

March 1, 2011

Greetings in Christ!

March is a special month of many changes. Our prayer is that your March will be one filled with reflection, spiritual growth and profound blessing.

*Creation and Life issues in the news:* MOAB, Utah – A new dinosaur species, nicknamed "thunder thighs" because of the enormously powerful thigh muscles it had, has been discovered in Utah.

The discovery of fossil remains in a quarry near the Colorado River in Grand County, Utah, has been examined by scientists from the U.K. and the U.S. The scientists said Tuesday that the creature's legs were unusually large. Researchers believe the species, *Brontomerus mcintoshi*, used its powerful leg muscles to kick predators or to help it travel over rough, hilly terrain. The shape of the bone indicates that the animal would likely have had the largest leg muscles of any dinosaur in the sauropod family. This is reflected in the name *Brontomerus*, which literally means "thunder-thighs."

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/02/23/new-thunder-thighs-dinosaur-discovered-utah/#ixzz1FS6FuZ2z>

**Nature Watch:** Yesterday was the first day of meteorological spring. Meteorologists divide the seasons according to months rather than the solstice, so Spring goes from March 1 through May 31. In our area this seems to generally reflect changes in our weather. The average daily high goes above 32 for the first time on or about March 1. The sun is now high enough that it brings warmth even in the face of cold temps. Now is the time that we should be starting many of our seedlings such as tomatoes, annual flowers, and even some vines for early fruit. Deer are becoming very active and are running in herds. In the last few days we've seen herds of yearlings running together. They are also moving along the roads and along paths. We saw over 30 day in a two mile trip. We are also seeing turkeys in more abundant numbers. There have been flocks of 15 or more within just a few miles of camp. This past week we saw a nesting pair of Bald Eagles. Many of the larger birds of prey are actively establishing nests and will be setting on eggs soon. By the middle of March we will be seeing our first migrating robins. Some robins do spend the winter here. Those that are migrating will be much more flighty and easily startled. The snow cover will have a big impact on nature ad temps. The deep snow cover is keeping our temps a good 10 degrees cooler than they should be. There will be a significant event for nature coming on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Savings Time returns. The largest impact on nature is often humans and their activities. Starting those activities an hour earlier will put us in conflict with animals that have established patterns. It's a great time to watch for animals, but also a time to be careful on the roads and highways.

**Program Information:** We'll be doing two presentations to the MACHE' conference coming up in April in Duluth, Minnesota. We're looking forward to developing new relationships with home school parents and pray that our programs and services in Creation-science will be a blessing to them. We'll be working on a new Fall schedule that will include an expanded offering for our Creation-Science programs.

### Preparing for College

**Are your teens ready? Whether your teen is heading to college or into the workforce they will be faced with challenges to their faith. Brian Young will provide resources and information needed**

by young people so that they can faithfully reflect their Christian values and beliefs as they head off on their own. This weekend may be the best gift your child ever receives.

**Ages: 16-20**

**Dates: June 10-12**

**Cost: \$89**

**Deposit: \$50**

**Bulletin insert:** Have you lost any children in your family? Have they drifted away from coming to church? Parents, you children will be faced with many questions that will challenge their faith. Some of those questions will be about God's creation. Lutheran Island Camp has some excellent programs designed to help our children understand Genesis.

#### **From the Task force:**

We thank God for continued gifts that are coming in to help with our purchase of Christ Serve Ranch and to support our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center Programs. We continue to look for additional people to serve on our task force and also to serve as instructors and volunteers in our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. We'll soon be working on our

**God's Word:** <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. I Peter 4: 10-11

Prayer List: 1.) Thank God for pastors who continue to proclaim God's Word. 2.) Give thanks for the continuing gifts that we receive. 3.) Ask God to bless our efforts for planning our Fall 2011 programs. 4.) Ask God to bless our efforts in April at the MACHE' conference. 5.) Give thanks for the hard work of our Task Force.

**Link of the week:** <http://www.discovery.org/>



**Resource of the week:** This fascinating presentation on dragons and their biblical connection sheds light on the truth of their existence and their connection to the last living dinosaurs. Dragons-these powerful, fire-breathing, fantastic beings have left their legacy on this world and can now only be found in the pages of ancient texts.

#### **Question and Answer:**

**Question:** How important is Christ Serve Ranch to the future of Lutheran Island Camp?

**Answer:** We believe it is very important. The purchase of additional property was first anticipated in our 2005-2010 strategic plan. At that time the plan laid out the need for additional land to help in the establishment of an environmental learning center, to be the home base for a horse program that was to be established and to provide space for RV camping. The Minnesota North District expressed their

support for our efforts to purchase the property through a resolution of the board of directors. The Lutheran Island Camp board of directors established a separate task force to work on purchasing the property and to establish the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. Today we face space challenges for several of our programs including our Horseback riding, our servant event, and our Creation-Science programs. We know that the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch will bring many new participants to Lutheran Island Camp. These participants will come from homeschooling families, parochial schools, and colleges and universities.

Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch  
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A program of Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN.