

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...

Happy Easter! I hope that all of you have had a great summer and that you getting back into the routine of school and responsibilities that fall brings.

St. Francis of Assisi is often quoted as saying *“Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words.”*

This quote has been on my heart recently for own life as well as when I think of TEC and all the youth who have worked or experienced the love of Christ on a weekend.

For TEC this quote makes me think of the way that high school youth throughout the years have shared the gospel with each other, not by preaching it at people, but by sharing with each other the grace and love of Jesus. I can think of so many examples of how many of you have lived the gospel with one another.

As a whole TEC does a good job of preaching the gospel through action. The area that I pray that we all focus on as another year starts is doing this individually. I have found myself asking the question a lot recently “Is what I am doing right now sharing the gospel?” It is oftentimes a challenging question because when it comes up the answer is not usually what I want it to be. We live in a time when it is easier to not be a Christian, when the world is telling us to focus on ourselves rather than on others, where preaching the gospel can offend people. However this time of challenge offers us as Christians a unique opportunity to preach the gospel without words. Every time we think of others first, we are following Jesus commands and living the gospel. Every time we choose love instead of hate, we are living the gospel. When we choose reconciliation rather than revenge, when we choose forgiveness rather than retaliation we are living the gospel. It is important to recognize that we live in an era of unprecedented possibilities for communication. Keeping that in mind I encourage all of us to take this quote to heart in all areas of our lives. Whether it is face-to-face, on Facebook, tweeting or texting I hope that we all take this to heart. It is important to remember that we are representatives of the one true god, the crucified and living savior. We need to remember that God has called us out of this world to be something different and to point others to the truth of the gospel through the way we live our lives. As the Apostle Paul writes in Philippians “Do all things without grumbling or questioning,

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that. I did not run in vain or labor in vain. I encourage you to live your life in such way that you shine like stars in God’s eyes. Remember that your life is the most powerful tool you have to share with others the encounter you have had with the risen Christ. I encourage you to preach the Gospel, and if you have to use words.

Shine On,

Jason Waldron
MMLTEC Council President

TEC #107

Nov 19-21, 2010

Minnetonka Lutheran Church

Co-Director(s):

Dylan Pritchard and Jeff Lavigne

Team list pg 6

UPCOMING TEC WEEKENDS

TEC #108

Feb 2011

*St Stephen’s Lutheran
West St Paul*

TEC #109

Apr 2011

Brooklyn Park Lutheran

Welcome!

Weekenders of TEC 106

See page 5

A note from Gene...

“What’s the best roller coaster ride you have ever been on?”

That was a question posed to Laurie and I at a bible study group we are in. I didn't have to think about it too long to come up with my answer. It was The Screaming Eagle at Six Flags in St. Louis. It is the old wooden type roller coaster. You know, the kind where you can feel every bump and turn right down to the base of your spine.

We were returning from a mission trip with our church youth and stopped at Six Flags for a day of R and R. All the kids went running for the Batman coaster and the Corkscrew type coasters. They are fun, but ultra smooth compared to the Screaming Eagle. I convinced many of the group to ride the Screaming Eagle with us and after we got off the ride they accused me of trying to kill them.

Roller coasters are a great analogy to life, and our faith. You start out climbing up and the anticipation of what’s to come excites us. Then we reach a peak and the view is great. But then we start the free fall. It is scary and exciting at the same time. Then you bottom out and go into a sharp turn from where you thought you were heading. You start to doubt if this was a good idea. The ride continues with its ups, downs, twists and turns until you come to the end of the line.

Some of us love to throw our hands in the air and enjoy the ride while others tend to hold on for dear life and pray they will be in one piece at the end of the ride. Life would be pretty boring if we only rode the merry-go-round. God never promised us that there wouldn't be any bumps in the road we travel. But He did promise us that we would never be alone. John 14: 16-17 says “I will ask the Father and he will give you a Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him, because he remains with you and is in you.”

I don't know where you are right now in your life or faith. You may be on your way up or at that high peak. Maybe you are on the way down or you just hit bottom. But remember, the ride continues. No matter what twist, turns, dives or highs life has in store for us we can handle it if we ask God to be with us. With God at our side we know what's waiting for us at the end.

Enjoy the ride!!!!

Happy Easter!

Gene



“Way of Christ”

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 mnviadecristo.org for details on VDC weekends in your area!

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, 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 107 Agape
Saturday, November 20th**

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

**Directions to Minnetonka Lutheran
16023 Minnetonka Blvd Minnetonka, MN 55345
1 mile west of 494 on Minnetonka Blvd**

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.



Greetings from the youth council representatives!

Miss Abby and I (Sammi) recently started college in the fall. It's been a hard transition but neither of us is too far away from home, which is to our liking. Abby is at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN and I am at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Fortunately, we are both able to stay on the TEC Council. It's a good break from school to come back home for one night a month and partake in the glory that is the TEC Council meetings. We both love college life and we thank God for all the experiences we are having!

God bless,

Sammi Smith and Abby Schnorr



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.



Co-D Corner - *A message from a TEC 106 Co-D*

Hey Tecies! Since April, my life has changed dramatically. I graduated from high school, had an awesome summer, and moved away to start college. The past five months have been more exciting, overwhelming, and exhilarating than I ever expected them to be. As the fall starts, I'm sure your lives are jam-packed with activities as well, and TEC #106 seems like ages ago. I hope that in the midst your hectic schedules you can make time each day to remember your priorities, to stop and spend time with the one unchanging thing in your life!

I've always been an extrovert - I get my energy from being around people and my social life takes control of my time, but currently, living on campus gives me little time to be alone, and it's exhausting! Recently my favorite verse has been Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God." Take some time out of your daily schedules to be still with God. Talk, pray, and listen. Personally, I try to spend my 20 minutes in between classes in our daily chapel. It refreshes me so that I can keep serving God throughout my day. Take whatever time you need, whether it is 5 minutes or 5 hours, to be still. Among your crazy daily business, God is waiting for you with open arms!

Happy Easter!
Kyla Rathjen

Spread the Word...

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.

Welcome Weekenders of TEC 106

April 2010

Lord of Life, Maple Grove, MN

JOE ALTHOFF
EVA BAKER
MEGAN BROBERG
RILEY CHRISTENSEN
ZACK CORDES
CAITLIN DOERRMANN
JESSE DRESSELHAUS
DARESE EVANS
RILEY FISCHER
COURTNEY FUCHS
KATHRYN GERBER
EMILY HALVARSON
LAURA HOLTE
BRADY JOHNSON
KYLE JOHNSON
MORGAN JOSSART
SARAH LACROIX
TYLOR LENZ
WILLIAM NEUENFELDT
BETHANY PRAUGHT
BRITTANY SCHROEDER
GARRETT THORSON
LIZZIE JO TINNEL
ALEXANDRA URSHAN
JORDAN VANSELOW
PAYTON WILKENFELD
BRANDON WINKELS



TEC #107 TEAM LIST

Allen, Kaitlyn
Althoff, Joe
Billison, Katlin
Broberg, Megan
Christensen, Riley
Clark, Paul
Cordes, Zack
DeMars, Barb
DeMars, Ryan
Doerrmann, Caitlin
Dresselhaus, Jesse
Drometer, Angel
Evans, Darese
Fischer, Riley
Follestad, Andrew
Foss, Nicholas
Furst, Terri
Furst, Mike
Irwin, Megan
Jorgensen, Peter
Kinney, Chris
Kunde, Jordyn
Lavigne, Jeff
Lenz, Tylor
Maijala, Avery

Markovich, Kaia
McCarty, Lisa
Mcdermott-Baty, Jody
Nelson, Bruce
Nierengarten, Paula
Nierengarten, Stephen
Odell, Joshua
Peterson, Brianna
Pritchard, Dylan
Rennan, Steve
Riewestahl, Luke
Rylander, Justeen
Schlingmann, Kristine
Seely, Ashlynn
Spoden, Matt
Spoden, Kim
Spoden, Thomas
Stadler, Steve
Thompson, Derek
Tinnel, Lizzie Jo
Verlautz, James
Waldron, Jason
Winkels, Brandon
Woll, Chris

