

LISTEN



Find a radio.

This step may take significant time if your listening habits depend on iPods, mp3 players, and online sources. If you are not familiar with radios, most cars have one as do many alarm clocks. Got one? Nope, that's an 8-track player – sell that on eBay. Now do you have it? Don't read on until you do.

Tune it to 99.9 FM. What do you hear? Is it an actual station playing music or is it just static?

Where I live it is an actual station playing Christian music. Now, picture I am listening to this station in my car near my home in Minnesota. The urge hits me to see a friend in North Dakota, so I hit the road. After about an hour of driving towards Fargo, my solid music from a Biblical worldview will turn into that ever attractive hum of static.

Like a radio, when it comes to God's Word, it is a matter of tuning in.

Josiah got one of the biggest gifts an eight year-old has ever received – he was made king. Not king for a day. No, he didn't win a radio contest. Josiah was actually made King of Judah.

Plus this kid did not take God's Word lightly. In Second Chronicles 34, Josiah sought the Lord as a teenager (v. 3). By the time he was about twenty, he was cleaning house – removing idols in the land, and later, King Jo sent people to reset the house of God (v. 8).

While the workers were doing their duties, they found the book of the law and brought it to the king (v. 14-18). When Josiah heard it, he tore his clothes (v. 19) – he was tuned in to see it was time to repent. Later, the king read the book of the law for everyone to hear it (v. 30).

The One true Living God has spoke to us in His Word. Like a radio station broadcasting its frequency, the Lord has announced the truth about our sin and His grace through faith in Jesus. But also like a radio station, we can ignore it. It can simply be background noise. Are you listening? Are you tuning in to truth?

Pastor Jason Holt, Director of Youth Ministries

FLY is Sweet, but...



So, by now I'm sure you've heard of FLY Camp. And, many of you may likely be planning and fundraising to go already. If you're like any of the nut jobs in my church, you've already packed your bag with T-shirts, swimming gear, electronic devices you're not supposed to bring, and suntan lotion...oh yeah, and your Bible, too. As excited as I am for FLY 2009, I can't stop thinking about the week my family and I spent with the AFLC Youth at FLY Boot Camp 2008. I only have one word for it: "Stinkin' AWE-SOME!" You guys, we all got so challenged this year. I mean we prayed for God to come, for His Spirit to be there and He was. He also gave us a message that this whole "Church" thing ain't just about us. We absolutely have to be sharing what we already know with everyone we meet. As one of the speakers, Mark Cahill, puts it, there will be many things we will see and do in Heaven, but we will never see another lost soul. We will not have another opportunity to share our faith with an unbeliever. You guys, I saw youth at this week of FLY Boot Camp share with strangers in a way that should not be possible. We can do this. If we do not, this whole Youth Group thing will be a joke. It'll be a little club for cute little Christians to hide and hide their Savior. I don't know about you, but I feel I've hidden Jesus from the unsaved for far too long. In SPY (St. Paul's Youth), that's gonna change. Will you join us?

Jason Peterson, Youth Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran, Cloquet, MN

FLY Boot Camp Testimonies

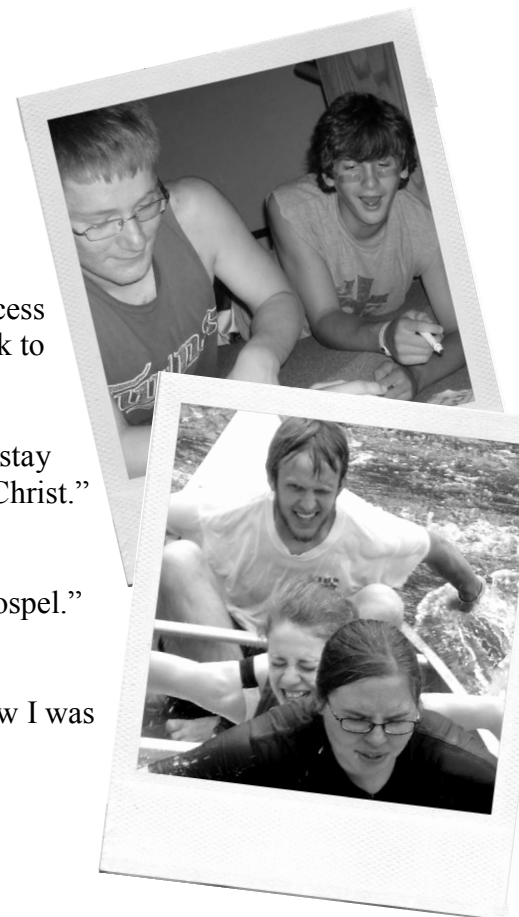
"God spoke to me in many ways, but the message remained the same, the urgency of going out and spreading the message." – JoAnna Rumohr, Hope Free Ev. Lutheran, Ishpeming, MI

"This year at FLY Boot Camp I learned to stand up boldly for my faith. Something else I learned was success is not bringing someone to Christ. Success is opening your mouth to share God's Word. I'm definitely bringing that back to my home town." – Tabitha Beard, Faith Lutheran, El Campo, TX

"If I want my youth group to grow, if I want my church to grow even if they stay the same, and I want to reach my community for Christ I need a passion for Christ." – Steph Kantonen, St. Paul's Lutheran, Cloquet, MN

"What I got out of this week at FLY [Boot Camp] was to go and share the Gospel." – Sean Buchfink, Maranatha Free Lutheran, Glyndon, MN

"I feel that during the concert of PRAYER, God really spoke out to us. I know I was really inspired and I loved that time with God." – Katie Strand, Emmanuel Lutheran, Kenyon, MN



Testimonies continued

“These things stick out to me: Sharing faith is not: How can I share my faith? It is: How can I not share my faith” – Noah Nash, St. Paul's Free Lutheran, Fargo, ND

“I was almost surprised when two teenage boys responded to our questions, welcomed the Bible verses, and accepted Jesus as Savior. Their receptivity shocked me, until I realized that God must have been preparing their hearts beforehand. I simply made myself available and God worked through my fumbling words to bring two souls into His kingdom.” – Kaila Paige, Faith Lutheran, Shakopee, MN

“I don't want my life to go back to the same when I get home and I'm asking for your prayers to help me live out God's Word.” – Rachel Tanner, Living Word Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD.



“During Thursday evening session God challenged me to go home and share Christ with a variety of my family members and students I have never had a conversation with. He has made it very clear to me that their rejection of me is far better than them never hearing of God's love for them.” – Holly Quittem, Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD

“I have realized that everywhere is a mission field. I plan on witnessing to everyone God calls me to.” – Daniel Prachar, Christian Free Lutheran, Wheatland, IA

“The lesson that they and I experienced was the urgency of reaching out to men and women of this world who have not

claimed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior... A wise lesson I took from Mark Cahill I share with you now, those who want to win the world for Christ, must have the courage to come into conflict with it.” – Hans Tanner, Abiding Savior Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD

For more Boot Camp testimonies visit youth.aflc.org

CONNECT

see you at the pole™

9.24.08

“Speak, for your servant is listening!”

1 Samuel 3:10

Student Missions Testimonies



Pictured above: Matt Jordan, Lydia Berger, Evan Prachar, Sam Menge and Josiah Nelson.

“The student missions trip this past July and August was no doubt the best way I could have spent my summer. I grew up in Campo Morao as a missionary kid, but I have been living in the U.S. for the past six years or so. I have known Paul and Becky since I was about three. I had a great time seeing them, my friends, and the places where I grew up. The first thing I noticed when I arrived in Bateias was how warm the people were. After church services, almost everybody would shake our hands, give us hugs, and thank us for coming. The people would invite us over for food and be generous with whatever they had.

There were many things that I didn't remember since living there. Because I am older now, I was able to see more of the struggles the church in Brazil has. Brazil has an enormous number of Roman Catholics (though most are non-practicing). When someone leaves that church, that person is shunned by the whole family in most cases. There is often a fear of becoming a Christian. Not only for the loss of place in the family, but in truly repenting from their worldly ways. Pastor Paul told us that it takes 16 years to really establish a church in order to maintain a stable congregation.

The whole trip really opened my eyes more to see how much of a need there is for missionaries. There are only two of our missionary families in Brazil now, and few other [AFLC] missionaries in other parts of the world. I would strongly recommend any Christian, who is serious about God, go on a missions trip and see how God might open your eyes to missions.”

- Josiah Nelson, Ebenezer Free Lutheran, Humboldt, TN

“The mission trip to Brazil was a great opportunity for me. It was a time of spiritual maturation, social maturation, fellowship, and learning of all sorts. It was great to see how God works in people five thousand miles away, who don't even speak the same language as me. Believers truly do have an immediate relationship, and it is obviously not bound by language.

It was also awesome to simply be in the Word constantly (you can do that anywhere, I guess) and being at five services every week. That deepened the relationship I have with Christ. Being in a fresh environment took it to a different level, because it was WAY away from the daily routine. That seems to

make it easier to really get focused. Seeing the culture and being so far from home helped me to grow up a little bit, too, which is always helpful. Getting to know the team, the Abels, and all of the Brazilian folks was also a great experience.

I could ramble all day about every detail about this mission trip, but the truth is that you can't really know where I'm coming from until you experience it for yourself. So, I strongly encourage everyone, regardless of future plans for missions, to go on one of these trips to really get the full effect and see just how awesome it is. Praise God!”

- Evan Prachar, Christian Free Lutheran, Wheatland, IA

“Prior to going on this missions trip, I had become lazy in living out the Great Commission found in Acts. I read my Bible every day, but never really talked to my friends about the Lord or seemed to care much about others' eternal destiny.

While in Brazil, I experienced being able to communicate with people who did not even speak the same language as me! I met two sisters, ages 19 and 16, who desire to be missionaries and really cared about the people around them. In getting to know these girls, I learned that the love of Christ can be expressed without words. I also was impressed with my own failure in sharing Christ's love with people around me with whom I have no language barrier. I don't know how much my presence in Brazil helped the mission work there, but it had a lasting impact on my life! I loved my time spent in Brazil and would challenge everyone to consider a short term missions experience. Go! Let God teach you something new!”



- Lydia Berger, Zion Free Lutheran, Wadena, MN

aflbs

oct 17-19, 2008

special speaker pastor eric westlake

www.aflbs.org

CAMPUS DAYS

The Buzz

The buzz is around already, “Are you going to Colorado next summer? To FLY?” It’s a good buzz and I want to encourage you to come! Come and enjoy the fellowship of a trip and gathering with other youth! Come and enjoy the glory of God’s Creation! But most of all... Come and learn of Jesus Christ! Come and learn to study God’s Word! Come and learn (from that Word) how to live, how to be **FIRMLY PLANTED** in Christ! Take a moment today to read Psalm 1, maybe even read it twice. Let God through His Word touch your very soul. See you at FLY 2009!

Keep plugging away for and with Jesus!
Pastor Todd Erickson
FLY Devotional Life Secretary

The TIME:
July 6-11, 2009

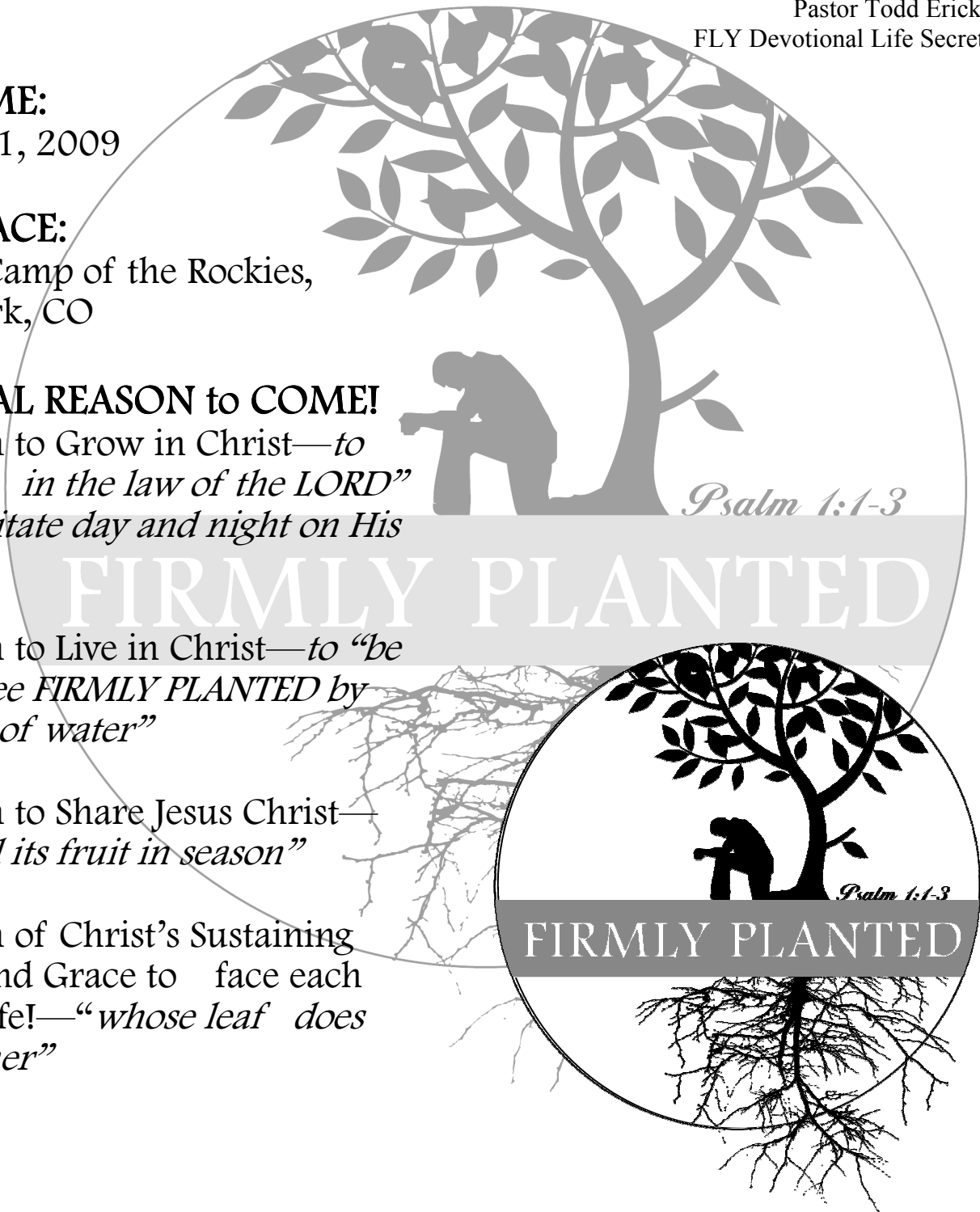
The PLACE:
YMCA Camp of the Rockies,
Estes Park, CO

The REAL REASON to COME!
To Learn to Grow in Christ—to
“delight in the law of the LORD”
to *“meditate day and night on His Law”*

To Learn to Live in Christ—to *“be like a tree FIRMLY PLANTED by streams of water”*

To Learn to Share Jesus Christ—
“to yield its fruit in season”

To Learn of Christ’s Sustaining Power and Grace to face each day of life!—*“whose leaf does not wither”*



Free Lutheran Youth Convention

NEW

FLY Web Site
youth.aflc.org/fly

What you will find on the FLY Web Site: On Our Home Page

Theme and Theme Verse, Cost, Registration Info, Downloadable Brochures and Forms, Polls, Committee Info, Staffing, Contact Information and More!

Speakers and Special Guests Info

See pictures and read the Bios of FLY 2009 Speakers and Special Guests.

Dress Code

The FLY 2009 Dress Code that you can print and hand-out to your students.

America's Best Youth Group Video

Read requirements and rules online.

*FLY Promo Mailer coming to your church!
Ask your youth leader ALL about it.
What's in it: A t-shirt, FLY 2009
promo DVD, a sweet poster, one-of-a-kind
lanyard and more.*

F.Y.I.

FLY PRESENTS AMERICA'S BEST YOUTH GROUP VIDEO

Think you have what it takes to make it to the top? FLY presents America's Best Youth Group Video. Compete against other youth groups in the AFLC to make America's Best Youth Group Video. The top three videos will be shown at FLY and you will get the chance to vote for the #1 Youth Group Video in America. Prizes will be awarded to the Top Three Videos. Go online to youth.aflc.org/fly and download the official contest rules and form today.



The Connection

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The Connection is published twice a year to encourage and engage youth and youth groups of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The AFLC is a growing fellowship of 270 churches whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus. AFLC Youth Ministries exists for three goals: to win; to build, and to equip youth for Jesus Christ. We are here to assist in making disciples!

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FLY Brochure Inside!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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September 24, 2008	See You At The Pole www.syatp.com
October 17-19, 2008	AFLBS Fall Campus Days Plymouth, MN www.aflbs.org
February 6-8, 2009	SideXSide ARC, Osceola, WI www.arc-aflc.com
February 6-8, 2009	Sno Daze ARC, Osceola, WI www.arc-aflc.com
February 2009	30 Hour Famine www.30hourfamine.org
July 6-11, 2009	FLY "Firmly Planted" YMCA Estes Park, CO

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