



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

I AM

The Ten Commandments, as we know them, begin with the phrase “I am the Lord your God.” My feeling is that every commandment we look at should begin with that phrase. We do not covet because “I am the Lord your God and you are my children.” Try it with all the commandments. The whole thing makes more sense that way. We are who we are and we do what we do because we are children of God.

I am often impressed and excited as I become aware of the great deal of time and effort given by folk in this particular family of God. I'm not talking about those who we see on Sunday morning – although I am more than grateful for those who teach and help with Sunday School, children's choir, Adult choir and the ministry of music of the congregation. I'm talking about Monday through Saturday. Most of us have very little awareness of how much is done during the week by members of this congregation on a volunteer basis both around the church and in the community. My home church puts a list in their newsletter each month thanking those who give a little extra of their time and effort. They only get about 8 people on the list every time. I can count on so many that I don't have enough fingers to keep count, which is why I won't make a list for you. There are people who give full half days many weeks to help keep us functional. There are those who “come when needed” on short notice. There are those without whose effort we just plain wouldn't get things done. So, I say, at this point, Thank you, each of you.

But why do they do this? Why so come people seem to give out of their monetary resources so generously? Probably all for the same reason – they know, accept and rejoice in the fact that they – we— are all children of God. Those who function in this way may not seem to be the most “holy” of those in our midst, but their lives shine in the light of God's goodness.

What does being a child of God mean to you? How do you express it that relationship? What does it mean to you not to steal, kill or remain chaste in the light of your relationship to the one who says “I am the Lord your God”?

For each of us the answer is different. Maybe we say our “prayers” with food for the hungry or by helping a neighbor out. Maybe we have time to sit quietly and use it for meditation rather than TV. Maybe we have only “traffic light” prayers during the day or we say hundreds of quick thanks and helps each day.

No matter, whatever we say and do, when we say and do it because we are responding to God’s love for us, we are living out our relationship with God, our Lord and God.

“We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord” is how the old song goes. It doesn’t say we are all the same in the spirit and the same in the lord. That kind of unity would make everything very boring. God didn’t make a boring world; he made it exciting and wonderful. Just another reason to say thanks – again and again.

Children of God – take time to rejoice and live in Joy.

TMK

-- Week of May 24, 2009