



Happy Easter!

EASTER MORNING NEWS

*The Official Newsletter of
Minnesota Metro Lutheran Teens Encounter Christ*

"I am telling you the truth: A grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains." John 12:24



A message from Jason...

Do you own a dog?

I have a four and a half old black lab mix named Bailey. She is always a source of stories to my friends and a welcoming committee whenever I walk into the house. Dogs have this way of looking at us when we leave that makes us feel guilty that we have to leave them behind when we head out the door and cannot take them along. But no matter how long we are gone, they are always there to greet us with their tails wagging excitedly when we return. I think they are a lot like God.

When you get a puppy, you can hardly wait to be with him. The minute you get home you want to take him for walks and show him off to your friends. You spend hours working with them and training them. Maybe some of you even sleep with your dog. But then, the novelty wears off and it gets easier and easier to leave your dog at home. After all, you have school, work, sports, friends and many other things that take priority. There's always someone else who can take care of the dog. But the dog will always be there to greet you when you get home, tail wagging and happy to see you.

I think the Teens Encounter Christ experience is like that dog to some. We feel just like we have gotten a new puppy when we encounter Christ in a whole new way on a weekend. We can't wait to get home and show and tell everyone about this new thing called God in our life. But then the novelty fades and it gets easier and easier to leave Him behind. We have priorities, like work, school, sports, and a whole bunch of other "stuff". God will be there to greet us when we come back to Him, right? Yes, but is being last on the list what He really wants from us?

Jesus commands us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength" and to "Love our neighbors as yourself". Can we do that if we put everything else ahead of practice? No, we need to go to where God's people are in need and serve as a witness for him.

How can we expect to keep our relationship with Jesus alive unless we encounter Him every day? If we put God first, everything else just falls into place. He is waiting for us with open arms, but we have to walk into them.

I encourage you to look at your lives and decide if you are able to give another weekend to God. Participate in the upcoming TEC weekend. It will change your life just like it has changed mine.

By the way, take your dog for a walk.
Happy Easter!
Jason

February TEC #100

April 18th—20th, 2008

Lord of Life

18500 County Rd. 101

Maple Grove, MN 55311

763-420-5015

www.lordoflife.org

Co-Directors:

Laura McCarty & Wynne Thompson

Team list pg 5

SPECIAL CELEBRATION see page 2

Welcome!

Weekenders of TEC 99

See page 4

Wanna win a hoodie? See page 5

A note from Gene...

I just spent three days in front of the TV watching the State High School Hockey Tournament. (I'm kind of a junkie when it comes to the finals.) I am amazed by the dedication and energy the fans have for their teams. Do you think they have that same kind of passion for their team the rest of the year? I know I don't.

I started wondering as I watched how many of these fans would have that same energy and enthusiasm if it were a gathering to praise God. I've been to those youth gatherings, and TEC weekends, where everyone is on fire for the Lord. It is an awesome sight. But then it ends and everyone goes home. What then? Did the excitement last? Did anything change in their life because of their experience?

Ask anyone who has ever been in any state tournament about the experience and they can replay everything in their mind even years later. Can you remember your TEC experience? What do you remember? Do you still have the passion you felt after the weekend?

This April we celebrate TEC #100. What a milestone. Many things have changed over the years. But one thing has remained the same; Jesus still is passionate about wanting to have a relationship with you. He is your #1 fan, always.

When did you last "experience Christ"? Or should I ask, "How did you experience Christ at work in your life today?" I hope you will take a few minutes to think about that question. If you cannot answer it, maybe it is time to open up and let Christ back into your life. **He's just a prayer away.**

Oh yeah, one last thought. There was only one team that won this years championship games. We, on the other hand, have all been made winners when the tomb was found empty. Let's celebrate Christ's victory for us, everyday.
Happy Easter

Gene Whitbeck

UPCOMING TEC WEEKEND

TEC #101

November 14-16, 2008

Minnetonka Lutheran

Celebrate TEC 100!

**Immediately following the closing service
(which starts at 5PM Sunday)**

All TECies are invited to attend a Special Celebration commemorating TEC 100. The celebration will include cake (Wow, food at a TEC event, go figure?) and a slide show featuring group photos from as far back as we can find. Come for the closing service and stay for the celebration. We hope to reunite as many of the now **3000 plus** members that form the MMLTEC community.



New Drama at TEC?

While usually we try to steer clear of "drama" at TEC and stay focused on the cross, in this case we thought adding a little

drama would be a powerful testimony to God's love and grace. Now we need your help! At TEC 99 in February, we showed the video version of a skit to the song "Everything" by Lifehouse (If you aren't familiar with this awesome dramatization, visit youtube.com and type in "lifehouse everything skit") ...but in April, at TEC 100, we will be debuting a LIVE version of this skit... and we need actors! I know all you boys out there will be sorely disappointed that we won't be hounding you to be "naked Jesus" in this skit (haha), but I promise it'll be worth it anyways. Anyone working on a non-conference room team can help out. This has the potential of becoming a tradition at every TEC starting in April, so there will be plenty of chances to get involved, but in the interest of being prepared, please let me (Kate Sutlief) know if you are interested and/or want more details!

Email: Sutlief@augzburg.edu or Phone: 612-325-1577

Spread the Word...

Hey TECies! Do you know of a church that doesn't know anything about TEC? Or does your youth director know nothing about TEC? How DO we get more people involved? TEC has put together a DVD presentation that tells all about what a TEC weekend is. If you know of someone interested in TEC and they want to know more, A TEC Council member will be available for questions and a presentation on TEC at your church. Just email or call her or any member of the council for more details.

TEC Team Selections

We are frequently asked, "How do you put the teams together?" So here is how we do the selections. When we receive an application, we mark it by the date we **receive it**. It is then entered on our computer with your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice selections. Remember, you cannot work in the conference room until you have worked a team outside of the conference room. We then pray about the team selection. The teams are then assembled and every attempt is made to give you either your 1st or 2nd choice. But as teams fill this is not always possible. We do not let you know in advance what team you will be serving on because we want you to keep your focus on serving God rather than who you will be with you on team.

Remember; if you plan to give a talk, include an outline with your application.

Gene & Laurie Whitbeck, team allocations.

What if They Gave a Party and No One Came...

For a majority of us, the Agape Dinner was the most memorable part of the TEC weekend. Sitting at the Lord's table, in his presence, the flowered cross in the middle and the heavenly voices serenading. This was followed by "Living Wheat." Remember the sanctuary filled with people and the ocean of candles? Those people were "TECies" that came to support you. Will you do the same to support the new weekenders?

*I prayerful ask that you attend the Agape serenade and Living Wheat for every TEC you can make it to. It is a brief sacrifice of time for you, **but a lifetime of memories for the weekenders.***

TEC 100 Agape

Plan to serenade at the Agape dinner and stay for the "living wheat" service. Please arrive by **6:00pm** to serenade.

Directions to Lord of Life, Maple Grove
18500 County Road 101, Maple Grove
494 to Bass Lake Rd. Go W 4.1 miles to Cty. Rd 101.
Church is straight ahead.



OFF TO COLLEGE? CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL?

Help keep us up to date. Just click the "contact us" link on the web page and send us your email or address change.



TEC FOR ADULTS/PARENTS? CURSILLO MAY BE JUST THAT!

If you are an adult or a parent of a TECie searching for a weekend to get away from it all and to have your "gas tank" filled with the Holy Spirit - a Via de Cristo weekend may be just the thing for you.

Minnesota Via de Cristo is similar to a TEC weekend in that it is a weekend retreat for encountering Christ and establishing or strengthening a personal relationship with Him. There are many opportunities to keep the Via de Cristo and TEC programs alive in you home congregations, but it takes all of us in prayer and action to make it happen.

Please consider attending a Via de Cristo, or **serve on a TEC weekend as an adult.**

Visit mviadecristo.org for details on VDC weekends in your area!

 Prior to all TEC weekends, the newsletter will be available on the web at www.mmltec.org

Welcome Weekenders of TEC 99

Feb 2008

Immanuel Lutheran, Eden Prairie

KATIE BECKER

RYAN BRATTENSBORG

JENNA BROWN

KARI FARNIOK

DAN FLYNN

MORGAN GRINNELL

BRADY GUST

TYLER HERZOG

BRANDON JOHNSTON

JAKE JOHNSTON

ALEX KALLEVIG

JOVANNA LAPLANT

ALICIA MCFARLAND

ETHAN NELSON

LINDSAY PIVEC

ARIEL REISCHL

AUSTIN REISCHL

LAURA VOLLMER

MATT VOLLMER

IAN WALLIN

TAILA WARD

MICHAEL WELF



TEC #100 TEAM LIST

Andrea, Jenessa	Kallevig, Alex	Schwedler, Kurt
Bachman, Marlys	Kallevig, Amy	Stadler, Steve
Bachman, Justin	Kellogg, Jeff	Stedman, Cahlor
Barriger, Aaron	Kemphorne, Jason	Sutlief, Kate
Belz, Jason	Kujawa, Kristin	Thompson, Grace
Belz, Sarah	Lund, Alyssa	Thompson, Wynne
Buegler, Todd	Maes, Brett	Thompson, Hunter
Damlo, Barbara	McCarty, Laura	Thompson, Nathan
Denison, Kayla	McCarty, Lisa	Ullman, Katie
Dietrich, Stacy	McDonald, Chuck	Verlautz, James
Drometer, Angel	Mundahl, Erin	Waitkus, Alicia
Dudero, Christy	Nelson, Ethan	Way, Sheldon
Engen, Jake	Nierengarten, Paula	Whitbeck, Laurie
Frogner, Don	Nierengarten, Stephen	Woll, Chris
Furst, Terri	Nilson, Jeremy	Xavier, John
Grinnell, Morgan	Pearson, Jillian	
Grist, Meredith	Pritchard, Dylan	
Halvarson, Gina	Rauzi, Melissa	
Headman, Jeff	Schmitt, Aubrey	
Henry, Katie		
Jorgensen, Peter		

To be placed in a drawing for a free TEC hoodie, send an email with "Hoodie" in the subject line to **mmltec@yahoo.com**.

Be sure to include name, address and email. GOOD LUCK!!