



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

Bold Church: Proclamation

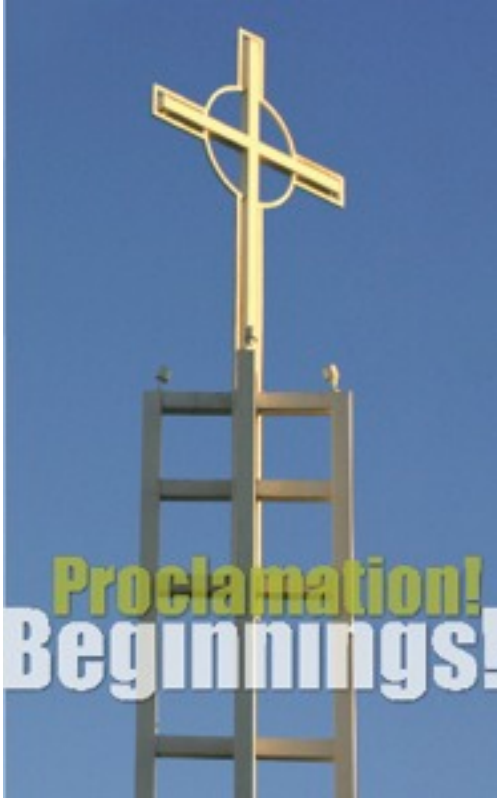
Happy Easter! Yes, we are still in the Easter season. It's sort of like how we forget that Christmas goes on for twelve days, we forget that Easter goes on for another 40 days (until the celebration of the Ascension). And that's going to be overshadowed by Mothers' Day this year! Ah, how the world interferes.

Oh, let me see if I can get out of this conundrum! The point I'm trying to make - very badly - is that often we allow the world to let us forget the very important parts of our life. Easter season is so important that we will celebrate it 7 weeks. Easter is the time we celebrate our continuing life, because of the resurrection of Jesus.

Do you also remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter? The forty days of Lent exclude Sundays because they are always days of celebration.

There are times when we tease people about being Christmas and Easter Christians. That's too bad, in one way, since a lot is missed and they are missed when they don't come to worship. On the other hand, they do take part in the most important celebrations we have: the birth of Jesus and his resurrection. These are days when we need to welcome, with joy, those we may not see any other time of the year. In some ways, I hope that we are all Christmas and Easter Christians! Celebrate the joys of heaven every day!

Now, how do we proclaim that joy we have in Christ? One way is that our friends and neighbors see and know that we will be found in worship every Sunday and sometimes in between. We are active in our congregation and find that many of the friendships we develop come from this family of God. We begin to develop a habit of saying, when we speak, "I have a project I have to



get done at church”. Sometimes our friends and neighbors wonder if we spend more time “at church” than we do with our families.

It may seem strange to say, but what we do is a real proclamation. We are telling people that what goes on in this building (you do remember that ‘the church’ is the people in the building) is important to us. They may not see it right away, but the question will surely come “why?” What is it that happens there that makes that building and those people so important to you?

Each of us will answer differently because each of us has a different experience within these walls. We learn, we experience, we worship, we feast, we rejoice, we renew baptismal vows, we pray and we know that in it all, God is present. In many ways, this is part of our stewardship of time. The little time we

spend here is what becomes the foundation of our being. The shared faith we have gives us strength in hard times and joy to share in good times.

Your proclamation is strongest when you give to others what you have received from God: love, respect, honor, acceptance and blessings. Are you happy as you join in worship? Do you find it edifying? Is your outlook on life stronger and more faith-filled than when you entered the building? Have your friendships been strengthened? Do you want to return during the week and next week for worship? Great questions, all. I hope your answer is very positive!

TMK

-- *Week of April 18, 2010*