

# VOICE

e-news  
from the  
lutheran youth  
choir of north  
america

*Please forward this newsletter to as many friends, potential singers, and supporters as possible!  
Don't forget to sign-up online for our next e-newsletter!*

## Greetings from LYCNA !

As our students return to school for another year of learning, LYCNA is planning and looking forward to a new year of exciting events!

Included in this issue:

- LYCNA Announces its Annual Instruments of Peace Tour
- LYCNA Quilt Raffle
- LYCNA 2010 International Choral Competition
- Participate in the 2010 LYCNA Tour for Less - Earn Tuition Credits
- Sculpting My Beliefs with Music: Reflections on the 2008 tour by Hannah Fisher
- Summer '09 Reunion Recap
- Conductor's Beat: Philip Spencer describes spreading sunshine through song

## Check out the new LYCNA web site

*Our brand new site goes live this month!*

We've been busy creating our new site which is loaded with dynamic features, photos, and information. Check it out today at [www.lutheranyouthchoir.org](http://www.lutheranyouthchoir.org).

## Spreading God's Word Near and Far: LYCNA Announces its "Annual Instruments of Peace Tour"

The Lutheran Youth Choir of North America is pleased to announce a new visionary initiative beginning in 2010, building on the choir's first three successful tours to the Great Lakes States and Ontario, the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, and to Germany. This exciting new venture - an annual Instruments of Peace Tour - will offer young people from across the United States and Canada opportunities for musical and spiritual development through the choir's unique music ministries here in North America and abroad. Singers need not be members of a Lutheran denomination to participate.

The Lutheran Youth Choir's Instruments of Peace Tour 2010 will be to the East Coast, including New York City and Boston. Following five days of intensive rehearsal and fun at the choir's home congregation in the western suburbs of Chicago, the students will depart on an eight-day tour, singing the choir's own new Service of Evening Prayer for Peace premiered on the 2008 Germany tour, supplemented with sacred choral literature of various styles, at several host churches on the East Coast. The choir has also been invited to sing for the weekly Jazz Vespers service at St. Peter's Lutheran in midtown Manhattan. In addition, participants in the 2010 tour will receive a generous discount on the choir's next international tour in 2011. More about this soon.

Further information, application, audition materials, and generous financial assistance incentives may be found on the choir's web site, [www.lutheranyouthchoir.org](http://www.lutheranyouthchoir.org).

## Quilt Raffle Fundraiser

*A raffle in December will benefit the LYCNA.*

We are so grateful to Janet Fisher (Hannah's mom) and her friends for making a quilt with a value of over \$1500 for the choir to raffle. This quilt measures 93" x 107" and will generously fit a full or a queen sized bed. Choir members have been asked to support the choir by selling tickets for the drawing for this quilt. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. All of the money raised will go directly to the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets or have any questions about the raffle, please call Janet Fisher at (847)266-9244. Visit our web site for a downloadable picture of the quilt.

## Participate in the 2010 LYCNA Tour for Less!

*Earn tuition credits by recommending a friend or participating as a returning member.*

### NOTE VALUES

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<b>\$50 credit (eighth note)</b>	for each application received from a friend/sibling (maximum of three)
<b>\$100 credit (quarter note)</b>	for first application accepted from a friend/sibling AND \$100 credit (quarter note) if recommended by friend/sibling and accepted
<b>\$150 credit (half note)</b>	for second application accepted from a friend/sibling
<b>\$200 credit (whole note)</b>	for third application accepted from a friend/sibling
<b>\$300 credit (special fermata)</b>	for returning each year after first tour

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### TOTAL POSSIBLE CREDITS PER SINGER PER YEAR

(1-3 eighth notes, 1 quarter note, 1 half note, 1 whole note, special fermata) \$50 - \$900

## LYCNA Launches International Choral Composition Contest

Are you an aspiring composer? Do you know someone who is? LYCNA is now accepting entries for its 2010 International Choral Composition Contest. All composers who desire to contribute to the genre of excellent sacred music, suitable for high school age singers, are invited to enter a new choral composition contest- with a \$500 prize. The winning composition will be premiered by Lutheran Youth Choir of North America on its 2010 tour.

Entry Deadline is April 1, 2010. For more information and submission form, visit our web site.

## Sculpting My Beliefs with Music: Reflections on the 2008 Tour

*by Hannah Fisher (excerpt from her college application)*

A select few can say that they have been a part of a group of youth who traveled halfway around the world to sing in churches. I can count myself among them. Last summer, I was part of a group of twenty-three teenagers, from across the country, who came together for two weeks to spread God's word through music. We are The Lutheran Youth Choir of North America.

We all met in Chicago to practice and strengthen our music for the services that we would be sharing with the people we met on tour. This is when I first met a group of students I now consider my extended family. When you spend seven hours a day singing together, you begin to form special bonds.

After practicing for a week we left for our tour destination, Germany. Our first stop was Berlin where we sang in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche. That was the start of a tour that changed the way I look at my faith. Our next stop was St. Peter church in Eisleben, Germany where we met Pastor Scott Moore. He showed us around his church and explained how Martin Luther had given many sermons from the pulpit there. It was incredible to realize that the man who was responsible for the denomination of Christianity that I follow probably stood where I was standing. That night we drew 250 people into the church. Many of those people had not attended a church service in a long time, and some of them had never attended a service. Pastor Scott said later that he hadn't seen that many people in his church since he started preaching there. It was incredible. That was when our group realized that we were not there just to put on a show. We were there to spread the Word.

I later realized that it felt really good to tell people about God. I also realized that while sharing what I believed with others I was sculpting my own beliefs, applying them to my life and not the lives of my pastor or Sunday school teacher. I will never forget those in Germany who helped to shape and strengthen my beliefs and I will never forget my fellow choir members who were there with me, experiencing a life changing tour.

## Summer '09 Reunion Recap

*by Ted Bennett*

In July we had our first official LYCNA reunion which was a wonderful success. After everyone arrived on Friday we had a rehearsal for the two church services we were to sing at on Sunday and then we went to Elle's house for a pool party. On Saturday we went into Chicago where we had a prayer service at the Chapel in the Sky and then walked around Navy Pier and the lake front. On Sunday we sang at Grace Lutheran in Glen Ellyn and Faith Lutheran Church. That evening we had a movie night at the church. The reunion was a great success and I hope all who participated had as much fun as I did. Thanks again.

Go to our web site for links to pictures from the reunion, [www.lutheranyouthchoir.org](http://www.lutheranyouthchoir.org).

## Conductor's Beat: Spread the Sunshine!

*A letter from Philip Spencer, LYCNA Founding Conductor, about the lasting effects of the choir's German tour, and things you can do to contribute to LYCNA and its mission.*

**"I saw sunlight in the singer's faces!"**

This was just one of many kind and grateful comments spoken to me following the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America's Evening Prayer for Peace Service at the St. Andreas Church in Eisleben, Germany, a church where Martin Luther preached his last three sermons. Twenty-two American high school students led over two hundred Lutherans and Catholics in worshipping together that night, the largest crowd the church had ever hosted for an American choir. The following morning, when the pastor thanked us for coming, he said, "You may very well have been the catalyst for something special here last night." Ah, but WE had so much to be grateful for ourselves: the warm welcome extended to us, the vibrant acoustics of the church for singing and recording, the opportunity to see and touch the very pulpit that Luther climbed high up into on so many occasions. So why did this one elderly woman's comment, "I saw sunlight in the singers' faces!" have such an impact?

Did she mean that the singers' faces shone with the meaning of the music when they sang? Certainly, every choral director in the world wishes for this each time his or her choir sings! Or was she grateful for the beautiful enthusiasm of youth, especially in a region of the former East Germany from where so many young people had moved away in the past twenty years, seeking employment in more prosperous cities? Perhaps she was reflecting back on earlier times in East Germany, like the era when I was a student in Berlin back in the early 70's, when a persistent, gray cloudiness seemed to cloak everything. Or was she in fact speaking of the light and love of Christ, clearly and brightly communicated through sacred music across cultural and generational differences?

Regardless of what this German woman meant, the members of the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America obviously touched her very deeply through their song. Her words were the perfect summation of the reason why the Lutheran Youth Choir tours with a service of worship in North America or abroad each summer; why young people respond joyfully to the invitation to audition for this choir; and why so many people who care about the Church's youth and the Church's song choose to support this unique music ministry for youth with their financial gifts, their volunteer time and effort, and their prayers.

Will you tell the high-school-age singers you know about the Lutheran Youth Choir, and ask them to tell their friends as well? Will you invest financially in the work of this choir, so that every young person who wants to serve in this important way may be free to do so, and so that the choir's future may be secure as well? Will you consider helping to bring the sunlight of Christ to even more people here in our own country and around the world through the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America?

Philip Spencer  
Founding Conductor  
Lutheran Youth Choir of North America

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