



*"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*

Minnesota  
Metro Lutheran  
Teens  
Encounter  
Christ

**"Amazing weekend", "I've never felt God's love like that before", "It was so great to see so many other teens openly express their love for God", "Great music", "Awesome food"** What teens have said about their Teens Encounter Christ weekends.

Dear Sr. High Ministry Coordinators

I know you receive numerous mailings and post cards each week. Most are thrown into the recycling, but please read on to learn more about Teens Encounter Christ. Minnesota Metro Lutheran Teens Encounter Christ has served for 25 years as a Metro wide ministry, yet many know little or nothing of it. Our mission, as MMLTEC council, is to reach out to all youth leaders and pastors and make you aware of this ministry for Sr. High Students.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a three-day, peer led, retreat aimed at bringing youth together to explore their faith, experience God's Love and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. TEC weekends follow the Lenten calendar beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday. There are nine talks given on the weekend, seven by youth team members and two by clergy serving on the weekend. Throughout the weekend a music team leads in upbeat worship and camp style music.

The weekend begins on Friday afternoon as the youth arrive and spend time getting to know each other. The youth are divided into small discussion tables with a youth and adult leader. Friday is our "Die Day". The evening moves through the Lenten season and the talks are introspective as we are called to self-examination. Each talk is followed by time for table discussion of the topic. The focus of the talks is Christ's sacrifice and how we live our lives in light of that sacrifice. We begin with Ash Wednesday worship with imposition of ashes. Progress through living "Stations of the Cross" and end the day at the foot of the cross.

Saturday is our "Rise Day". We wake to an Easter Vigil and then it is Easter. The mood changes as we celebrate the empty tomb in worship. We are now "Easter People". What does it mean for our lives to be forgiven, have new life and live in God's grace? These are the topics of the day. We begin by talking about the Bible and the lessons and comfort that can be found there. Then we examine the importance of belonging to a community of faith, our churches. The last talk of the day is on how we communicate with each other and especially with God. Saturday afternoon is "break time". The youth go to a local community center for swimming and showers. They have an "Agape Meal" when they return. They are serenaded and served by past TEC individuals and Via de Christo adults. The rest of the evening is free time to hang out with new friends and talk, sing songs or spend time in prayer in the Wheat Chapel.

Sunday is "Go Forth Day". To focus on how we can take what we have learned over the weekend and incorporate it in our homes, churches and school. How can we live each day as "Easter People"?

There are teams of youth, with adult leaders, who work behind the scenes to take care of all the weekender's needs. A Kitchen Team that cooks meals and maintains a steady supply of snacks. A Support Team that sets-up, cleans and sees to material needs. A Wheat Team that prays for, and with, the weekenders and team members throughout the weekend. Our Pastors are always available to talk individually with the youth as well as leading worship.

If you have gotten this far and Teens Encounter Christ seems like it would be a good addition to your Sr. High Ministry, I would like to invite you, to come and check it out further. [Our next TEC weekend is April 17-19, 2009 at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 3920 No. Victoria, Shoreview, MN 55126.](#) Our door is always open to you.

Additional information may be found at our website at [www.MMLTEC.org](http://www.MMLTEC.org) or feel free to contact any of our supporting pastors and youth staff listed below.

God Bless your Ministries,

Jason Kempthorne  
T.E.C. Council President  
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
Minnetonka Lutheran Church



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**For additional information please contact one of our supporting pastors or youth staff:**

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**Upcoming Teens Encounter Christ Weekends**

**April TEC #103**  
April 17th - 19th, 2009  
Shepherd of the Hills  
Shoreview, MN 55126

**November TEC #104**  
November 13 - 15, 2009  
Minnetonka Lutheran Church  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**February TEC #105**  
February, 2010 date unconfirmed  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

**We would like for you to come check out one of the TEC weekends. Here is a sample schedule so you can plan a time to stop by.**

**Die Day- Friday**

4:00	Youth Arrive / Ice Breaker Games
5:00	Dinner
6:45	Sing
7:00	<a href="#">Who Am I?</a>
7:15	Group Discussion, Posters, skits, etc.
7:45	Presentations
8:15	<a href="#">Easter Mystery</a>
8:45	Discussion, Posters, etc.
9:15	Presentations
9:45	<a href="#">Metanoia</a>
10:15	Discussion
10:45	Presentations
11:00	Ash Wednesday Service
11:30	Watch "Reason To Live" Video
11:45	Stations of the Cross
12:00	Burning of fins
12:30	Lights out

**Rise Day - Saturday**

7:00	<a href="#">Easter Vigil</a>
7:30	Easter Celebration
9:00	Eat Breakfast
9:45	Sing
10:00	<a href="#">Sacred Scriptures</a>
10:15	Discussions etc
10:30	Presentations
11:15	Sing
11:30	<a href="#">God is Love</a>
11:45	Discussion and make posters
12:00	Presentations
12:15	Practice song for lunch
12:30	Sing for lunch/eat lunch
1:15	<a href="#">Christians in the Community</a>
2:00	Presentations
2:30	Leave for swimming break
4:45	Arrive back to church
5:15	<a href="#">COMMUNICATION</a>
5:30	Discussion and make posters

6:00	Presentations
6:30	Agape Dinner
8:00	Free Time or Talent Show
10:30	Close of the Day Worship
11:30	Bed Time for everyone

**Go Forth Day- Sunday**

8:30	Breakfast
9:30	<a href="#">Christians Called to Action</a>
9:45	Discussion and make posters
10:15	Presentations
11:00	explain chapel visits Write letters to self
12:45	Lunch
1:45	<a href="#">Giving Tree</a>
3:00	Sing
3:15	<a href="#">Beyond TEC</a>
3:30	Table affirmation
4:00	Slide show
5:00	Large group sharing
6:00	Closing Worship Service