honoring the waters, reading passages from Scripture about what the Christian tradition says about the sacredness of water and pouring vessels of water into the baptismal font.

Then the Ikidowin Acting Ensemble performed a play by Sharon Day, Executive Director of Indigenous Peoples Task Force, called "We do it for the Water." The play, performed by youth, weaves stories of Indigenous struggles to protect our water beginning with saving Camp Cold Water Spring, the Mother Earth Water Walks, the Nibi Walks and the North Dakota Access Pipeline. The water walkers and water protectors presented a non-violent message that united Native people and non-Native environmentalists. This project continues the awareness of Indigenous rights and the capacity of the individual to take action for the environment.

After the performance, Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, who was on her second day of serving as the new interim minister of All Nations Indian Church, shared an update on the community at All Nations and invited ongoing further relationship and support, noting that it is not enough for predominantly white churches to make land acknowledgements. The church is called to make reparations and to actively build relationships. An offering was collected for All Nations for around \$3500. The event was well received by all, and Sharon Day noted that it was a good experience for the youth to perform for such a great audience. We at Our Saviour's hope to have more events like this where we can bring community members together, support the amazing work of Ikidowin Acting Ensemble, build relationships across communities, and promote healing, understanding, and work for justice and peace.

One of the realities of living in a city is dealing with litter and trash

Our neighborhood is a crossroads where many more people pass through than actually live here. As a result of that there is more litter and trash per capita than usual. The people who live here do what they can, the city provides and empties trash receptacles, and events like Phillips Clean Sweep are held.

An organization that is also helping is the American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC). Their shelter residents are offered the opportunity to participate in a stipend-based community cleanup program. Their participants work together and wear blue vests to identify themselves. They begin each workday with a talking circle focused on traditional values and recovery. They then spend several hours picking up and disposing trash and litter in different areas of the neighborhood.

AICDC has found that residents who participate in this program do develop more pride and a sense of responsibility to the neighborhoods around them. Waiting for someone else to take care of the problem doesn't solve it. You can! We appreciate your help. *Article by Steve Dreyer*

Protect Your Personal Property

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

Theft of valuable items like electronics and power tools can be a big hassle for victims, but it doesn't have to be! From garage burglary to home burglary, or theft from motor vehicle, theft is often a crime of opportunity. Reduce the opportunity by practicing good habits: Install and use proper locking mechanisms on all doors and windows (including garage service doors), do not leave anything in plain view in your car, lock up loose property (i.e., bikes) that are left in the yard and/or porch.

Most items of value sold today have their own unique serial or identification number. It is extremely important to create a log of these serial numbers to have on hand if the property is ever lost or stolen. A log of serial numbers can help with the following:

- Positive Identification: the owner of stolen or lost property can easily be located through existing records.
- Helps Criminal Prosecution: Recovered stolen property can be used as evidence in pursuing the case through the courts.
- Aids Recovery: stolen and/or lost property is more likely to be returned to the owner.

There are so many devices today, that it is nearly impossible to positively ID the owner of a device without the owner providing a serial number as proof of ownership.

We recommend that you keep a log of your valuable items, including receipt, pictures of the item, the serial number, brand name, model, etc.

The following list is a sample of items that contain serial numbers:

- Phones
- Generators
- Head phones
- TV's
- Snow blowers
- Computers
- Sound systems
- Lawn Mowers
- Printers
- Power tools
- Game systems

Our first general membership meeting in 2024 will be Wednesday, January 10th, at 7 PM. We'll be meeting in person at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, and also via Zoom.