

October 27, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

Many of us heard messages concerning the Reformation this past Sunday. Some of those messages may have highlighted the topic of change. The Reformation certainly was a time of change, God led change. Recently at camp we heard the message that there may be a need for a new Reformation, not one based on doctrine but on how we share the message of a Creator/Savior/Sanctifier to a gentile, even pagan world.

Thanks to a number of ladies from **Zion Alexandria** for cleaning the **Hannah** cabin on October 7th.

We want to remind pastors of the upcoming retreat in January for a Lenten sermon series. Join **Dr. David Schmitt** from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis as he presents his Lenten sermon series with the theme **“Places of the Passion.”** In addition to great learning experiences, you’ll enjoy “Gemutlichkeit” hosted by George Miller and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Dates: January 11, 2010 beginning at 11:00 am to January 12, 2010 at 2:30. Cost: \$89 per person. \$64 commuter rate.

Our **January and February** programs are starting to get filled up. If you haven’t booked your confirmation retreat, now is the time to do so. And don’t forget that Brian Young will be joining us for our **Teen Trek Winter Extravaganza** January 8-10. We are also now booking several congregation events such as elders retreats, congregation retreats, and youth retreats on into May, 2010.

Congregations, do you want to *give a special gift* to your pastor? How about a week at camp? We have set up a very special week next summer for pastors and their families. All the great facilities, food, and programs of camp at a fabulous price. The event will be August 15-20 next summer. We’ve set a special rate with a maximum amount of \$500 per family for that event.

Island Christmas dinners are coming up soon. We’ve now added several additional entertainment groups so you’ll want to check them out. We’ve added music by Mary Weber of Ottertail and a musical group from Good Shepherd in Alexandria.

Our horses have been winter pastured, but they still need your help. If you or your group would like to sponsor a horse for a month, quarter, or year, or simply donate to our HOP program, we’d love to have your help. We want to thank those who are already supporting our program.

The **Men’s retreat flyer** is now available with registration materials to follow. We’ve attached a copy of the flyer for you to share with your congregation.

Make a World for Christ Appeal: Our steering committee is in place and the work has begun on this large appeal to raise funds for the camp and for several mission projects. Over the next month we will be training a number of congregation visitation teams, our

major gift teams, as well as working with the ladies groups, youth groups, staff and board, and alumni.

Thanks for great gifts. Last Thursday God blessed us with significant gifts. We received a \$5,000 gift, a used bus/van worth \$18,000, and a pledge gift of \$7,000. Then over the weekend we received several more gifts for various projects. God continues to bless us through many of you and not only do we very much appreciate it, we need your help to get through the next few months when things slow down. November and December are traditionally slow months, but also expensive as we spend money on brochures, heating costs, insurance, and other end of year expenses that must be met. We've also had several discussions with congregations throughout Minnesota about how they can support our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch and God is beginning to bless us through that program.

Question and Answer:

Question: What is the "host" program?

Answer: Recently, Ken and Bill have been facing some challenges with their schedules so we've started a new program with hosts who join us at camp and help out for the weekend or event. They help out with leading prayers, registrations, answering questions, and other tasks that free us up to do other things at camp or to be traveling. If you are interested in helping us, give us a call. We are still looking for several more hosts.

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Learn more about our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at
www.christserveranch.org.

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

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