



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

**Theme: Move>>Away!**

My mind works in funny, some would say strange, ways! I saw that theme and I realized that school has begun and that we are being blessed today with the joy of baptisms. In other words, this is a time of and for children. And, as a grandparent, there are times when I want to move – away!

But the other side of all this is the comment that we need to keep children in mind as we are driving around and realize that they don't always follow the rules. And by not following the rules when walking or riding their bikes, they don't realize that breaking those rules is really a very dangerous thing to do. But we know that and we have the responsibility to do something about it.

I don't want to move away from children. Underneath it all, I really love children and dislike giving up the part of me that makes me feel child-like. So I won't. I hope you hold on to a bit of that child-likeness too. We need to remember to laugh easily, cry sometimes and forget hurts quickly. That is child-like and a good thing. But as adults, we also know that we have responsibilities to the children who come our way. We need to move away when we see bikes and walkers. We need to move away when children need to work things out for themselves. We need to move away when they are struggling to build themselves up and sometimes even when they are working hard on their homework – that's one way we learn the best – really working on it and doing it ourselves.

A story. At one point in my life I really enjoyed making models of all sorts. I found a picture in a book of the Eiffel Tower. I began to make plans and draw what I thought was the way I should go. Let's face it, I needed to find some way to pass French.

Anyway, my mother never thought I'd finish that model. I spent hour upon hour on it. I finally did finish it and mount it on a board – and 35 inches high and I don't remember how wide. Mom was amazed that I actually finished that project. The last thing I did was copy a poem and past it on the bottom before I showed it to her. It began "Somebody said that it couldn't be done, but s/he with a smile replied, that maybe it couldn't but s/he wouldn't be one to say so till s/he'd tried". Some people call that steady worker and others say it's just pure Swede stubborn. Probably a little of both. But I stuck to it and felt good about my own accomplishment.

There were other projects (I needed help passing English, too.).

On the other hand, there are times when moving away means moving away from our own fears and worries. We need to move close to someone when they are feeling down, even though we know we are not a certified psychologist – but we may be a certified friend. We need to move away from our own fears of the unknown and reach out to those who are handicapped or who need help with a difficult time in life. We need to move away from our prejudices about the poor and begin to look at our resources and see what we can do with the great gifts we have in too much abundance.

Moving out means receiving those around us and moving out from our own limits. With God's help, move on out with love.

**TAK**

*-- Week of August 19, 2007*