

November 23, 2011

Greetings in Christ!

Our staff wishes each of you a very blessed Thanksgiving. We remember you daily in our prayers and give thanks for all of you who keep us in your prayers, volunteer and share your blessings.

Creation and Life issues in the news: Saber toothed Squirrel??? (Could it be that big sharp teeth are needed to slice open acorns instead of killing animals? Editor's note)

A saber-toothed squirrel-like mammal from the Age of Dinosaurs is shedding light on just how diverse our distant ancestors might have been, researchers said.

With its [superlong fangs](#), long snout and large eyes, the mouse-size animal bears an oddly striking resemblance to the fictional saber-toothed squirrels depicted in the computer-animated "Ice Age" films, scientists added.

This newfound creature is named *Cronopio dentiactus* — *Cronopio* after the [bizarre, fictional beasts](#) central to many stories by Argentine writer Julio Cortázar, and *dentiactus* from Latin, meaning "sharp, acute teeth."

The animal's fangs would've been about 0.2 inches (5 millimeters) long, about one-fifth the length of its head.

"It looks somewhat like Scrat, the saber-toothed squirrel from 'Ice Age,'" said researcher Guillermo Rougier, an anatomist and vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. "The comparison with Scrat is superficial, but it just goes to show how diverse ancient mammals are, that we can just imagine some bizarre critter and later find something just like it."

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/03/archaeologists-find-saber-toothed-squirrel/#ixzz1eXHEIVsh>

Nature Watch: We've been enjoying the company of eight beautiful swans. Three of them are youngsters. Most ponds have now iced over and many smaller lakes are too. Bigger lakes have ice in protected areas, but with 50 degree temps coming our way that may disappear. Yesterday we spotted over 60 turkeys, a beautiful eagle, and quite a few blue jays. Deer hunting is over but the harvest was less than great, down about 20% and even more in some places. By this time last year, most of our region had 10 inches of snow. We have certainly been blessed with a mild and dry fall so far. As a matter of fact, meteorologists are using the "D" word, drought as precipitation is down significantly from normal years.

Program Information: We've attached the brochure for the very first program that will be held at Christ Serve Ranch, it is in our new series of Ranch Stars and will provide an opportunity for people to learn about how the stars declare the brilliance of Jesus the wonderful good news of our salvation. We may also be scheduling a winter photography event the same weekend, again at Christ Serve Ranch.

Bulletin insert: Christ Serve Ranch has become a reality for Lutheran Island Camp. There is much work that needs to be done there and some of it may begin as early as December 1. If you would like to cut wood or help with other projects, give Marvin a call at 218-583-2905.

From the Task force: The staff and several guests went to Christ Serve Ranch yesterday and held a brief commissioning service, asking for God's blessing on the work we will be doing there. We plan a more formal dedication service within the next two year's when more of the displays, elements, and observation areas, and exhibits will be complete. *Farmers – Marvin needs your help! With the*

purchase of Christ Serve Ranch and the lease of the arena for our Equine College, we have some definite snow removal challenge. We need to get Marvin a larger tractor with a cab so he doesn't freeze off his nose. We think we can get a pretty good tractor for about \$10,000 so if God has blessed you with abundance this year please consider helping us out.

God's Word: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

Prayer List: 1.) Rejoice with us as God blesses us through Christ Serve Ranch. 2.) Pray to God that He would lift up volunteers for projects this spring. 3.) Pray that God would continue to give staff the energy, wisdom, and fortitude during this very busy time. 4.) Thank God that we continue to have people express interest in our Creation programs for this summer. 5.) Ask God to bless our immediate planning, surveys, and efforts at CSR.

Link of the week: another link shared by Gary Schroeder:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/my-life-as-a-turkey/joe-hutto-answers-your-questions/7389/>



Resource of the week:

In this remarkable exploration of faith, Dr. Henry Morris III pinpoints three cornerstones of the Christian faith - real events - which ultimately changed the course of human history.

Question and Answer:

Question: How soon can we sign our group up for summer events at the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch?

Answer: We're ready to start receiving registrations right now! Our on-line registration function isn't working yet, but it will be soon. Follow this link for more information:

http://islandcamp.org/content_71.php

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A program of Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN.