

# **Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center – *Reconnecting the Creator to Man and Nature***

**“In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Ex. 20:8)**

## **MISSION**

The Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center (C-SELC) equips students, parents, pastors, teachers, and others to understand, proclaim, and defend the biblical accuracy of God the Father as Creator of all things by offering biblical and scientific educational opportunities so the true Gospel of Christ may be preserved and spread.

## **VISION AND CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

For a century the clear message in much of culture has been that biblical Creation is unscientific, historically false, and at best a myth. The most consistent evolutionists are atheists, belittling the Bible’s creation account and the numerous other teachings related to it.<sup>1</sup> They promote their belief through the media, documentaries, videos, periodicals, textbooks, grade schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities (public, private, and even Christian). Evolutionists have a monopoly. From the moment a child is taught that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago, the message is that evolution is true and the Bible is not. The teachings of evolution lay the groundwork to strip a person of true Christian faith and make the message of Christ crucified meaningless.

Yet the Bible makes it clear that what it asserts on the subject of origins, life, and Adam and Eve is true historically, scientifically, and theologically. Thus the **Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center (C-SELC)** was established where the clear teaching is “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1) and where all who attend will see the evidence that “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Ps. 19).

C-SELC will make use of scholarly theologians, scientists, and teachers who are uniquely qualified and who support the Mission and Faith Statement of C-SELC. They will utilize biblical truths and sound empirical science in their teaching.

C-SELC will offer a curriculum that will delve into Scripture, encourage the proper use of reason to discern the false from the true, carefully weigh empirical evidence, and bring to light how nature still points to an all-powerful and wise Designer. There will be classroom studies on the Bible, creation science, apologetics, worldviews, evangelism, social issues (marriage, sanctity of life) as well as experiments and hands-on learning within the beautiful environment of the Center and other intriguing natural settings. These studies will also show the important connection between Creation and the work of Salvation through Christ.

C-SELC will develop fascinating studies for children, teens, adults, college and seminary students, teachers (public and parochial), and pastors. Much effort will be devoted to prepare young people to defend Creation, both biblically and scientifically, against the dominant humanistic, evolutionary worldview found in high school and higher education. Special teacher-training courses on Creation will also be offered.

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<sup>1</sup> For example a young earth, the uniqueness of man made in the image of God, absolute morality, traditional marriage, the sanctity of human life, the fall into sin, the need for a savior, etc.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We confess there is only one God who is infinite, personal, uncreated, eternal, omnipotent, rational, loving, and just, separate from all else, above all else, and the creator and sustainer of all else. At the same time this one God is three persons who are coeternal and of the same essence and power: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. We confess that the books of the Old and New Testaments, as written by the prophets, apostles, and evangelists, were given by inspiration of God. The Holy Scriptures are without error in everything they teach, including matters of theology, morality, geography, science, and history, and they are the only infallible rule and norm of Christian doctrine and practice. The main and ultimate purpose of the Holy Scriptures is to reveal to us that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is our only Savior. Further, we fully accept the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as the true exposition of the teaching of Holy Scriptures.
3. We confess that God's works fall under the categories of Creation, Redemption, and Sanctification with each work ascribed, though not exclusively, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit respectively. Just as the persons of the Triune God cannot be separated from each other, neither can their works. The work of God the Father as Creator is intimately tied to the work of the Son as Redeemer, and the work of the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier. Creation cannot be denied without also undermining faith in the redemptive work of Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.
4. Regarding Creation, the Fall into Sin, and the book of Genesis, we confess:
  - Genesis is to be taken in its natural and literal sense, being fully accurate in all it describes and teaches;
  - the universe and the earth is of recent origin (not millions or billions of years), being supernaturally created in six normal days by God;
  - the various original life-forms (kinds) were made by direct creative acts of God during the first six days and do not evolve into other life-forms, though there may be "horizontal" changes (variations) within each life-form or "downward" changes (e.g., harmful mutations, extinctions);
  - the first human beings did not evolve from an animal ancestry but were created on the sixth day, in the image of God, and set apart and above all other created things;
  - the Fall into Sin was a real historical event in which Adam and Eve rebelled against and rejected God (a state now inherited by all), brought death (physical, spiritual, and eternal) upon man and a curse upon a perfect world, and necessitated the work of Redemption by Jesus Christ and the work of Sanctification by the Holy Spirit;
  - the Flood of Genesis was an historical, cataclysmic, and global event;
  - nations and languages originated at the tower of Babel.
5. We confess that in a fallen world, reason is also corrupted and must therefore remain submissive to the authority of Holy Scriptures. Whatever contradicts Scriptures (including popular theories based on supposed evidence) is by definition false. Though useful in much of life and learning, including science, reason cannot bring one to faith in Christ for salvation; this is the work of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel alone.
6. We believe science and reason are gifts of God and when properly used confirm, and are not contrary to, the biblical explanation of the origins and existence of the universe, life, and man.
7. We believe that true Christianity is in a cosmic battle with and contrary to philosophies and religions such as naturalism, Darwinism, evolution (including theistic evolution and the "gap-theory"), pantheism, New Age, paganism, and other false worldviews – a battle which can be fought with the truth of God's Holy Scriptures and, when appropriate, the proper use of reason and science.