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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

It seems to me that old man winter snuck up on me this year. This week is Thanksgiving and then we begin the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and I swear, just a couple of weeks ago I was hiking a mountain and it was early August. Wow, how the time has flown this year. Maybe it is just me but I am finding myself drawn more and more to the outdoors and what God has created and the majesty of it all and knowing that I am blessed to spend my summers and fall times at LV Ranch just makes it even more special.

I had a crazy year this year with business travel that took most of my summer away from me but even though I didn't get to spend as many weekends at LV Ranch as we typically do, my heart was warmed just knowing that LV Ranch was there and would be ready for 2023.

Part of my travel took me to Greenland and also Europe and I saw some really beautiful country but, I always found myself comparing those places to home and the beauty of our mountains and they fell short. Were they breathtaking, yes, but still not home. As 2022 comes to a close, I want to put out a special challenge to each and every Lot Member for 2023.

I want to challenge each and every family to figure out a way that they can give back to LV Ranch in some way. What that looks like for your family is up to you. For the 1st 35 years of LV Ranch existence, volunteerism was part of the DNA of all of the Lot Members and it showed in the amazing things that were built and the family gathering that were held and the love of LV ranch that permeated all of the families. What we see now is a much smaller group being involved in some sort of activity where they are giving back to LV Ranch. How do we start? I don't know but we have to start somewhere. Not all traditions of the past need to be left by the wayside. Many of them are tried and true traditions that can carry LV Ranch well into the next century. Start something new this coming year, no matter how small, just start.

I pray God's richest blessings on each and every one of you and your families and I pray that as we approach the Christmas season, that we look to the cross for our strength and that we turn to our families and thank God for each and every one of them, yes even the outlaws among us :)

I am always available for a phone call or to respond to emails. Just reach out and we can talk thru your questions or concerns.

God bless,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris
LV Ranch Board President

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.

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have no lots available with 6 people on the waiting list.

LOT SIGNS

Lot name and lot number signs are made for all new members. Thanks to Allan Warpness for volunteering to put up lot number and name signs. If you are also willing to help, put up lot number and name signs, please, contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com

CLINGS, STICKERS AND FLAGS

LV Ranch 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 LV Ranch 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

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members:

Kim Howell on lot 122

Kurt Bestul on lot 89

Katrina Lewis on lot 89

Jeff and Misty Hjelmstad associate members on lot 54

BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

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

LOTS WITH ONLY ONE MEMBER

We have a number of lots with only one member on them. If you would like to add either another primary member or a secondary member 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 LV 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).

SELF-CERTIFICATION FORMS

Self-certification forms were sent out with your Annual Assessment invoices. Please fill it out and return it to: Lutheran Valley Ranch, PO Box 1352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Recertification or Self-certification forms are required yearly to remain a member of Lutheran Valley Ranch.

MEMBERS WITH NO CONTACT INFORMATION

We do not have contact 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

Heather Pulis
Greg and Rebekah Vidro
Pam Arguto
Chris and Beth Bogert
Mark Skinner
Ryan and Anne Tinetti
Matthew and Kim Johnson
Robert Pfothenhauer

FROM THE ROADS GUY

I hope your summer and early fall have gone well and you had opportunities to come up here to the Ranch!

The roads here are in fair condition and could use some dressing up. Unfortunately between the weather and unforeseen problems with the tractor, not as much work on the roads was done as we all would like to see. In years past we have hired a professional grader operator. Our operator retired a couple years ago and replacements are hard to come by and quite expensive. Our plan this year was to have the Roads Guy run the tractor to keep the roads smooth this year. The tractor had a couple mechanical issues that kept it in the shop most all summer. It is back now, but we have had two good snows with heavy icing in spots on the roads so the roads are getting too frozen to do much more than grind down the blades on the equipment. If the weather and my schedule permit, I will try to hit the bad spots this fall. If there are places that are giving you problems, please let me know and I will try to get them addressed. One spot that was an issue was the "Y" at the south corner of Deer Trail and Ellison. That area was graded in August by a volunteer member and is in much better shape now.

Winter and snow are fast approaching. If you think you will need your driveway plowed, it would help me to take a look at the drive before it snows so I know about where I should plow. Snow stakes 3 or 4 feet beyond the edge of the drive would be great but are not necessary unless you have something you definitely don't want me to hit. I plow Deer Trail and Columbine Loop when the snow is about 3 or 4 inches deep. Other roads and drives are as requested. The folks at the Retreat plow Ellison, LVR Trail, and CR33 on Wildhorn out to the stone gate where the County takes over. For really deep snow we use the grader to keep the main roads open. If you come up in the winter, 4 wheel drive or chains are advised.

The best way to contact me is through email at rod.young77@gmail.com or stop by at Lot 114 at the north end of Columbine Loop.

The Roads Guy, Rod Young

OUTDOOR LIGHTS – HELP KEEP OUR SKIES DARK!

At LV Ranch, we have an amazing opportunity to view the nighttime sky, stars and landscape in the absence of artificial lights. I'm here suggesting that we aim to preserve the pristine quality of our nighttime sky, for star and landscape viewing purposes.

A great many LV Ranch members (including me) live in urban areas and mostly come up to the Ranch during the fair weather months. As city dwellers, we have become accustomed to having porch lights, outside house lights, outdoor garage lights, yard lights, street lights. We are used to seeing traffic signal lights, lighted signs, and oh so many more lights regularly at night. I recently counted 15 street lights that are separately visible from my back porch after the tree leaves have fallen off. Admitted, the absence of artificial lights at the Ranch is often regarded as uncomfortable, ominous and even scary to some. I suppose that there's a human tendency to light up the dark places J.

This isn't about saying that we shouldn't have or use outside lights. Instead, it's about obtaining and using outdoor lights that have the bulbs recessed, shielded or hooded so that their light is emitted downward (toward the ground), instead of going out sideways. It's the glare from the filament or light bulb that is mostly visible to our neighbors. It's not about directing light to a specific outside area or space that is actually being lit up. The very same idea is used in construction of a common, coned desk lamp. The light only goes down toward the desk where it's needed, and not all around and into your eyes J.

Preserving the dark sky idea also includes having outdoor lights hooked up to a manual on/off switch, and: turning an outdoor light off when an outdoor area is not being used; turning an outdoor light off after a certain hour in the evening; and, for sure, turning an outdoor light off when you go back home for several days, weeks or months.

It's a little more expensive to purchase a hooded solar landscape light with a manual on/off switch. Then there's remembering to turn them to 'off' before you head back for home. Another good alternative would be just to collect up all of your inexpensive solar landscape lights and place them in your camper or shed before you leave for home. Then you can just stick them back in the ground again when you return and want to enjoy using them.

I advanced this thought in a previous Ramblings article. I'm doing it again since we have a lot of new members and homes under construction.

Your Brother in Christ!

Jim Simpson
Vice President and Lakes, Trees and Wildlife Board Member
simpson.jame.86@gmail.com

BUILDINGS AND SAFETY

Another great summer has come and gone at LVR. Our members continue to enjoy their lots in a variety of innovative ways! If you take a drive around the ranch, you'll see several of them, and I thought I'd take a second to review why folks might choose different options.

Tenting (\$100-\$200): This is the most accessible way of enjoying your lot. Leverage the ranch house for your showers, water, and amenities, and tenting at LVR can be a great time!



Shipping Container (\$5,000 to \$9,000 delivered): While most people don't stay in them, there is nothing stopping you. Shipping containers are an easy way to have an instant dry location for camping supplies and gear. If I had done a shipping container first, I would have saved scores of hours of packing and unpacking equipment. Do a google search to find them used online. Watch for "one trip" containers if you want a nicer one.



Pop Up Campers (<\$10,000, especially if used): Park your pop-up on lot and you'll have a pre-made camp whenever you come up. If your lot has electricity, all the better. Haul water from the ranch and bring some propane and you're good to go.



Camping Sheds (\$5,000 - \$20,000): Build one yourself or get Tough Shed to deliver. A permit is needed if bigger than 10'x12'. These have a "real structure" feel to them and can be insulated pretty easily. Heat them with a small wood stove or propane (safe for indoor use only) and you can extend your season. Many lots have several of these on them so multiple families or parents/kids can have privacy. If your handy, imagination is your only limit as to how "house-like" these can be.



BUILDINGS AND SAFETY (CONTINUED)

Campers and Camper Trailers (\$10,000-\$30,000): This is the most popular option at LVR due to portability and comfort. There is no problem with permits, except if you want to have an extended stay you'll need a camping letter from the ranch in case the county inquires. Obviously, you'll need a big truck to make this option work. Some folks haul their campers to the dump station and others have a way to empty without moving the trailer.



Tiny Houses (\$30,000 to \$100,000): These typically portable structures can be transported on roads, but are normally placed "for good" in one spot. They are built with standard home construction (2x4s) and most are plumbed to be usable full time. New (more supportive) laws for these were passed this year in Colorado, so look online for the latest.



The Cabin (\$100k+): This is the real deal. Join the growing neighborhood of seasonal and permanent LV Ranch residents and you'll enjoy all the best the ranch has to offer. You can pass down the property to your Lutheran children or sell to others if the need should arise.



Think about it this winter and get your upgrade requests in this spring!

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

Cheers,
Shad

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info:

John Harris – President & Ramblings
Newsletter/Website
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO
Johnwharris31@gmail.com

Jim Simpson – Vice President / Lakes, Trees & Wildlife
St. John's Lutheran, Denver, CO
Simpson.james.86@gmail.com

Erik Skov – Secretary
Peace with Christ Lutheran, Aurora, CO
Erik.skov@outlook.com

Shirley Bauer – Membership
Redeemer Lutheran Colorado Springs, CO
slbauer1030@gmail.com

Ted Gates – Equipment
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO
Ted.gates01@gmail.com

Rod Young – Roads
Rock of Ages, Colorado Springs, CO
Rod.young77@gmail.com

Shad Jeseritz—Buildings / Safety
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument
shadjeseritz@gmail.com

Kerry Schauland – Ranch House
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument
kerry.schauland50@gmail.com

Ken Waterhouse – Treasurer
Immanuel Lutheran, Colorado Springs
ckw12@msn.com

COLUMBARIUM

If you would like LVR to be your earthly resting place, there are several spaces available in the Ranch columbaria. The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has three niches available. The third columbarium has 12 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). The cost of a niche (which holds two sets of cremains) is \$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 dplakewood@comcast.net.

FROM THE RANCH HOUSE

Warm inside, chill breeze blowing outside, colors of Aspen gone but, new color to the Ranch House! Minimum of two coats, up to 3-4 in some area's. Weather permitting, new metal roof will be installed by Thanksgiving. Dump station emptied for another season. As we approach another holiday season with thankful hearts...Thanksgiving, Advent-Time of reflection, and Christmas, celebrating again the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. I am reminded of this verse: "In all things giving thanks, for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thes 5:18

Blessings, Kerry Schauland

EQUIPMENT

This year's Equipment maintenance and repairs have been a challenge for sure. The John Deere tractor is up and running. It took two repair facilities and several trips on my part to accomplish this task! The first repair facility did less than acceptable work! Thanks to the help from John Deere shop that works on the grader I was able to get the tractor repaired and back to us. Speaking of the grader, to my knowledge at this time the grader is up and running. The grader only needed two new batteries this year. It does need 4 new tires in the rear, as time and budget allow I will be looking to replace those tires. New tires will make the grader much more capable and safe to operate. Looking forward to the end of this calendar year and the beginning of next year.

In our Lord's service. Praise God for all that He provides. Ted Gates

TREASURER'S REPORT

Now I'm not a tech expert but I can follow a trend and with the advances in banking and electronic commerce most folks are probably familiar with electronic bill pay from their bank or credit union. It is usually as easy as entering us as a new vendor with the following information:

Lutheran Valley Ranch, Inc.
P.O. Box 1352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1352

In addition, we are exploring other electronic payment methods either utilizing a credit card or PayPal or Venmo. Remember that annual assessments are DUE no later than December 1 of each year and will be charged and billed a late fee of \$45.00 if received after that date.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please drop me a note at the address above or email to board@lvranch.org.

Ken Waterhouse
Treasurer