

December 7, 2011

Greetings in Christ!

The weather is changing and with it comes new challenges and opportunities. The water that was too cold just a week ago, now is frozen and provides ice fishing, skating, and more. The leaves have left and we see new vistas and views that we had forgotten about. Life is one change after another. God wants us to rejoice in the changes and see the new opportunities He blesses us with.

Creation and Life issues in the news:

YAKUTSK, Russia – Japanese and Russian scientists might be able to clone a mammoth after confirming the presence of well-preserved bone marrow in a mammoth thighbone found in Siberian permafrost, Kyodo News reported.

The scientists from the Sakha Republic's mammoth museum and Kinki University's graduate school will begin research next year to regenerate the huge mammal, which became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

They will transplant nuclei from the bone marrow cells into elephant egg cells whose nuclei were removed through a type of cloning. The process can create an embryo that can be planted into an elephant womb for birth.

For scientists involved in the research since the late 1990s, finding nuclei with undamaged mammoth genes has been a challenge, AFP reported.

But the discovery in August of the well-preserved thighbone in [Siberia](#) increased the chances of a successful cloning.

The Costs of Taking Conscience

Against the backdrop of current debates about health care and conscience protection, a federal judge for the District of New Jersey has issued a temporary restraining order against the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) that prohibits them from forcing twelve nurses to assist in abortions against their conscientious objections. While much has been written on medical providers' conscience rights as a moral [imperative](#) and as a means of [maintaining diversity](#) within the profession, the potential relationship between conscience and the supply of medical providers -- in particular, obstetric specialists and nurses -- should make the issue salient to anybody interested in health care reform, especially those seeking to expand access and reduce costs.

The contours of physicians' conscience rights and their correlative obligations have been contested for decades. Indeed, the last half century has seen profound changes in both the practice of medicine and the state of law that necessarily implicate the position of the physician vis-à-vis the patient and the procedures that the physician may be asked to provide. As Azgad Gold notes, increasingly "the medical field became more 'subjective' than 'objective,' as reflected by the shift to measuring outcomes of treatments by 'quality of life' parameters rather than the traditional objective 'morbidity' and 'mortality' parameters." This, coupled with the liberalization of abortion following *Roe v. Wade*, has increased internal and external pressures on the medical field to see abortion as simply another valid medical choice to which the patient is subjectively entitled, regardless of the ethical -- or medical -- views of her attending physician. To read more: http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/frag/frag_01conscience.html

Nature Watch: The last of the lakes in our area froze up the night before last when temps dropped below zero. The swans we've been watching took off. We counted 44 at the high end. We've been watching 40 or more turkeys on the way to Christ Serve Ranch. Deer have started to yard up. We spotted over 20 running through the woods at CSR and then found where they had been laying. Fish houses are out on the lakes already. The lack of snow and moisture will soon be taking its toll on some wildlife that needs moisture. We have a very active beaver over at CSR. We've been told that the lodge is over 30 years old. One year 13 beavers were harvested from the little pond.

Program Information: We've added another Creation Photography event for this spring. It will be held March 23-25, when the moon is new. We hope to photo the northern lights as well as catch sight of animals that are just starting to become active. Our Christ Serve Website is being updated over the next week.

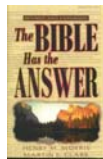
Bulletin insert: Watch for your Lutheran Island Camp brochure in the mail in the next two weeks. It should be here in time for Christmas if you are on the mailing list.

From the Task force: Thanks to Norman Barge who spent this past Monday mapping out fence lines on CSR that will need to be taken down or repaired. Craig Elgin and Marvin spent time working on a trail that we can use for sleigh rides this winter.

God's Word: Let all **creation** rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. Psalm 96:13

Prayer List: 1.) Pray for support of creation programs in 2012 2.) Give thanks for the volunteers already stepping forward. 3.) Ask God to lift up additional gifts for CSR. 4.) Ask God to give us wisdom as we face challenges and opportunities. 5.) Thank God for the wonderful gift given by the Kreyer family. (80 acres of land).

Link of the week: <http://www.trueorigin.org/booklist.asp>



Resource of the week: How do we know the Bible is true? Why did God create the universe? This classic book answers more than 250 questions on a wide variety of topics, making it an essential resource for every Christian. Authors Henry M. Morris and Martin Clark show that the Bible is clear, easy to understand and always gives the right answer.

Question and Answer:

Question: Will there be skiing at Christ Serve Ranch?

Answer: Yes, as a matter of fact we are hoping some skiing enthusiasts will help us identify some good trails. If you are interested give us a call and ask for Marvin.

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