



SEPTEMBER 2016

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How to reach a "lost" generation

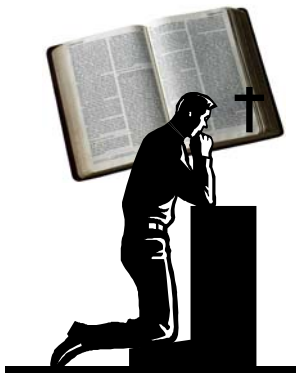
You have probably read the headlines heralding startling statistics of teens and young adults leaving the church. 36% of young Millennials (18-26) and 34% of older Millennials (27-34) self-define as religiously unaffiliated, a number up significantly and which appears to be growing. Nearly six in ten (59%) young people who grew up in the church will leave the church or their faith for at least a significant amount of time, if not for good, in their 20s.

These are words which appeared on the Leader Blog of the LCMS and I have no reason to doubt the statistics. One of the things we need to pay attention to is why these young people who grew up in the church have left or will leave. At least in part, the issue here is catechesis. We have for years dumbed down the curriculum of Sunday school and catechism programs to the point where these seem to be more about interest and fun than schooling people in the faith. We have also done the same for adult instruction. If the statistics are to be reversed, clear and consistent catechesis must be restored for all ages in the church. We are only so strong as the catechesis into which our youth are imparted the doctrine and practice and the already confirmed are renewed and refreshed in what we believe, confess, and teach and how this is lived out in the life of the church and the faithful.

We do no one any good by trying to simplify the faith and we should not diminish the power of our youth to understand and experience the fullness of the mystery of the incarnate Lord who suffers and dies in our place upon the cross, rises to life death cannot overcome and then delivers these gifts to His people in the means of grace. We do them a grave disservice by trying to shield them from the great paradoxes of the faith, by making doctrine simplistic, and by treating grace as cheap and easy.

Second, we must admit that the first line of catechesis is not in the church building but in the home. I do not intend simply to blame the parents here but to rally the family to the deep and profound influence moms and dads and their extended family have on their children's faith and life (and not simply while they are under their parents' roofs). In every study I have seen, the parents are the clear and most significant role models for faith and life for their children. When I sit down with parents prior to their child's baptism, one of the most important things we talk about is how significant their example is and their role as models and mentors of the faith is for their children. Our children certainly encounter other conflicting and competing influences against this godly example but none of them is as deep and powerful as what happens in the home, learning the faith from mom and dad.

Third, these did not leave because they did not find worship fun or exciting but because they found nothing in sermon and liturgy to compel them to remain. In other words, when we diminish the content of the faithful proclamation within the Divine Service and when we treat the liturgy as if it existed to entertain the faithful as spectators, we diminish the character of mystery that is inherent in the means of grace as we are confronted with the presence of God and with His rich gifts of mercy and grace. Young people will surely not be retained by adopting another style for an empty confession and me-centered focus but they have demonstrated that they are interested in and compelled by true liturgy that is the other side of the coin of faithful confession. (Cont. on pg. 2)



What does stop the bleeding off of our young people is nothing other than the most serious and faithful liturgical expression of what we believe, confess, and teach.

Finally, I would suggest that those who have the greatest power to call these young people to account are their peers who have not abandoned the faith. I am constantly impressed of the young adults in this parish who reach out to the curious and even to the lost and address them with their own experience of faithful worship, catechesis, and confession. They are bringing their friends and peers to the church to hear faithful sermons and to experience catholic liturgy and reverent music because this is where their own faith lives and these are the fonts from which their own continued faith and life in Christ draws sustenance. We should discount or diminish the power of faithful Christian peers to speak to those within their own generation. These folks are some of the most important means of addressed the unchurched with the Gospel and reclaiming those who have fallen away from their faith and life within the church.

Pastor Peck

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PASTOR

1. Pastor will be starting a Biblical Greek class this month starting on Tuesday, Sept 13 at 7 p.m. The class will continue to meet each Tuesday evening until everyone learns Greek, or they get so disgusted that they egg Pastor's car, which will be a sign he will interpret as the class being done! If interested, let Pastor know and he can point you to the materials that will be needed for the class.
2. Since at least the first century before Christ, Daniel has been the subject of intense scrutiny by religious zealots seeking to view it as an eschatological roadmap for determining all sorts of harmful theologies of triumphalism. In our day this is often manifested in millennial speculation, i.e. *Left Behind* books and other "rapture" nonsense. This fall during Bible Class on Sunday mornings, we will learn that Daniel is not an adjunct to such theories, an oracle to be bent in service to eschatological speculation about an earthly messianic kingdom. Instead, it is a book about Christ, the salvation He accomplished by His cross, and the eternal glory He promises His redeemed people. Christ preserved His people throughout the Babylonian captivity and pointed them forward to the coming of His kingdom at His first advent, and the consummation at His second advent. Through this study, we will see how Christ preserves us in faith until He returns in glory to bring us into the fullness of eternal life and provides Gospel comfort to the church. Please join us!

The Board of Lay Ministry is committed to providing information about our Worship Services. It is our intention to publish this information regularly in the future.

Attendance/Communion Count
July 2016

Date	Attendance	Communion
7/3/16	91	84
7/10/16	75	No Communion**
7/17/16	89	80
7/24/16	96	85
7/31/16	108	90
Total for July		

** - Pastor at the Synodical Convention – No Communion

Lutheran Women In Mission



Welcome to all women of the congregation!

"GOD Our Fortress & Refugee"

I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, In whom I trust" Psalm 91:2

The above scripture verse is the theme for the Lutheran Women in Mission for the coming year. The Goal Statement is: Rescued in Christ, we are empowered to trust in His victory. Our Objectives: -be fortified by Word and Sacrament.

-being armored, stand firm against evil. -be courageous to serve others.

Our prayer is that together as members of LWML and you as members of Wheat Ridge Lutheran congregation will share with us what matters most, a heart for our common mission – God’s mission.

Your Mite Offerings Have Made An Impact! Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon - \$72,000

To reach 15,000 women and children with humanitarian supplies, provide trucking, storage, and distribution for those items, along with printed materials, and for support staff. This grant has been fully paid!



DATES TO REMEMBER

MITE SUNDAY is SEPTEMBER 18 and the big Mite Box will be available for your donations. **September 10th – The regular meeting of the LWML will be held on Saturday at 9:00 am. Come and join us!** →

22nd ANNUAL OLDER ADULT GATHERING



Monday & Tuesday, September 19-20, 2016
At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood
Theme: "God's Plan for My Life"

--Guest presenters--

Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Dr. John Schutz, Cpt. Mario Ruiz, Angel Vigil, Rev. David Ahlman

REGISTER NOW!!!

Online at www.rslc.org, click the Event Registration button, and then District Adult Gathering. \$50 (single), \$100 (couple) includes 3 meals, speaker fees, refreshments, Conference costs. Or pick up a registration form on our church bulletin board to mail in.

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE FALL RALLY

The **North Central Zone Fall Rally** will be **Saturday, October 22 at Summit of Peace Lutheran Church, Thornton**. Registration begins at 8:30 am – lunch included. The theme is: EXALTED! Psalm 46:10.

The Rocky Mountain District, along with three other LWML Districts, will be hosting the National LWML Convention in June 2017 at Albuquerque, NM. We will begin the process in helping with the preparations for the convention. Our Society, along with societies in the North Central Zone, will be taking requested school supplies. These are to be used for one of the Servant Event Activities at the convention. These supplies will be packed into drawstring backpacks to be sewed prior to the rally and the rally participants will thread the cording into

Card Donations Needed

Also at that convention, another Servant Event Activity will be making cards for cancer patients served by Phil's Friends (one of the mission grants for cancer patients). **We're asking you to help us collect recycled card fronts from "encouragement" and "thinking of you" cards.** No "get well" cards. If you don't have these specific cards, you may go to the "Dollar Store" and pick up a couple of cards to contribute. There will be a box in the narthex for the collection. Thank you for helping us out!

WATCH for paper bags to be handed out beginning Oct. 2 for collecting food items for the Action Center.



RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016



Join us in celebrating the beginning of the Sunday school new year.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
Following the worship service

Join Choir!

Take your singing from the shower to the choir loft!
September is a great time to join
and learn music for the Christmas Program.
Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Contact Sheila Fornall at 303-817-9876



Financial Update	
July	
Income	\$16,915.31
Expense	\$14,254.56
Year-To-Date	
Income	\$100,649.70
Expense	-\$106,745.22
Difference	(\$6,095.52)

MORE NOTES!

Our church bulletin boards need some love! We are asking someone to step forward and decorate the two bulletin boards---perhaps for the church season, announcing upcoming events, any special events! Please talk to Sheila for ideas or suggestions.

STEWARDSHIP TODAY

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the life. (from the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer – Small Catechism)
We give thanks to the Lord for His blessings. [See also Ps. 106:1, Eph. 5:19-20, Thess. 3:10-12, 1 Peter 5:7]