



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

Teaching and Trusting

How do you teach? I suspect most of my teaching is by “doing”. Once I led a Bible Study and the man who was teaching said I would make a good teacher! I respected him and his opinion, but I think he was wrong. I found that out when I tried to teach youngsters – I can’t keep up with them. Their minds run a lot faster than mine and I just can’t handle the speed.

But I think they trust me. They see me in action and they know, from my actions, what I think the world is like and what the world needs from me. I have talents, but, sorry Dr. Hall, I don’t think teaching is on the top of the list.

I sure appreciate the feeling that I’m trusted. I believe God has ENtrusted me with his Word through my ordination. When you are entrusted with something, you are responsible for being a good steward of that item. God has entrusted all of us with everything we have and we need to be good stewards – we need to plan how we use the gifts and the stuff in our lives and how to support the work of God with money – we hate to hear that, but it’s true.

I saw a cartoon a long time ago where the child said to his dad as they finished a meal, “How come the waitress gets 15% but God only gets 10%?” How do we say it? Out of the mouths of babes! For most of us, 10% is above what we think we can “give away” each week. But we need to think of our lives differently.

We don’t “give away” in our offerings to our congregation. We give to the work of God in our offerings. We may not think of it that way because we are also asked to support gifts for disasters, for new organs, youth programs, Sunday School and the like. But through our weekly offerings we also send gifts to the national church which support missionaries, seminarians, women’s work, and probably a thousand other things I can’t remember.

The wonderful thing is that our gifts are only a small part of that income. When we send gifts to our synod and the national church, they are multiplied again and again by the gifts of many others. Beyond that, they are multiplied again by those who give of their time and effort and by the wonder of God's beneficence as gifts seem to grow beyond their initial number.

Do you teach trust by also trusting? Do you trust that God will care for each of us in our needs? Do you trust that God has given us the gifts we have in order to bless others in this world?

When we trust God, it shows. It shows in our attitude, in our activity, in our outlook on life and in our stewardship of talent, time, possessions and money. I see a lot of good attitude in the "wagon" every week. Many of you give generously every week and some of you give offerings of money for the purchase of food. Too often we don't say thanks, but today accept my thanks for all that good. The members of the Board of Directors see that good and are most appreciative of our gifts. We also give the gift of time, and that is also appreciated by all.

Teach and trust in Jesus. It makes life a lot easier in the long run!

TMK

-- *Week of March 21, 2010*

