

The Connection

Fall 2009

AFLC Youth Newsletter



**MURDER
MURDER
GREED
ADULTERY
STEALING
GAMBLING
PRIDE**

YIELD

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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 in Jesus Christ. We are here to assist in making disciples!

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YIELD

Fall 2009

Dear Reader,

“WELCOME BACK!”

Have you heard this comment recently? Maybe at school from a teacher. Or did you hear it from a boss at work after Labor Day?

Summer is officially a memory. I know it’s hard to let it go, but it is gone. It was a great one!

For those of you at FLY in Colorado, we’ve got a solid interview with Eric Ludy -- some serious spiritual munchies to digest.

For those of you that missed our national youth gathering, our TOP 11 sets you up with some FLY highlights.

“See You At The Pole” is this month. Did you “go and pray” at your school on September 23?

Our issue’s theme this month is YIELD. Many traffic signs could tie in to pictures from Scripture, but this one grabs our attention in a big way. We cannot afford to give in to the world and we cannot afford to not give in to our Savior.

It’s a path of faith. It’s running after His Kingdom and His righteousness. If you got off the road this summer, it’s time to come back. Or should I say as a fellow follower of Christ, “Welcome Back!”

Pastor Jason Holt
Director of Youth Ministries



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11 ELECTRIC FLY HIGHLIGHTS (A TOP 10 LIST CRANKED TO 11!)

**#11. OPEN MIC QUESTIONS WITH PASTOR BROCK -
"SERIOUSLY?!? I CAN ASK ANY BIBLE QUESTION?"**

**#10. MOUNTAIN CLIMBING - "EMERALD PEAK AND
BIBLE POINT ROCK! WE DON'T NEED NO STINKING EAGLE CLIFF?!?"**

**#9. HALF OF HALF OF A LIFETIME AGO - PASTOR WADE, HALF OF 18
IS 9, RIGHT?!? BTW, NICE 1991 SHORTS.**

**#8. MORNING BIBLE STUDIES IN COLOSSIANS - GO, PASTOR TODD! GO, PASTOR
JIM! GO, FIMBO STICK!**

**#7. ELECTIVES, ELECTIVES, ELECTIVES -
THE EVANGELISM LINEBACKER CLASS WAS REALLY HARD HITTING.**

**#6. ERIC & LESLIE LUDY - THE LORD OF THE RINGS MEETS JANE
AUSTEN. THE ENDLESS FRONTIER OF FOLLOWING THE LORD!**

**#5. FIVE ON FLY - THE #5 HIGHLIGHT IS FOR THE FIVE FANTASTIC
"FIVE ON FLY" VIDEOS WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS YELLOW JACKET.**

#4. "O LUTEFISK" - IS PASTOR LEE SINGING HIS AWARD-WINNING VERSE ON YOUTUBE YET?

**#3. 33 MILES - THE GATHERING ON FRIDAY NIGHT CELEBRATED WHAT THE LORD
DID THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.**

**#2. NICK VILJICIC FROM LIFE WITHOUT LIMBS -
STOP TELLING GOD TO CHANGE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND STARTING ASKING
HIM TO CHANGE YOUR HEART ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**

#1. JESUS - IN HIM, WE ARE "FIRMLY PLANTED" BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

INTERVIEW WITH ERIC LUDY



Eric and Leslie Ludy pictured above spoke Tuesday night July 7, 2009 at the Free Lutheran Youth Convention in Estes Park, CO.

TC (THE CONNECTION): We appreciated your ministry at FLY and are intrigued by your description of Christianity as “totally uncool”. Another quote that stuck with those in attendance was “people hate me and I love it”. How would you describe these realities?

EL (ERIC LUDY): Well, contrary to how such statements might sound, I’m made of the same man-fearing clay as everyone else. However, the amazing work of the Gospel within my life has freed me, in an amazing way, from living beneath the thumb of public opinion polls. The Life of Christ has always been despised by this world, and that hasn’t changed just because we have reached the twenty-first century. And when that “Life” invades our being and expresses itself through our actions, words, and lives, we find that this world is set to react towards us in the very same manner they reacted toward Jesus when He walked this earth. And I believe that Scripture indicates that we are not to bemoan this fact, but get excited about it – for we have the privilege of identifying with the King of Kings in His sufferings.

TC: What should we expect then as the world’s reaction to authentic Biblical Christianity?

EL: We should expect a sharp reaction. To those that are spiritually hungry, we will be a fragrance of life, but to those that are entrenched in their sins and rebellion

against God, we will be considered a threat and a danger. Marginal Christian commitment doesn’t illicit this strong reaction, and that is one reason why most of us have a difficult time comprehending this – but the life on fire for Jesus Christ functions as a rebuke to this sinful world standing in defiance against the God who has given up His Life to save them.

TC: What does the healthy Christian life look like in following Jesus?

EL: It’s a life fully given. Not partially adhered and not somewhat surrendered – but wholly and completely given up into the purposes and plans of our precious Jesus. It’s a life that doesn’t have it’s own agenda – it’s sole purpose is to carry out the errands of God, to speak the words of God, to serve those that God is serving, to heal those God is healing, to comfort those God is comforting, and to rebuke those God is rebuking. It’s a life that is supernatural in its nature – marked by the very real presence of God, graced with sacrificial love, exceeding joy, and a peace that passes understanding. The healthy Christian life is truly victorious within – a soul set free from all that would hold it down and quash its pursuit of more and more of Christ.

TC We were reading in your Blog about “The School of the Prophet”. What is that?

EL God, with a wink and smile, has taken me by the hand and been leading me through this school. I can’t say that it’s always been lollipops and clambakes, but the results of it within my soul have been absolutely beautiful. The School of the Prophet is that necessary school that the Spirit of God must take all His men and women through if they are to become truly useful to His Kingdom purposes. It peels away that craving for worldly comforts, that need for earthly applause, that appetite for popularity and control, and it replaces all these things with a new attitude, a new mind-set, and a new heart. The School of the Prophet prepares a believer to die for Christ, to follow Him all the way to the end. It prepares him/her to stand unyielding in the face of opposition, to walk strongly against the grain of society. If anyone is interested, this school always has room

for enrollment. The tuition is free, but the cost is your entire life given over.

TC This issue is entitled “Yield”. Where does the action of yielding to the Lord come in to the picture?

EL Yielding is everything in the Christian walk. If someone were to ask me what a Christian’s job description would be, I could answer as simply as, “Yield.” Yielding to the Spirit of God is the most rudimentary act of Christian discipleship. It’s where the Christian life begins and, sixty years later, it’s still the most important thing an elder Christian does day in and day out. Yielding is what allows God to access what is rightfully His. Yielding is what gives God room to move within the life. Yielding is obedience. Jesus Christ bought you with His blood, and yielding to His control is our way of, first, giving Him His due, and secondly, of showcasing our love and thankfulness for His amazing Grace.

FLY TESTIMONIES

“This past July I attended the Free Lutheran Youth Convention in Estes Park Colorado. There, I heard lots of speakers, all encouraging and challenging me to grow in my faith and make it the reason behind everything that I do. The speakers that impacted me the most were Eric and Leslie Ludy. They talked about not pitching your tent in your Christian walk, meaning not settling for doing everything that others expect of you, or everything that makes you look like a “good Christian” on the outside. They helped open my eyes to the many people in my life I haven’t shared Christ with, and sparked a passion in my heart for the many souls around the world who haven’t heard the good news that Jesus died for them because of his amazing grace, unfailing love, and perfect justice.”

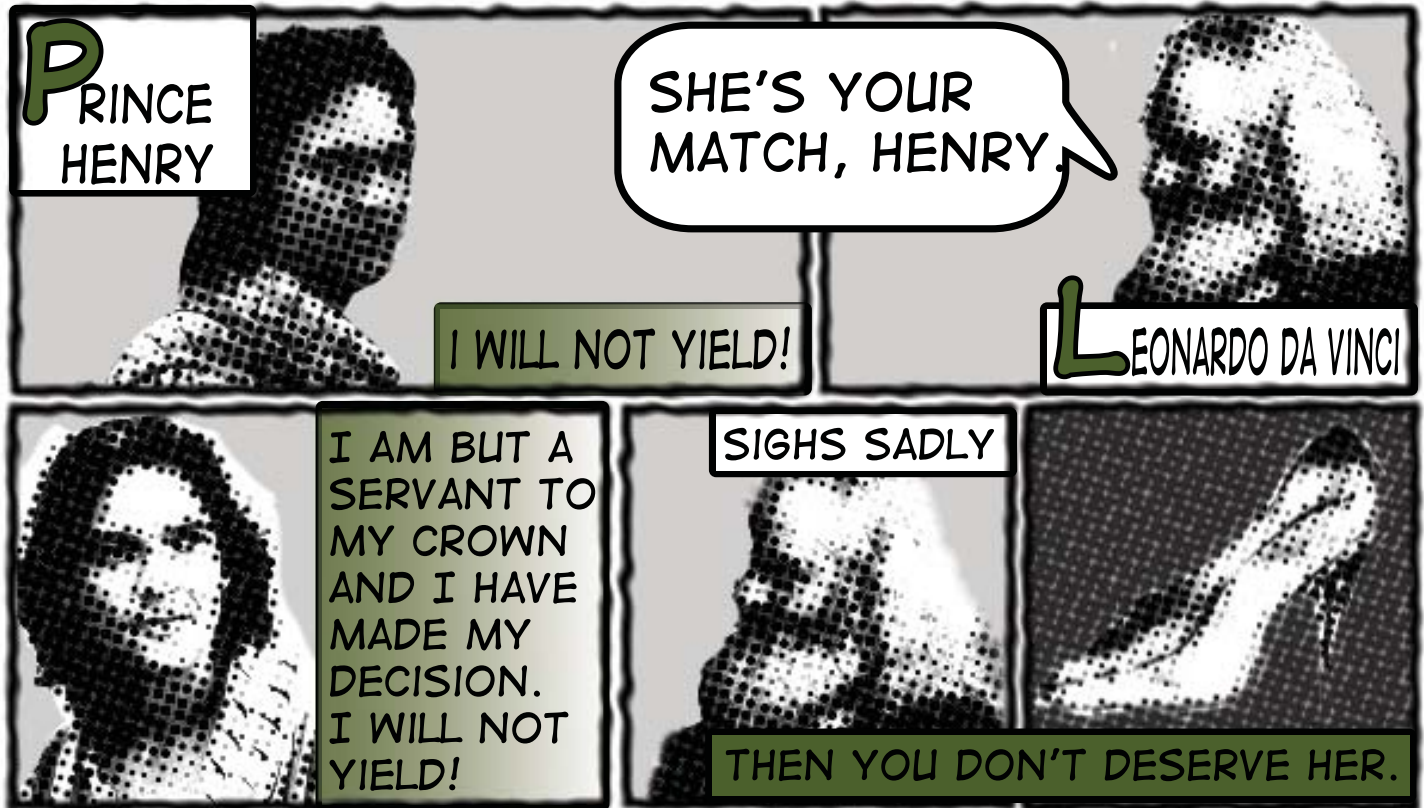
Mary Snipstead, Faith Free Lutheran Church, Kalispell, MT

“This was my first time at FLY. My reaction “the most amazing week”. The teaching was spectacular. Being with my group of friends, I’ve got to know and seeing their excitement for God. FLY has given me a stability to face the world and brought me to a closer relationship with the Father.”

Terry Ann Flechsig, Ortley Free Lutheran Church, Ortley, SD

YIELD

BY PASTOR JASON HOLT
AFLC DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES



Out of the 17,000 Cinderella versions, the spunky 1998 Ever After is toward the top of my list. In the dialogue above, the “prince” is frustrated with our “Cinderella” named Danielle. His pride is holding him back. The wise master artist tries to clear up the picture for Prince Henry, but the young crowned one thought he knew better.

How many times has that been you and me? My pride shows up in my attitudes and actions all the time. From conversations with family and friends to even how I approach God, I think I have it figured out only to turn the corner and find my plans are falling apart.

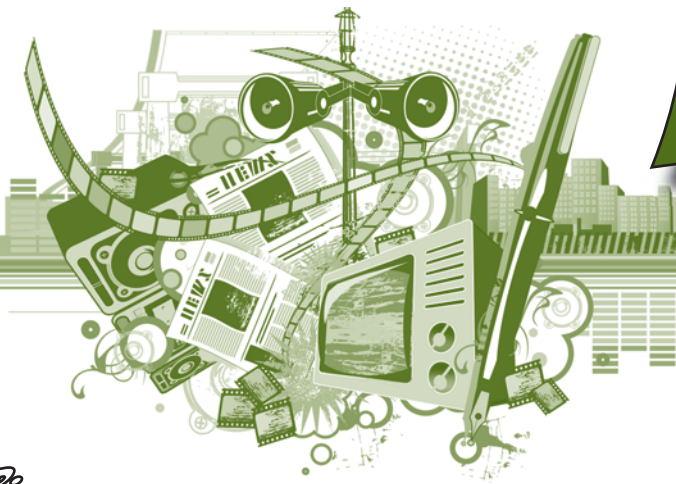
Instead, God invites us to yield to Him. Yield is a strange word. In the Bible, it has two major uses. The first main use is for producing something. You know – yield fruit from the vine. We definitely want to be growing in the good stuff that the Lord is bringing about in our lives. But the second use is the one that I am thinking about here.

The other main use for yield is for submitting. You know – give in on something. When you are in driver’s training, you learn what that weird red triangle sign means. It means if no one is there, you can keep going. If another vehicle is on the road you want to merge into, then you have to give in. You are the one to stop. You have to wait for the other car.

In our spiritual lives, our old sinful ways desire for us to yell at the Lord, “I will not yield!” But God invites us to experience a different life.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” ~ James 4:7-8

The pretend prince of France found the love of his life when he did decide to yield and they lived... well, you know. You and I can experience a far richer lifetime of redemptive love in yielding our lives to Jesus.



MEDIA MINUTE

DISCLAIMERS

Media Minute seeks to introduce quality media selections from a distinctively Christian worldview. The goal is for content to be solid and for style to be left to a matter of personal preference. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." ~ Colossians 3:16-17

GROUP 1 CREW ▯ ORDINARY DREAMERS

There is nothing ordinary about this group or their sound. With lyrics infused with faith and focused on God's activity, this urban album captures the vision of three Latinos waiting on the Lord. This trio's music pours out of their roots being firmly planted in the Word (they came together in Bible study years ago) and they are pressing forward to share Christ through their music. G1C will definitely get you *Movin'*!

TED DEKKER ▯ THE CIRCLE SERIES

With the release of *Green* this month, Ted Dekker finishes the circle... or does he start it? In 2004, this thriller-suspense series introduced Thomas Hunter and his strange post-trauma challenge that falling asleep leads him to wake up in another realm and alarmingly vice versa. Through the tales of #1 *Black*, then #2 *Red*, followed by #3 *White*, Dekker weaved the three novels about two worlds into one story. Now five years later, he offers *Green* as "The Beginning and the End" or Book #0. With intense action, *The Circle Series* captures the reader's attention with Biblical themes of

the fall, the struggle of sin, the redemption of man, the call to self-sacrifice, and the Great Romance between God and His people. *The Circle Series* also offers graphic novels for fans of that genre.

STARFIELD ▯ I WILL GO

Worship filled Alternative Rock? Starfield has a sound that's all their own. What impresses even more is the heartfelt worship and earnest desire to serve the Lord that comes through in their music. They challenge us with some seriously powerful lyrics in their latest album *I Will Go*. These are not empty words, but rather a calling to put faith into actions. In the chorus of *I Will Go* they ask the Lord to "send me!" You'll find yourself hitting the replay button more than once on this album.

FAITH LIKE POTATOES

Based on a true story, *Faith Like Potatoes* is a powerful example of what happens when God grabs a hold of the life of just one man and uses him to impact the lives around him and his nation. Angus Buchan grows angry as he works to survive as a farmer in South Africa. We watch as his life and relationships fall apart around him. He keeps trying to solve the problems in his life all on his own, but he can't. Then Angus surrenders his heart and life to the Lord. That's when things begin to turn around. His surrender to the Lord and desire to do something for Him, completely changes his relationships with everyone around him. This movie will have you, like Angus, asking, "What can I do? Is there something I can do?"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 23-25th, 2009	Southwest Central District Fall Retreat Faith Haven Contact: Pastor Eric Rasmussen Rasmussen64@yahoo.com (218) 736-4282
October 30-31st, 2009	District Lock-In Central Tri-State Contact: Pastor Lyle Aadahl
November 13-15th, 2009	South Central District Fall Retreat Riverbend Retreat Center , Glen Rose, TX Contact: Pastor Ray Ballmann