

Recent Generations

Generation	Birthyears	Famous Man	Famous Woman
G.I.	1901-1924	John Kennedy	Clare Boothe Luce
Silent	1925-1942	Colin Powell	Gloria Steinem
Boomer	1943-1960	Steven Spielberg	Oprah Winfrey
Gen-X	1961-1981	Michael Jordan	Jodie Foster
Millennials	1982-2002	Frankie Muniz	Mandy Moore



Millennial Childhood

- 1985-today
- Personal Computers
- Blogs/MySpace/Facebook
- Interactive TV/"Tivo"
- DVD's
- Ipods



Xer Childhood

- 1965-1985
- Cable TV
- Cassettes and CD's
- VCR's
- Email
- Websites



Boomer Childhood

- 1945-1965
- Broadcast TV
- 78's and LP's
- 8MM Film

Young Adults...

- Represent both GenX and the Millennials
- There are distinct traits of each
 - Calling cards vs. cell phones
 - There were no “smileys” in 1995



Traits of Millennials

- Special

vital to their parents'
sense of purpose

- Confident

high levels of trust and
optimism

- Sheltered

focus of youth safety
movement

- Team-oriented

tight peer bonds



Traits of Millennials

- Achieving

 - Well educated, well behaved

- Pressured

 - “trophy kids”

- Conventional

 - comfortable with parents' values and rules



Values

- Authentic Experience
 - “practice what you preach”
- Personal Experience
 - Non-importance placed on identifying oneself denominationally or with a political party.
- Authority and Relationships with Parents
 - Cell phones



An opportunity

- 25% of 18-25 year olds surveyed in the Generation Next report name someone close to them as the person they admire most. 12% of those name a teacher, professor or mentor.
- In prior generations, only 11% named someone close to them as the one they admired most



What does this mean?

- These traits point to a wide-ranging set of cultural shifts that are fast becoming second nature for young adults (and others).



Post Modernity

- Anyone born after 1960 is native to the postmodern era
- “Postmodern” is a term sometimes applied to...art, architecture,literature,music,philosophy,theology,etc
- I am using the term to refer to a way of thinking about life and approaching the world

Post Modernity

- **1. The customization and subjectivification of truth**
 - “modernism” stood for the consensus of Western people about history, identity, and core cultural values
 - over-arching “meta-narratives” are being de-constructed
 - truth becomes locally-defined and is practical rather than theoretical

Post Modernity

- **2. The gnutellafication of authority and knowledge**
 - c.f., “gnutella,” a peer-to-peer file-sharing network used primarily to exchange music (MP3 files)
 - for millennials, “central servers,” “experts,” and “gate-keepers,” are not essential
 - implications for authority and resourcing relationships of judicatories, clergy, and lay leaders

Post Modernity

- **3. The rise of globalization and pluralism**
 - c.f., in literature, the value placed upon “dead white males” vs. women and persons of color
 - re. worship music, the value placed upon 16th century European hymns vs. global resources

Changing World.....

- In 1960, 77% of women and 65% of men had reached standard measures of adulthood by age 30 (finished school, left home, gotten married, had a child or reached financial independence).
- In 2004, 46% of women and 31% of men had reached these standard markers of adulthood by age 30.



Quarterlife Crisis

A state of confusion and uncertainty that accompanies the transition to adulthood.



QLC is triggered by.....

- Job hopping
- Debt-Credit Card and Education
- Rent/Cost of Living
- The media
- Delayed marriage and family life
- The stigma of being 'depressed'



Service Learning

- A paradigm for ministry and a different way of thinking about being helpful. A response to the QLC.



Service Learning

A different way of thinking about being helpful

A paradigm for doing ministry...

- Listen
- Do
- Reflect
- Celebrate



Rosanna

What did you observe?



Young Adults Need.....

“Community, Respect, and Guidance.”

A teal circular graphic is partially visible on the left side of the slide, overlapping the edge.

Respect

- Inviting young adults to talk about themselves is a place to begin
- Naming and recognizing gifts and challenges is important
- Listening with respect is key
- We are modeling this as a form of ministry



Service Learning

*Today, like every other day, we wake up
empty and frightened. Don't open the
door to the study and begin reading.*

Take down a musical instrument.

*Let the beauty we love be what we do.
There are hundreds of ways to kneel
and kiss the ground.*

Rumi



Lutheran themes that resonate with Young Adults

- Grace
- Incarnation
- Community
- Vocation



Grace

Taize' Community

- Young people are “met where they are, not where they aren’t”
 - --c.f. St. Augustine re. prayer: “Pray as you can, not as you can’t.”
 - “Let us never forget that the simple desire for God is already the beginning of faith.”
Brother Roger of Taize’



Incarnation

- The primacy of relationships over programs
- Mentoring as a form of guidance
- John 3:16



Community

Just Blog It!

- Sarcastic Lutheran
- Lutheran Young Adults
- Beer is for amateurs



Leadership

- Leadership involves self expression and hands on help rather than organizational position
- Openness and importance of music
- Spiritual vs. Religious



Vocation

- A part of ministry with young adults is to help them discern and live out their skills, gifts, talents and passions
- The Priesthood of All Believers: All people are called by God to serve the world.

A next to last word...

- Ministry is local
 - Service is primary
- Ministry is about trust
 - If you invite people, be prepared for them to come
- Ministry is not constricting
 - Sometimes, new ways lead to old practices

A last word.....

Remember...

- Start with who you *have*, not who you *don't have*....
- The Wizard of Oz answer
- Notice... Listen... Act... Reflect...
- Who you *are* is more important than what you *do*...Be authentic...Be respectful...
- It's all about relationship! (See John 3:16)



ELCA statistics

- 46 employees age 30 and under
- 75 voting members to Churchwide assembly between 18-30
- ELCA young adults:
 - Social justice
 - Connecting
 - Theology
 - Service

What does this mean?

- So our ministry is challenged to be
 - Indigenous...customized to the context
 - Useful...hands on....down to earth
 - Trusting of young adults
 - Open to a variety of cultural influences



Ministry with Young Adults

“If Christ is the embodiment of God, and the church is his body on earth, then no single expression of church can ever exhaust Christ. It is about finding out what God is doing and joining in.”

--The Right Rev. Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury