

December 29, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome to the Look Back edition of the Tuesday e-news. We thought you might enjoy looking back at some of the events that made 2009 a great year in the history of Lutheran Island Camp. Some items will be detailed in the Creation-Science version of the e-news that comes out on Wednesdays. To sign up for it, go to www.christserveranch.org.

Men's Retreat: We had a great men's retreat with about 80 men registered. The men from Becker won the Chili cook-off, but we appreciated all the Campbell's soup labels we received from the men St. John's in Park Rapids. We had a good contingent of men attending from South Dakota as well as representatives from Iowa and North Dakota joining the men from Minnesota.

Polar Plunge:

Women's Retreat: Registration was down slightly for the Women's Retreat, but those who attended really enjoyed themselves and the special trip to Moorhead for the presentation by Gianna Jessen.

First Annual Creation and Life Issues Convocation: see Wednesday e-news

District Convention: We were pleased to have a significant presence at the Minnesota North District Convention. We were involved in three different displays and were granted about 15 minutes of convention time for a report. The convention overwhelmingly supported the camps efforts to move forward with new plans including the joint capital campaign with the Minnesota North District.

Added Creation-Science Wednesday e-news –See Wednesday e-news

Put up new Creation-Science website-See Wednesday e-news

Trip to meet with Dr. Erich von Fange – See Wednesday e-news

58th Summer Camping Season: We were certainly blessed with a great summer program – God's Secret Agents – in 2009. Many of the previous year's staff returned plus we added several excellent new staff. The economy, the weather, and some school schedule conflicts caused a slight decrease in total numbers, but overall registration revenue will remain constant to 2008. We added a couple of new events including Creation Safari, Field 24, and horseback riding as an activity.

Camp Noah: Five of our current and past staff were blessed by an experience in early June when they were able to travel to flood devastated areas of Iowa and work with youth directly impacted by the floods of 2008. Many of these youth had lost homes, pets,

schools, and other things important in their lives. In August another team went to the Fargo-Moorhead area and worked with youth impacted by the Spring 2009 floods that hit that region. In both efforts, Lutheran Island Camp worked closely with Lutheran Social Services and their disaster team.

Chapel work: Work continued on the chapel in 2009. Exterior work was completed with an additional coat of sealant, then we tackled the interior. Nearly all of the tongue and groove paneling was put up during the summer of 2009. Work continued on into the fall with the dismantling of the old canteen. Additional work will be done in 2010 with rededication of the building scheduled for August of 2010.

Facility improvements: Over 220 youth from around the upper Midwest helped Lutheran Island camp make significant improvements on the facilities of the camp. Included were work on the chapel and Lydia cabin; many hours on trail improvements; improvements on the challenge course, work on tables, putting up a new sign, work on facilities for the Horse Outreach Program, a new cooking shelter, and many other smaller projects.

Inger Trips: We were blessed by two servant event trips to the Native American community of Inger, Minnesota. Groups from Illinois and Albertville, Minnesota were able help many young people learn more about their Savior. Thanks to the generosity of many people, nearly \$4,000 was donated to help a large contingent of youth from Inger and the region come to camp. What a blessing!

Fargo guests: another real blessing was our ability to host about a dozen youth from the Fargo area who were brand new in their knowledge of Jesus. Most were from Liberia or Nepal and had either Buddhist or Muslim backgrounds. A couple of them had been boy soldiers and had suffered tortures including watching parents being killed. That's when it is important to be able to share God in a special way.

18th Annual Quilt Auction: We were gifted with over 300 items for the our Quilt Auction. In total, well over \$24,000 was raised to benefit the programs of Lutheran Island Camp. Next year will be even bigger. The excitement was marred by an accident with the horse drawn wagon from which several people were injured.

Lydia Cabin: The old boat house now known as Lydia was completely dismantled and rebuilt this year. It is now insulated and will be able to be used as a meeting area, hermitage and other uses. It now has log siding.

Autumn Adventure: This year's adventure was a huge success with 60 some youth attending. The kids had lots of activities including campfires, great Bible Studies, and a fun hayride.

Creation-Science Radio interviews-see Wednesday e-news

Joint Capital Campaign: In January a decision was made to work on a joint capital campaign plan between the Minnesota North District and Lutheran Island Camp. The district convention endorsed the concept and selected three international mission projects that will also be supported. The initial goal is \$1.35 million dollars.

Fargo Forum article – see Wednesday e-news

Establish LLC – see Wednesday e-news

Mary's accident: On November 9th, a member of our staff was involved in a car crash. Mary Swyter continues to rehab at home and we plan to have her back at work sometime this spring.

New Wagon: A new horse drawn covered wagon arrived at the end of November. It, along with a new team of beautifully matched paint horses will be featured next summer at camp and at area parades and events. The wagon was made possible as a result of a significant gift given by Walter Goedel of Wadena, Minnesota

Island Christmas Dinners: In December we were blessed to be able to share Christmas with well over 100 people who attended our Island Christmas dinners.

We look forward to another blessed year in 2010. May God continue to bless you so that, through you, we might also be blessed. See you in 2010.