

# We've been celebrating in the Lord's service for 10 years!

**A**fter 10 years, some things are fuzzy and some things are clear. What's fuzzy is just exactly what we thought Fitz Family would become when we first started to teach our kids to juggle back in September of 1991. It's also fuzzy just exactly when my kids passed me in juggling skills (that happened much sooner than I'd like to admit!). What is clear is that the mission: "To encourage people to discover, celebrate and use their unique gifts in the Lord's service," was there from the start. It was the seed of an idea planted by the good Lord, nurtured by important people around us in Seward, Nebraska at the time we started, and brought to fruition over the years as the Lord blessed our efforts in public schools, at corporate parties, churches and

church schools, youth gatherings and conferences.

From the very beginning we received encouragement from insiders in the church about our performances and the impact they made. Maybe because it was such a different format, maybe because people knew what we were saying but were thankful for a gentle reminder and nudge.

And people outside the church also reacted. Some came to church for the first time - or the first time in a long time - because we seemed like a pretty non-threatening experience. We've heard tell that some of them stayed connected. Praise the Lord for that. And many reacted to the fact that a family was doing it together and they told us they were encouraged to do more with their family.

After 10 years I say thanks to God for the chance to be Father Fitz. People ask us how long we can do this, especially as our



*Fitz Family in the beginning - a juggling lesson*

## Fitz Family's TOP 10 Lists

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### THE TOP 10 BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING IN FITZ FAMILY

10. Homeschooling.
9. Meeting other entertainers.
8. Being part of Churchnoise (a group of Christian artists).
7. The 'toys' we get to use.
6. Encouraging families.
5. Spending time with friends around the country.
4. Spending time with family.
3. Making people laugh.
2. Visiting lots of places in the U.S.
1. Meeting people.

### OUR TOP 10 FAVORITE PLACES TO EAT

10. Bennigan's Restaurants.
9. Gristmill Restaurant in Gruen, Texas.
8. Fitz's Rootbeer Restaurant in St. Louis, MO.
7. Red Lobster Restaurants.
6. Merle and Bev Wischnofske's home in East Wenatchee, WA.
5. The home of Kasey Hilgendorf in Minneapolis, MN.
4. The home of Gaylen and Linda Burow in Bonner Springs, KS.
3. Something Fishy in Wilmington, NC.
2. Chevy's Restaurants.
1. Most places in New Orleans!

### THE TOP 10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP US.

10. Enjoy our show and use your gifts.
9. Financial support.
8. Drop us a note (e-mail is the best way - [anynone@fitzfamily.org](mailto:anynone@fitzfamily.org)).
7. Adopt a Family (No, Really!).
6. Buy fitz merchandise.
5. Tell a friend about a performance in their area.
4. Bring a friend to the performance.
3. Invite us for the first time.
2. Invite us back.
1. Pray.

Fitz Family Ministries Inc.

# Schoepp/Halula Wedding

On August 11, 2001 Jenica Schoepp was married to Wes Halula. It was an awesome day for this great couple who love the Lord. For now they live in Minneapolis. You may have seen Wes as part of Happy Fun Time, a comedy/improv troupe he leads. Jenica tours with us on occasion, as her schedule permits. The Lord's blessings to them both!



## Fitz Family & Godzwerkus Circus

Fitz Family will be performing in the promotional video for Concordia Publishing House's 2002 VBS Curriculum called "Godzwerkus Circus." Watch for this new VBS material next summer.

If you would like to know more contact this website - [vbs.cph.org](http://vbs.cph.org). You might consider booking us for a family night event during your VBS week.

## Board of Directors meet 'Face to Face'

Greetings, Fitz Friendly Folks. I just returned from a great experience in Seward, NE. The Fitz Board of Directors came together for the first time "Face to Face". What a powerful time it was. Rick Herman, from Wheat Ridge Ministries, helped us in the formation of a Board system to aid us in the policy making and visioning for the Fitz ministry. We are so excited to see how God is working through the people He has called to serve with Fitz Family. Pastor Bernie Huesmann as Vice President, Mark Divine as Treasurer, Bev Wischnofske as secretary and Chad Campbell. Margie Schoepp serves as our Office Administrator. Then there is me, Rich Gutekunst as President. This team of dedicated Fitz Friendly Folks are hard at work to support the Schoepp family in their ministry call. We welcome ideas, ministry opportunities and instructive feedback. We would like to invite you to support this ministry through your prayers, email, bookings and financial giving. The Fitz Family Ministry is dedicated to helping families grow in their relationship to God and to discover, and use their God given gifts. It is truly an honor to serve you. May you be encouraged to grow as children of the living God.

*Rich Gutekunst, President.*

## More TOP 10 Lists...

### THE TOP 10 THINGS TO NOT DO WHEN TRAVELING

10. Use cheap locks on your utility trailer which holds all your performance equipment.
9. Over pack.
8. Forget that Indiana operates on a time zone of its own.
7. Eat at the same fast food chain more than three days in a row.
6. Forget that you can't take a 30' travel trailer into a cul-de-sac.
5. Go back to the same gas station to ask the same directions two minutes later because you forgot what they said the first time.
4. Run out of fuel en route to a dinner date.
3. Back up a 30' travel trailer on a winding TN road when you missed your turn and are in a hurry.
2. Drive a 12 ton RV in San Francisco.
1. Under pack (oh, wait, we never did that!).

### OUR TOP 10 PRAYER REQUESTS

10. For God's blessing on other Christian performers.
9. For strengthened relationships in our family.
8. That people may come to know Christ through our ministry.
7. That our own spiritual walk with Christ would grow strong.
6. For continued financial support.
5. That our message is received and motivates people.
4. For performance creativity.
3. Health for family, especially for Becky and post cancer checkups.
2. Reliable service for the truck and trailer
1. Continued safety for the many miles we travel.

If you would like to read more of our top 10 lists, visit our website.

## WIN a FREE performance for your church!

In celebration of our 10th Anniversary we are giving away a free performance. To enter your name into the drawing go to our website and register or send us your name, address and phone number on a postcard marked "Fitz Family Free Show". The winner will receive a free performance for their church the next time we are in your area. Deadline is December 31, 2001.

## What's New with Fitz Family...



**M**y name is Sam Schoepp (a.k.a. What Fitz). I turned fourteen on the thirty-first of July. I am in eighth grade, if I were in a regular school but in my Home Schooling I am in Saxon math book eight-seven! My personality is quiet most of the time but when I get started in a conversation I'm interested in, I either listen or talk so fast that I have to repeat myself so you can understand me! I am also the kind of person that likes to get things done. That is, certain things. Especially getting the lawn mowed and packing up the equipment.

The things that I like to do in my spare time are looking at the scenery while we drive, day dream, play computer games, sleep if we haven't had much of it recently, think and listen to classical music.

I like seeing all of the places we get to see. I like being able to go overseas to Germany and some of the countries around it. I like seeing friends all over the U. S. when we get to the places they are. I don't like not having my own room to go to and be by myself. I don't like not being able to get to know friends really well and not being able to see them more often. Driving all the time gets annoying but not all the time. The big one I don't like is not spending more time at home.

I have more information about me at my web site. Find the link at [fitzfamily.org](http://fitzfamily.org). I have included more information about me on things I like, for example the farm and my garden, and things in my future for example, animals and space ship.

### Lost & Found

### 3rd Christmas Tour

This year's tour starts in Minneapolis and ends in Hixson, Tennessee. Then Fitz Family is going international. They will travel to Germany for performances. For more information on specific dates and locations, check out [www.speedwood.com](http://www.speedwood.com)

### New Website

Thanks to Kareen Hickman, our webmaster, our new site [www.fitzfamily.org](http://www.fitzfamily.org) is up and running. She's created a new design and provides lots of hard work keeping it very up-to-date. Check it out! And while you are on the web check out [www.churchnoise.com](http://www.churchnoise.com) and sign up to receive free e-mail notification of when we will be within 100 miles of your home.

## Serving God for 10 years...

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oldest child just got married this past August. There are no plans to do anything else at this point. What exactly does the Lord have in mind for the long term future? No idea. That's kind of what it was like 10 years ago. But one thing is for certain - it is always a blessing to follow where God leads and to be open to his surprises! Thanks for your part in keeping Fitz Family on the road. We hope to see you at least a few times over the course of the next 10 years!



*Fitz Family Now - a juggling lesson?*

## Following the September 11th tragedy Fitz Family will tour with even more boldness!

Following the September 11th tragedy, individuals and organizations are trying to get a handle on what the future might hold. We can't see the future any more than anyone else but we do know who holds the future-God! From what we see in the present and from looking at the past we know some things for sure:

1. We will continue touring with Fitz Family, hopefully with even more boldness. The message we bring still needs to be heard:

- A. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world;
  - B. We have all been gifted for service wherever we are with whatever we have; and
  - C. In our service God will always bring opportunities for us to tell people the very good news of the love of Jesus Christ.
2. The unique format of our ministry makes it a great option for:
- A. "Insiders" to hear the message in a refreshing way;
  - B. Those on the fringes and those as yet unconnected to the church to hear it in a non-threatening and inviting way.

We have been used very effectively as a community outreach event. We can be helpful to your ministry in your parish! Contact us to make arrangements for a program in your church or community.

*Mark Schoepp (Executive Director)*

*"To encourage people to discover, celebrate and use their unique gifts in the Lord's service."*

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## BOOKING INFO

We would really like to be at every church that contacts us but sadly we've had to turn churches down simply because we are not in that area of the country. We try to make sweeps of the United States and to avoid disappointment we encourage you to call and book us early. We will travel longer distances for larger events so you might consider organizing a larger event with other area churches. It is our hope to go to as many cities as is physically possible. Check our schedule for upcoming locations or call our office for more details

## Schedule

### November 2001

- 2-3 Youth Specialities Event, Sacramento CA
  - 4 Town and Country Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA
  - 5 Our Savior Lutheran School, Livermore CA
  - 6 Redeemer Lutheran School, Ontario CA
  - 6 Holy Cross Lutheran Church/School, Cypress CA
  - 7 South Bay Lutheran High School, Torrance CA
  - 7 Christ Lutheran School, RanchoPalosVerde CA
  - 8 Community Lutheran, Las Vegas NV
  - 9 Mountain View Preschool, Las Vegas NV
  - 10 Christ Lutheran Church, Boulder City NV
  - 16 Youth Specialities Event, Dallas TX
  - 18 St. Matthew Lutheran Church, El Paso TX
  - 19-20 LEA West Coast Edition Palm, Desert CA
  - 27 Trinity Lutheran School, Waconia MN
  - 26-28 Churchnoise Meeting, Minneapolis MN
- LOST AND FOUND CHRISTMAS TOUR**
- 30 St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie MN

### December 2001

- LOST AND FOUND CHRISTMAS TOUR**
- 1 Trinity Lutheran Church Roselle, IL (Chicago)
  - 2 Orchard Hill Reformed Church, Grand Rapids MI
  - 6 Faith Lutheran Church, Troy MI (Detroit)
  - 7 Faith Evangelical Free Church, Milford OH
  - 8 Christ the King Lutheran Church, Norcross GA
  - 9 Lost and Found Christmas Tour, Hixson, TN
  - 12-19 Fitz Family in Germany (Check our website)

### January 2002

- 8-10 Children's Pastor Conference (CPH), Dallas TX Conference
- 11 Early Childhood Educators Conference, Austin TX Conference
- 14 Immanuel Lutheran School, Giddings TX
- 28 St. Paul Lutheran Church, McAllen TX

### February 2002

- 1-3 ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza, Houston TX
- 2 St. John Lutheran Church, Cypress TX
- 3 Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring TX

### March 2002

- 1-3 Junior High District Gathering, OH
- 4 Cross Lutheran School, Yorkville IL
- 5 Lutheran Schools Weeks Event, Bloomington IL
- 8-10 Junior High District Gathering, OH

### April 2002

- 1-3 Churchnoise Meeting, Minneapolis MN
- 4 St. Paul Lutheran School, Fairmont MN
- 12 St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Horicon WI
- 14 Trinity Lutheran Church, Rhinelander WI
- 15 Northwest Lutheran School, Milwaukee WI
- 17 Peace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire WI
- 18-20 LEA Conference, Minneapolis MN
- 21-28 Minnesota Area

**May 2002**  
East Coast Tour