

November 25, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

The wonderful fall weather continues. God is certainly blessing us with beautiful fall days. We are reminded of how God blesses us through so many small things. The crisp fall air, a deer bounding across the lawn, a late fall flock of birds heading south, a single leaf hanging stubbornly on a tree, a woodpecker tapping, a grouse thumping, a crow cawing. Take a walk one day and listen and look to see wonderful things.

Creation and Life issues in the news: Even 150 years after it first appeared in print, Charles Darwin's "On The Origin of Species" still fuels clashes between scientists convinced of its truth and critics who reject its view of life without a creator.

This "Darwin Year" -- so named because February 12 was the 200th anniversary of the British naturalist's birth and November 24 the 150th anniversary of his book -- has seen a flood of books, articles and conferences debating his theory of evolution. To read more:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=9163795>

Science depends on good quality of data. It also relies on replication and sharing data. But the last couple of days have uncovered some shocking revelations. Computer hackers have obtained 160 megabytes of e-mails from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in England. These [e-mails](#), which have now been confirmed as real, involved many researchers across the globe with ideologically similar advocates around the world. They were brazenly discussing the destruction and hiding of data that did not support global warming claims. The academics here also worked closely with the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2009/11/24/john-lott-climate-change-emails-copenhagen/>

The Manhattan Declaration was announced on Nov. 20, 2009, by Chuck Colson, Founder of The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Colson drafted the declaration along with Robert George (Professor, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University) and Timothy George (Professor, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University).

"The Manhattan Declaration is a wake-up call—a call to conscience—for the church," said [Colson](#). "It is also a crystal-clear message to civil authorities that we will not, under any circumstances, stand idly by as our religious freedom comes under assault."

The 4,700-word declaration was signed by 152 Christian leaders, including Dennis Rainey, president of FamilyLife (headquartered in Little Rock, Ark.). This document unites Christians to defend (1) the sanctity of human life, (2) the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife, and (3) the rights of conscience and religious liberty.

Nature Watch: The warm temperatures have continued through another week, but change seems to be on the way. We will likely end November with very little snow on the ground and with lakes still unfrozen. This kind of weather bodes well for the young fawns that have just started their gestation in the doe moms. Most does start off with at least three fetuses. As the weather develops, they may absorb one or more to make it through the winter. Despite a cold winter and heavy snow last year, there were many twins born in the spring. This is also good weather for turkeys and other scavenger birds. The good news is that spring is only about 115 days away!!!

Program Information: We want to encourage youth participation in our Teen Trek Winter Extravaganza in January (8-10). Brian Young will be heading it up.

From the Task Force: We want to thank the 20 or so folks who stopped by to visit with Scott Hennen, radio personality with AM 1100 the FLAG out of Fargo. Scott has been a wonderful spokesperson for our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. He appeared Monday evening at Our Redeemer in Moorhead. He'll be at Our Savior's Lutheran in Crookston on December 1st at 2:00 pm. Join us to hear about the exciting plans for Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch.

God's Word: 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you--the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground--so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." Genesis 8:15-17.

Prayer List: 1.) Please continue to remember staff member Mary Swyter in your prayers. Mary has returned home after surgery on her ankles. She continues to improve. 2.) Please remember the many people who will be traveling to see loved ones. Pray for safe travel, good family times, and a recognition of the many blessings that God gives us daily. 3.) Pray that more investors will be lifted up to help purchase Christ Serve Ranch. 4.) Remember in your prayers those who don't believe in a creator God. Pray that they will be led to understand about God's grace, His power, and His love. 5.) Give Thanks!!!

Link of the week: <http://manhattandeclaration.org/> Please be aware that this website is receiving a great deal of traffic and it may be difficult to get on it.

Resource of the week: <http://www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/creation/book.htm> At this website you'll be able to create your own children's book about creation.

Question and Answer:

Question: Where can I sign up to come to the meeting in Crookston?

Answer: Go to www.christserveranch.org and click on click here. You'll send an e-mail to us to let you know that you'll be there.

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