



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

**All Wet – Stars of faith!**

Are you a “star of faith?” Are you thinking that in this tough economic time God is going to see you through or are you sending your blood pressure up everyday wondering where the next meal is coming from? I’m not making light of the fact that for many of us, times are tight and we don’t have all that much in our bank accounts. I’m not making light of the fact that many of us and others in the world are reasonably worried about our retirement funds or our job prospects. Not at all. But I am asking how your faith is doing at this time.

Abraham was a “star” in that he finally believed that God would give him descendents. But remember, he didn’t trust God right away. He decided that since his wife was almost as old as he was, he’d better find a younger woman (his wife’s slave) to bear a child for him so that he would have those descendents that God promised. He was going to “fix” God’s plan that he found ridiculous.

We do the same thing. In government we don’t like what we see, so we vote the senator, governor, representative or president out and someone new in, as if that will solve all our problems. We find out that we can’t do all that well by ourselves. There is too much give and take, grayness, inconclusiveness in how we think and how we believe we should be governed.

Well, Abraham thought that he could “fix” what God had promised. He couldn’t see that God could do the really impossible – at least impossible by our same reckoning. In some ways our electing politicians is the same. We just sit back and complain about a situation feeling that “soon” we will be able to change it all with our vote. It is very possible that what we SHOULD be doing is working with what we’ve got and doing our own part to make it better. Instead, we count on some other people. Mistake.

I'm not saying that God will fix all things political. We've got ourselves into this wonderful country with its constitution that allows us a lot of individual freedom. What we've done with that freedom isn't always the best thing. So, instead of using that freedom to complain, perhaps we should be using that freedom to apply our faith in God to the way we live. We believe that God has given us brains to take care of ourselves and to do for others as we do for ourselves. But too often we wait for the other person to do it for us. (This sounds like the donation request time on Public Radio!) But "others" have different abilities than ours and we need to do our part if God is going to change society and the world. Our hands and feet can become his hands and feet if we truly believe his promises.

This is the fifth Sunday in Lent. It is only days before we enter Holy Week, the time when we pay special attention to Jesus' final days. He came from God and showed us what knowing God's care can do for us. For him, it finally meant death on the cross – but he did it because he knew that God is the God of life, not the God of death. We live in that knowledge knowing that we have only begun our life in God here – there is more to come – more than we can imagine!

*TMK*

*-- Week of March 29, 2009*