

July 15, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

God's creation provides us with food, clothing, shelter, jobs, beauty and so much more. We honor both the creator and the created by caring for the creation through proper and good stewardship of the gifts He has given us. How we do that is an individual decision, but can include conservation, recycling, new energy sources, crop rotation, water conservation, and more. Christians may honor both the creator and the creation, but we worship the creator.

**Creation and Life issues in the news:** The BBC recently reported that several scientists have identified a small deer in Indonesia that hides from predators by going underwater. They have observed this behavior twice and now are proposing that it is an example of evolution. You can read more about this and how creationists respond by looking at this article from Answers in Genesis:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/07/11/news-to-note-07112009>

**Nature Watch:** Wild berries are beginning to ripen and will provide a excellent source of food for birds, squirrels, and other wildlife. Fawns are starting to get around much better and those born in April are getting some size to them. Many wildflowers are coming into bloom, but so are many noxious weeds such as thistle, lambs quarters, and ragweed. Butterflies are really starting to appear with Monarch butterflies and their cousins the Viceroy showing up. Mosquitoes are a real hazard after dusk with new hatches nearly daily. Fishing has slowed down some. Temps this July are well below the 83 degree average. Corn and beans have really started to take off with corn growth of 8-12 inches not unusual. Some local sweet corn has tasseled.

**Program Information:** Our first Creation Safari camp is well under way. The kids have been collecting insects, checking out seeds and spores, bird watching, and making casts of animal foot prints. We have another week of Creation Safari going on next week.

**From the Task Force:** Last week the Finance and Development met via conference call and made the decision to move forward with helping to form a Limited Liability Corporation. This corporation will be made up of individuals, congregations, and organizations that decide to invest funds to purchase Christ Serve Ranch and hold it until we can raise enough in donations to purchase the property. The property would then be leased to Lutheran Island Camp so that we could get the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center off the group.

**God's Word:** *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” Romans 1:20*

Prayer List: 1.) Our friend and Task Force member Gary Schroeder has surgery today. Please remember him in your prayers. 2.) Please pray for strength, wisdom, and learning for the staff and campers participating in this week and next weeks Creation Safari

camps. 3.) Please pray to lift up investors in the LLC so that Christ Serve Ranch might be purchased soon. 4.) Please pray for our staff to have wisdom and discernment as we begin working on many projects that will affect the future of Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch.

**Link of the week:** <http://www.whoisyourcreator.com>.

**Resource of the week:** This week we would like to highlight the new Concordia Self Study ESV Bible that will be available this fall. It will have nearly twice as many resources, references, and footnotes as any other study Bible. You can pre-order them from Concordia Publishing or contact Lutheran Island Camp as we will be ordering a supply of them through our bookstore.

**Question and Answer:**

**Question:** What is a vestigial organ?

**Answer:** Evolutionists suggest that certain organs in humans or animals that don't appear to have a purpose are remnants of organs that our "ancestors" may have had. There are two problems with those theories. First, the vestigial organs are often found to have an important purpose that science just had not determined. Second, the theory of evolution is that organisms modify themselves to evolve into more efficient productions. There is no efficiency in a truly vestigial organ.

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