

LSI Journal

Lesson Book



Evolution

a Lutheran Response

winter 2019

Lutheran Science Institute

Creation / Evolution: a Confessional Lutheran view

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Special Issue

Lessons on Creation Apologetics

by Mark Bergemann

This lesson book introduces each lesson. Links are then provided to free online articles. Most of these lesson texts are from recent back issues of the *LSI Journal*. If you desire print copies of those texts, purchase a set of recent *LSI Journals* at www.LutheranScience.org/back.

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Theological Foundations

Our response to evolution, part of our creation apologetic, must be built on a Biblical foundation. This booklet will teach creation apologetics starting with important Biblical principles, and then build on that foundation. A short introduction to and summary of each lesson is presented, leading to recommended articles which are free online. The recommended articles total nearly 200 pages, so this is a more extensive course than it first appears to be.

The *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* defines apologetics as, “The defense of Christian belief and of the Christian way against alternatives and against criticism.”¹ While all Christians use some sort of apologetic, Confessional Lutherans use a different apologetic than other Christians. At the center of this difference is the question, “What is the place of reason in defending the faith?” In this lesson, we will study what God reveals in Scripture about human reason and its place in apologetics, and we will begin to apply a Biblically correct view of human reason to defending the creation account.

The Use of Reason

How does human reason come into play as we read, study, and discuss what God reveals in Scripture? How may arguments from reason be used in ministry to Christians? In ministry to unbelievers? How can reason be incorrectly used? What is a strong and easily used argument against evolution? What are some incorrect arguments that creationists often use? How might our apologetic discredit our Gospel message?

These questions are answered in our text for this lesson, “The Narrow Lutheran Middle Road for Creation.” Read that article in the summer

¹ F. L. Cross, and E. A. Livingstone, eds., *The Oxford dictionary of the Christian Church*, 3rd ed. (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press., 2005), 87.

2016 *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* (WLQ) by searching the seminary essay file at <http://www.wlssays.net/>. A somewhat shorter version, which does not answer all the questions above, is in the spring 2016 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2016spring.

“The Narrow Lutheran Middle Road for Creation” teaches the *ministerial* use of human reason, and against the *magisterial* use of reason, although the article does not use those terms. We use our reason in a *ministerial* way as we use it to understand what God is revealing in Scripture. We use reason in a *magisterial* way if we place our reason over Scripture. Sadly, many Christian churches do just that when they invent unbiblical doctrines. The Biblically correct “middle road” is described in our lesson text, along with the ditches on each side,

There is a narrow Lutheran middle road regarding Creation. Let’s travel that narrow road while not falling into the ditches on either side. The ditch on one side incorrectly sees arguments from reason as able to aid in creating or sustaining faith. The ditch on the other side incorrectly sees no place at all for arguments from reason in our apologetic (in our defense of the faith).

...Evolution leads many to ignore the Gospel message. It encourages the thinking that a belief in any god was for ignorant people in the unscientific past, not for thinking people today. Questioning the assumptions of evolution in your witness may be useful for silencing objections to the validity of Scripture. Rational arguments in and of themselves are worthless for bringing an unbeliever to saving faith, but are of worth if they provide an opportunity to share the Gospel message.

God has chosen to create and strengthen faith solely through the Gospel in Word and sacrament. Extra-Biblical arguments do not in any way increase the effectiveness of the Gospel. However, Scripture shows a place for extra-Biblical arguments in our apologetic. Such claims from reason can help believers by blunting temptations. While witnessing to unbelievers, such claims can sometimes be of value if they lead to an opportunity to share the Gospel message.

The heart of “The Narrow Lutheran Middle Road for Creation” is a summary of part 1 of: “The Place of Reason in Defending the Christian Faith – with ministry ideas regarding Creation/Evolution.” Those who wish to read more about the use of reason can read this 32-page article at www.LutheranScience.org/2012reason.

Did God Use Evolution to Create?

- Why do some Christians believe in millions of years?
- How do they attempt to make the Bible conform to millions of years?
- Scripture shows these Christians place their Christian faith in jeopardy.

Our next text examines these topics. It briefly shows that much of Christianity has accepted the lie of millions of years, then discusses how the evolution story is written, using science alone and rejecting all supernatural explanations. Finally, it shows how some Christians attempt to make Scripture conform to millions of years, and that doing so leads away from faith in Jesus.

Watch the video, or read the transcript, “Did God Use Evolution to Create?” at www.LutheranScience.org/DidGodUseEvolution. A few quotes:

Even though parts of the evolution story are true, much of the evolution story goes against Scripture. We can be CERTAIN that the parts of evolution which go against Scripture are FALSE, because we know that the Bible is true.

...Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith. Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy. False teachings about creation are just like all other false teachings, they lead away from Jesus. They are extremely dangerous to a person’s Christian faith. ...Evolution attacks the gospel and the need for a Savior. Evolution denies the doctrines of sin, the law, and death. Evolution dispenses with the need for a Creator.

The Nature of Science

Science is often seen as an unbiased producer of truth. In reality, science is neither unbiased nor a producer of truth. Prominent scientists, including those who champion evolution, describe science as a biased and subjective process that may not produce final truth on anything. Listen to what these scientists say as you read the first text for this lesson, “The Nature of Science” in the fall 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018fall.

Dinosaur Science

The second text for this lesson is a pair of articles on dinosaurs by Professor Paul Boehlke. While these articles teach us much about dinosaurs, their primary theme is the nature of science. Dr. Boehlke writes,

How do we fit dinosaurs into a Christian view of history and science? We do not have all the answers. Scripture does not detail the issue; the Bible deals with the more important matters of faith and salvation. History has forgotten these ancient beasts, and science cannot claim the truth for this area of study. Yet there are things that can and should be said. Dinosaurs are valid subject matter for the Christian classroom. These huge land animals declare the glory of God. The subject can also serve to foster a better understanding of science and our world.

...There were no prehistoric times or creatures in the sense that the term is usually used. ...Science changes; new ideas replace the old. Science does not generate truth, but rather, useful explanations. Our students need to know about how science works. Dinosaur science is typical science which shows how mankind creates explanations and picks and organizes facts to fit the current scheme. ...All science changes, even science done by well-meaning Christians.

...Scientists do not think about the effects of a world-wide flood because they cannot imagine a natural cause for such an event. That is part of the nature of modern science and one of its inherent limitations. The content of science excludes the supernatural.

...Children should certainly study dinosaurs. It should not be difficult for them to see how scientists are arriving at their conclusions. They use selected facts, use information that we accept about existing animals to compare and build a reasonable story. Our students should not come to ridicule the scientist but to sense the limitations of science and of all our knowledge. Science and other disciplines can be very, very wrong. A good scientist knows this.

Read Dr. Boehlke's articles, "Dinosaurs, God's Creatures," and "Dinosaur Retrospect," on pages 6-25 in the fall 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018fall.

Science is Often Wrong

Our next text examines the history of science, how science is often wrong, why scientific theories which are wrong have evidence, and who defines what science is and is not. Below are some quotes from the article, "How Can A Lie Like Evolution Have Scientific Evidence?" Read this January 2015 *LSI Journal* article at www.LutheranScience.org/2015Lie. Some select quotes:

Phlogiston Theory, Caloric Theory, and Newton's Law of Gravity correctly explained observational evidence. Each was better at doing this than any previous explanation, but all three were wrong, in that they misrepresented the way the natural world actually is. Just as Brahe's Earth centric system correctly explained more observational evidence than the previous Ptolemy's Earth centric system explained, Caloric Theory correctly explained more observational evidence than the previous Phlogiston Theory explained. Unfortunately, phlogiston does not exist, and neither does its replacement, caloric.

...The origin of the word “science” is from words meaning “to know,” and “having knowledge.” The particular meaning of science discussed in this article is that which scientists practice (physics, chemistry, geology, biology, astronomy, paleontology, etc.). Science is a way of gaining knowledge about nature. It is a human activity. As a human activity, those who practice science work to define and redefine science.

...Evolution will never make any progress at reaching any truth, wherever it is attempting to explain the result of a miracle through natural means. ...We have seen that evolution is a lie, because it is contrary to Scripture. We’ve looked at the nature of evidence, and found that false things like evolution can have evidence. We’ve considered how science is sometimes wrong, and how evolution is one of the places where science is wrong. Next we surveyed several of the countless pieces of evidence for evolution, and the weaknesses of that evidence. Creationists see similar weakness in all evidence for evolution. Finally, we evaluated who defines science, and that the scientific community overwhelmingly accepts evolution as having evidence. Evolution has evidence: because evolution is a widely accepted scientific theory, and by definition a scientific theory has evidence, or else it would not be scientific. Evolution is science, because it fits the definition of science. Science is defined by scientists, and the scientific community overwhelmingly defines evolution as science and as having evidence.

Blunting the Temptation of Evolution

Evolution truly is a deception of Satan, which he uses to pull God’s children (you and me) away from trust in Jesus. It is through faith that we believe in creation. Even so, our human reason can help us to see the logical weaknesses of evolution. The temptation of evolution is blunted when we know how weak the evidence for evolution is. The world around us is often as we would expect, based on the Biblical account of creation. The world around us is often not as would be expected, if evolution were true.

Blinded By Unbelief

In the *LSI Journal* series, “Evolutionists Say Amazing Things,” we see that evolutionists sometimes speak very frankly about evolution. At those times, evolutionists pull back the curtain to reveal that the evidence for evolution is not as strong as they claim. At the start of this lesson we read an article from that article series, “The Nature of Science.” Our final text for this lesson is also from that series. It compares several quotes of Richard Dawkins to what God reveals in Romans 1:18-23. From our text:

Richard Dawkins, Ph.D. in biology and international champion of evolution for the past 41 years, wrote many books to show evolution is true. ... This internationally famous defender of evolution, reflects on his (at that date) 33 years of presenting proof for evolution, and determines he is “satisfied” to have an “implausible theory” of evolution! That amazing admission is similar to what Dawkins wrote in his earlier 1986 best seller, *The Blind Watchmaker*: Evolution is “a leap of imagination so large, that to this day, many people seem unwilling to make it.”

...God reveals that everyone knows a powerful creator god exists because it is evident in nature. Dawkins writes that our “brains seem predisposed” to belief in a creator god. God reveals that those who reject their Creator God “claim to be wise,” but they “try to suppress the truth” and become “fools” as they replace their Creator God with gods they make themselves. Dawkins, claiming to be wise, suppresses the truth and asks us to make “a very large leap of imagination” by rejecting our Creator God and instead being “satisfied with an implausible theory,” a theory invented by people. If only everyone would accept their Creator God whom they see in nature, and their Savior God whom they see in Scripture. Pray for those blinded by unbelief.

Read our text, “Dawkins: Evolution is an ‘Implausible Theory’” in the winter 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018winter.

A Lutheran Response

In our lesson 2 text, Prof. Boehlke proposed a Lutheran response to evolution (“Dinosaur Retrospect,” fall 2018 *LSI Journal*, page 24),

Rather than critique particular scientific findings to support Scripture, it is better that we recognize that the modern scientific paradigm is causing the problem. The modern scientific paradigm or worldview limits itself to the study of natural causes (methodological naturalism). Carried further it presupposes that there are only natural causes (philosophical naturalism). This assumption rules out any action by God at the very beginning of any reasoning. Naturalism is the problem, and it drives the macroevolutionary worldview. The “Prime Apologetic” for Christians has to be to put the naturalism assumption on the table when discussing evolution.

Our text for this lesson will be the article, “Assumptions of Evolutionists.” It begins with these words,

Unproven assumptions guide the entire scientific process from start to finish. Assumptions determine what is to be observed and what is not to be observed, which methods, calculations, and models to use, and which to reject. Assumptions determine which conclusions are allowed and which are not allowed. Science is a biased process. ...Evolutionists start with countless unproven presuppositions. These unproven starting assumptions require that creation be rejected. Creation is rejected NOT on the basis of scientific conclusions, but on the basis of unproven a priori assumptions.

Pointing out the assumptions of evolutionists is a strong and solid argument, one which should remain strong for decades to come. If an assumption is wrong, then all conclusions based on that assumption are invalid. Pointing out these assumptions is relatively easy. On the other hand, pointing out scientific problems with

evolution is often much more difficult and is much more easily countered by the evolutionist. Why not make the easy and solid argument of pointing out assumptions, instead of a more difficult and often weaker argument (one which may be incorrect a few years down the road)? Simply pointing out the first and primary assumption of evolutionists, their “no creator” assumption, is a powerful and easy to make argument. The “no creator” assumption is imposed on every conclusion which evolutionists make. Pointing out other major assumptions such as the “no flood” and “deep time” assumptions is almost as powerful.

Our text continues by detailing these presuppositions. It then demonstrates how these assumptions change the scientific process used, and conclusions reached, by evolutionists. One of the many examples in our text is the origin of life. Evolutionists simply assume that non-living chemicals self-assembled into the first living thing. To those who write the evolution story, it must be true that millions of lifeless chemical molecules spontaneously formed a living creature. It must be true, because they reject the only alternative: a creator god. Amazingly they have no idea how chemicals can spontaneously generate life. World renowned evolutionist Paul Davies writes in *Scientific American* (September 2016),

We do not know the process that transformed a mishmash of chemicals into a living cell, with all its staggering complexity. ... We are almost as much in the dark today about the pathway from nonlife to life as Charles Darwin was when he wrote, “It is mere rubbish thinking at present of the origin of life; one might as well think of the origin of matter.”¹

Our text ends with the words, “Instead of questioning the science of evolution, question the unproven assumptions which direct and constrain that science.” Read “Assumptions of Evolutionists” in the fall 2017 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2017fall.

¹ Paul Davies, “Many Planets Not Much Life –We Still Have No Idea How Easy It Is for Life to Arise-and It May Be Incredibly Difficult,” in *Forum –Commentary on Science in the News from the Experts*, *Scientific American*, September 2016, 8.

Natural Selection

It is vital that we accurately understand the basics of evolution theory and the correct definition of scientific terms. If we make false statements about evolution, or use scientific terms incorrectly, we can eventually lead those to whom we are ministering to question everything we say. If they cannot trust what we say about science, can they trust what we say about Jesus?

Many creationists misunderstand some basic aspects of evolution theory. Even if they attempt to educate themselves about evolution, they are often misled by incorrect information they find online. Even some very impressive creation websites inaccurately present evolution theory.

Species and Kinds

Our first text for this lesson defines the terms “natural selection,” “species,” and “kinds.”

Natural Selection: ...The natural process by which successive generations of plants and animals can eventually become different than their ancestors. ...Natural selection is the same as artificial selection, except the environment does the selecting instead of people.

A group of animals or plants which normally interbreed in the wild is a species. ... There are many species in most Biblical kinds. There are dozens of species in the cat family, but since most cats can interbreed, there are probably only one or maybe two Biblical kinds of cats. Scientific taxonomic ranking has species as the lowest rank, then genus, then family. For most kinds, it appears that family is the closest taxonomic rank to kind.

Read “Glossary for the Creationist,” in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

Evolution is a Mixture of Reality and Fabrication

An article series in the *LSI Journal* teaches evolution theory and a Lutheran response to it: “Know Evolution –The Evolution Story is a Mixture of Reality and Fabrication.” Our primary text for this lesson is from that series and is titled, “Natural Selection.” This article explains the two ways that natural selection can produce new species, always within the same kind. Both ways (with and without DNA mutations) result in a loss of DNA information. The article correctly asserts, “Creationists and evolutionists can agree that natural selection produces new species this way, where no new kinds ever develop.”

The article then explains the supposed way that natural selection could produce new kinds. New kinds of creatures require new DNA information to build new body parts, such as a creature with scales gaining the information to grow feathers. Evolutionists put forth examples of new DNA information, such as mutations causing duplicated DNA information, or DNA information which is lost through mutation and later regained through another mutation. While these examples fit a wide definition of new information, they are not the type of new information needed to produce a new kind. No matter how much a scaly reptile’s DNA information is duplicated, the information for a feather will never be produced. The article briefly examines several evolutionary claims of new DNA information. The type of new DNA information needed for a new kind has never been observed. The article states,

The evolution story is a mixture of reality and fabrication. Natural selection is a great example of this truth. Reality: Natural selection produces new species of plants and animals. Fabrication: The claim that natural selection produces new kinds of plants and animals.

There are many species in most Biblical kinds. Every kind of plant and animal which exists today, or which has gone extinct, was created by God thousands of years ago during the six days of creation. No new kinds ever develop. New species develop all the time, but always within their own kind.

... Natural selection is a significant scientific discovery. It helps us better understand how the Biblical kinds of plants and animals diversified into so many species. It helps us better understand how the estimated 40,500 species of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles alive today could have descended from an estimated 627 kinds of those animals on Noah's Ark. [One estimate is that 1,373 kinds were on the ark, 627 for animals alive today, 746 for extinct animals in the fossil record. This estimate is based on a 2011 published study and recent updates.] God built rich genetic diversity into living things allowing their offspring to change in size and color, to adapt to new environments, and to significantly modify their diets, behavior, temperament, and so much more, all "according to their kinds" (Genesis chapter 1).

Read the text, "Natural Selection," in the fall 2016 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2016fall.

Another article in the "Know Evolution" series is the article "Evolution's Tree of Life." This article briefly compares evolution's *tree of life* with creation's *forest of life*. Evolutionists assume that all plants, animals, and people descended from the first living thing. They place each plant and animal on the tip of its own branch. Common ancestors are placed at the points where branches meet. Common ancestors of Biblical kinds are almost always imagined, since there is no known plant or creature to place there. The imagined common ancestor of apes and people is an "ape-like creature." Read the article, "Evolution's Tree of Life" in the winter 2016 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2016winter.

Some Truth in Evolution

Parts of evolution theory are true. Our creation apologetic must recognize that fact. Points of agreement are examined in the article, "Evolutionists and Creationists Often Agree –for example, there are many points of agreement on natural selection." Here are some excerpts:

Christians can be certain that the universe is only thousands of years old, that birds did not descend from dinosaurs, and that people did not descend from ape-like creatures. Our certainty is based on our faith that God's Word is true.

Many parts of evolution are incompatible with the Christian faith. ...That said, there is much in evolution theory with which a creationist can agree. The Christian apologist must keep this in mind, especially when ministering to those who are tempted by evolution to believe in millions of years of common descent. We must avoid the impression that we reject all of evolution, as some parts of evolution are true.

Books written by evolutionists to defend evolution against creationist claims so often describe the science of evolution in ways with which a creationist can agree. So much of what evolutionists see as the proof of evolution are scientific conclusions which do not go against Scripture. Evolutionists regularly discuss natural selection in ways that conform with a young earth and created kinds. Then evolutionists move to claims that go against Scripture. Evolutionists, in essence, claim that since natural selection can produce new species within each Biblical kind, that proves that natural selection can also produce new Biblical kinds.

...Creationists and evolutionists often agree. Point that out as you minister to creationists and to evolutionists. Discuss some of those points of agreement as a path to discussing the assumptions which guide and constrain evolutionary science. Always remember that when witnessing to unbelievers, your goal is to present the gospel message (not to discuss creation or evolution).

The article continues by reviewing the reasons Richard Dawkins gives as proof of evolution. "Evolutionists and Creationists Often Agree" is scheduled for publication in a coming *LSI Journal*, most likely the spring 2019 issue. Read that article when published. If in the spring issue, it will be at www.LutheranScience.org/2019spring.

Dating Methods

Radiometric dating methods are seen by many as solid proof that the earth is billions of years old, and that life has existed for much of that time. We saw in Lesson 3 that it is the *unprovable assumptions* which evolutionists impose on their science that lead them to falsely conclude that the earth is 4.5 billion years old. If you start with assumptions such as “no creator,” “no flood,” and “deep time,” and then require your scientific observations, calculations, and conclusions to conform with those false assumptions, you will conclude that the earth is very old. False assumptions lead to invalid conclusions. Our text on radiometric dating methods summarizes the situation:

“Ages” obtained through radiometric dating are based on many *unprovable* assumptions. If creationist assumptions are used, these methods produce presumed ages which agree with Scripture, a young earth, and a planetary flood. If evolutionist assumptions are used, these methods produce presumed ages which do not agree with Scripture.

Carbon Dating

Carbon dating is the most well known radiometric dating method. Our lesson text will first clear up some common misunderstandings and then explains this dating method. Here are a few excerpts:

It is important that we properly use scientific terminology and correctly describe scientific methods, or everything we say –including our gospel message– may be discredited. First let’s correct two common errors regarding carbon dating:

Rocks: Carbon dating is NOT used to date rocks. There are many types of radiometric dating. Carbon-14 (^{14}C) dating examines carbon in the item to be dated. Most rocks do not contain carbon, so

they cannot be dated with this method. Carbon dating is used to calculate the presumed age of things which were once living, such as bones and wood, which contain carbon.

Millions of Years: Carbon dating is NOT used to date things that evolutionists think are millions or billions of years old. Carbon dating is used to calculate much more recent ages. Evolutionists use carbon dating for ages they presume to be between 100 and 50,000 years ago.

The accuracy of carbon dating depends upon many unprovable assumptions. One assumption is that the atmospheric ratio of ^{14}C to ^{12}C in the past (over the last 50,000 years per evolutionary assumptions) has always been about the same as the ratio today. There are many reasons why this assumption could be false. There is an important reason that every creationist should keep in mind: *If God created the earth as he reveals in Scripture, then this atmospheric carbon assumption is false.* Unless God created a world with ^{14}C , the starting level would be zero. So, for much of earth's history the amount of ^{14}C in the atmosphere was much lower than today, slowly growing toward today's larger level. ...A creationist can accept the accuracy of carbon dating for the past few thousand years, while knowing that older items are dated inaccurately (with calculated ages far exceeding their actual age).

Other Dating Methods

Our lesson text also describes other radiometric dating methods:

While presumed ages for organic material (wood, bones, shells, peat, etc.) are obtained using carbon dating, presumed ages for certain types of rock (cooled magma such as granite and basalt) are obtained using other radiometric dating methods including potassium-40, rubidium-87, uranium-235, and uranium-238.

The amount of a radioactive isotope and its atomic decay product are measured in the rock to be dated. It is *assumed* that the decay

product measured resulted from decay of the radioactive isotope in that rock since it solidified from molten magma. The length of time it took to decay provides a presumed age of the rock. What could go wrong? Plenty.

...Here are some of the unprovable assumptions evolutionists use for dating rocks:

1) Starting Conditions

Evolutionists need to know how much of the desired decay product was in the rock when it was formed (when it cooled from molten magma into solid rock). This cannot be measured (since no one was there in the past to measure), so evolutionists use unproven assumptions to make this determination.

2) No Contamination

Evolutionists assume that none of the radioisotope or its decay products leached into or out of the rock since it was formed. To evolutionists, this means no leaching into or out of the rock during a period of up to several billion years. This is a risky assumption, since we have found such leaching to occur in the present!

3) Unchanging Decay Rate

Evolutionists assume that radioactive decay has continued at a constant rate for billions of years. Radioactivity was discovered in 1896. For about 110 years or so, we have been able to accurately measure the decay rates of radioisotopes, and over that time the rates have remained constant (within the accuracy of our instrumentation). We have found that decay rates are not significantly affected by pressure, heat, or electrical and magnetic fields, so evolutionists simply assume rates were the same in the past as they are today. This is an unprovable assumption.

Evolutionists Attempt to Minimize Errors Due to These Unprovable Assumptions.

While evolutionists simply take for granted that decay rates are constant (assumption #3), they put forth great effort to minimize errors due to unexpected starting conditions (assumption #1) and due to contamination (assumption #2). In the end, all of their efforts still rest on all three unproven assumptions.

...Conclusion

Radiometric dating methods are useful tools both for evolutionists and for creationists. These dating methods allow us to determine with reasonable accuracy, *actual* ages from the recent past (several thousand years) of organic material (wood, bones, shells, peat, etc.) and *relative* ages of some kinds of rocks (cooled magma such as granite and basalt). Evolutionists use these dating tools for much more. They use many unprovable assumptions including “deep time” (millions and billions of years) and “no flood” (no planetary Noachian Flood). These assumptions lead to calculated carbon dating ages of up to 50,000 years for organic matter. These assumptions also lead to calculated rock ages of millions and billions of years instead of *relative* ages.

Evolutionists require “deep time” (millions and billions of years) to make the Theory of Evolution more reasonable in their eyes. By *assuming* that the earth is billions of years old, and *imposing that assumption on their calculations*, evolutionists obtain radiometric dating ages of millions and billions of years. God reveals in Scripture that the earth is only thousands of years old, so we know that the assumption of deep time is wrong. Evolutionists base their radiometric dating calculations on that false assumption, so the dates they calculate are invalid.

“What You Need to Know About Carbon Dating” is scheduled for publication in a coming *LSI Journal*, most likely the summer 2019 issue. Read that article when published. If in the summer issue, it will be at www.LutheranScience.org/2019summer.

Lesson 6

Fossils

One of our texts from lesson 4, “Glossary for the Creationist,” defined fossils,

Fossils can be bones, shells, teeth, parts of an organism that have been replaced by minerals, an insect preserved in tree resin (amber), a frozen mammoth, a dried animal (mummified), or even the impression of a single cell. ...Plants, animals, insects, bacteria, and algae, anything that lived in the past, can produce fossils.

The ancient Greeks knew that fossils were the remains of living creatures. Some 3rd and 4th century Christian church fathers wrote about fossils as being formed during Noah’s Flood. Until the late 1700s, most Christian theologians *and most scientists* believed fossils were the result of a planetary flood several thousand years ago. Then evolution thinking took over. Decades *before* Darwin’s 1859 book “On the Origin of the Species,” the scientific community, and much of the Christian church, had already rejected a planet-wide flood. Instead they now embraced fossils as slowly accumulating over immense ages.

Our first text for this lesson is “Geologic Column,” which is another article in the *LSI Journal* series, “Know Evolution –Evolution is a Mixture of Reality and Fabrication.” Here are some quotes,

Like much of Evolution Theory, the geologic column is a mixture of reality and fabrication. The vast time evolutionists assign to the column is the problem, not the rock layers and fossils in the column, nor their sequence. To a geologist who assumes deep time (millions of years), the geologic column shows over 500 million years of common descent. To a geologist who believes in creation, the geologic column shows created kinds of plants and creatures killed in the Noachian Flood and mostly deposited over a five-month period.

...The geologist who invented the basic scientific concepts used to create the geologic column was Niels Steensen (Nicholas Steno), who believed the earth was about 6,000 years old and that the sedimentary rock layers and the fossils they contained were deposited by Noah's Flood.

...Many creationists attempt to show evolution wanting when they say, "The geologic column does not exist anywhere in the world, except in textbooks." This is a true statement, but it has much less apologetic value than these creationists think. There is strong and convincing evidence for the overall sequence of the geologic column. Why imply there is not? ...Why not start a discussion with the parts of the column on which creationists and evolutionists can agree, then move to the parts where we differ? ...Creationists and evolutionists agree on the sequence of the fossil containing rock layers, but disagree on the time scale. Creationists do not accept as valid the "no creator," "no flood," and "deep time" unproven assumptions which direct and constrain the science of evolutionists.

...Like natural selection, the geologic column is a significant scientific discovery. It helps us better understand the original diversity of creation. So many amazing and unique plants and animals God created have gone extinct.

Read "Geologic Column" in the winter 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018winter.

Our next text looks at some of the difficulties evolutionists face when they interpret the geologic column as depicting long ages. Topics covered include plants and animals shown to be extinct in the geologic column but found still living today, and upheavals in the dinosaur and human evolutionary family trees. Here are some quotes:

Both evolutionists and creationists are confronted with problems understanding the geologic column. That will always be the case.

Scientists (both evolutionists and creationists) develop scientific models in attempts to explain how the column came to be. Those models are simply explanations based on the presuppositions of those making them. ...Most science textbooks assert that the column fits millions of years without major issue. The truth is that assuming the geologic column shows millions of years of common descent leads to many problems.

...Here, Nye actually argues that lack of fossil evidence for common descent is “proof of evolution.” By that logic, it does not matter if the missing fossils are found. Finding fossils of transitional species is evidence for evolution, and the opposite situation, not finding those fossils, is also evidence for evolution. It truly is tortured logic to claim that whatever evidence we find (fossils or no fossils), is evidence for evolution.

...Evolutionists claim the geologic column shows millions of years of common descent. In reality, evolutionists *impose* the *assumption* of common descent and the *assumption* of deep time (millions of years) on the column, resulting in many logical problems.

Read “Fossils in the Geologic Column –Problems for Evolution” in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

Dinosaur Evolution

Our text on fossils in the geologic column has a section titled, “New Dinosaur Family Tree.” That section states,

There is nothing wrong with classifying plants and animals by the similarity of their features. Such categorization can greatly help in our study of God’s creation. This, though, becomes wrong when common descent is claimed, since we know from Scripture that plants and animals did not originate that way. ... Since 1887, dinosaurs have been classified as being “lizard-hipped” or “bird-hipped.” This new study throws that long-held scientific fact out

the window. [In science, the term “fact” denotes a temporary truth.] What happened to cause the questioning of 130 years of dividing dinos between lizard-hipped and bird-hipped? Were new fossils found? No. Old fossils and other old evidence were simply reexamined and organized a new way. The new study “examined 457 anatomical characteristics in 74 dinosaur species” and, based on that old evidence, redrew the dino family tree. Now a subsequent study published in *Live Science* examines even more old evidence and concludes that three very different dino family trees fit the evidence equally well. ...We should not be surprised that scientific consensus changes, even throwing out long-cherished theories and laws of science. It happens all the time.

...As Christians, we know for certain that God created each animal kind during a six-day period, thousands of years ago, because God has revealed that to us in Scripture. When evolutionists assume that each kind descended from a previous kind, they make a false assumption. Evolutionists force their scientific models to conform to that false assumption (and many other assumptions also).

Evolutionists are having a hard time drawing a common descent family tree, since kinds did not descend from other kinds. Now God could have created the dinosaur kinds so that they had features which could be put into a single, logical family tree. It appears God did not do so, since evolutionists are having great difficulty attempting to draw such a family tree. *Even if such a family tree could be drawn, it would not mean God used evolution to create. God reveals in Scripture the true history of how he created.*

Our third text answers the question, “Did some dinosaurs have feathers like birds, or did all dinosaurs have scales like lizards?” It states,

Most evolutionists propose an imaginary “ancestral paravian” dinosaur as the ancestor of birds. These evolutionists hope to find

evidence of feathered dinosaurs to support their claim. ... From observation we can determine that there are many Biblical kinds of birds, and that there were many Biblical kinds of dinosaurs. From the historical accounts God reveals in Scripture, we know for certain that one kind of animal does not evolve from another kind of animal. The various bird kinds did not have a common ancestor. The various dinosaur kinds did not have a common ancestor. And of course birds and dinosaurs did not have a common ancestor.

...Did some dinosaurs have feathers? A “yes” or a “no” is completely compatible with the Biblical creation account. It is evolutionists who are biased toward feathered dinosaurs, which they think may make their story more appealing. ... Even if one or more of the dinosaur kinds had feathers, that does not mean that dinosaurs evolved into birds! Evolutionists themselves have discarded many of their previous attempts to make birds and dinosaurs into cousins. Fossils provide very limited information about the animal that died. One can easily think that a bird fossil is a dead dinosaur, that a dinosaur fossil is a dead bird, and that bones from two different creatures are bones from a single creature.

If the claw on one creature looks similar to the claw on an otherwise completely different creature, the evolutionist assumes that these creatures had a common ancestor. The only alternative explanation acceptable to an evolutionist would be that a similar looking claw evolved twice in two different creatures. The explanation that a Creator God used a common design feature in two separate creatures is not even considered as a possibility.

Read “Dinosaurs: Feathers or Scales?” in the spring 2016 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2016spring.

Human Evolution

Our fourth text answers the question, “How then do evolutionists claim to have bones of part human, part ape creatures?” It states,

The evolution story is a mixture of reality and fabrication. Evolutionists' claims for human evolution are an example of that truth. Evolutionists start with real bones, fossils, and artifacts. These remains are from humans and apes who lived and died in the past. That is the truth part. Then the fabrication begins. So how do evolutionists claim to have fossils of part human, part ape creatures? One way is to take fossils of our human ancestors and imagine ape-like attributes for those people. That is done with Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon Man. Another is to take fossils of extinct apes and imagine human-like attributes for those apes. That is done with the famous "Lucy" fossil and other types of australopithecines. Another way is to accidentally or even fraudulently combine fossils of apes and humans into one creature. The most famous example of fraud is the Piltdown man who was hailed as an apeman for over 40 years until the fraud was discovered in 1953.

Read "Human or Ape, No In-Between" in the winter 2017 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2017winter.

Our earlier text on fossils in the geologic column had a section titled, "Placing Humans in Evolution's Tree of Life." That section states,

Evolutionists often run into problems in their attempt to choose one Biblical kind as the ancestor of another. Here is a second example: Top evolutionary experts disagree on how to place people into evolution's common descent tree of life. As with dinosaurs, placement is arbitrary and subjective. Every one of our supposed ancestor ape-men is either fully human (and our actual ancestor, a descendant of Adam and Eve) or fully ape (and not our ancestor). ...Many leading paleoanthropologists actually hold to views that line up with the creationist view that the bones found to date are either fully human or fully ape. ... The experts now have no fossils to connect hominin (human) fossils to the ape fossils, since they discarded all previously proposed candidates.

Even if evolutionists find new and convincing intermediate fossils (between ape and man), those fossils would still be either fully human or fully ape (fully animal). We can be certain of that, because God has revealed in Scripture that humans (our ancestors Adam and Eve) and each kind of animal were created during a six-day period, several thousand years ago.

More on Creation Apologetics

This lesson booklet is a production of the Lutheran Science Institute (LSI). Look to LSI for Confessional Lutheran creation apologetic materials.

www.LutheranScience.org

- Articles (over 250)
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Contact LSI to:

- Request a speaker or display at your event.
- Ask for help with a creation apologetic need.

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A large and growing number of Lutheran pastors and teachers are seeking a response to evolution. Lutheran apologetic materials for use in their ministries are needed. Training in apologetics is also needed. Your gifts can meet these needs. Please consider a gift to LSI.

Classrooms (5K - Grade 8)

A committee of teachers has been appointed and has begun to produce creation apologetic materials for grade schools. Some preliminary lessons may be published in 2019 editions of the *LSI Journal*.

Conferences

LSI is significantly increasing its presence at conferences and conventions in 2019. The special edition of the *LSI Journal* which you are reading will be distributed by the thousands at these gatherings. This will put creation apologetic materials into the hands of more pastors, teachers, and laity than ever before. An extra blessing from the Lord is that one-on-one discussions at these conferences often open doors, leading to new ministry opportunities for LSI.

The ministry of LSI has grown over the past 5 years and so have expenses. Charts on page 31 show that growth. Fifty-three individuals and 5 organizations (congregations, pastors' conferences, and ladies' groups) have given financial support to LSI over that time. Most gave a one-time gift, but others sent gifts annually. A record 15 new donors contributed gifts or dues in 2018 (totaling \$1,589), while 18 regular donors gave \$5,182 in 2018. So, a record 33 donors contributed in 2018, far above the annual average of 17 donors.

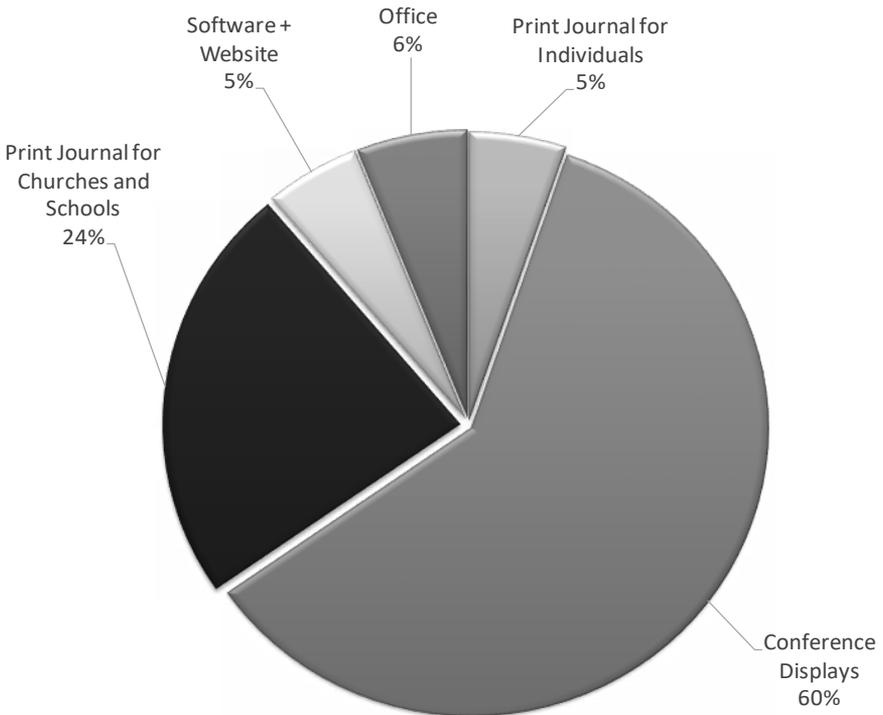
Please Help

Please pray for God's guidance of and provision for this ministry. Producing and distributing Lutheran creation apologetic materials to meet a growing demand requires growing financial support. It took a record number of donors to meet our 2018 expenses, and the 2019 budget is even larger at \$9,700.

Consider a gift of \$25, \$125, \$250, \$500, or more. Your gifts and prayers are a blessing. You are getting Lutheran creation apologetic materials into the hands of more pastors, teachers, and laity than ever before.

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2019 Budget \$9,700

LSI Operating Fund	
Jan 1, 2018: Balance	\$2,814.33
Gifts	\$6,243.15
Dues	\$528.00
Print Journal Subscriptions	\$302.80
Other	\$1.67
Inflow Total	\$7,075.62
Expenses	\$6,036.36
Outstanding Liabilities	\$0.00
Outflow Total	\$6,036.36
Dec 31, 2018: Balance	\$3,853.59

LSI Trust Fund	
Jan 1, 2018: Balance	\$8,139.77
Gifts	\$0.00
Interest	\$202.37
Inflow Total	\$202.37
Dec 31, 2018: Balance	\$8,342.14

The *LSI Operating Fund* is held in a US Bank checking account. The *LSI Trust Fund* is invested in six LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension) notes totaling \$6,500.00 plus accrued interest (3.0% and 3.5%), with the remainder in a separate US Bank checking account.

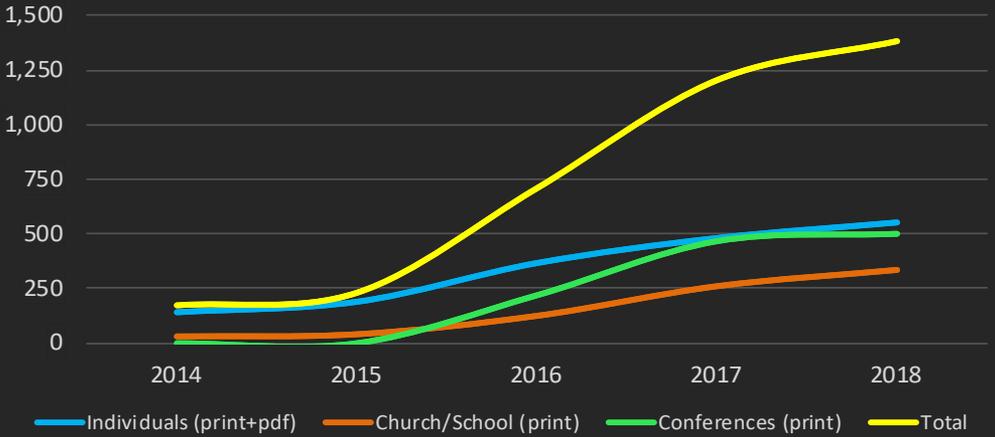
Include LSI in Your Will.

The LSI Trust Fund is ready to receive estates of all sizes, whether \$3,000 or \$300,000. The LSI Trust Fund was created in late 2014 and is governed by the document at: www.LutheranScience.org/Trust

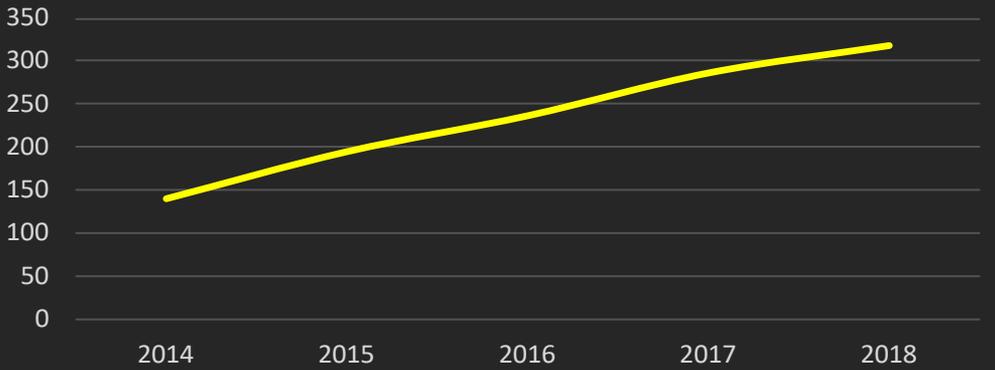
The LSI Trust Fund Serves Two Purposes:

- 1) To accumulate funds for larger ministry programs and eventually for a paid staff to do tasks our volunteer staff is unable to do.
- 2) To ensure LSI operating expenses are met in years of income shortfall, as occurred in 2016 when the trust provided \$2,000 toward operating expenses.

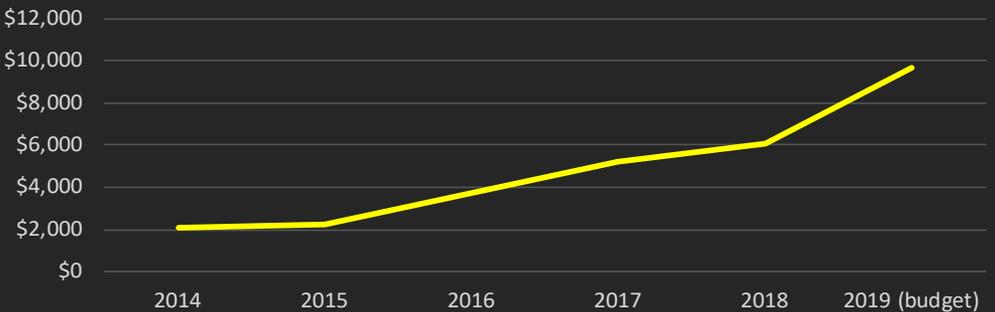
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