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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

I don't know if everybody else felt like summer came and went in a flash but it sure did to me and that is a bummer. The next thing I knew, I was winterizing my trailer and moving it from LVR to a friends for the winter. Isn't it strange how some years seem to drag on and other years, it is winter time before you know it. Diana and I had a great summer at LVR this year. We were able to make it up multiple times over the summer and "decompress and disconnect" from the daily grind and just enjoy God's creation and spending quality time with friends and family.

As we look forward to the Advent season (yes, it is just around the corner), I am reminded what a great and awesome God we serve. He loved us so much that He gave His son to die on a cross for us. The Advent season is one of my favorite times during the year as we gather together as friends and families, praise God and just love on one another!! I have been blessed by numerous friends and family who I cherish and who I get to spend time with during the Advent season.

This is the time of year where we have the opportunity to re-ignite old friendships or make new ones. Reach out to your neighbors and let them know the "Good News" that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!!

I pray that this Christmas season finds all of you with great memories of LVR to look back on, and plan ahead for in 2019. I know we are already planning some of our outings and I, for one, can't wait.

God's richest blessings to all of you,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris
LVRanch Board President

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Another summer at our beloved LVR has come and gone. New buildings are up, driveways cut, and electricity/wells are in. Folks are obeying the speed limits and closing the gate as requested. Things are good at LVR!

The LVRanch Board has decided on a new corner boundary standard that should be more easily located and longer lasting (vs fires and tree trimmers) than the last ones. We'll be using T-posts with survey rings on lot corners that are missing theirs and continuing to replace others as the opportunity arises. If you'd like to be first on the list to replace a missing one on your lot, please reach out. Here is a picture of one of the prototypes...



For the alleviation of doubt, please do not play “chicken” with the LVR road grader. You will lose. Safety first!
Your Brother in Christ,
Shad

Lots Available

Currently we have 4 lots available: 56 on the corner of Ellison Road and Spruce Drive, 73 on Ellison Road, 84 on the corner of Eagles Roost and Deer Trail Drive and 103 on Columbine Loop.

New Members

Please welcome our new Associate member: Chris Neuharth of Aurora Colorado on lot 83.

Lot Signs

Need a sign with your name on it for your lot? Go to www.lvranch.org and click on “Lot sign request form” at the bottom of the main page. Lot signs are being made for the new members.

Clings, Stickers and Flags

LVR window clings, ATV stickers and ATV flags are now available. The board encourages all members to have a window cling (black and white) displayed in the lower drivers 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

EQUIPMENT

This year at LVRanch has been busy. The grader has made it's first trip down off the Hill in maybe forever. The grader was in need of many repairs that could not be done on site, so it was necessary to arrange for the grader to be transported to Colorado Springs and back again. No simple task for a machine of this size. The grader got down to the repair facility with no issues. The grader spent a month waiting to be repaired and being repaired. The transportation back up to the Ranch was a little more exciting. The driver could not find the Ranch and dropped it off over 5 miles away on the side of the road. The moral of the story is that nothing is as easy as you would like to be! That in a nut shell is how the year at LVRanch has been. Special thanks to Todd Kelm, Alan Peterson and Kerry Schauland.

In the Lords service and yours,
Ted Gates

A NEED FOR ON-GOING WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Now that the fall has arrived (along with some welcome rain and snow), it's easy to forget that early in this past summer, LV Ranch was in a Stage 3 Fire Ban, the highest level of fire danger.

During the Annual Meeting in August, Josh Arbogast (the Assistant Fire Chief of the Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Department and a former LV Ranch Board President) informed us that there remains a considerable amount of potential 'wildfire fuel' at LV Ranch. While many or most of the trees killed by the Hayman fire have already fallen down, during drought conditions, those dead/downed trees can still be ignited and serve as a fuel source for a wildfire. Josh recommended two good ways of dealing with this problem.

Cutting up the dead trees (including their branches) and hauling them away is the best solution. In past years, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) has operated an affordable tree/slash drop-off station in Divide, Colorado. CUSP station information is available online at 'www.divideslashsite.com.' Be sure to check out their hours and dates of operation before heading there with a truckload.

The next best solution is to cut up and stack (in open areas) the dead trees and limbs into teepee style burn piles. Be sure not to create too large of an individual pile. Several smaller piles might be more appropriate. Fire department members might also be willing to assist or stand by in wintertime tree/slash pile burning, but an affordable 'burn permit' must be obtained by the lot holder from the Teller County Sheriff's Office in Divide.

The many dense groves of Aspen trees pose another potential wildfire fuel source problem. Under dry and drought conditions, even green Aspen tree leaves will burn and spread a wildfire from one location to another. Thinning out the dense groves will help to prevent a wildfire from spreading from tree-to-tree. Also, for each individual Aspen tree to grow up healthy, majestic and tall/large, each separate tree needs to be at least six feet apart from the others, at its base. Please also consider trimming off the bottom (close to ground level) limbs and branches. Those also will serve to spread a ground-level fire.

While most of us love to see the local wildflowers spreading their colorful sprouts in the spring, eventually they dry up, wilt and serve as potential fuel for a ground-level fire. During dry and drought weather conditions, it is wise to keep all grasses and weeds trimmed close to the ground, especially around all structures, tent camping areas and RVs.

If you would like assistance with these kinds of lot clearing chores, the following individuals have expressed an interest in helping you (for a reasonable fee): Marshal and Bowen Kelm at (719) 687-6754 or 'tntkelm@hotmail.com'; Sam, Mason and Joe Johnson, (719) 482-6708 or 'mrsajohnson@hotmail.com'; and Kai Skov at (719) 687-3987.

Please keep your campfires, fireplaces and woodstoves burning bright for the holidays! Please also remember to occasionally sweep the soot out of your chimneys and woodstove pipes!

Your Brother in Christ!
Jim Simpson - Lakes, Trees and Wildlife Board Member

GOOD FISHING

This was my first year serving as the Lakes, Trees and Wildlife LV Ranch Board Member. I had plenty of advice and help from several past board members who previously served in this spot, and I here extend my thanks to those!

I especially thank Dave Romberg and Ted Gates for their assistance and service on the trio of Annual Fishing Contest judges (counting and weighing the fish caught). We each took up a separate position around Deer Lake. We were all equipped with same brand/weight of fishing nets and fish weighing scales. There were 13 contestants entered in this year's competition. A total of thirty-nine fish were caught during the two-hour contest. We calculated the total weight of all of the fish caught to be about 29 pounds. Fun was had by all, and most especially so by the Fishing Contest judges.

Awards were given to: Dillon Snowden for the most fish caught (8 fish); Sam Arbogast for the heaviest fish caught (45 ounces); Sam Johnson for the first Brown Trout caught; Sarah Snowden and Nicki Silvia tied for the second-most fish caught (they each caught 6 fish); and, Sarah Snowden for the second-heaviest fish caught (18 ounces). All of the participants did a great job! This year, Deer Lake was stocked with: 578 pounds of 9-14" Rainbow Trout; 84 pounds of 2-3" Rainbow Trout; 46 pounds of 9-14" Brown Trout; and, 1,000 flathead minnows (fish food). Over the past several years, we've split this order into two separate tanker truck fish deliveries, with the first delivery occurring shortly before the Memorial Day Weekend, and the second delivery occurring shortly before the weekend of the Annual Meeting in early August.

Unfortunately, about a dozen or so fish (some large and some small) do not survive the transfer/transition from the fishery into Deer Lake. Given the overall amount of fish being delivered, the survival rate is extremely high, and it is well within the expected norms. Please don't be concerned about issues such as water quality or the overall number of fish being delivered into the lake, etc., if you happen to observe a few 'floaters' soon after the fish delivery dates.

I was informed that by early September, a persistent fisherperson had to work at fishing for several hours to catch their three-fish take-home limit. That indicates to me that roughly 500-600 pounds of fish were taken out of Deer Lake over the course of this past fishing season. The smaller fish stocked in November (who survive over the winter) will likely grow to become big fish by the start of next year's fishing season. Again, unfortunately, the winter survival rate for fish stocked in a lake at Deer Lake's altitude can be as low as twenty-percent.

The fish order size and delivery dates were all worked out through trial and error over the course of many years by the board member who previously held my current position. It has and continues to be great to work on a board that actively solicits the wisdom of our predecessors! It's truly been my pleasure to oversee the fishing lake(s)! Please also be sure to let me know if you experience any fishing-related problems.

Hooked on Christ!

Jim Simpson – Lakes, Trees and Wildlife Board Member

JUST RAMBLING.....

With the impending Thanksgiving holiday only a few weeks away, and Christmas just around the corner, I felt called to share a glimpse of some of my more recent experiences with you all. Be forewarned that this is a sad and heart wrenching story, but also a call to “fight the good fight” just as Paul called Timothy to do (1 Timothy 6:12).



Most recently, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe for work, and had the wonderful blessing of my wife being able to join me for an additional week of whirlwind travels through Belgium, Germany, the UK and a corner of France. Would you like to know one of the most notable and striking impressions from our travels? I was reminded not only of what a blessing it is to be an American, but how fortunate we are to have and worship such a glorious God.

Getting down to the brass tacks of the story, if I have more than a two minute conversation with anyone I will almost certainly inquire as to their religious convictions. (For those who know me, you are quite aware that I’ve never met a stranger; for those of you that I have not had the pleasure to meet yethowdy friend!) I’m astounded to say that an unfortunate number of folks I met in Europe (mainly Belgium and Germany) would not consider themselves Christian. An article I read about the religions of Belgium stated that, currently, 58% of the population identified as Roman Catholic but only 6% attended church on a regular basis, and the number of Christians drops significantly every year. And the next largest religious affiliation in Belgium? Atheist and agnostics make up over 27% of the country – and this group is growing quickly. Belgium is listed as one of the least religious countries of the world (noted as being similar to most western European countries).

From an outside perspective, I also noted that (largely in Belgium) most folks did not smile or interact with other people in their day to day travels. There was no daily greeting or a nod of a head and a smile in passing. Maybe it’s a cultural issue, or maybe they have just lost their way. Sure, most folks were pleasant enough, and mostly not offended to have to interact with a Christian American tourist, but most had one thread in common.... They all seemed somewhat empty, lacking that core piece of everlasting joy and peace that you can only get through the gift of Love from our Lord and Savior.

Maybe they’re all too busy, or too successful, or maybe they’ve just given up and become the lost and hopeless. Regardless of the reason, I pray that everyone who reads this will take a few minutes to consider how they interact with everyone they come into contact with. Consider reaching out to a neighbor or someone you might know who does not have Christ in their life and present them with the opportunity to be filled with JOY! Take a few moments every day, and pray for those lost and empty people, plodding through life without hope. We are called to live, not as a lamp under a basket but a light unto our house (Matthew 5:15). So just remember today and every day - leave the light ON! Smile and say hello, make them all wonder why you are so happy. And if they ask? Point north and tell them “I have a God that loves me, no matter what.”

Thanks for listening to me... just rambling. Your friend and neighbor,

In His service,

Dan Reed
LVRanch Board Vice President

Uncle Dan's Nature Corner

Corvids – Crows, jays, and allies

The bird family of Corvidae is well represented at LVR, including ravens, crows, jays, magpies, and nutcrackers. They are very smart birds, some using tools. They are omnivorous, eating both plants and animals. Sometimes that makes them unpopular, as when they eat baby birds of other species. They're occasionally domesticated for pets. All are quite social and often seen in pairs or larger flocks.

First the jays. Perhaps the most recognized bird there is - the Steller's Jay, an unmistakable large blue purple bird with a black head and crest. They are aggressive, noisy feeders around camp, especially this time of year as they take away and cache seeds for the colder winter. LVR also has occasional ordinary bluejays, more common east of the mountains. LVR used to have gray jays, also known as camp robbers. I remember my mother putting stale snacks on the porch railing of our original pre-Hayman-fire A-frame cabin for either the jays or chipmunks, but I haven't seen gray jays now for decades. The rarest and most spectacular current jay is the Clark's Nutcracker, a large striking paint-by-number bird we occasionally attract to a suet block, always the wildlife highlight of the trip and a means to 'one-up' our birdwatcher neighbors.

Another paint-by-number bird is the magpie: again large, noisy and very smart. Reportedly the magpie is the only bird to recognize itself in a mirror. Magpies will flip cow dung looking for beetles, or graze ticks off of the backs of cows or deer.

Finally, the crows and ravens. LVR has both. They're hard to differentiate – in general ravens are larger, have bigger bills, longer tails and broader wingspans – but it's a challenge even for professional birders. Ravens sometimes soar like hawks, while crow flight is better described as 'rowing' in a straight line. The last few summers we've had a pair of crows raising babies on our lot, and watching the pathetic begging by a bird as big as its parents has been very entertaining. Crows supposedly recognize faces and hold a grudge. A group of crows is called a 'murder'. A final story about crows is their language – some think they have a secret language, used only when people aren't listening, although others suggest it's an over-interpretation of 'caw'.

In any case the Corvids greatly enhance the bird-watching experience at LVR.

Bob Blackett
LVRanch member



RANCH ROADS

Greetings from your Roads Guy,

The good news is we have the grader back from an extended stay down in Colorado Springs. Probably less on the good news side is we have already had overnight temperatures at zero degrees. That means frost in the ground and it is getting late to schedule professional grading of our roads. I just drove the roads up here and they are actually in pretty good shape with a few stretches here and there that could use some work. I will wait until spring to have the roads all graded. The Retreat folks have graded the Wildhorn road which was in pretty bad shape and is now in great shape. Thanks Todd. Between the folks at the Retreat and me, we should get the rough spots, especially on Ellison, addressed this fall. Please let me know if there are spots on any of the roads that are issues for you.

Last winter we had major ice flows from springs across the road over on Wildhorn. The county cleared the ice off once and we tried as best we could to keep it clear with our grader. Unfortunately our grader is not heavy enough to break up the ice down to the road. The ice would get about a foot deep and have pot holes down to the road. I think with the number of times the road was cleared, we probably had at least three feet of ice build up along that stretch through the winter. Needless to say, that section of road can be very treacherous when ice forms across it. If you come up in the winter, please be very careful there at Wildhorn. If the winter is colder that it was last year, we probably will not have as bad an issue as last year.

The folks at the Retreat plow the snow on Ellison all the way out to the stone gate at Wildhorn. I will plow Deer Trail and Columbine Loop. We plow any time a snowfall is more than about 4 inches. If you plan to come up in the winter and want anything else plowed to help you get to your lot, please let me know. I will also plow your drive if you let me know. It would help if you have driveway markers that are tall enough that I can see them above the snow.

The best way to contact me is e-mail: rod.young77@gmail.com or stop by my place at the north end of Columbine Loop at the top of the hill if you are already up here.

God's blessings to you and all your family,
Rod Young

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

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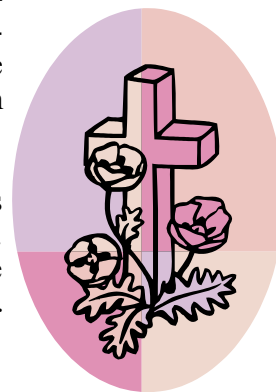
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COLUMBARIUM

Well, here we are in November 2018 and we are still waiting for our second columbarium to be installed. After patiently waiting for a year it finally arrived in Colorado Springs in September 2017, only for it to be the wrong design. After extreme diligence by Shirley Bauer, the long awaited second columbarium is due to arrive in Colorado this coming August.

Our first columbarium is now completely reserved. We have two reservations for the second one. The cost of a niche (which holds two sets of cremains) remains the same at \$1000. Half a niche (for one set of cremains) can be reserved for \$500. If you are interested in reserving a niche, the application forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at (720)301-2481 or dplakewood@comcast.net.



BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Jolene Schauland at Joleneschauland@outlook.com. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

IT'S FALL 2018 AT THE RANCH HOUSE

October brings the end of all the beautiful summer and fall colors, along with the refreshing temperatures turning to requiring warmer clothes! So what's left that anyone would want to take time to come to LVR? Well, when you find a reason for yourself, the Ranch House is always there to provide all of your comfort needs except for a sheltered place to sleep! Maybe the best reason you can find is to seek out some quiet restful place to get away from all the worldly distractions and ponder in awe how awesomely you are blessed and how every day presents us with opportunities and motivations for living before our faithfully gracious and loving Creator and Savior as thankful stewardship of not only our stewardship of His earthly blessings, but especially and above all, His blessing of uniting us eternally with Jesus, reigning with Him even now as His royal priesthood and ambassadors of reconciliation who are walking with Him as faithful stewards of His cross-bought and LIFE-giving Good News!

Once again we want to thank all those who have taken advantage of enjoying the Ranch House facilities during their stay at LVR. Thanks especially for your taking good care of everything, taking the time to register your visit, introducing yourselves to people you don't know, and cleaning up after yourselves. Only a few maintenance-repairs were needed this year, the most recent was unblocking and cleaning up the blocked septic system! Also, the long sought solution to a noisy ice-making machine with an outside noise maker.

Until we meet again, it is our prayer that these Words and teaching of Jesus live fresh in our minds: "Already you are clean because of the Word I have spoken to you! Abide in Me, and I in you; As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless abide in Me! I Am the Vine, you are the branches! Whoever abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing! (John 15:3-5) Like an unsharpened pencil, life together as a community of Lutheran Christians has no point apart from our total and thankful dependence upon our Creator and Savior who creates us anew, sustains us in faith, gives meaning and purpose to our relationships, and renews and builds us up through His presence with us in the Word and Sacrament ministry of His children. Our purpose is to be faithful in receiving God's gifts so that the Holy Spirit's work in us through His Word builds and strengthens our community of faith in personal relationships both among the Ranch members and between Ranch and Retreat.

Just a reminder, if you see any needs for the Ranch House or would like to make suggestions or requests, please feel free to let me know via Email pastor_skov@hotmail.com. God's blessings through this coming Festival Seasons of the Church Year and until we meet again!

Your servant in Christ!

Clare Skov

TREASURER'S REPORT

In our continuing effort to improve the quality of services at the Ranch House and get the most out of/maintain the equipment that we have, the BOD approved spending beyond the anticipated budget, specifically to install a new icemaker that is more efficient and significantly quieter so as not to interfere with Services and meetings, as well as the installation of electricity adjacent to the parking area for the grader that will allow its continued use during the winter months. Additionally, we continue to make LVRanch a safer place through continued fire mitigation efforts that were not originally considered or included in last year's budget.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

As per Section 16 paragraph a. of the Rules and Regulation Annual membership fees and delinquent debts shall be due and **payable on December 1st** of each year.