

Living Out Our Lutheran Identity

Growing Young: Steps Toward Touching the Hearts and Minds of Millennials and Generation Z

January 5, 2020



1. Share one thing Pastor Thompson said that resonated with you.
2. Share one thing Pastor Thompson said that you found to be thought-provoking (for whatever reason).
3. Describe at least two ways in which the verses below impact your understanding of God's design for the church.

Romans 15:5-6 - ⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Explain and defend this statement: "Program changes matter little if there isn't a *culture* change."
5. While Acts 2 is a *descriptive* passage (not a *prescriptive* one, defining required forms of ministry), in light of this presentation, how can it serve as a model for ministry today?
Acts 2:42-47 - ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
6. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you think Acts 2:42-47 describes our congregation today (1=not at all, 10=perfectly)? Explain your answer.

7. Pastor Thompson describe loneliness as endemic. Describe how loneliness presents both an often-overlooked problem and a tremendous opportunity for impactful ministry.
8. People in our culture—especially millennials and genZ—are increasingly skeptical, have their worldviews and thinking constantly challenged, and struggle with doubts (factual, emotional, volitional). How does this make genuine relationships even more important?
9. Pastor Thompson mentioned Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus and Levi. List other examples of a relationship-focused approach to ministry from Jesus' life.
10. How do the following questions challenge you? How might we use them to help spur culture change in our congregation?
 - How many of the last ten people to join your congregation can you name?
 - How many conversations have you had with new members?
 - Have you engaged in “family” activities with new members in the last two years?
 - When was the last time you did something for a millennial in our church (not related to you) that treated them like family?
11. Pastor Thompson offered the following questions for congregation to ask themselves. How might we answer them?
 - Large events, like Sunday worship or coffee hours, are great for introductions (i.e., learning someone's name and a few fun facts), but they rarely help people to move past this point unless individuals decide to take the next step. What does this step look like?
 - When planning fellowship events like game nights, cook-offs, etc., what can get in the way of creating new friendships? How can we encourage new relationship-building?
 - Relationship-building is time-consuming. Are there events/programs we need to slim back on so that we have time to build friendships?

Resources - Websites:

- ResourcefulChurch.com
- welscongregationalservices.net/ministering-to-millennials/

Resources - Books:

- *Growing Young* (Powell/Mulder/Griffin)
- *You Lost Me* (Kinnaman)
- *Myth of the Millennial* (Doering)