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- **President's View**
 - **LV Retreat News**
 - **Buildings & Safety**
 - **Lots Available**
 - **Lot Signs**
 - **Clings, Stickers & Flags**
 - **Lakes, Trees & Wildlife**
 - **The Joy of the Lord**
 - **Ranch Roads**
 - **Equipment**
 - **Ranch House**
 - **By-Laws/Rules & Reg's**
 - **Thank You**
 - **Board Information**
 - **Columbarium**
 - **Treasurer's Report**
 - **Annual Assessment**
 - **Recertification Forms**
-

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

After what seemed to me anyway to be a fairly mild winter with no crazy blizzard that shut down the entire state for a week or so, we are now starting into another beautiful summer at LV Ranch. The COVID-19 pandemic hit in February/March and dramatically changed our daily routines. We went from our normal daily routine to a routine of wearing masks and gloves and staying at home more than I can ever remember. Everybody felt this impact and are continuing to feel it now. I only know of 2 people associated with LV Ranch that actually caught the coronavirus (Chuck Bauer and Josh Arbogast) and they are both on the road to recovery. PRAISE GOD for that!!

As we transition into the next phase of the State directed procedures, we want to be especially mindful of practicing social distancing and cleaning up after yourselves when using the Ranch house. After much discussion, the Board decided to not institute any specific constraints on the Ranch house or the LV Ranch facility as a whole. Follow the state guidance, practice social distancing and wash your hands.

Now for a little update from the latest Board meeting. A decision was made to purchase a tractor from a Lot Member and tractor does include ability to run a brush hog as well as it has a bucket, blade and hay grasper (would work for piles of sticks too) that will be used to help maintain the roadways to reduce wear and tear on the grader and be available to help with lot cleanup activities. The tractor is not available to just hop on and drive away. Each operator will need to be "certified" by the Roads guy on the Board, Rod Young. This is necessary to keep the equipment from being damaged and people being injured.

Diana and I are so excited for summer to get here and to get out of the house. We were up there over Memorial Day and I don't think I saw very many empty lots. I bet that with the stay at home restrictions being lifted, most if not all of you are going to find more time this summer to get up there and enjoy God's creation.

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 each and every one of you,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris
LVRanch Board President

LV RETREAT NEWS

Dear Friends at Lutheran Valley Ranch,

I wanted to take a little time to say thank you all for your support during this COVID-19 season. I also wanted to ask for your help to comply with the current regulation of “limiting guests and visitors.” Before you visit the retreat, please schedule an appointment with LVR staff at least one day prior. Without an appointment, parking access to Cedar Mountain and Stone Cabin Trail heads will be at the retreat gate. You can schedule your appointment or contact us with any questions by emailing lvr@lvr.org or calling (719)687-3560.

We are making a lot of adjustments to our summer camp program in order to be compliant with the COVID-19 specific guidelines required by the CDC and Teller County Health Department. We thank you for your support in helping the retreat have a successful summer of Sharing God’s grace and glory through His creation.

For the most current updates on the retreat, please check out our Facebook page or email us to join the electronic newsletter.

In Christ,
Steve Johnson
Executive Director

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

It's building season at LVR! We've already approved electricity on several lots, a couple driveways, a pavilion, a couple storage containers, a couple sheds, and a bowling alley (just kidding). The ranch continues to approve pretty much anything as long as it meets setback guidelines and is submitted with a dimensioned plot plan. We leave it up to the ranch member to handle county regulations. So... bring your dreams and we'll approve!

Personally, I love lots of activity at LVR and the noise that accompanies it. During the day we can hear shooting (from off-site), ATVs, and yodeling from our lot. When it comes to nighttime, however, please take special care to avoid those things. Specifically, generators running during the night can be very disturbing to folks trying to sleep. So... please be sure to be courteous to your neighbors with respect to noise. If someone asks you to "keep it down", please exercise Christian graciousness.

Your Brother in Christ,
Shad

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have 2 lots available: 19 on the Summit Road and 58 on the corner of Ellison Road and Deer Trail Drive.

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

LAKES, TREES AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

Hi Folks,

At times like these when the whole world appears to be in turmoil, it's nice to reflect upon places like our five-acre lots at Lutheran Valley Ranch.

Our first fish delivery to Deer Lake (of various sized trout) happened during the week prior to Memorial Day. Be sure to remember bring along your fishing rods, lures and bait, because the fishing in Deer Lake is extremely good. The second fish delivery is scheduled to happen during the week before the August 1st Annual Meeting.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Board Member Shad Jeseritz, we have now have had two separate engineering studies performed on Bear Lake. As you know, Bear Lake has remained mostly empty of water for the past several years. One study focused heavily on water rights and permit-level issues. The other study was more aimed at how to get the job done, practically.

It turns out that we don't need any additional permits before going forward with any repairs to Bear Lake. The water rights status for our continued use of Bear Lake also remains fine.

One of the items discovered is that there are several other similarly sized lakes in our area that have run dry (and still remain dry) despite the seeming end of a prolonged period of drought (an above-average level of rain and snowfall occurred during the past fall and winter). Some water sources (both above-ground and underground) just seem to be more reliable than others. Deer Lake is a good example of a lake having a more reliable water source.

Bear Lake was constructed in the 1960s. It was lined with about six inches of Bentonite clay to restrict below-ground water seepage. While the Bentonite layer remains where it should be, in certain known instances, muskrat have burrowed a few holes through the Bentonite, but the biggest lake lining problem now appears to be with 'grass roots' that provide a water pathway penetrating through the Bentonite clay lining.

Now that we know that we will not be 'hamstrung' at permitting and water rights levels, we now have the ability to begin attempting certain repairs. Some would be far more expensive than others. For example, an initial estimate for installing a new vinyl lake liner was \$125,000. An initial estimate to come back with an additional six inch layer of Bentonite clay was \$75,000.

Other less expensive lake lining repair options include eliminating the grass from the lake bottom area and potentially re-compacting the existing Bentonite lake lining. It might be difficult to remove grass without removing the Bentonite clay attached to the grass roots below, so less invasive procedures might also be considered (like temporarily covering over the grass with black plastic for a season and then compacting the ground with heavy equipment?).

Centralizing the upstream water flow into a ditch and/or plastic pipe(s) might resolve the Aspen tree problem, but there are still several 'unknowns' about Bear Lake's water supply. It would appear to be unwise to incur a large expense on a lake liner and only then then to discover that the water supply to the lake is insufficient. If expense wasn't an issue, options even include drilling a deep-water well to maintain the lake's water level. We will likely undergo another summer season (or two) of having little water in Bear Lake, but now that the Ranch Board has a better understanding of what we are dealing with, and our various options, I am very hopeful about the prospects of once again regaining the awesome and spectacular view of Bear Lake upon arrival through the front gate and from the Ranch House deck too.

Your Brother in Christ!

Jim Simpson – LV Ranch Board Member

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

If someone were to ask you, “what is the Bible?”, how would you answer? Actually, there are many good ways to answer that question: Why not make a list of them!

Realizing that there are many ways people see the Bible, it next might be a good idea to compare what you wrote to how people of the world, non-Christians, would answer!

That sorta forms a foundation for looking & understanding the Bible in a way, perhaps, you’ve never looked at it before. So, for example, have you ever thought of, or looked at the Bible, as being an autobiography: God revealing the record of His “doings” since the beginning?

Next, have you noticed, from the beginning almost all of His autobiography has been about His relationship with mankind (you & me)? Even when He talks about rain, “He has poured down **for you** abundant rain” (Joel 2:23)

So, how does this brief introduction tie us together as Christians struggling, along with our world’s struggling, with it’s panicky fear driven response to Covid-19? Does God’s autobiography teach and assure us that He ever was involved and dealt with such things? And if so, has that assurance resulted in any difference to how we receive, see, & respond?

One of the things frequently recorded in our Lord’s autobiography is His Word’s, “**Fear not!**” Being still closely engaged in celebrating Jesus’ cross and empty tomb, His victory over Satan and all of his evil, are God’s Easter words still echoing in our ears, hearts, and minds! We see how fear became such a strong emotion, the things the disciples had grown to believe were completely wiped out of their minds, they were completely over ruled by the fear of death, not much unlike our world’s experience today!

It’s here our Lord comes to remind us where that fear of death comes from, that it’s not from God, for “The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all He has made!” (Psalm 145:9)! The world under the reign of the anti-Christ, is easily captivated by that fear of death, and it likes to use that fear to rule over all. Apart from Christ, no man can know or do otherwise (John 15).

That helps us understand why we struggle so, and that also reminds us and helps us understand that we, although in the flesh, we no longer live before God as people in the flesh, but as people to whom Christ has come, uniting Himself to us through His incarnation, living under the Law in our place, all the way through His cross and tomb! Through His word in Baptism, uniting us to Himself just as He is united with the Father, creating us anew so that now we live in Christ (and He in us) with His righteousness and Spirit before God as His dear children .

Jesus teaches us to overcome fear with love because God is love! In Christ He has lavished His love upon us and through His love He destroys fear and replaces it with blessings! As we ponder His autobiography, we see how He worked through others, like us, both to overcome the struggles of our weak flesh, but also see ourselves as His blessing, actively helping and encouraging each other grow in faith, also to reach out to all to help them come to know God’s love is theirs too! That is Christ’s joy becoming ours (John 15:11), “the joy set before Him such that He endured the cross” to make heaven their home and ours!

Yours in Christ,

Clare Skov

RANCH ROADS

Greetings from the Roads Guy,

The roads are in pretty good shape this spring. We will touch them up a bit here and there with the new tractor. Grading will come later. The roads are not muddy so come on up and enjoy your lot!

Rod Young

EQUIPMENT

We have had some exciting things to report. The first is the delivery of the Mobile mini units. One for the Fire department to use and one for the ranch to use. As of this writing they have both been put up on wooden timbers and will be leveled soon. The storage sheds arrive just in time to store our newest piece of equipment. The DR brush mower, which needs some assembly but the battery is included. This brush mower will get a work out clearing the area above Bear Lake and the Dump Station area. I have been walking and clearing the debris from around the dump station. I have found a lot of old barbed wire and posts. The grader has been almost trouble free after having Four Rivers go through it at their shop some time ago. The front drive seems to not be working again. This is due to rodents that chew through the wiring while making their nests during the winter months.

RANCH HOUSE

On the subject of the ranch house I have been changing light bulbs that go out, with LED replacements. The furnace filters have been changed and I am evaluating how often they need to be replaced. There has been many up grades and plumbing repairs done since last Fall. The ranch house has been keep clean and sparring under Tammy Kelms care. It is indeed a exciting time at LV Ranch!

In the Lords service, Ted Gates

BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Patricia Silva at pxs2@tlmworks.com. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

THANK YOU

The entire LV Ranch Board wants to thank Clare Skov and who served the LV Ranch Board for many years and provided much wisdom, spiritual guidance and insight and has requested to resign from the LV Ranch Board effective 1 June 2020. Clare will be missed in our meetings for sure.

Another Board member, Dan Reed, after prayerful consideration has decided to not run for re-election this year. The LV Ranch Board also want to thank Dan Reed for his many years of faithful service where he provided a voice of reason and moderation as well as leadership to the Board.

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info:

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Patricia Silva—Secretary
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COLUMBARIUM

We now have two columbaria installed at LVR, along with a beautiful bench donated by the Bauer family. We are hoping to have the third and final columbarium installed this summer. We are anticipating a few interments this Summer, so please be aware and respect privacy when needed.

The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has seven niches available. The third columbarium has 12 niches available. 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 (720)301-2481 or dplakewood@comcast.net.



TREASURER'S REPORT

A/R – Assessment is down because we have 2 unpaid membership and 2 vacant lots.

Associate Membership is up because we have 2 new members and we still have 1 Associate Membership that has not paid.

Interest for this year is now in QuickBooks.

Miscellaneous Income – we had 2 scrap metal dumpsters and this is the income from the scrap metal.

Uncategorized Expenses is up because we hired Colorado Water and Civil Engineers to look at Bear Lake to see if there is anything that can be done to help retain water.

Vehicle O&M is up because we needed new blades for the grader and we bought a Brush Hog to help keep the road edges clear of vegetation.

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.

RECERTIFICATION FORMS

Recertification forms were sent out with your Annual membership invoices. Please fill them out and have your Pastor sign the form and return it to: Lutheran Valley Ranch, PO Box 1352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

We still have 10 Memberships that have not returned their recertification forms signed by their Pastor.

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