

January 6, 2010

Greetings in Christ!

God's creation is so precise that exactly once a year we get to celebrate New Year. So Happy New Year! Of course since man messed things up through sin, every four years an extra day has to be added in.

God's word: ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

Last week we shared with you some of the exciting things that happened in 2009. Now we would like to share with you some of the programs, plans, and activities that will make 2010 a wonderful year for our Creation-Science programs.

The need continues to be apparent that God's children need to know and understand their creator. We have so many people who simply do not understand and comprehend the relationship that God has in their lives. So we need to continue to expand and grow.

Teen Trek Winter Extravaganza is set for this weekend. Over 40 people will be in attendance to hear Brian Young's various presentations. There is still room for a few people so if you would like to be a part of the event, give Lutheran Island Camp a call.

School Nature adventures: we've scheduled several parochial schools in for winter nature adventures. We have some good things planned but perhaps next year we'll be able to take the students over to Christ Serve Ranch to do their activities on a larger scale. We also just booked in a public school for the first week of June.

Creation and Life Issues Convocation: We are very excited about having Dr. David Menton, well known molecular cell biology and creationist, join us from Answers in Genesis where he does research work. His topic will be "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made". He will be joined by musician and Christian performance artist, Heather Ruesch. The Convocation will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Moorhead, Minnesota at 2:00 pm on April 18. Put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

LLC and purchase of Christ Serve Ranch: we continue to pray for support of the Friends of Creation-Science, LLC and will rejoice with thanksgiving when we are able to announce that enough membership units have been spoken for that we can move forward with the purchase of Christ Serve Ranch. Our task force members will be holding some meetings with potential investors over the next months to identify those who will provide that special blessing.

AM 1100 The FLAG support: We continue to thank God for the tremendous support that we have received from Scott Hennen and his team at the FLAG. We pray that the partnership with them will continue and expand.

Summer 2010: We are excited about all of the activities planned for the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch for this summer. **Servant events** will certainly play a significant part in the planning. We've scheduled 4 weeks this summer for youth servants to do work at the ranch. There are many, many projects that will need to be accomplished. Our **Young Scientists** program in June will once again feature Brian Young. He will use science experiments to demonstrate and explain many of the occurrences in the Old Testament. We are very excited about our first **Photography and Art week** related to creation. This event will provide photographers and artists a wonderful opportunity to capture God's magnificence through their God given talents. **Creation Safari** camps are for younger children who want to get out into nature and learn about bugs, amphibians, and plants and animals. They will discover how wonderful God's creation is. We are really excited about our Special Adventure Horse Camp coming up in July this summer. We'll be traveling to Wyoming to ride horses, do service work, and explore wonderful creation sites including geological sites, dinosaur bones, and national monuments. For information on any of these programs, please check out our websites at www.islandcamp.org or www.christserveranch.org.

We also have some great weekend events coming up this summer and fall. Check back often to get updated information. In June 11-13 we will have our annual **Preparing for College** event led by Brian Young. He will also be leading another weekend program called **Teaching Your Family About Creation**. Then next fall we will once again have a program for Teens and Adults called **Responding to Evolution**.

Presentations on C-SEL: We will continue to be available for you congregation, ladies group, rally, or Bible study to share our vision of the Creation-Science Environmental learning center. We also expect to do a number of radio interviews in local markets as well as through the other media.

Annual Giving, those gifts given in support of our Creation-Science Environmental learning center to help defray costs or to help purchase Christ Serve Ranch, continued to increase this past year. We pray that the message of what we are doing will continue to expand and grow and that others will be led to support our effort. The task force may look at how to expand our giving programs to include memorials and expand the options for legacy giving. We will also begin to expand our opportunities for people to share **Planned Gifts** through wills, estates, annuities, and life insurance.

Grant Writing: We already have two grants submitted that are under consideration. We ask that you would continue to offer up your prayers that these grants would be funded by the foundations we've applied to.

Task Force: our task force of 18 members will continue to meet on a regular basis. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23. We hope to had some additional expertise on some of the committees. Once the property is purchased the Task Force will refocus its energy to more emphasis on future **curriculum and activities and expanded course offerings**.

An organized volunteer program will be started by the end of 2010. We will be looking for volunteer presenters, teachers, fundraisers, office staff, construction people, and of course those who can volunteer their equipment, financial support and most important prayer time.

We pray that you, your family, and all those in your life will have a wonderful 2010 and that our Creator will bless you in such a way that you will have no option but to share those blessings with others.