



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

Miracles and Ministry

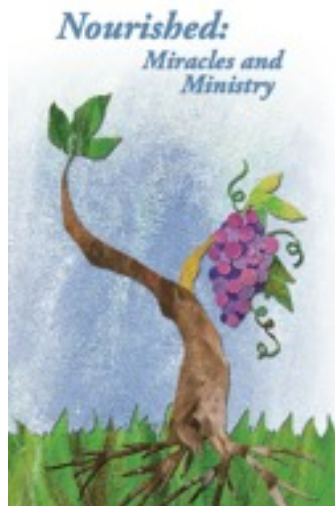
Have you seen any miracles recently? I have. I saw a house rise up with the help of many volunteers and a lot of coffee! I see people, everyday, receiving food and clothing as the gifts of all of us accumulate in the Neighborhood center. I see people helping people with no thought of payment. I see many of you serving others in so many ways they can't be counted.

I've also seen many of you caught up in efforts you do because you have a specific talent or gift for organization (something I don't have!). But I've also heard others say it's time they backed off because they may be doing so much they will harm themselves by OVER doing a good thing.

Sometimes miracles and ministry get over done to the point of exhaustion and even illness. Watch out! I'm surely not telling you not to volunteer - my "retirement" would be a bore if I couldn't do some of the stuff I do. But I am saying be careful that you don't work yourself into a lather. Sometimes we have to pick and choose. But sometimes it only takes someone else helping along to lighten the load.

OK. That's for those of you who have managed to avoid me asking for volunteers for this, that or the other thing. We have many people who are wonderful volunteers. They not only assist with ministry - and bring miracles into the lives of others, but they drive the Christian workings of this congregation and bring help to many wonderful places in the community, ie., the hospital, thrift shops, meal sites, and a lot of things we never even think of. And these folk need your help. If you are not already involved with some helping agency in the community, we can put you in touch with library people, hospital people, Blood donor people, Thrivent people and all kinds of people who can point you to wonderful ways of volunteering.

Too many of us give up helping when we move to Florida. I've heard people tell me that they were very active in their church "up north" but they are retired now so golf has taken over! I'm not saying we need to support our congregation - which we should do automatically - but rather that we should take a look around us and realize that if our community is going to feel the gift of love that God has given us, we need to spread it around.



I have been thrilled by the number of "snowbirds" who have asked about helping at the Neighborhood center. You may think you have "only" a couple of months or a few weeks, but the help you can give is very valuable. Regular volunteers get sick, take time off for family needs and the like. There are only a few people to take their place on a moments notice. It seems as though the same people are on call all the time. You're little time there is help beyond help. Thanks.

And don't quit when you return home. We hope that we are a congregation that will instill in you our motto "Blessed to be a blessing". Each of us is blessed in a different way and we carry that blessing with us no matter where we go. As you are blessed, for sure be a blessing in someone else's life. AMEN

TMK

-- *Week of March 7, 2010*