



## Worship in Collaboration with Oglala Sioux Nation

On November 12, 2023, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, PA, held their annual Native American worship service in honor of November being Native American Heritage Month. I attended the worship service and wanted to share my experience with you.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has a partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation of Native Americans in Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, one of the poorest communities in the United States, and has been supporting them in many ways with their giving and their prayers.

In the worship service, the English translations used for the liturgy were:

*Creator as the name used for God*

*Creator-Sets-Free as the name used for Jesus*

*The Chosen One as the name used for Christ*

*The Great Spirit as the name used for the Holy Spirit*

*The music for the worship service had a Native American vibe, words, and theme involving the sacredness of nature and life.*

*Copal incense from Central and Southwestern North America was used during the service as Native Americans used for sacred services.*



Pr. Jim Farnsworth's message was dedicated to Native Americans and how the new immigrants treated them to America. He asked that we remember and honor those who have gone before us -- the original inhabitants of this land. He also asked that we have a right relationship with God and each other and that we have a responsibility to repair relations. We reconcile by learning the truth, loving each other, and breaking down barriers with others. He suggested that we learn the history of our area by looking through the eyes of our neighbors and that we are called to be good neighbors.

- Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator,  
Mission Interpretation Ministry

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# UPCOMING *events*



**FINDING HOLY FOCUS  
IN HUNGERING TIMES**  
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024  
FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

PRESENTED BY:  
NEPA SYNOD

FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS



**GENEROSITY  
EXTRAVAGANZA  
TOOLS FOR TODAY**

JANUARY 20, 2024



**LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY 2024**

*Trusting God:*  
**Doing a New Thing**

JANUARY 27, 2024 (SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 3)  
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH, WYOMISSING, PA

*this year*