



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

**Bold Church: Adventure**

How or where or when did you begin your great Christian Adventure? Can you remember a specific time or did you just sort of “grow” into it? Who were the people who told their story to you- in words and/or deeds? What people have made big changes in your life by their example?

You know the list of questions could go on and on. The point of all this is that our lives, from day one, are an adventure. Babies are excited all the time by new things - their own feet and fingers, voices they become familiar with, colorful toys, warm touches. The things that excite them change as they and we grow. We begin to look out into the world and see all the things we can get in to! We receive warnings about what not to do and what to do. Life begins to take on some meaning and direction.

Enter, God. Even in our earliest contacts, God is present. It may be in the love we receive in our family or from guidance from neighbors or friends. We may not identify all this as “God’s thing” but since God is love we know the initiation of all good things is from God.

Have you ever thought of your own life as an adventure? In this country we are lucky because there are so many things we can try out or attempt which can only add to the adventure we have in life. Even more, no matter where we live or what our occupation is, we carry our faith with us and so we look at life somewhat differently than those who are not Christian. And yet, there are similarities, points of contact.

Back in the “old days” when we were in mission school, we spoke a lot about some of the major faiths with whom we would have contact. We are fortunate in this congregation to have to opportunity to study many of those

faiths each week. What we discovered and I think what many of us are discovering here, is that there are many places in which we can make contact.

Certainly, compassion is present as a model in every faith. There is concern for those around us and the belief that there is something higher than life itself for which to reach.

What do these points of contact mean in our lives? I think they give us an opportunity to speak to others as to where our vision comes from. It gives us an opportunity to listen to others and find even more places where faith touches faith. We can learn from others and, in the process, learn more and more how God speaks to all people in one way or the other about life in love.

Does this make us all Christian in one way or another? No, only faith in Christ does that. But it does keep us open to learning and seeing the far reaching ways God speaks to human beings in the world.

We live our lives the way we do because we believe that the completeness of God came in Jesus the Christ. We will be far more open to other instances of God's work if we will listen and learn from those to whom God is coming in a different way. As we listen and learn, we also share our faith. There are times, many times, when our lives, shared with others, opens them up to the great adventure of Christian Faith. Stop. Look. Listen. Share. See how God is working in the world.

*TMK*



-- *Week of May 16, 2010*