



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

### **Family News**

Have you heard and seen the news these days? Isn't it wonderful? Wars, accidents, oil spills, earthquakes, floods and strange diseases. Sometimes our own family news isn't much better. And when we get news like this, we want to know that we have support somewhere. Well, it's here.

Where? Here! Yes, here in this place. In this family of God. It is here we hear the good news, the news that no matter what happens God is with us. We may not like what we hear or even what happens to us, but we do know that God walks with us.

There is a rite that we often use when we pastors spend a few minutes with folk before surgery. Of course, prayers are given for healing and the like, but also we have oil that is used for healing. As that oil is placed on our head in the sign of the cross, we are assured of God's presence in a difficult and sometimes dangerous time.

Prayer is a funny (strange) thing sometimes. We pray for healing and no healing happens. We pray for safety and the person is not safe. We pray for peace in our lives and in the world, and there is no peace that we can see or comprehend. So what good is prayer?

Maybe we have the wrong idea of what prayer is. The good news is that prayer is our communication with God. He certainly hears us, but we don't always hear him. And we also need to know that all prayers are prayed with the addendum - your will be done. Someone has said, "be careful what you pray for. You may get it!"

Prayers are always answered but they are answered with the goodness of God's wisdom. If we received all we prayed for, we might very well be in quite a mess. On the other hand, knowing that we are held in prayer by our family of God is strengthening in our lives. And that's what we pray for – continued steady contact with God and strength to face whatever comes to us.

So there is good news in this world. We won't find it on TV or on the radio, but we will hear it everyday as we meditate on God's word and pray – keep our contact up with him.

Family News comes to us in bulk a number of ways. Each week we hear the good news of God's love and caring. Each week we offer prayers for healing, thanks and good health. Also, each week our prayer list is set before us – in big letters on the wall in front of us just before worship begins. That's a good time for us to quiet down, look up and pray, by name, for each person on that list. We may not know them, but we know that they are in need. They may not even know about God's love, but we pray that that love will come to them and give them peace. They may very well know that we pray for them each week – for some us, each day – and they are grateful for our prayers.

This is our FAMILY news. What goes on in the world is painful to see and hear. What happens in this place holds us up and gives us strength and courage to face another day, another treatment, another time of decision. Pray that God's will is done in the world. Don't stop communicating!



*TMK*

-- *Week of June 6, 2010*