



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week

God's Workings – Right now!

I have come to the conclusion that God is working all the time, but most of the time we have no idea that we are intimately involved with that working!

It is really amazing to look around at this congregation and realize that 1) we are all God's children – all of us, tall and short, old and young, incredibly beautiful and handsome and rather average people. 2) Each of us takes up space here, each Sunday. 3) We also take up space in the world. 4) God has called us to more than taking up space!

As I look at this congregation (and the choir is a great place to get a good view – hint, hint), I see a lot of ministers. I see individuals who spend a great deal of their “out of the building” time praying. I see others who knit, sew, sing at nursing homes, visit, lead studies, listen for new needs, assist at community centers, work on “crafty” projects to make life easier for others. I see people who put in an incredible amount of time and effort so that things flow more smoothly as Shepherd of the Hills serves each of us and the community. I also know that there are many members of this congregation who need our life-giving love and care.

I believe that this is partly how God is working right now, through us and with us.

But let us not forget that God is also working for us – right now! As we gather as this family of God, we begin to come to know people who share our likes and dislikes, who speak easily to those who are shy or who are shy and need a special hello. We come to know that we can reach out and be welcomed even when we don't

feel very welcoming ourselves. We sing – or listen – as hymns are sung, as lessons are read and we pray – we pray with our voices and we pray with our hearts and we pray, sometimes, with only the cries of our heart before God's altar.

Sometimes it is difficult to leave this place of worship. We find that sometimes this is the only place on this earth where things seem fairly orderly, where it is reasonably quiet as apposed to the world which is constantly noisy. But we leave. And we leave with a sense of having been within the love of God. We leave knowing that our prayers have been heard, that our life is in God's hands. We go with the words "Thanks be to God" still ringing in our ears. We go, knowing that God has spoken through his word and through the words of others during the previous hour or so. We go, having feasted at the table, the table that joins us with Christians past and present who gather in the name of Christ.

God is at work right now – through us, in us, around us and with us. We may be too caught up in "stuff", on occasion, and lose sight of that great fact, but, thanks be to God, he doesn't lose sight of us! We have the miracle of faith right in the middle of our living every day. We have that miracle of faith because of God's love for all his people. As his people of faith, we live what we hear and know. We go into the world in thanks to God for being with us in the good times and the difficult times. God is with us and working right now. Thanks be to God!

TMK

--- Thoughts of the Week

Jun 25, 2006