



Connections:



King of kings Lutheran Church

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Peer Pressure ... It's Not For Everyone

By: Emily Meyers

My name is Emily Meyers. I am going into the 8th grade this year and will be starting my 2nd year of the Confirmation program. Pastor Ben asked me a few weeks ago if I would be willing to write an article for the church newsletter. He said I could write about anything that was important to me. I thought about it for a while and finally decided to write about something that I felt I knew too well.

Before brainstorming for this article, I thought that only 'tweens' were affected by peer pressure. The more I thought about it; I figured that all ages can be affected. It's not exclusive. It could be at school, in your neighborhood, or while you're at work. Some people have a tendency to feel competitive against each other, want to make fun of somebody else, or find themselves being made fun of or judged. No matter what the situation is, I think that it shouldn't happen.

How I dress, how tall I am, how I eat, and the grades that I get ... these are the things that people try to tease me about. I'm tall for my age (5' 8" and still 12), I don't wear 'designer clothes' (I prefer to be own person), I'm thin so kids at school will tease me about maybe being anorexic (obviously they haven't seen me eat), and I get all A's which for some reason seems to intimidate some kids. Occasionally my imaginary brick wall that protects me from these things shatters because I find myself letting these unrealistic and mean words get through to me. Sometimes when I got on the school bus, got back home after school, or was on my way to church for a Confirmation night, I would pray to God and ask Him if He would help those that feel they must give in to peer pressure to feel cool or be part of the 'in crowd'. My parents and others tell me that feeling the need to be part of the 'in crowd' isn't a new thing, but has been around in one form or another for generations. I've learned from past conversations with my confirmation group leader, my friends, and family that those kids are

only hurting others because they are not comfortable with themselves. Perhaps they are under stress because of a sticky, personal situation. Maybe their parents are getting a divorce, maybe they aren't doing well in school, or maybe they don't have a lot of friends of their own. I know it is hard, especially when you feel like you're the victim, to try to look past the teasing and the awkward situations and see where the other person might be coming from. I'll admit, sometimes I'm better at it than at other times. But I keep trying.



September 2008

Special points of interest:

- Crop Walk
- There's still time to register for all fall youth programs
- Habitat For Humanity

Inside this issue:

Adult Retreat	2
'My European Tour'	3
New Bible Studies	4
Sunday School / Confirmation	5
Fall Festival	6
Thinking About Joining KOK?	7

Continued on page - 6 -

Back To School Edition: Since the start of the school year is upon us, we thought this would be a great opportunity to have two of our youth share 'what's on their mind' in this month's newsletter.

Thank you to Emily Meyers and Jessica Ross for being brave enough to submit their pieces. It's a good chance for us all to view today's life through the eyes of a teenager.

Thrivent Financial: Use Your Values To Guide Financial Decisions

Your values serve as an important foundation for how you manage your money. They're the things that are most important to you - for example, your faith, family, friends, health, education or giving back. Your values give you a rock-solid sense of who you are and what you believe in.

Your values come from experiences in life. They also drive your decisions and actions. For example, if you value your health, you may exercise daily. If you value learning, you may continue your education by attending classes.

Developing a clear and compelling list of your values makes it easier to choose how you want to use your time, talents and treasures.

When it comes to your money, you have three choices:

1. share
2. save
3. spend

As a steward of your resources, having a guideline for how you use your money can be helpful.

What's more, your values can be a clear, consistent guide to who you are and what you want to become. Investing time and energy to define your values and then aligning your actions with your values is a powerful way to achieve your finan-

cial goals and live the life of your dreams.

For more information on how your values can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Ryan Mackinder at 586-207-5930 or ryan.mackinder@thrivent.com today.



Overnight Adult Retreat

We hope you have reserved the dates for our adult overnight retreat at beautiful Skyline Camp. We will meet Friday evening, November 7th and all day Saturday, November 8th. Skyline Camp is 4 miles southwest of the town of Almont and 8 miles north of Romeo. It's a wonderful facility, easy to get to with good food and

comfortable beds - bring sleeping bags or sheets and blankets.

Good food, great companionship, upbeat music and Pastor Ben too!

Watch the weekly announcements for detailed information as it becomes available, but feel free to contact Bill Bond at 586-731-9635 if you have any specific questions.



CROP WALK

Just a reminder ... the Crop Walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 4th at Stony Creek Metro Park.

Watch for pledge sheets and information to be in the lobby within the next few weeks. We will let you know as soon as we receive them.

If you have any specific questions, please contact Sandy Sylvester at 586-726-9535.



My European Tour

By: Jessica Ross

Page 3

My name is Jessica Ross. I am 17 years old and a senior this year at Eisenhower High School. I was given the opportunity while attending a Blue Lake summer musical camp to audition for one of their performing groups, the Blue Lakes International Northern Winds band. I play both the flute and the piccolo and was accepted as part of this international group.

This past summer has been one of the best summers of my life. I had the opportunity to tour Europe with the Blue Lake International Northern Winds band. We gave concerts in seven different communities in four different countries. We learned a total of 20 new songs for the tour. In each community I stayed with a host family. We went to Hungary, Germany, Denmark, and Belgium. This trip was definitely a life changing experience and one that I will never forget.

Most of the host families I stayed with spoke English, but one of them didn't speak any at all. It was just me and my host mom in a little house. At first it was really hard to communicate with her, but then it became a game of charades. We used hand motions to communicate and drew pictures to show each other what we were trying to say. This was an unbelievable experience.

While I was in Europe, I was fed some meals that I was not used to. During dinner one evening in Hungary, my host mom plopped this dish in front of me. It turned out to be rabbit! I thought to myself, "Ok Jessica, you can eat this!" So I took a bite and, believe it or not, it wasn't half bad. Like everyone says, it tastes like chicken. Food was the part I was most apprehensive about prior to going on this trip. My family will tell you that I am a picky eater, but I was proud of myself because I tried everything at least once.

There were a lot of things I had to get use to during my stay in Europe. It seemed like every shower in Europe operated differently making it a challenge. Half of the time I found myself taking a bath instead. The keyboards for the computers were different as well. It took me twice as long to type an email to my parents there as it would have here. Despite the struggles of figuring things out, Europe was amazing!

During my visit, the Eurocup was taking place. The Eurocup is a major soccer championship between all of the European countries. Germany had a team participating so I tried to watch most of the games. People in Europe go crazy for soccer. Even the little kids jump up and down and yell at the TV during the game. It was nice to watch the Germans and witness the overwhelming pride they have for their soccer team. The final game was between Spain and Germany. Spain won by one point. It was kind of a bummer, but the game was still a lot of fun to watch. Every now and then, my band would get to play a soccer game with the kids in the different communities. We had fun, even though we got our butts kicked every time. Europeans are amazing at soccer!

Out of all the countries I visited, I believe Hungary was by far my favorite. Everyone there was so welcoming and caring. I'm not exaggerating when I say that they fed me almost every 2 hours. It seemed like we were always eating! In each community we did an activity with the entire Blue Lake group. We went on a boat ride down the river in Budapest, Hungary. After the boat ride, a couple of Blue Lake kids, the host siblings and I climbed a mountain called Freedom Rock. We stayed up there looking down on the city of Budapest till



1:00 a.m. in the morning! It was the best skyline I have ever seen! All of a sudden my friend started to cry. It had been her father's dream to be able to travel the world and see these places. Unfortunately he died earlier this year. I told her that she was living the dream for him and he could see it through her eyes. This trip brought me and the people I went with closer than I could have ever imagined.

Overall, I would say that this experience has made this the best summer of my life. It has taught me many life lessons including the importance of being open to different cultures and the ability to be willing to try new things. I highly recommend going to Europe at least once in your life. It could be the best vacation that you will ever take. I guarantee it!



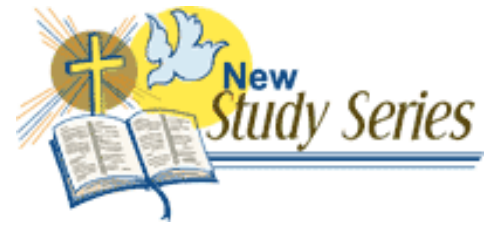
This photo is of a Building of Parliament in Hungary and represents one of many with amazing architecture.

New Bible Study Opportunity

Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (until 11:30 a.m.) while we study the book of Genesis. This study is for **men** and **women**, each in separate study groups. The study will begin on September 11th and will be held at **Lakeside Assembly of God** located on Schoenherr Road, just north of Hall Road on the west side.

A children's program will also be offered for nursery through 6th grade.

For information please contact Judy Zimmerman at 586-805-9329.

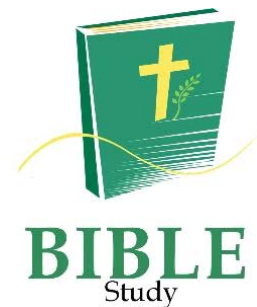


Pastor Ben's Fall Bible Study

Join us for a new 5-part Bible Study that will be taught by Pastor Ben. Watch the weekly announcements for more details. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The study will meet on the following Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. beginning in September.

September 23rd & 30th
October 7th, 21st & 28th



Actions and Inactions By: Pastor Ben

Jesus said: "A man had two sons; he went to the first and said 'son' go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second son and said the same; and he answered, 'I go sir' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of the father? "The first" they said. Jesus said: "truly I tell you, the tax collectors and prostitutes are going to the kingdom ahead of you."
Matthew 21: 28-31

Like many of the parables of Jesus, this passage is both surprising and disturbing. The story of two brothers, given identical commands to work in the vineyard appears relatively straightforward. The first brother initially says no, but then does the requested work. The second brother says yes and then does nothing.

Jesus' question to the crowds and to us is: "who did the will of the father?" Or put another way, who was the

most faithful? One might expect Jesus to say that the brother who actually did the work is most faithful. The crowds of onlookers and Pharisees certainly answered this way. But Jesus says no, it was the second brother who did nothing who was the most faithful. What is this all about? What is Jesus up to?

This puzzling parable really made me question the reasons why I do the things I do. Jesus chastises those who would act only out of obligation or guilt. God does not want us to simply do good deeds, God wants us to do things for the right reason.

Think about how easily we are drawn into doing things not because we want to or have a heart to help others, rather we do it because we feel we have to. If a friend asked you to help her move, how would you respond? Joyfully? Hesitantly? Would you make excuses?

It isn't so much that God praises the second brother's laziness and lack of action, but the willing heart and

spirit which first said yes. More than anything, God wants our hearts. Are you open and willing to say yes to God or do you reluctantly do "the right thing" while motivated by guilt and obligation? The parable makes it clear, which is a challenge for each of us.



Sunday School Leaders Needed

Did you know that September 7th kicks off PowerXpress & Live B.I.G. for kids ages 4 yrs through 6th grade? We're excited about offering these 2 hands-on & interactive programs to our kids but we need your help to do so. Please prayerfully consider serving our elementary kids by co-leading just (1) of these Stations: MOVIE, SCIENCE, BIBLE STORY OR CRAFT. You would co

-lead with a partner & rotate months or whatever fits your schedule.

Would you rather help in our 4 yr./5 yr. old classroom? These little ones will hear, see & live their belief in God through the "Live B.I.G." curriculum. We're looking for 1 co-leader and 2 assistants to join this team. An assistant can be a confirmation student, CHAOS youth or

adult who loves little kids.

Please contact Diane Kraabel, Interim Sunday School Coordinator, to learn more @ 586-731-6684 or dkraabel@wowway.com.

Power Lab VBS Ministers To 165 Kids

Thank you to everyone who prayed, volunteered, donated and invited friends and neighbors to Power Lab ... it was an EXPLOSIVE week!

We experienced how Jesus gives us power to ...

- Be Thankful
- Help Others
- Be Brave
- Live Forever
- & Tell Others About God.

Sincerely,
Diane Kraabel
Kristen Leach
Robin Klotz

Confirmation Potluck

We would like to remind this fall's confirmation students and their parents to attend the Potluck Orientation Meeting on Wednesday, September 3rd at ?? time. Please plan to bring a dish to share for dinner.

If you have not already registered your son or daughter for (1st or 2nd year) Confirmation, please pick up a registration form at the Welcome Desk or online at www.koklc.org asap. If you have any questions, please contact Cherie Schankin at

586-566-0586.



Habitat For Humanity

King of kings will be working on another Habitat For Humanity building project on Saturday, September 13th.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available. If you've never helped out - this could be the perfect time for you.

Please feel free to contact Mark or Kristen Schultz at 586-726-1718 or by email at mark24@wowway.com if

you have any questions at all. They'll be happy to give you directions to the work site.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

'Peer Pressure' continued from page 3 ...

Being part of King of kings' Confirmation program last year helped me adjust to starting junior high and made my first year go much smoother than I thought it would. The program has helped me learn more about God, about myself, and about feeling more comfortable in my surroundings. Even though our lessons were not directly spelled out to the class, we were able to find out what the real message was together as a group. We all needed to go through our own special, fun journey with God in order to learn His message and how it would help each of us. I have to admit, it was a little tough for me at the beginning of the Confirmation program, probably because the information that we were learning was more sophisticated than what I was used to. When I tried to understand different things that came up in a lesson, my mind would form two different ideas on the discussion. One path had one explanation and the other path had a different one. I did not know which one to go with. So I would think

about it and talk about it with my friends hoping that the answer would pop up and become clear to me. By the end of the night, I would sometimes get a little extra bit of 'advice' from God along with the original message. I found that some of the messages helped me learn how to deal with those kids that were either jealous of me, or venting their feelings out on me. It was never fun since I felt like the target, but I did find that I now had something that would help me get through those awkward situations without feeling so alone. I pray for those people constantly and hope they will come to realize that how they act toward others, is not healthy. They should be bringing others up, not putting them down.

Through Confirmation, I am positive that I have formed everlasting friendships. Even though I already knew some of the people from volunteering at VBS and such, out of nowhere I made a best-friend while in Mr. Dave Zimmerman's car on the way to Echo Grove Camp for the

weekend. Just from sitting next to each other, and probably goofing around singing weird songs, and discussing our favorite things, God led my heart straight to hers. I thank Him for that everyday. If I didn't have the friends that I do now, I would not be the same person that I now am. It is like they (along with my family and neighbors) have molded me into me. My new friends helped me adjust to my first year of junior high and I am really grateful for that and for them. Because of them, I am closer to God.

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

~ Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

Fall Family Fun Festival Planned

The Church Picnic that was planned in conjunction with Rally Day on Sunday, September 7th has been postponed. We have changed the date and the format.

We will now be having a Fall Family Fun Festival (just remember the 4 F's) on Sunday, October 26th. We are planning a lot of good things ... good food ... fellowship ... activities for everyone ... and maybe even some surprises!

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to bring your family and friends to join us.

Watch the weekly bulletins and next month's newsletter for all of the

details.

The timing will be great since we have so many renovation and construction projects nearing completion. Everyone will have a chance to see what's been done.



Things You Should Know . . .

- † For information regarding scheduling a **Baptism** or **wedding** at King of kings, please contact Jennifer Meyers, Administrative Associate at 586-566-8660.
- † Just a reminder that there will be **NO Saturday evening worship** or an **8:30 a.m. Traditional worship service** at this time.
- † The next **GO! Study** session will be on Thursday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m.
- † The **HIS GANG** quilting group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join them.
- † King of kings will be working with Faith Lutheran in Shelby Twp. September 7-13th for **MCREST**. Check the lobby display for volunteer opportunities.
- † **Church Directory** Photo Sessions scheduled for September 8th & 9th.
- † **Habitat For Humanity** build date schedule for Saturday, September 13th

Thinking about joining King of kings?

We personally invite you to join us for our next New Member Orientation to find out what it means to be a Christian, Lutheran and a member of the church.

We will take the time to answer your questions and provide you with enough information to make the right choice for you and your family.

We are able to provide childcare during all of our New Member Orientations for your convenience and piece of mind.

For further information and our next orientation date, please contact Bill Bond at 586-731-9635.



Youth & Children's Programs ~ Resume This Month

Sunday School

- † Meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays beginning September 7th

For more information contact
Diane Kraabel
'Interim' Sunday School Coordinator
586-731-6684

Confirmation

- † Parent / Student Orientation Potluck
Wednesday, September 3rd

For more information contact
Cherie Schankin
Ministry Associate
586-566-8660

C.H.A.O.S.

- † Begins in September

For more information contact
Pastor Ben
586-566-8660

We are still accepting registrations for all fall youth & children's programs. You can register online by following the links at www.koklc.org. Registration forms are also available on the Welcome Desk in the church lobby.



King of kings Lutheran Church
47500 Schoenherr Road
Shelby Twp., MI 48315-4771

Pastor Ben Sandin

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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STERLING HTS., MI
PERMIT # 268

We're on Schoenherr Road, just north of 21 Mile Road

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

MAIL DATE:
August 25, 2008

Join us for weekly worship:

Contemporary Praise Worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
'The Edge' Worship, Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Praise Worship, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.



MCREST

September 7-13th
@ Faith Lutheran

Check the church lobby for
volunteer & donation
opportunities