

August 26, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

The sunrises are coming later and the sunsets earlier, but both continue to be a beautiful reflection of God's love of humanity. The beauty of both sunrises and sunsets comes from the impurities in the air through which the sun reflects. We are much like those beautiful sunrises and sunsets. God's love is made more wonderful when we recognize the impurities that pervade our lives.

Creation and Life issues in the news:

Will there be another Scopes Monkey trial? Recent reports indicate that the Chamber of Commerce may bring suit to require absolute proof of climate change and especially global warming. Their rationale is that pending legislation, rules, and regulations will cost American industry billions of dollars based on faulty science, wrongly interpreted data, and political activism. You can read more at this link:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-climate-trial25-2009aug25,0,901567.story?track=rss>

Tornado hits ELCA convention: Was it a message or a coincidence? Shortly after the ELCA had their first vote on homosexuality and the church an unexpected tornado hit the convention center and the ELCA church across the street from it.

Nature Watch: Loons continue to serenade us in the evening. Chipmunks, squirrels, and scavenger birds are very actively looking for food to build up reserves. Woodchucks have been making appearances lately. Blooms of algae are making some ponds and small lakes undesirable and even dangerous for livestock and wildlife. A few warmer days have allowed some of the crops to catch up, but there is still concern about both the beans and the corn crops which need significantly more heat than they have gotten. Grass growth has really slowed down. Fall flowers both wild and garden are especially beautiful this year. Fish continue to be active as the water temps begin to decline. Did you know that August is the date for the earliest snowfall in Minnesota? It happened in Duluth on August 31, 1949. Typically we can expect at least a little snow around mid-September.

Program Information: Next June we plan to have a week for amateur and professional photographers. It is a wonderful time of year to do nature photography. There will be young in abundance and many of the early wildflowers will also be appearing at about that time. We'll have at least one professional photographer who teaches it as well as the opportunity share and learn from each other. The final date will be set shortly. We will have a schedule of April-September 2010 program events out soon. It will be posted on the website

From the Task Force The Christ Serve Ranch/Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center Task Force is pleased to announce that we will be holding an Open House at the property we hope to purchase. It will be held on September 20th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. There will be wagon rides, displays, food, and gifts for all in attendance. We'll be showing people where we plan to have various observation areas, we'll show you our first telescope, and much more. Please plan to attend. The address is 24307 Cty Hwy 5, Henning, MN. We'll be sending out a poster in the next day or so.

God's Word: “neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39

Prayer List: 1.) We ask your prayers for our brothers and sisters in the ELCA as they discern what recent actions taken by that church body will mean to them in their faith walk. 2.) We ask for prayers of thanksgiving for the continued improvement in Task Force and board member, Gary Schroeder. 3.) We continue to pray for the many students who are returning to schools where their faith will be challenged. 4.) We lift up to our God the efforts to raise funds for Christ Serve Ranch as well as the effort to identify investors. 5.) We ask God to bless our program planning efforts.

Link of the week: <http://akidsheart.com/bible/ot/creation.htm>.

Resource of the week: The Lutheran Difference: Creation. This booklet sells for \$4.00 from Concordia Publishing House. Written by Alphonso Espinosa it includes 6 different lessons.

Question and Answer:

Question: How old is the earth?

Answer: That is a difficult question to answer. God obviously created everything with age. As we read Genesis it is obvious that He created the trees, birds, animals, etc as mature creations - that is with age. It might be a reasonable assumption that the soils, waters, and lights also were created with age. Our statement of belief states: **the universe and the earth is of recent origin (not millions or billions of years), being supernaturally created in six normal days by God;**

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