

NATIVE AMERICAN MISSIONS



Mission Overview

The Apache Mission celebrated 125 years of God's blessings in 2018 as the first world mission of WELS. The Apache Mission is located in eastern Arizona on the Fort Apache Reservation and the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Between the two reservations there are eight churches, one preaching station, and two Lutheran elementary schools. The Apache Lutheran churches are currently training future leaders for work as evangelists, teachers, and pastors through the Apache Christian Training School (ACTS).

Native Christians: In thanksgiving to God for 125 years, Native Christians was formed to reach out to other Native American Tribes. Apache Christians are ready to serve as missionaries to the 572 tribes in the U.S. and more in Canada. The first outreach effort will be to the four corners area where there are four tribes and four colleges. Visit nativechristians.org for more information.

Apache congregations: Congregations at East Fork, Canyon Day, Cibecue, McNary, and Whiteriver on the Fort Apache Reservation to the North continue to be served by one WELS missionary, two native pastors, and one native evangelist. The discipleship and worker training coordinator also resides at East Fork. San Carlos, Peridot, and Bylas congregations on the San Carlos Reservation to the South continue to be served by two WELS missionaries. The Native American Mission field coordinator also resides in Peridot. The focus of the mission field continues to be training and equipping Native American Christians for leadership and service in God's Kingdom.

Apache schools: East Fork Lutheran and Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran schools both have dedicated staffs of teachers who are sharing God's Word. There are approximately 100 students on the Fort Apache reservation attending East Fork Lutheran School (K-8) and approximately 155 students living on the San Carlos Apache Reservation attending Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School (K-8). Our WELS schools are now affordable to more families due to the State of Arizona instituting a voucher system allowing children to attend private schools.

Apache Christian Training School (ACTS): The school currently has about 60 adults enrolled.

Fast Facts

- Baptized members: 3,600
- Organized congregations: 8
- Preaching stations: 1
- Missionaries: 5
- Teachers: 17 (4 Apache)
- Teacher's aides: 3 (All Apache)
- National pastors: 2
- Evangelists: 1
- Apache Christian Training School: 60

Praying for Native American Missions

Dear Heavenly Father, please raise up strong Christian leaders among the Native American people for the advancement of your kingdom. Give wisdom to the missionaries as they make plans for outreach efforts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

