

## Religion

# What did Noah do about trash?

## Campers to study 'theology of garbage'

By Joanne Wiklund  
Correspondent

OREGON — Campers visiting the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center here this summer will have the chance to answer these questions: "What did Noah do about trash? Who closed the door to the Ark? Does water wash away sin? What does a landfill reveal about human faith and faith history? Who was the first to leave the Ark?"

The Rev. Jack Swanson, director of the center, said campers will be exploring "the theology of garbage through Bible study, worship experiences, living and playing together, sharing faith and observing the environment."

The center is one of several camps for churches from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the Missouri/Kansas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Area Lutheran youth go to confirmation camp at LOMC.

On a 650-acre site in Oregon, young people attend camp a week at a time from June to August, participating in 22 separate programs like

cycling, exploring, fishing, equestrian, golf, fine arts, outpost camping, swimming and tennis.

Rev. Swanson said the "theology of Garbage" will be the basic element of the teaching during the summer.

"The purpose of the center is to be the church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God," he said.

The theme was developed by Rev. Swanson in relation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed, which is "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

"Last year we did a study of the third article of the creed called 'Ants and Bats and Things Like That: Ecology of the Spirit,'" he said. "I guess I wander around and try to find a clever way to tell the story. I was really calling this year's program theme 'The Theology of Garbage' to cause people to playfully think about it. And hopefully, after they've played around with the idea, they then get serious about it."

He said some environmentalists talk about the earth being an ark.

"If we think that way, usually we take care of the land mass, but we forget about the water supply. We dump things in there without thinking," he said. "Toxic material as it seeps its way through the ground eventually works its way into the ground water."

"Now once what was water that represented from death to life from a Christian perspective — we talk about burying people in baptism and raising them to walk in newness of life — now we are talking about water that causes death and then extinction."

The irony is that these things are not divorced from God, Rev. Swanson said.

### 'Whole system is good'

"We need to perceive that in the first creation story when God said it is good, we must first recognize that the whole system is good, including the stuff we call garbage," he said.

"Garbage is a part of the natural cycle," said Rev. Swanson. "When you look at Noah, God was angry with the world and decided to flood it. He kept one person and his family as a part of the eco-system."

He trusted Noah. God has called us to be responsible actors in the whole eco-system, and God acts in a saving way," he said. "We have salvation history we can talk about. God sent his Son to save the world, and I think God is always working to restore the world."

### An on-going process

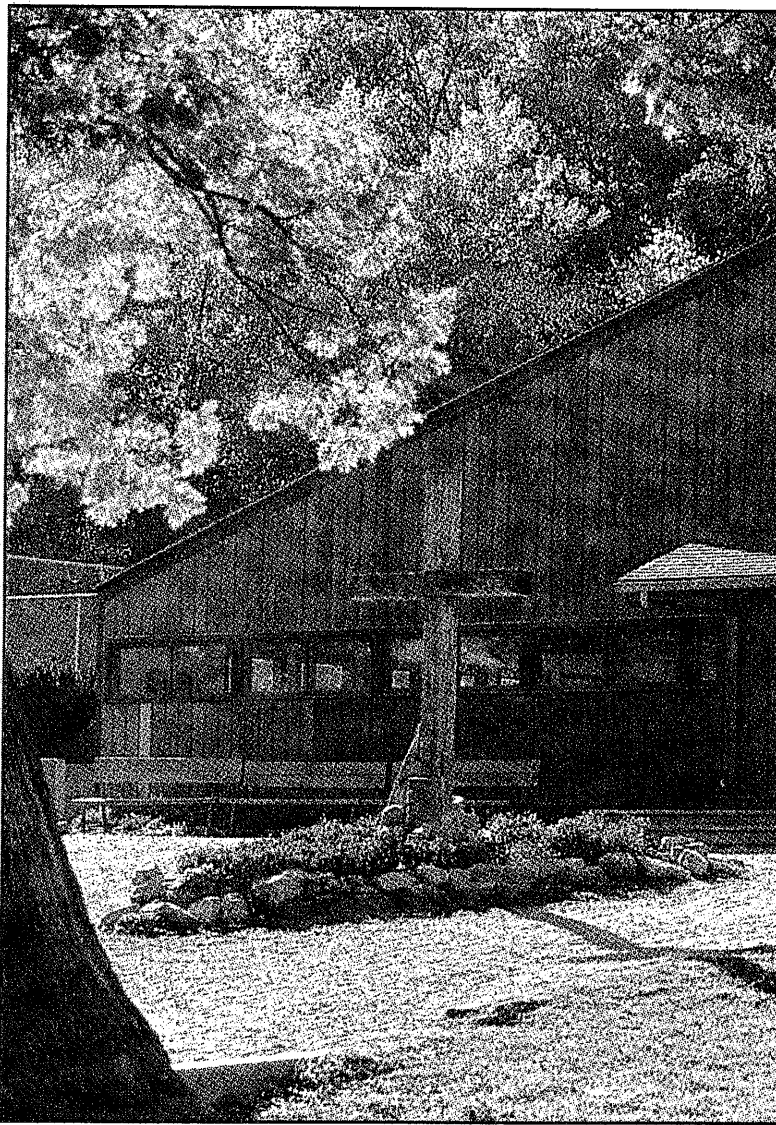
The process of creation and restoration is always going on, Rev. Swanson said.

"Restoration is the business of God, and we know that in Jesus Christ. Colossians talks about creating a woman named Wisdom, that all things are created through Christ and all things are held together in Christ, and the process of creating and maintaining this creation is a constant effort. The word we use for it is reconciliation," he said.

"God also does this with all of creation, making enemies into friends. That's what God is about," Rev. Swanson said. "People of faith have to realize that our responsibility is to be part of dealing with the food cycle, and to work interactively with everything that is created. You just can't divorce yourself from it."

The program for the last day of a week of camp is called "Color the Rainbow Green," he said.

"In the story of the ark and the flood God promises he will never flood the world again," he said. "The color green is the environmentalists' color. We want to look at the



The dining hall at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, Ill. The center is part of the ministry of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

great celebration where our whole system will come to celebrate the land, which Earth Day 91 does. We also talk about the first creation story. I take it as a liturgical statement that God values and says it's good and it works. Worthing and worship are synonymous. Usually we see ourselves as God doing something for us, and we try to see that we are also to do something for God."

### Youth from all backgrounds

The children come from all kinds of cultural backgrounds, Rev. Swanson said. "We want to look at how we function in a pluralistic system," he said. "We think about how sometimes people are considered to be trash, and how they are treated."

About 1,600 students from first-grade through high school, will be looking at some of the environmental issues and the nutrient cycle, he said.

"We will be talking about what they do with trash. They will look at a waste basket and ask, 'What are we throwing away and what does that tell us about our selves and what we believe in?'"

Sanitation and cleanliness are part of society's beliefs, Rev. Swanson said.

"We also very strongly believe in

convenience and comfort, and covet communication. Forty percent of a landfill is just paper, just packaging. If someone were to come along 2,000 years from now what would they learn about us? Places archeologists dig are where people dispose of things. That's the side of the picture, to be playful about that point," he said.

The other side of the story, Rev. Swanson said, is more thoughtful. He then raises the question of what our understanding of our Christian faith has to say about how we use the environment.

"On one hand, we are aware of the depletion of non-reuseable resources. On the other hand, we are also aware of the fact that we are creating situations where we have to ask questions: How do we dispose of our waste? Both of them interest

## Roundup

### East Moline

St. John's Lutheran, 1450 30th Ave. Summer worship services are 6:30 Thursday evenings beginning May 30 and continuing through August. Sunday services are at 9 a.m. and Bible class and Sunday School are 10:30 a.m. beginning June 2 and continuing through August.

### Rock Island

First Church of the Nazarene, 2921 38th St. Memorial service remembering deceased loved ones is 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

### Area

Cambridge Lutheran, 319 W. Court St. Graduating seniors will be recognized at the 10:30 a.m. service Sunday.

St. Paul Lutheran, Orion. Holy Trinity is Sunday. Worship is 8 a.m. in church; brunch is 9 a.m.; memorial event at Lutheran Cemetery is 9:30 a.m.; and worship is 10:30 a.m. in church.

### Memorial Baptist Church

2202-78th Ave., Milan, Ill.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.  
Pastor John W. Orey — 787-5637

### Brothers both preachers

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was a Methodist preacher and hymn writer. His brother, John (1703-1791) was an English theologian, evangelist and founder of Methodism.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

### "In Re: Rebirth"

Church	9:00	William F. Coley, Minister	Morning	10:30
School	A.M.	3501 Seventh St.	Worship	A.M.
		East Moline, IL		
Youth Groups		755-6552	Nursery	

## Broadway Presbyterian Church

7th Ave. & 23rd St., Rock Island (309) 786-2631

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship & Church School with nursery care.

Sermon: "NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT" Ezekiel 37:1-14

Rev. John F. De Vries, Interim

## The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

### Trinity Episcopal Church

Nineteenth Street and Sixth Ave., Rock Island, Illinois  
The Rev. Laurence Larson, D. Min., Rector

May 26, 1991



Pastor & Mrs. Devnich

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.  
Church Services 11:00 a.m.  
Dave Devnich, Pastor 764-1137  
"Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy..."

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICE

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

3020 30th St., R.I. 786-2617  
Pastor, Victor Shields

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY  
Prayer & Praise 7:00 p.m.  
Nursery Van Service



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

4021-9 1/2 St.  
East Moline

Pastor Danny Yeager  
Church Office: 755-2409  
Parsonage: 755-9865

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Organ Dedication 2:00 p.m.  
(Nursery Care Provided)

Come and Worship With Us  
"The Friendly Church Family"



### Holy Spirit Church

2045 3rd Ave., East Moline  
(next to Correctional Center)  
752-1229  
Home 755-0454

### The Lord's House of Prayer

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Wed. 7:15 p.m.  
Healing Service 2nd Sunday  
Each Month 3:00 p.m.

Rev. George Clark, Pastor

### South Park Presbyterian Church

1501 30th St., Rock Island

8:15 A.M.  
10:45 A.M.  
Sermos  
The Rector  
Nursery Care At All Services

### Fifteenth Avenue Church

(Disciples of Christ)

3600 Fifteenth Ave., Rock Island

9:30 A.M.  
10:45 A.M.

"Belong to Whom?" Guest Minister

Rev. Dorey E. Burkhalter  
Nursery Provided

## CALVARY'S FAITH CLIME

2313 44th Street, Moline (Be



# Did Noah out trash?

## Study 'theology of garbage'

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The theme was developed by Rev. Swanson in relation to the first article of the Apostle's Creed, which is "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."

Last year we did a study of the article of the creed called "I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered, died, and rose again, who will come again to judge the living and the dead." I guess I wander around and find a clever way to tell the story. This year's theme is "The Theology of Garbage" to cause people to play with it. And hopefully, they've played around with the word then get serious about it." said some environmentalists about the earth being an ark.

Summer worship services May 30 and continuing June 1 at 10 a.m. and Bible class and June 2 and continuing June 3 at 10 a.m.

St. Memorial service re-m. Sunday.

Graduating seniors will be celebrated at 10 a.m. is Sunday. Worship is 8 a.m. event at Lutheran Cemetery church.

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**CHURCH**  
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Nursery

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(309) 786-2631

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**THE SPIRIT** Ezekiel 37:1-14  
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**opul Church**  
Ave., Rock Island, Illinois  
son, D. Min., Rector  
1991  
**Sunday**  
..... The Holy Eucharist  
..... Adult Discussion Class

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**Seventh-day  
Adventist Church**  
3521 53rd St.,  
Moline  
**Saturday Services**  
Pastor & Mrs. Devnich  
Sabbath School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Church Services ..... 11:00 a.m.  
**Dave Devnich, Pastor 764-1137**  
"Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy..."

**HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY MORNING  
WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**May 26th, 1991**  
**Worship Services**  
**8:15 & 10:45 a.m.**



The dining hall at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Oregon, Ill. The center is part of the ministry of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations in Illinois and Missouri. (Photo courtesy of LOMC)

great celebration where our whole system will come to celebrate the land, which Earth Day 91 does. We also talk about the first creation story. I take it as a liturgical statement that God values and says it's good and it works. Worthing and worship are synonymous. Usually we see ourselves as God doing something for us, and we try to see that we are also to do something for God."

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**Come and Worship With Us**  
"The Friendly Church Family"

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The other side of the story, Rev. Swanson said, is more thoughtful. He then raises the question of what our understanding of our Christian faith has to say about how we use the environment

"On one hand, we are aware of the depletion of non-reuseable resources. On the other hand, we are also aware of the fact that we are creating situations where we have to ask questions: How do we dispose of our waste? Both of them interact

with one another," he said.

"If we look in the landfill, we see a lot of stuff made from non-reuseable products, resources that are just wasted. They may even be destructive in some cases," said Rev. Swanson. "What are the steps we must take in order to be responsible and frugal, to put to fruitful use the resources we have? We are going to look at what decomposition is about."

Rev. Swanson said society usually treats garbage by pushing it away, getting it out of sight. "Yet it is a vital part of the whole nutrient cycle. We need to be able to recognize that we must maintain the nutrient cycle, by being sensitive to biodegradable things and by how we purchase and use them."

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2045 3rd Ave., East Moline  
(next to Correctional Center)  
752-1229  
Home 755-0454  
**The Lord's House of Prayer**  
Sunday School ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Wed. .... 7:15 p.m.  
Healing Service 2nd Sunday  
Each Month ..... 3:00 p.m.  
**Rev. George Clark, Pastor**

**COAL VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
706 1st Street, Coal Valley  
S.B.C. Dr. Steve Smith  
Sunday Bible Study ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
**Church Phone 799-7897**  
**Pastors Home Phone 949-2963**

**South Park Presbyterian Church**  
1501 30th St., Rock Island PH: 786-6466  
8:15 A.M., Worship 9:30 A.M., Sunday School  
10:45 A.M., Worship/Jr. Church  
**Sermon: "Like Father, Like Son"**  
The Rev. John Stahlman, Interim  
The Rev. Constance L. Haggard  
Nursery Care At All Services Handicapped Accessible

**Fifteenth Avenue Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
3600 Fifteenth Ave., Rock Island, Ill. 61201  
9:30 A.M. .... Morning Worship Services  
10:45 A.M. .... Sunday School  
**"Belong to Whom?"** Guest Minister, Rev. Constance Haggard  
Rev. Darey E. Burkhalter, Minister  
Nursery Provided

**CALVARY'S FAITH CLIMBER CHURCH**  
2313 44th Street, Moline (Behind Target)  
Phone 797-7177 or 797-5353  
Sunday School ... 9:45 A.M. • Morning Worship ... 10:45 A.M.