Josiah & Emily Gross 2026 Fall Newsletter

Dear Family and Friends,

Josiah and I are doing great and had our first anniversary in September! We celebrated by spending the day at Niagara Falls! It's hard to believe it has already been one year since our wedding, but we have fit a lot into it. Doing life together has been the best, and it is a joy to serve in this ministry side by side. God has been so good to us, and our marriage has been such a blessing! We are both thankful for the ways God has grown us in our marriage, and how He continues to show us more of Him through it.

The summer camp season was wonderful. We both had the privilege of mentoring multiple counselors throughout the summer. It blessed us both to walk alongside the young men and women who came to the Ranch to dedicate their time to pouring into the Ranchers' lives. Both of us had the opportunity to counsel for a few summers in the past, and it is truly amazing to watch firsthand how impacted the counselors are, as we were during our time in that position. One of our favorite parts of the summer is attending Thursday night campfires, when the kids get the chance to share what they learned that week. It is always powerful to hear what they took away from their time at camp; how they were challenged, and even those who committed their lives to Christ that week. There were over 40 kids who got saved this summer, praise God!

The programming staff team did a fantastic job and are some good friends of ours, so it was awesome having them here all summer and being able to work alongside them. Applications for 2027 Summer camp positions just opened, so if you or someone you know has any interest in serving here for a summer, we would love to have you and answer any questions you have!

In August, we graduated 34 students from the School of Discipleship program! We did not personally advise any students this past school year because we had just gotten married shortly after the school year started. But we really enjoyed getting to know all of the students and interacting with them whenever we could! It was a dynamic group, and we were sad to see them go. We are excited for what they will all step into in the future, and are excited for the five second-year students that we will have around a little longer.

In September, we welcomed a new group of students, and are looking forward to getting to know all of them! This year we have the opportunity to be advisors for two girls, Ezri and Rebekah. We meet with them once a week over dinner, grade their monthly schoolwork, and enjoy fellowship time with them. It has been wonderful getting to know them! We're so excited to walk alongside them throughout the school year.

The retreat season this Fall has been well attended! We have hosted multiple American Heritage Girl and Trail Life troops, along with Ladies Retreat, Family Camp, etc. Josiah has done a great job coordinating things for retreats and groups to go smoothly and has enjoyed meeting new

people, as well as seeing old friends in the process. For the rest of this year, we have some quilting groups coming in as well as our annual community Christmas party. We will also enjoy time traveling to visit family.

Prayer Requests:

- For Ezri and Rebekah to continue growing in and being encouraged by the program, along with all the other students.
- For our upcoming holiday travels where we will get to spend time with both of our families.
- That we would continue to lean on the Lord in all that we do in this ministry, being willing to step into whatever He has for us.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are so grateful to those who have reached out to us and try to stay current with what we have going on at the Ranch. It's been an encouraging season for both of us as we continue to serve here and see all of what God is doing!

In Christ,
Josiah and Emily Gross