

Living Out Our Lutheran Identity

Restoring the Family Altar

December 15, 2020



1. Share one thing Pastor Huebner said that resonated with you.

2. Share one thing Pastor Huebner said that you found to be thought-provoking (for whatever reason).

3. Pastor Huebner identified several factors that affect children and youth in the church today. Briefly summarize each.
 - a. Generational Decay

 - b. Struggling Parents

 - c. Children as Idols

 - d. Digital Technology

 - e. Passed-Off Parenting

 - f. A Post-Christian Era

 - g. Losing Our Youth

4. In what ways is it helpful to recognize these factors? In what ways might it not be helpful?

5. Read the passages below. Identify key thoughts that shape our attitude and approach to ministering to children.

Genesis 1:28 - ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Psalms 127:3 - ³ Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

Psalms 139:13-14 - ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Deuteronomy 4:9 - ⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Psalms 78:1-7 - ¹ My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— ³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, ⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Joshua 24:15 - ¹⁵ “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Ephesians 6:4 - ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Luke 18:15-17 - ¹⁵ People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Proverbs 22:6 - ⁶ Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

6. What do you see as the biggest barriers influencing the long-term spiritual health of our children and youth at Riverview (or in our community)? Be specific.

7. What do you see as the greatest opportunities to positively impact the long-term spiritual health of our children and youth at Riverview? Be specific.

8. In what ways have you observed our church (Riverview and/or WELS) appropriately responding to challenges facing families and children today? In what ways have we fallen short?

9. Identify three specific steps, enhancements, or emphases that you would consider the top priorities for our congregation to explore or implement in the spiritual care of our children. (Consider applications in church, school, and home, as well as the various ages of children.)