January 21, 2014

Greetings in Christ!

And it is snowing again and cold again. WOW!

**The Island** is gorgeous, the fires are all lit and we are blessed with a group of nearly 35 ladies who will be joining us this week and weekend for the annual **January Quilting Retreat**.

We had a great group of nearly 80 confirmation students and pastors here this past weekend. They enjoyed lots of broom hockey, sledding and fun in the snow along with their studies. Groups came from **Holy Cross and Redeemer** in St. Cloud; **1st English** and **St. Johns** in Park Rapids, and **Concordia** in Fairhaven. We still have a few Confirmation Retreats coming up and there is still room in a couple of them. Give us a call to schedule yours.

We are getting closer to getting Marvin his new tractor with cab. Again yesterday he experienced brutal conditions with wind chills dropping to -35 degrees out on the causeway. If you have an annual meeting coming up in your congregation, please consider a designated gift in thanks to God for the harvest of this fall and direct it to the tractor!

February is traditionally when we ask congregations to consider setting aside a Sunday for helping campers who are not able to afford to come to camp. We’ve usually asked them to do that on the Sunday right before or after **Valentine’s Day**. We again encourage those of you who no longer have children or grandchildren coming to camp to help some other youngster enjoy that special time in their lives.

**The brochures are being finalized today!** Praise God and thanks to Jeff Roste for all of his hard work. They will be heading off to the printers shortly and should be available within the next 10 days to 2 weeks. We send them automatically to campers from the last 3 years so if you would like one, please don’t hesitate to request one by e-mail or by calling us. We’ll get them to you as soon as they arrive. This year there will be nearly 80 events at Christ Serve Ranch so we put together a separate section just for those events.

Men’s Retreat registrations have arrived from **Sioux City**, **Huron**, **Sioux Falls**, **Moorhead**, **Fargo**, **St. Cloud**, **Willmar**, and a few others. We are excited about having Dick Bremer join us for the event. Sign up as soon as possible to join other Christian Men in **Running the Race – Eyes Fixed on Jesus**.

*On-line registration is now available for Individual events for Summer 2014. We have now gone to a web based system for keeping track of programs and campers and it seems to be working very well, but if you have any trouble please give us a call.*
There are some exciting programs coming up this summer. Many of them are new. We’re starting our review of those programs this week:

**Discovery Camps**

**Discovery Camps:**
6-8 year olds who want the opportunity to learn about summer camp will want to attend one of our Discovery Camps. Activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, Bible Study, and lots more! Campers stay in tipis. This summer we plan to have pony or horseback rides available for children. Creation Safari camps will have activities at Christ Serve Ranch and will provide children with extra opportunities to learn about nature.

**Ages:** 6-8

**Dates:**
# 1-June 13-15
# 2-June 20-22
# 3-June 27-29 (Creation Safari-Looking for babies)
# 4-July 11-13
# 5-July 18-20 (Creation Safari-Lakes, ponds and streams)
#6-August 8-10 (Creation Safari-Bugs, worms, and the things that eat them).

**Rate:** $110. New lower price!

We have some great new clothing items in the store! You may be interested in our new line of sweat pants, some great looking swim trunks and swim skirts, or one of our hoodies. We also have some great t-shirts. If you want to order something give Adriane a call.

**Question and Answer:**

**Question:** Which programs in the summer fill up the fastest?

**Answer:** We usually get our horseback campers signing up first and those camps almost always fill out. We actually will have 1 less Tenderfoot camp this year and 1 less Beginner Camp as well.

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Learn more about our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at [www.christserveranch.org](http://www.christserveranch.org)

"Building Christ-centered programs and facilities for you, your children, and your children's children."

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