



# Student Ministry

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

## The Good News about Teens!

Our teens are a gift from God. God trusts us to love and care for them while we are both on earth. They are on loan to us until He returns them home to live with Him through eternity. Scripture tells us God knows our teens intimately and they are as precious as a crown to us as parents.

### **Psalm 33:12-14 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!*

<sup>13</sup>***The LORD looks down from heaven;  
he sees all the children of man;***

<sup>14</sup>*from where he sits enthroned he looks out  
on all the inhabitants of the earth,*

### **PRECIOUS:**

*Of great value or high price;  
highly esteemed or cherished.  
Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

### **Proverbs 17:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>***Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers.***

1. How does knowing that your teen belongs to God change your perspective on parenting?
2. Is your teen as precious as a crown to you? What might be a modern-day equivalent to the crown in Proverbs 17:6?





# Student Ministry

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

“Out of the mouth of babes” is a quote we use to note profound statements our children make from time to time. They often have a sense of clarity we lack ... until we are reminded by them! Jesus included little children ... even teenagers! ... and wanted them to come to Him. He said the Kingdom of God belonged to them! Wow! And, as Jesus taught the people as recorded in the book of Matthew, He tells us that God, the Father, reveals His wisdom to children:

## **Matthew 11:25-26 (ESV)**

*<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding **and revealed them to little children**; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.*

## **Luke 18:15-17 (ESV)**

*<sup>15</sup>Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying, “**Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** <sup>17</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”*

**3. What lessons has your teen taught you?**

**4. Have you ever hindered your children from their relationship with Jesus? What do you do to make sure they have access to Him?**





## Student Ministry

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

### **3 John 3-5 (ESV)**

*<sup>3</sup>For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. <sup>4</sup>**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.***

## **The Good News about Teens!**

Tim Elmore, for Psychology Today, has some good news about our teens! The “Homelander” generation, as they are becoming to be known, are worldly, informed, and care greatly about the world around them. Here’s more:

### **Homelanders: The Next Generation**

**Tim Elmore, President of Growing Leaders**

What can we expect from the new generation of kids born after the Millennials?

Already, I meet parents and teachers who ask the question: What can we expect from the Homelanders, the new generation of kids born after the Millennial Generation or Generation Y? How does our Generation X compare as we strive to parent these Homelanders?

According to most social scientists, Generation Y births ended between 2000 and 2002. This means that kids in middle and high school now are from a new generation. Two leading generational experts, Howe and Strauss, have already coined the term: Homelanders. They are earth’s newest generation. This name seems to fit since their first year (2003) was about the same time America gave birth to the Department of Homeland Security.

They were born into a different world than previous generations and are the first generation born in the 21st century. Because their early world is marked by terrorism, a troubled economy and a savvy, almost jaded social climate, they may not embrace the optimism of the early Millennials. Below is my first attempt at contrasting the Homelanders with their parents, Generation X. It is still early, but these are the marks we see in them, as we work with kids and observe how parents, culture, and schools have shaped them.





# Student Ministry

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

## GENERATION X (1963-1983)

1. Independent, self-reliant
2. Technologically adept
3. Career flexibility
4. Work/Life balance
5. Entrepreneurial
6. Cynical
7. Bravery (i.e., 9/11)
8. Skeptical of authority
9. Doesn't seek the limelight
10. Relationally skittish

## HOMELANDERS (2003-2021)

1. Cautious and safety preoccupied
2. Green-biased; focus on conservation
3. Insecure; seeking identity
4. Calculated
5. Frugal stewards of resources
6. Self-reliant
7. Realistic and pragmatic
8. Issue-oriented
9. Seek balance; trade-offs
10. Globally savvy and aware

Our work with these young students may require us to develop a new set of skills and a new level of emotional intelligence. They may need to hear different words of encouragement. They may need to be pushed to take risks and believe in the future more than their earlier counterparts did. While the world is still at their fingertips and communication with others globally is immediately available, this new batch of kids will approach life a bit more cautiously and safely. They'll be forced to be more calculated and pragmatic in their planning. They may be compelled to grow up faster than the "postponed" Millennials before them. With this in mind, observe these teens and see what you conclude about the habits forming in their lives. Let's lead them well.

**5. Does your teen fit the 10 characteristics listed in this article? How?**

**6. How can you be a better parent to your teen using this information?**

**7. How is your teen's faith influenced by the times in which they were born?**

