



Update from Native American Ministries December 2020

You are receiving this update because you have an interest in or support one or more of the Native American Ministries congregations within the Reformed Church in America. This combined update will share quarterly updates from the five congregations to share with you the work God is doing through your support. Know that each letter may not include updates from every church. Thank you for your partnership in mission!

Apache Reformed Church

With COVID-19 still spreading throughout our area, we are still having church via Zoom. Because of COVID-19, our Native Churches also missed having our retreat in Oklahoma. Our church missed having Easter and VBS with Mescalero Youth coming to help us. We missed having our Thanksgiving meal together but we were able to hand out turkeys to families. We will miss the children's Christmas program and getting together with the kids to practice. We may have the kids sing Christmas carols on our Zoom Church. We will also miss decorating the inside of the church, but we are still planning on decorating the outside of the church. While we're unable to hand out our traditional gifts to kids and Christmas snack bags to families who attend our Christmas services, we will still deliver these items to the homes in our community. We hope to be able to get back in church after the New Year and grow the Lord's church! Our Father provides many things for us to learn and stay safe. The Bible, prayer, and masks are only a few of the things He's provided! Bless you all and wear your mask to stay safe and keep your family and others safe from germs!

Enjoy these photos from Christmases past



Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church

The Jicarilla Apache Nation has strict no-gathering public health rules in place, so our congregation hasn't met in person since March. We are still serving here through sermons and services via YouTube, take-home VBS packets, take-home Advent packets, funerals, and Brad's availability for prayer and communion. Financial support for the congregation is much appreciated, as our costs are not down nearly as much as our giving. We also treasure your prayer support, especially through the pandemic, which has hit the Native populations very hard.

Winnebago Reformed Church

It's been almost a year now (January 2020) since our Pastor and Connie retired and moved to Orange City, Iowa. While he and Connie may be physically absent from our community, one only has to drive by the two homeless shelters, past the fire department, and the Atlas facility, which is located in the basement of our church, to sense their presence and impact in Winnebago.

The consistory has had a challenging year with the responsibilities of keeping the church functional. We like to think we're meeting these challenges and getting closer to one day calling a Pastor. There still is, however, some work that needs to be done, such as repairs and some remodeling of the parsonage to make it more attractive.

Due to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our community, the church's outreach programs—the homeless shelter and Atlas program—have been crucial this year. The Atlas program is the primary distribution center for food, clothing, and many other necessities serving not only Winnebago people but the surrounding communities also. The present Tribal council has looked favorably on these programs and, as a result, has directed financial resources of support to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which, in turn, has allowed the church to meet some of its financial obligations and make repairs to the church structure.

We have also been fortunate with the quality of pulpit supply, Sunday after Sunday. Just recently a member of the congregation unexpectedly requested the opportunity to get on the pulpit supply schedule which caught the consistory off guard, but what a surprise.

In closing, as a consistory, we have had the opportunity to look at 'where we were' and 'where we are' and 'where we're going'. Our previous Pastor had table cards that read "THEN WHAT" through-out the sanctuary. One of those cards is on the table in the consistory room that now reads "NOW WHO." We believe the Lord is working in ways we can hardly imagine. GOD IS GOOD.