

MINNESOTA METRO LUTHERAN TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST



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...

Each year as we enter the season of Lent I am reminded of our own mortality and how fragile our lives are. As we hear the words reminding us that our bodies are dust and that one day they will return to dust we are confronted with our sin and the shortness of our days. We are reminded that on our own there is nothing we can do to change this. No matter what we do in this life on our own we can't change the fact that we are sinners and that one day our lives will expire. This would be a hopeless time of year if we didn't know Easter was coming. The good news of Easter and of the gospel is that on our own we can't but in Christ we can. In Christ we have forgiveness of sins. In Christ we have eternal life. In Christ we find true joy. In Christ we find our purpose. In Christ we find our hope. Christ is our everything, and He is present in everything. He is present in our churches, in our youth groups, in our schools, in our families. This time of year serves as a reminder that the focus of our lives is that in all things that we should proclaim the He is risen.

This Lent remember that on your own you are dust but in Christ you are made to shine like stars in a dark world.

Happy Easter!

Shine On,
Jason

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 any member of the council for more details.

TEC #109

Apr. 8-10 2011

Discover Church

(formerly Brooklyn Park Lutheran)

Brooklyn Park, MN

Co-Directors:

Kayla Wald & Jesse Dresselhaus

Team list page 5

Welcome!

Weekenders of TEC 108

See page 4

UPCOMING TEC WEEKENDS

TEC #110

Nov. 18-20 2011

Minnetonka Lutheran

TEC #111

Feb. 11-13 2012

Immanuel Lutheran Eden Prairie

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.

A note from Kate...



Recently I've spent a lot of time meditating on the different ways that God shapes us. I think all too often we want and even expect our growth in Him to be pain-free and full of joy; When troubles and hard times come, we immediately ask God to remove them rather than look to learn from them. As an avid artist (by hobby only, not by trade) I have always been struck by the imagery of God as the potter. In this passage, we are referred to as jars of clay: "The scriptures say, "God commanded light to shine in the dark." Now God is shining in our hearts to let you know that His glory is seen in Jesus Christ. We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us. We are often pressed, but never crushed; persecuted, but not abandoned. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again".--2 Corinthians 4:7-9

This passage is particularly powerful if you understand what it means for a potter to shape a jar on a wheel. First, in order to be successful, you must get the ball of clay in the right position on the wheel. This is referred to as centering; similarly, our lives must be centered on God for any of this work to effectively take place. After centering, a potter will open, throw, pull, trim, and turn the clay. None of those terms sound especially fun or pleasant when you remember that WE are the clay.

During the process of building up this jar from a ball, the potter must stick their hand inside the clay and apply great pressure from both sides to form the walls. Many times, part of the jar will become too thin and if it is not fixed, will eventually collapse on itself. Other times it may become lopsided, or maybe there is a pockmark or an air bubble discovered. Whatever the cause, when the potter finds that the jar is not perfect, they often break down the entire pot and start the building process all over. To the clay, I imagine, this feels completely devastating. To the potter, however, it is a done with sincere passion and love for their work; they refuse to allow that clay to become a jar that is not worthy of their signature.

Sometimes, when things aren't exactly perfect in our lives, God has to do a great deal of breaking down in the old jar in order to build it up without some of those imperfections. As the passage reads, "We are often pressed, but never crushed; persecuted, but not abandon." It's painful and it sucks, but in the end it is for your benefit. In the end, you get back up and God keeps you standing. In reflecting on all of this I can see that, yes, I am broken. We all are. But I can also see that God's vision for my life is something so much more beautiful and perfect than what it is now...and that's something worth being broken down for. So the next time you feel you are being pressed, pulled, turned, or trimmed, remember that you are a work in progress and the Potter is simply refusing to give up on this piece of clay.

-Kate



"Way of Christ"

TEC FOR ADULTS/PARENTS?

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.**

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?

We, the TEC Council, prayerfully 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 109 Agape

Plan to serenade at the Agape dinner and stay for the "living wheat" service.

Please arrive by 6:00pm to serenade.

Directions to Discover Church

1400 81st Ave. N. Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Hwy 694 to Hwy 252 N. Turn Right on 81st Ave N

(763) 561-5877 info@discoverchurchnetwork.org

From you TEC Council Youth Rep.....

I love TEC. I love my TEC friends and family, the tons of fun we have during TEC team meetings and on TEC weekends. And I love the relationships that are formed that create a large group of people whom I can lean on for support in times of need, or just a casual conversation on Facebook.

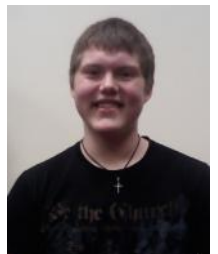
However, we need to recognize that it isn't just TEC that we love, but Jesus Christ our Savior. We need to recognize that the things that we do for one another and the relationships that we build aren't a result of our own doing, but a blessing. "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord" (2 Corinthians 10:17). Nothing we do is a result of our own power, but a gift given from God above.

We live in a broken world, but God gives us support in many fashions. Depending on our lives, that may come in the form of Teachers, Parents, Pastors, Coaches or friends. Being apart of the TEC community means that we can lean on a new group of people—full of people to teach us, give us advice, coach us along and to just plain have fun.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

As I sit here typing this up, I think of the past few weeks and how the TEC community has grown to support each other and do just as Paul says we should in his letter to the Galatians. Whether it's a text message asking for prayer, or a facebook wall post asking for song suggestions, we're all here for each other. As we go into TEC 109, it is my prayer that this support can grow even stronger among us all.

*In His Glory,
Jesse Dresselhaus*





Welcome Weekenders of TEC 108 February 2011

TAJ ARRADONDO	EVAN DAMMAR	GARRETT FREESE	ALEX KIMBALL	DONNY PEARSON JR.
ASHLEY BARTLETT	STEPHANIE DODD	SHELBY GOLDEN	MAUREEN LAX	MADDISON PIERSON
DEVIN BERG	MADALINE EICHERS	STEPHANIE GONZALES	BEN MAROSE	CARLY SCHIEFFER
AUSTIN CHASE	LOGAN FELBAB	ZACH HOWARD	T.J. MASON	EMMA SORENSEN
JADE CHENNAULT	OMAR FIGUEROA	ZACH JOHNSON	KELSEY MCCRACKEN	JOY STOECKMANN
ALYSSA COLLEY	JACOB FOOTE	LEAH KELLOGG	ZACH MEIERHOFER	BRIANNA YE

CoD Corner.....

Hey everyone, I hope your post-TEC wasn't completely terrible. And if it was, remember that we're all here for you and God is right beside you.

I'll be honest, coming into the weekend as a Co-D with JT, I didn't know what to expect. I was kind of nervous for the beginning because that's the kind of person I am. But once everyone got there and started talking and opening up, I relaxed. Watching you guys make the transformation from Friday to Sunday always makes me happy and I felt a special connection because I can call you "my" weekenders.

I couldn't have asked for a better weekend to be a Co-D, and I want to thank all of you for that. Each and every one of you made the weekend the wonderful experience that it was. If one of you hadn't been there, it would have been different. All of the love I felt made my heart happy and I hope I see you back at TEC!

-Avery

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.

TEC #109 TEAM LIST

Allen, Kaitlyn
Bechtold, Bailey
Brandon, Jon
Broberg, Megan
Cekalla, Alea
DeMars, Ryan
DeMars, Barb
Dresselhaus, Jesse
Fischer, Riley
Follestad, Andrew
Follestad, Dave
Follestad, Jennifer
Fosse, Taylor
Graika, Jennifer
Harris, Chelsey
Hilden, Ann
Hill, Anthony
Jorgensen, Peter
Kellogg, Leah
Kirch, Audra
Kragness, Riley
Kunde, Jordyn
Larson, Craig
Lavigne, Joey
Lehfelddt, Haley
Maes, Stuart
Maijala, Avery
McCarty, Lisa

Odell, Joshua
Peterson, Brianna
Rodriguez, Ruben
Rogers, Brenda
Rogers, John
Ryan, Kourtney
Smith, Alison
Snow, Haley
Spoden, Matt
Spoden, Kim
Spoden, Thomas
Stadler, Steve
Sullivan, Aimee
Sutlief, Kate
Thomas, Sam
Thompson, Derek
Tinnel, Elizabeth
Tschida, Debbie
Verlautz, James
Verlautz, Michelene
Wald, Kayla
Waldron, Jason
Waldron, Lindsey
Whitbeck, Gene
Whitbeck, Laurie
Winkels, Brandon
Woll, Chris
Woytcke, Alex

