

August 5, 2008

Greetings in Christ!

A **camper mom** stopped in the office the other day to tell us about a couple of campers from her congregation. They are **sisters** who are living in a challenging household. Dad no longer goes to church and seems to make it difficult for the rest of the family as well. This particular camper mom is also active in the Sunday School, so she was pleasantly surprised when the girls (they are in high school) came back from camp full of enthusiasm and excitement. They asked if they could help lead the Sunday School singing with some of the songs they learned at camp. Thank you Lord for touching the lives of these two girls, now please bless these new **Heroes in the Word** as they share You through songs they learned at camp.

Auction Results: We are still working on tallying all of the results from our 17th Annual Quilt Auction, but here are the preliminary results. We think the final result, including match, will be **about \$20,000** which is nearly \$5,000 better than in 2007. Thanks be to God for His blessings of that day! We had wonderful weather, despite a forecast for hot weather and thunderstorms. We had a great turnout with just about every seat taken. We had quilts and crafts in abundance with **285 items that were sold!** People were pleased with the chapel renovations, the wagon rides (we did about 10 of them) and how great the camp looked. We want to thank the quilters and other crafters who so generously provided the beautiful quilts and other items that were auctioned off. We want to thank the bidders who so generously bid on the items for sale. And a special thank you to a number of pastors who took time off from their busy schedules to be there and show their support! We will keep photos of most of the quilts on our website and will update information with actual auction numbers and bids. Please be patient as it may take us a while to do that. Next year's auction will be held on **Saturday, August 1, 2009.**

This week we are using every building again as well as the Log Cabin and Retreat House. We are hosting 130 people for **Family Week** and we have a full contingent of **Teen Trek Horse Campers**. We are excited to host **Little Lambs, Sheep Camp, Discovery Camp and a Family Get-a-way Weekend** this next weekend in addition to the **LWML retreat**. We have about 100 ladies registered for the LWML retreat. If you haven't registered yet, please give us a call to do so! It will be a wonderful weekend. Just a note, we have now surpassed the 720 mark for campers for our regular summer youth programs. That compares to 653 last year. Overall youth camper revenue (which includes all of our youth programs for the entire year) is at 21% ahead of last year for the same date! Thank you to the congregations, pastors, families, and youth organizations who have supported us this year. We pray continuously that God is using us to build up your ministries. Next year's summer schedule will be announced soon and we will be looking for your input on how we can serve you even better. Please give us your thoughts about schedule, transportation, cost (it will likely increase), events, etc.

Fall **Pastor's conference** project of helping with winterization of the chapel continues to draw in great response. Be sure to check our website for an updated list of congregations, individuals, and organizations that are supporting it so far! The total raised to date is just over **\$5,000**. Just a couple thousand more and we'll be able to order the insulation for the chapel. You can see a list of gifts so far by going to our website: http://islandcamp.org/content_117.php.

Confirmation Kick-off: We've attached the brochure for the Heroes in the Word Confirmation Kick-off. We encourage pastors to register themselves and their youth as soon as possible.

Church Reconciler program is coming up in just another month. If you are interested, now is the time to get registered. Please check with your District to see if there are scholarship funds available. This is a wonderful event for pastors, elders, and lay people who can use the skills both in their congregational life as well as their professional life. We've had attorneys, counselors, and social workers attend in the past.

As we begin to develop the 2009 schedule, we need to be aware of anyone who might be looking at having a family reunion here at camp in Summer 2009. We can provide a great reunion for groups from 10 to 150. It's also time for you to begin making plans to youth retreat, confirmation retreats, and more. Give us a call to schedule your activities for this fall, winter, and next spring.

Lay Leadership: Don't forget to get your lay leaders signed up for the Lay Leaders and Elders Retreat coming up in September. Ted Kober will be leading the retreat and training. You can download the brochure from our website.

Christ Serve Ranch/Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center: God blessed us through several donors this past week. We received a **\$10,000 gift** and several gifts in memory of Ellen Schultz. That total is now approaching \$3000. We were blessed to receive a significant pledge to purchase the property from camp friends and supporters Rev. and Mrs George Sagissor of Sioux Falls. George has also agreed, along with Dan Domke of Huron, to represent us in the South Dakota District.

Question and Answer:

Question: Can you do the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center on the Island?

Answer: We can do science camps here at the Island. Those can be done anywhere, including other camps. What we are trying to develop is an Environmental Learning Center that provides outdoor education in a variety of settings. The focus of that Environmental Learning Center will be Creation-Science. Classroom activities, lodging, meals, and recreational activities would happen primarily here at the Island. Experiments, experiential learning, nature observation, orienteering, hiking, pond study, lake study, geological experiments, flora and fauna identification, astronomy, and biological study of animals and ecosystems would happen at the C-SELC. This would be available for youth, teachers, pastors, and adults. Parochial Schools, home-school associations, colleges, and seminaries could make use of the center on a year round basis. With groups coming for school extended trips, we think we will extend our "Summer Camping Season" from mid-April to mid-October, thus utilizing both Christ Serve Ranch and Lutheran Island Camp even more extensively.

Lutheran Island Camp and Retreat Center
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Learn more about our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at
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