



Grace Notes

Emerging

Emerging: (v) 1. To become manifest. 2. To rise from or as if from an enveloping fluid: to come out into view. 3. To rise from an obscure or inferior position or condition. 4. To come into being through evolution.

Church: (n) 1. A building for public and esp. Christian worship. 2. The clergy or officialdom or a religious body. 3. A body or organization of religious believers: as a. the whole body of Christians b. Denomination c. Congregation 4. A public divine worship. 5. The clerical profession.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, 2001, pgs. 377, 205

So, what happens when we put these two words together: emerging and church?

Recently as part of my reading I have been engaged by a particular book (as well as many others) titled ***Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives***. The premise of the writing is this:

In the face of today's cultural sea change, the phenomenon known as the emerging church is pouring out a fresh drink of the gospel to a generation disenchanted with "church" but thirsty for an authentic, experiential spirituality. This new wineskin is not really new at all – or is it? Is the emerging church about new methods only, or about a new message?

Intriguing questions, don't you think? While not totally sold on what the authors have to say (I never am), nor do I think that the adjective "emerging" is a new concept for or a descriptor of the church (if we are true to our nature, we are always emerging), I am challenged, again, by the idea of the need to engage and be engaged by the new cultural context. How do we think, theologically, about the questions that our current context is asking? (This would suppose that we are listening to the voices around us.) One of the authors used this illustration to make this point – if you get it, you get it. If you don't get it, you get it.

In the late 1990s, I owned my first portable computer, and in order to connect it to the Internet, I had to insert an adapter card into my laptop and then connect a phone cord to the card. It worked, and worked well. I could get online even though I was tethered to the wall. I now own a computer that has a wireless card in it that still allows my computer to connect to the Internet, but through waves coming from a router and not through a cord connected to the wall. I still want my computer to connect to the Internet, and it does. But

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Special points of interest

- What is our need to engage and be engaged by the new cultural context?
- Don't forget your pledge card—please return by July 17
- God has created a majestic world, yet we so often take it for granted.



Congregational Meeting

Don't Forget the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, **July 31st** immediately following worship (there will be time for coffee!). There is much that we need to consider about our ministry and our future. Please be present for this important time of community deliberation.

"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed." Do you say this prayer before meals?

Talking With God

"Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed." Do you say this prayer before meals?

There are other prayers, too. Sometimes they're sung. Maybe you pray the Lord's Prayer or another prayer at bedtime. At church lots of different prayers are used. Sometimes the leader or pastor prays for everyone, and sometimes all the people pray. We all pray the Lord's Prayer, and we always pray for people in need. There are prayers in which you tell God you're sorry for the bad things you do, and prayers in which you say thanks to God for all the good things God has done. There are prayers before the special meal called "Holy Communion." Some prayers are

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Talking With God*

Creation Station

In Psalm 104 God is praised for creating the earth and all that lives upon it. God has created a majestic world, yet we so often take it for granted. God has charged us to care for creation. The ideas below can help your family develop appreciation for God's marvelous creation and explore ways to care for it.

Take a walk in your neighborhood or at a park. Pause to listen to the sounds in nature. Take



along magnifying glasses and binoculars to look for the detail in God's creation.

Read aloud Psalm 104 or portions of the chapter. Craft a creation banner based on the psalm. Provide a large piece of fabric for a background. Supply fabric and trim scraps, scissors, and fabric glue. Invite older family members to help younger ones fashion sky,

rivers, grass, animals, trees, and people. Staple or glue the top of the banner around a dowel to hang it.

Create a fabric-backed praise poster that combines leaves, dirt, and other natural materials with a Bible verse from the Psalm. Choose a verse and copy it onto a piece of construction paper. Arrange the natural objects and the verse as you want them on the fabric, glue them down, and display the poster in your home.

Share the beauty of God's creation with others by making flower or spice sachets to give as gifts. Cut 5" circles of fabric with a pinking shears. Place spices (cinnamon, cloves, allspice) or flowers

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Creation Station*



Shout if you love Jesus! - Thank You Faith Presbyterian Church

Cave Quest—Vacation Bible School



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Creation Station

and leaves (lemon verbena, roses, lilacs) in the center of the fabric. Gather the edges of the circle to the top and tie them together with ribbon. Print the reference Psalm 104:1 on a small tag and attach it to the ribbon.

Talk with your family about ways to pursue ecological concerns from a Christian standpoint. Organize a recycling center at your home or church. If your congregation has a coffee hour, encourage members to bring their own ceramic cups to use. Make a sculpture from recyclable materials. Glue it to a wooden or cardboard base, and print Psalm 104:31 on the base as a reminder to care for creation.

Pray a litany prayer based on Psalm 104. Have one family member read one line at a time from Psalm 104. After each line the rest of the family can respond, "Thank you, God, for your marvelous creation."



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Talking With God

written down, and some are not. There are loud prayers, silent prayers, and sung prayers. There are prayers done kneeling, standing, and sitting. There are prayers you say with your hands folded, head bowed, and eyes closed; and there are prayers you say with giggles and shouts of joy, with your arms raised. People pray when they're happy and when they're sad, and when they're angry or scared or confused.

Do you see? There are lots of kinds of prayers and lots of places to pray. But in all of them we talk to God just the way we are, and God talks to us. Amazing things happen when we pray. We begin to see how all the people on earth are part of one gigantic family living under the big umbrella of the sky.

Get Out In God's Creation

Where can you learn about God? In the Bible. In the fellowship of believers. In creation. If we want our children to know God, then we need to get out in God's natural world with them. That doesn't mean taking an expensive vacation. God's world can be found in a yard, a vacant lot, or a neighborhood park. You don't have to plan an expedition, or a picnic. Even fifteen minutes will give you a chance to observe and marvel, thank and praise.

What can you learn about God from creation? Look at all the different leaves. God loves variety. Find a spider web. Catch a snowflake. God has built patterns into our world. Watch an ant carrying a heavy load. God makes the weak powerful. Listen to the rustle of the leaves and the singing of the birds. God loves music. The smallest parts of creation can teach us big truths about our creator and our life.

Out in God's creation, we can teach our children about God and help them experience the renewal, peace, and joy of being in God's presence.



"For the beauty of the earth..." ELW 879

Reaching Out

Elementary children love to help others. Nurture your children's desire to help others by serving others as a family. Look for opportunities to help others through your church. Help collect necessities for victims of a disaster. Put together and distribute holiday food baskets. Serving others through the church is an important way of living our faith, but it's equally important for children to know that we can informally help others as well. Encourage your children to look for ways your family could assist others. A new mother might appreciate it if you provided a dinner. A neighbor with a broken leg might need someone to walk the dog.

In *Effective Christian Education: A National Study of Protestant Congregations* (1990), Search Institute found that serving others as a family, both formally and informally, was one of three factors that affect family religiousness. And family religiousness is one of the two most powerful influences on the faith maturity of youth. Helping others as a family promotes the unity of the family, increases the self-esteem of family members, and nurtures the growing faith in our children.



Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

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Visit us on Facebook at Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church

A Pilgrim People

If I have learned nothing else in my “short” life it is this: I hate moving!

There is a standing joke in my family between my mother and father. Mom loves to collect and display those blue plates. My father, upon reflection upon such collection often mutters that we are a pilgrim people and these plates make it tough to be mobile (we won’t talk about all his books).

The idea of a pilgrim people—ones who are not attached too closely to either stuff or place—is a good image for us. In the next few weeks/months we will again have to consider where and how we will worship. As difficult as this may be it does bring up for consideration what we attach ourselves to. Do we define ourselves by what we have and where we worship/minister (remember the conversation about our identity and place?); or is our identity bound to the One who calls us to life and bids us follow where He will lead—a pilgrim people? What are your thoughts?



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I use a different protocol to do so. My desire has not changed but my situation and solutions have.

If I were to suggest that the adapter I used in the 1990s worked so well that I wanted to be sure to use it today, I would have a problem. I no longer have a slot to plug it into; the card is now on the inside of the computer. I could “value” the adapter that served me so well by carrying it around with me or laying it on top of my new computer, or I could tape it to my computer so it would always be there. But this would have nothing to do with my connecting my computer to the Internet. . .

Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches, pg.122

For those of you who are now “hardwired” to your computers this illustration should serve well the situation the church often finds itself in. For those of you who don’t understand what you have just read, you understand the situation the church often finds itself in. The church indeed finds itself in a new context. We are dealing with a new genera-

tion that is not only “disenchanted” with the (institutional) church, but many of this generation have grown up without any contact with or from the church. In other words – all bets are off. We are being challenged to think and act in a manner different than we have in the past; we are being challenged with questions that in prior generations would not have been uttered, let alone thought. And yet this is such an exciting time – the harvest is plentiful! In this case disenchantment does not mean uninterested. The opposite is true. There is such a hunger, such a thirst for understanding and acceptance, a desire to be known and received, a desire to encounter and be encounter by God – the challenge we face is will we accept this challenge to be bearers of the gospel message to a searching people? Will we do so in a manner that engages the context we find ourselves in, or as in the illustration, will we continue to carry around and want to use an adapter card that is no longer usable? Will we emerge (with all that this means) from the shadows and be and do church among the communities we live in? Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send harvesters!

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Vacation Bible School Faith Presbyterian 9-Noon	2
3 7 Pentecost 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	4 6:32a Next Text 10a Next Text 2.0  Independence Day	5 8a Coffee	6 7p Healing Service	7	8	9
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
10 8 Pentecost 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship 5p Prison	11 6:32a Next Text 10a Next Text 2.0	12 8a Coffee	13 10a Gather Study 7p Midweek Service	14	15	16
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
17 9 Pentecost 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	18 6:32a Next Text 10a Next Text 2.0	19 8a Coffee	20 9:30a Foot Clinic 7p Midweek Service	21	22	23
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
24 10 Pentecost 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Fellowship	25 6:32a Next Text 10a Next Text 2.0	26 8a Coffee 5:30p Novel Ideas Book Club	27 10a Gather Study 7p Midweek Service	28	29 7p Tapping Into Faith	30
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
31 11 Pentecost 9a Worship & Communion 10:15a Semi-Annual Meeting						
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Jul 3	Steve Anderson	Steve & Joni Anderson	
Jul 10	John Larson	John & Flora Larson	
Jul 17	Janet Boyd	Lee, Boyd & Konningrud	
Jul 24	Dawn Largé	Barbara Hertenstein &	
Jul 31	Phil Schmidt	Maxine Rice & Gerry McMullen	

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Jul 1	Birthday	Regina Marks
Jul 3	Baptismal Birthday	Justus Gerrard
Jul 3	Baptismal Birthday	Khloe Gerrard
Jul 7	Birthday	Lauren Brewer
Jul 7	Birthday	Issac Madore
Jul 13	Baptismal Birthday	Issac Madore
Jul 21	Birthday	Dick Hensley
Jul 21	Baptismal Birthday	Parker Reid
Jul 25	Birthday	John Larson
Jul 25	Baptismal Birthday	Eleanor Leininger
Jul 28	Birthday	Elvira Eisele
Jul 29	Birthday	Daniel Meyers



Happy
Birthday