Lutheran Valley Ranch

Ramblings

May 2025

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Another May. That must mean one last blanket of white stuff just in time for the latest edition of the Ramblings! Here I was thinking it's time to start planning the 'to-do' list for the lot, and along comes one last winter storm to encourage me to stay inside, light a fire, and just enjoy the moment. It's moments like that where I am reminded of the blessing that LVR is!

So many times we can become distracted by the very busyness of our lives, the world around us, and sometimes our own planning, where we fail to stop and simply be. We forget to be still. We continue to busy ourselves, going about our purpose rather than taking the time to ask what His purpose for us might be. We forget to know that He is God.

As we come through spring and in to summer, with all the blessings of family, vacation, and outdoor activities (including at LVR), don't forget to be intentional in our time and thoughts toward our heavenly Father. I've always appreciated tithing discussions where Time, Treasures, and Talents are mentioned. So often there is a heavy focus on treasures. Tithing isn't just about money, it also includes how we spend our time, often alongside our talents, with and for His purpose. How can you spend your time-tithe today, this week, and this summer with God? How is He asking to spend time with you? Take that minute to be still, to listen, and allow Him to be a blessing with you in your use of time.

God bless,

Your Brother in Christ,

Erik Skov — LV Ranch Board President

LOTS AVAILABLE

We currently do not have any lots available. There are 9 on the waiting list for a lot.

LOT SIGNS

Lot name signs are made for all new members. All the lot number signs have been put up. There are a few new member signs that need to be put up. The volunteer fire department will use the lot number signs in case of emergencies.. If you have any questions on signs, please contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members:

Kara Warpness on lot 11

Randy and Rebecca Oehlert on lot 43

Kirsten Ramsel on lot 48

Mike Walter on lot 73

CLINGS, STICKERS AND FLAGS

LVR window clings, ATV stickers and ATV flags are available. The board encourages all members to have a window cling (black and white) displayed in the lower driver's side windshield of their car and LVR stickers (yellow and black) on their ATV's. These forms of ID let your fellow Ranch members and Retreat staff know that you belong on the property. COST: Clings and stickers are FREE. ATV flags $10.00 donation (non-deductible). If you need any of these items, contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com

RANCH CALENDAR

There is a Ranch activities and Ranch House Reservation calendar on the Ranch website www.lvranch.org. The calendar lists Ranch board meetings, meetings, gatherings, activities and when the Ranch House has been reserved for special occasions like family reunions, internments etc. If the Ranch House has been reserved, you are still welcome to use the restrooms and get ice but please be respectful of other members' activities.

CERTIFICATION FORMS

Primary members are required to turn in a certification yearly per the **By-Laws**. There are two types of certifications for Lutheran Valley Ranch. One or the other must be done every year. Re-certification is where the member must have their pastor sign the form stating that they are members in good standing of their church. These are done every 5 years. Self-certification where the member sends the form that states they are members of good standing of a church and do not require a pastor's signature. The last time we did re-certification was the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This year is a re-certification year and will require your pastor's signature on the form. ***If we do not receive your recertification form for this year it is possible that your lot could revert back to Ranch.***

MEMBERS WITH NO CONTACT INFORMATION

Thanks to those who provided addresses for our records for the members we did not have contact information for. We still need information for the following members. If you can help us update our files with name, address, phone numbers, and email address please send the information to slbauer1030@gmail.com

Chris and Beth Bogert

Matthew and Kim Johnson

Robert Pfotenhauer

If something happens to the primary member(s) and the above secondary members are the only secondary members on the lot and we are unable to contact these secondary members it is possible the lot could revert back to Ranch.

FROM THE ROADS GUY

The roads have done pretty well over the winter and early spring this year. The folks at the Retreat have kept Ellison in good shape with periodic grading and snow plowing as needed. My old plow truck made it through the season without major breakdowns so the back roads have been plowed for snow as needed with added help from Ranch members with plows on their ATVs. All the help adds up and keeps the roads in good drivable condition throughout the year. I have had several requests for plowing out drives over the winter which were accomplished. If you think you might want to come up in the winter, it works best to contact me in the summer so I can look at your driveway with you to make sure I know where it is. I might also advise tall snow pins to help mark the drive when there is deep snow on the ground.

As the Ranch gets some rain this spring, I will get back to using the tractor to smooth the roads. I also plan to put gravel down at the north intersection of Ellison and Deer Trail, the south intersection of Ellison and Deer Trail, and the intersection of Ellison and LVR Trail along with some efforts to improve grading for water runoff on those areas to alleviate spring mud problems. Please let me know if there is any specific area of the roads you would like me to address. You can email me at rod.young77@gmail.com or email the Board.

I hope to see you soon up here at the Ranch! Rod Young, The Roads Guy

LAKES, TREES, & WILDLIFE

God's Peace everyone,

It appears as though the work completed to address water flow into Bear Lake is working, albeit slowly. Nonetheless, praise the Lord. I am praying for a wet year, that it might increase the water capacity in the lake. As you are all aware, the board, in the interest of fire mitigation and protection of the Ranch House decided to remove several trees from around the Ranch House last year. These trees have been removed so the area might look a little different. Thank you to Todd Kelm and everyone who helped for identifying and removing these trees.

We are currently working with Liley Fisheries for our fish stocking of Deer Lake which is scheduled to take place in May before Memorial Day Weekend. There is no plan to stock Bear Lake before Memorial day, as we are still assessing its recovery and the work we completed last year. Additionally, in May, I will be checking power lines on the Ranch property to make sure we don't have any tree or tree limbs that are causing an undue fire risk. Any identified areas of concern will be addressed appropriately.

As we are moving into the spring and summer, I want to encourage everyone to enjoy the wildlife at LVR, but give them their space. If any wildlife becomes a problem, please let me know as soon as possible. I can be reached on my cell phone at (719) 352-1342 or my email at jordanhengst@gmail.com.
I hope everyone has a great spring and summer and enjoys their time in His creation at LVR.
Jordan Hengst - LVR Lakes, Trees and Wildlife Rep.

RETREAT EVENTS

Upcoming family and adult opportunities at Lutheran Valley Retreat! For all of these events you can stay on our site or on your ranch lot. Either way we would love to have you, your family and your friends! Telling your communities about us is the best way you could ever bless us. By forwarding newsletters, sharing a Facebook post or talking to your neighbors, please consider attending these events and passing the word along.

Family Camp: June 13-16, Father/Son Camp: June 27-29, Mother/Daughter Camp: July 18-20, Kinder Kamp/Young Adventure: July 25-27, Fall Men's Retreat: September 11-14, Fall Women's Retreat: September 25- 28

Register for all these camps at lvr.org or call the Retreat at 719-687-3560

LOTS WITH ONLY ONE MEMBER

We have 12 lots with only one member on them and no primary or secondary member or no emergency contact information. If you would like to add either another primary member or a secondary member or add an emergency contact information to your lot, please contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com The Ranch Board will then know what your wishes are in case something happens to you otherwise your lot will revert back to Ranch.

New members must meet the qualification of being a member of good standing of a Lutheran Church. If they are members of a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod the board can approve their membership. If they are a member of a non-Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, the board will recommend them for membership and the Ranch members must be polled by mail. Potential members will become members with a simple majority of yes votes in the allotted time (according to the By-laws Article II section 5).

The following is a list of the lots with only 1 member on it 7, 9, 14, 23, 28, 74, 79, 84, 91, 101, 116, and 122.

BUILDINGS AND SAFETY

We're off to a great start this year at LVR. There is a new cabin and shed approved for the year so far. I'm sure that news will inspire you to do your own improvements!

Since one of those is for me, I thought I'd share some learnings on building at the ranch. First, wells are dicey. You can get 10 gallons per minute at 250ft, or 2 gallons at much deeper. I'm not sure if witching really works, but after seeing one I bought the sticks and they definitely do something. Wells cost $25k plus. Second, septic systems are also quite expensive… probably $30k. Third is electricity. Going rate is about $8k per pole, unless you're in a fire area, then trenching is $200 per foot (yes, per FOOT!). Propane isn't too bad, if you intend to use enough to justify a rental. If not, then buying a tank will be required. After infrastructure, then you get to start the real fun of building. Campers seem like the sweet spot for semi-permanent structures… though they are under the county's camping restrictions. All that said, it takes a little work to have make LVR comfy, but people do it and enjoy the outcome. Give me a call if you want to share notes!

As always… please be sure to go slowly (20mph) and close that gate when you come and go!
Cheers,
Shad

EQUIPMENT

This year looks like we are off to a great start. All of our equipment is up and running and ready to maintain our roads in and out of Lutheran Valley Ranch. There will be only purchases for necessary oils and grease and fuel . We have enough fuel to last through the camping season into early winter. We always want to remember that the grader is a 1984 vintage machine and therefore is 42 years old. The John Deere tractor is even older , made in 1974. One day either one of these machines could have a catastrophic failure and will not be repairable. So in the mean time let us all be grateful for the use of these machines and the ability to keep our roads open and in good condition. I want to at this time thank all of the ranch members who have made donations to the equipment. This equipment is a significant expense that we all pay for and enjoy the benefits from their use. I continue to look forward to being a good steward of all that God has given me. This includes being a good steward of this equipment and your trust. Thanks so much for all of your help. I will leave you with the hope this camping season will be filled with fun and appreciation for all that God has given us at Lutheran Valley Ranches. In our Lords service
Ted Gates

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors

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Shad Jeseritz - Vice President, Buildings/Safety
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Jim Simpson – Secretary
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Ted Gates – Equipment
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Kerry Schauland – Ranch House
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument

Ken Waterhouse – Treasurer
Immanuel Lutheran, Colorado Springs

Jordan Hengst - Lakes, Trees, Wildlife
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument

COLUMBARIUM

There is nothing new to report in the columbaria area, which is a good thing. By the time this edition of the newsletter is published, we will have an one internment this Spring. Here is what is currently available:

The first columbaria is now completely full.
The second columbarium has only two (2) niches left.
The third columbarium has 11 niches available.

Niches are 11 1/4"(w) x 11 1/4"(h) x 10 1/2"(d). Standard size cremation containers are 6"(w) x 8"(h) x 4"(d). If you are having custom containers made, please take the dimensions of the space into consideration. The cost of a niche (which holds two sets of cremains) is $1000. A crypt (for one set of cremains) can be reserved for $500.

If you would like LVR to be your earthly resting place, the reservation forms are available on the Ranch website at **lvranch.org** or from Dee Paulson at **dplakewood@comcast.net.**

FROM THE RANCH HOUSE

Musings prompted by a "Ranch house state of mind"
We have been blessed with a Ranch house that has stood firm for us for over 25 years now, just as for many of us LVR members, our home churches and congregations have been there for us perhaps many decades - where we have just celebrated another Resurrection Sunday, perhaps with differing traditions, but the main focus again being "Our Savior is risen! - He is risen indeed! - Alleluia!"

At LVR, Easter was white with snow - how symbolic! Isaiah prophesied in 1:18 "Says the Lord, Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson. they shall be as wool. As we begin the new season at LVR, remember and reflect on Sunday being established in the early church and to this day, as an Easter remembrance. The Ranch house over the years has held many of those "remembrances"!

Blessings on your season,
Kerry Schauland (kerry.schauland50@gmail.com)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to your Board of Directors for all the hard work they have put into the budgeting and planning process, I can say that financially, things have been (well) . . . as budgeted. So far this year we have not experienced any large unplanned expenses and are near target on most operating expenses. Please pray that we are successful again in securing property insurance coverage for next year.

Highlights: FY25 year-to-date:

- Member Revenue is as budgeted, with 2 new members added so far this year
- Property taxes are $464 over budget
- The annual gift to Lutheran Valley Retreat of $8,645 was made in January.
- The latest effort to improve water retention in Bear Lake was completed at the planned cost of $11,750, bringing our total project investment to $28,645.
- As discussed at our annual membership meeting, we have increased our cash reserves by the excess of budgeted vs actual property insurance expense. Our reserves currently stand at $170,500.

Please be sure to let me know if you have any suggestions or comments.

See you at the Ranch, Ken Waterhouse, Treasurer

RETREAT ALUMNI STAFF REUNION

Lutheran Valley Retreat is having an ALL STAFF REUNION, July 3-6, 2025! The theme is "Fire on the Mountain" from Psalm 71:17-18, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

We are excited to have the many people that have served as staff at LVR throughout the years come back and experience God's mighty work at LVR. Climbing, rappelling, volleyball, Shine time, hiking Cedar, cooking over a fire, high ropes, giant swing, zip line, and family Olympics are some of the many activities that will be available for the weekend. Craig Oldenburg will lead the worship music throughout the weekend, and Luke "Trigger" Kunze will lead us during one of the evening devotion times! It will be a time to see again what God is doing through the ministry of Lutheran Valley Retreat. Registration information can be found here: https://lvr.org/whatwedo/staff-reunion-2025/

If you know someone who has worked at LVR, please let them know about this weekend! They can find out more information and register at lvr.org! We also want to invite all Ranch members to join us during the Sunday morning worship on July 6, 2025!

If you have any questions, please contact LVR's Program Director-Jessie Spehar (jessie@lvr.org), Tammy Kelm (719-431-3414), or Mary Oldenburg (616-799-6576).

The LORD bless each of you! Jesus' joy and peace!

MEMBERSHIP

Is your LV Ranch Membership Still Working for you?

Most organizations, similar to LV Ranch, offer only a limited number of memberships, for various good reasons. LV Ranch offers 122 primary memberships consistent with the 122 five-acre or so membership lots that are available. It works out great for those members who enjoy regularly going up and experiencing the mountain environment and all of the out-of-doors opportunities provided. If using your membership is becoming increasingly more difficult with every passing year, maybe it's time to at least start thinking about surrendering your membership? Sometimes memberships like with LV Ranch are great at one period in one's life, and not-so-great at another period in life.

When my children were young, my family's most prized family membership was to a private outdoors swimming pool, with sprawling big trees, picnic tables, ample lawn furniture in the grassy areas and several barbeque grills. Part of my family's weekly routine involved packing up our family's swimming gear with some grilling items or sandwiches and then heading over to the pool during the summer months, sometimes after work and often on the weekends. It was great place to relax, unwind and let our children freely roam around inside the facility's fenced enclosure (it had pool life guards). The pool also offered kid swimming instruction and an opportunity for the kids to participate in a swim team. My family happily held on to our swim club membership for many years.

However, after our kids grew older and we also moved to another side of town which was a bit further away, we began to use our swimming pool membership less and less frequently. Even though the annual membership fee was not too expensive, we eventually surrendered our membership to let the next family enjoy the glorious experiences that we once had.

It's important to understand that, much like a swimming pool membership, a primary membership with LV Ranch only confers an annual privilege to use your assigned lot, the roadways and the in-common accommodations like the Ranch House and our two lakes. LV Ranch annual memberships are often confused with inheritance (from those who have passed away) or with property ownership rights. It's not primarily either of those.

My aim here is not to discourage any of our great out-of-state members who still enjoy using their membership for only a week or two during the summer months, nor those who have a busy summer and only go up on an occasional weekend. Instead, there are a few members who haven't been seen in several years and who are maybe reluctant to pass on their membership for strictly sentimental reasons. If you fall into that later category, maybe this is something to consider? We currently have nine families on our membership waiting list and who remain hopeful for when a new membership to open up.

Jim Simpson, LV Ranch Board Secretary

Lutheran Valley Ranch

RAMBLINGS NEWSLETTER
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