

Jacob's Creek Family Retreat

July 27 – 30, 2023

“Creation: Behold! I Make All Things New”



Dear Friends,

This year's Jacob's Creek Family Retreat will be running from July 27 through 30 (Thursday to Sunday). I am also excited to announce that we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary of gathering together to share our love for each other, the Lord, and the teachings of the New Church! Every year we have a theme that helps us focus our attention on specific teachings from the Lord's Word and on how we can actively make them a part of our lives. I'm happy to announce our theme for 2023: **Creation: Behold! I Make All Things New!**

The Lord told Nicodemus that, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) New Church theology uses this verse to remind us that change is not an option, change is a necessity! Why? Simply put, it is because we all start off life being "natural" people who, from our heredity, are always, "panting for the lowest hell." (Divine Providence 183) The good news is that we have a loving God who never stops working to "create" us anew! Through the teachings of His Word and a life according to them, the Lord leads us through the gradual process of literally turning our lives around. From being natural we become spiritual. From "panting for the lowest hell" He gives us a new heart that loves the Lord above all things and our neighbor as ourselves.

Join us as we take an in-depth look at the process of allowing the Lord to create us anew! What is our part in the process and what is the Lord's part? What highs and lows can we expect along the way? How does the creation story in Genesis provide us with valuable insights into various stages the Lord leads us through? How can we get to the point where the Lord "rests" because we have allowed Him to form us into the people, He created us to be?

This year's pastoral staff will include the Reverend Jeremy Simons, myself and others. Our camp directors are Andrea and Bradley Cranch, and Jamie and Julie Uber. With their help and the help of MANY other dedicated volunteers this promises to be another great year! We urge you to register early so you don't miss out (we're capped at 150!). If you know of friends who would enjoy Jacob's Creek, please invite them. We look forward to welcoming one and all!

Rev. Matthew Genzlinger
Jacob's Creek Family Retreat Pastor

CREATION: BEHOLD! I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW!

"In many passages in the Word the Lord is called "Creator," "Maker," and "Former from the womb," and also "Redeemer;" for the reason that He creates man anew, reforms, regenerates, and has redeemed him." (Apocalypse Explained 710)

"Man must be born anew...by means of truths from the Word, and by a life according to them."
(Apocalypse Explained 721)