



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

**Bold Church: Transformation**

There are a lot of transformations that happen all around us. Leaves change during the year. I wait for what I call the “lime green” of spring in Florida. But Spring also brings colors through flowers and, this year, a renewal of many plants that were damaged in the winter.

Some of us help to transform the land we live on by getting our hands dirty and planting annuals every year (not me. I have a brown thumb!). Yet there are plants and flowers coming up from bulbs that lay quietly in the ground through the winter and now spring forth into beautiful flowers.

I am writing this note in early April and my amaryllis are beginning to bloom. I'm thrilled anew every year as I see these magnificent flowers push large stalks through the ground and bloom in white, red and mixed colors. It takes a bit longer for the “Easter Lilies” to mature, so I will have lilies for some time yet.

All this transforms a rather dull and unassuming plot of ground into a veritable rainbow of color. This is a transformation we see and love.

But what about me? How does that transformation affect me? Does it do anything for my mind, body and soul?

To some extent, yes. I get excited and feel that I want to add to this marvelous scene, and I often go and get more flowers to plant – and, with my brown thumb, they seldom last into the next year. But my view of life and my view of my abilities is transformed for a short time. I want to build on the wonder that has survived and add to it's wonder.

I think that's what happens to us as Christians. We come into this wonderful group of people and appreciate the love and care we find – and we

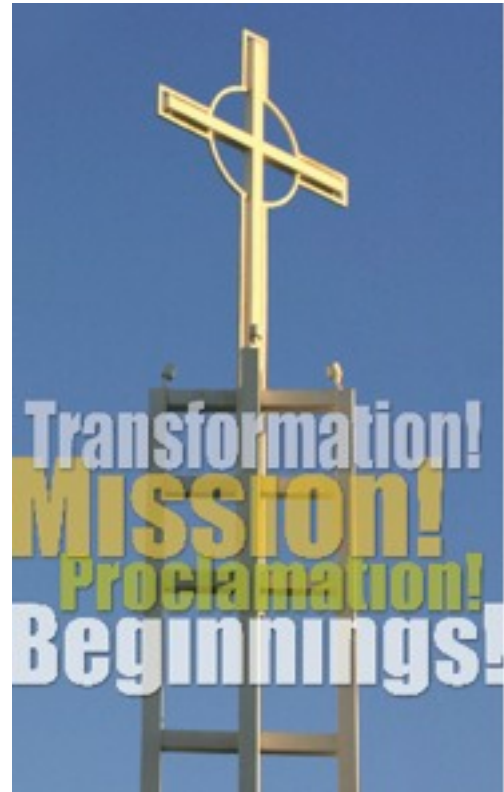
want to add to it. We participate in many different ways, each of us. And it is in that participation that WE are transformed.

As we give of our time and our effort, we begin to understand what this “Blest to be a Blessing” thing is all about. We may begin by feeling an impetus to give of our time, our talent and our money to assist in the ministry we share. But soon we find that the initial feeling of feeling we SHOULD do something, to become a part of this ministry, becomes a feeling of WANTING to find a way to serve and may eventually evolve into looking for ways to expand our ministry. Believe it or not, that’s the way some of our work has begun!

Our ministry really does help transform God’s world. But our ministry also begins to transform us as we take part in handwork, carpentry, general yard work and cleanup. We may say (and I’ve heard this from a lot of people) “Oh, I really don’t do all that much”, but from where I sit each “not much” translates into wonderfulness!

So, two things today: transform the world so that the word of God has continually better soil in which to be planted and watch as this congregation and the people in it become transformed by the mission they work for. We may not see it in ourselves – we’re too critical of ourselves sometimes – but look for it in others and know that same power of transformation is at work in you.

*TMK*



-- *Week of May 2, 2010*