



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

God's Grace is Sufficient

How often have you looked over your life? That may seem like an “old person’s” question, but I know many of you are not in that category and you have looked back in wonder more than once.

We look back on our lives from this point and we realize that many of the things we did or much of what happened to us (wrong place, wrong time) could have been a lot worse for us than it turned out to be. We also have fears for the future – we can build horrible landscapes for our lives given only a few seconds! We’re very good at seeing disaster coming down the road and not too good at seeing God’s hand at work.

Let’s work on the “God’s hand at work” thing this week. Think of all the times we’ve been in “near” accidents on the road – we do live in Florida where everybody from everywhere has brought their bad driving habits to roost –, then think of all the falls you children or you have had at home (most accidents happen in the home, you know), or some of the illnesses you have had, or some of the just dumb things you have done that have put you in dangerous places. Think of the times when help “just happened to be there at the right time” and know that God’s hand was at work. Sometimes it’s others who teach us.

One of our parishioners in Wisconsin had a grandchild who was diagnosed with cancer at a very young age. They were certainly on edge when they got the

diagnosis and they prayed “like we have never prayed before.” They didn’t know if she would live or

die, but they placed her in God’s hands. They spent days in that hospital room while she underwent some terrible therapies, still not knowing what the final outcome would be. Then one day the little girl told her parents that she was going to get well. Since she was still under intensive care, they weren’t as sure. But they asked her how she knew. She said “the angels told me.” She proceeded to let them know that there were angels on the foot of her bed who spoke to her, often, and that they had told her she would get well.

Was there skepticism on the part of the adults? Of course, they were “knowledgeable” and “knew” a child’s vision was not reality.

Three things happened during that illness. The little granddaughter defeated the cancer. The parents and grandparents found out that children can often see and understand things we have trouble with, and the American Cancer Society got incredible workers for their “cancer walks” each year!

The faith of the family was strong to begin with, but it became a faith of joy and fulfillment. They had put the girl in God’s hands and found that God’s grace held her strong and kept them up. They would have accepted whatever the medical outcome might be, but they joyfully accepted the gift of more life.

For them, a look back easily shows God’s grace and love. As we look back, there are also many times of grace and love, although they might not seem as dramatic. Look back this week, and know that God is with us and gracefully keeps us strong and with him.

TAK

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