

## **BEAR CREEK RANCH - Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Georgetown, CA – Circuit 18**

Rev. Paul Johnson was involved with camp ministry for 9 ½ years at Lutheran Camp Perkins located in central Idaho before enrolling in Seminary. So it was natural that when he first arrived in the CNH District to ask other Pastors about outdoor ministries. While on a Pastor's retreat at South Lake Tahoe Rev. Johnson was told of Mount Cross and about a former camp located at Lake Tahoe. Rev. Johnson thought: "It would be nice to have a camp closer, maybe somewhere in the Sierras." A few months later, a member of Lutheran Church of the Divide, came to Rev. Johnson and said that she wanted to use her property for the Lord's work, and asked if Rev. Johnson had any ideas. Outdoor Ministry was the first idea that came to mind.

A steering committee was formed for the Bear Creek Ranch in late winter of 2005, with the first meeting being held at Lutheran Church of the Divide on April 24, 2005. The organizing of the initial startup committee has been a difficulty. People are involved for a short time, but resign for different reason. Bear Creek initially was started to be an independent ministry, but because of its proximity to the Georgetown and the resources the congregation can offer, the steering committee decided to become part of the umbrella ministry of the congregation. When the ministry matures it can then separate.

The people of the Georgetown Congregation have given much time, talent, and treasure towards Bear Creek. The Congregation of Grace – Orangevale, CA graciously gave a substantial financial gift which will go this project. Members from First Lutheran – Placerville, CA and Light of Hills - Cameron Park, CA are involved in planning as well as being part of the steering committee. Both Sacramento Circuits (4 and 19) have been involved with planning and have people on the steering committee.

The first camp event (Youth Servant event and campout) was held July 29-30, 2005. A future event includes a Youth Hay Ride (Fall 2006).

