



Minnesota Metro Lutheran Teens Encounter Christ

**“ Truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”
John 12:24**

Dear

We are excited that your youth has chosen to experience this TEC weekend. This letter is to help acquaint you with what your student will experience on the weekend. A separate acceptance letter is enclosed for your student. **Please plan to have your student arrive at 4p.m. on Friday.**

TEC is aimed at teens and the challenges they face in their faith. We aim to show them what a life lived in God's love can be like. TEC does not wish to introduce them to a new religion, but to bring youth together to explore their faith, experience God's Love and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ that they can take with them into their everyday lives.

The weekend begins with “Die Day” on Friday. It is a time of self-reflection and an examination of why Christ would die for me. They will participate in Ash Wednesday, Lent and Good Friday services and living Stations of the Cross. The day ends at the foot of the cross, where we release our sins and burdens that keep us separated from God. We retreat to bed in silent reflection. Saturday is “Rise Day” as we are raised anew in Christ. The mood of the day changes as we worship God for the gift of the empty tomb and experience what it means to be “Easter people”. It is a celebration of God's love capped off with an Agape dinner. Sunday is “Go Forth Day”. It is a call to take what they have learned to the “outside world” and share Christ's love with those around them.

There are nine talks that are given over the weekend. Seven are given by youth serving on team and two by the weekend Spiritual advisors. Each talk is followed by small discussions and presentations to the speakers. There is time for fellowship, laughter and prayer. Music and worship are important parts of the weekend as well.

“Wheat” is a concept that is introduced on the weekend as a tangible and intangible expression of Gods love. Tangible wheat is shown through prayer cards, notes of encouragement, donated food and bookmarks etc.; intangible love is given through the prayers that are offered by our Wheat Team and others in the TEC community. If you would like to leave notes or cards as “wheat” for your youth or any other weekender or team member, you can bring it to the Support Team room any time during the weekend and they will make sure it is put in their wheat bag which will be taken home at the end of the weekend. To ensure that no weekender feels left out or forgotten, we discourage using tangible gifts as wheat during the weekend. If you would like to give your child something more than a note or card, feel free to bring the idea of wheat home with you.

Please plan to attend the closing service Sunday evening. A slide show of pictures taken on the weekend will begin at 4:30pm and a closing worship service begins at 5:00pm and will end around 6:00. It is important for you to be present to share in the experience your student has had on this weekend. If you are unable to attend the closing service, please arrange for someone close to them to be there. If it is not possible for anyone to be there, let us know so that they will not be alone during the closing service. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any other questions or concerns. Beginning now and through the weekend join us in praying that all the youth attending this TEC weekend will have a joyous experience in Gods love.

Yours in Christ,

Katelyn Sutlief, TEC Weekender Registrar
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