



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

## **Family Faithfulness**

Faithfulness. What a great theme for Fathers' day. Yes, the big "grammar" thing again! You may or may not be blessed as a physical dad, but you may be a mentor for many children. Those to come to mind right away are those who work in the scouts, counselors in the "y", probation officers, next door neighbors, Big Brothers, community leaders ... the list could go on.

But faithfulness is the big deal I remember our neighbor from my youth, Carl. I would go up to their house every Sunday morning and he and Mable would take me to church. He was the Sunday School Superintendent, she played the piano. They were my second family. They had a beautiful yard. He worked on it faithfully. I never saw him angry. And he had reason.

One morning he left for work at about 6:00 AM. He got to the end of the street - and all his tires went flat. Someone had put a bunch of roofing nails on the street by the stop sign. He walked back home, called a garage and got them fixed. Even in telling the story he never showed anger. I don't remember that he had ulcers, either!

He was an amazing guy. He took care of all the plantings at the church. He was always puttering around. He became head usher when we built the new building. And, to the best of anyone's knowledge, he never heard a sermon. His habit was to make sure everything was going well, step outside, walk around and check the grounds, get back in in time to take up the offering, wait for church to be over, clean up the pews then head for home.

Now Carl was nobody's "Dad", but he was faithful to his family, the church, and to his family, the neighbors. But I've often wondered about his relationship to God. I'm sure that he and God had some interesting

conversations while he gardened and he really cared for the “house of God”. He was such a quiet individual you never really knew what went on in his head.

But he had a kind of faithfulness. In acting out in his life, he made me know that steady involvement was important. He let me know that, for him, “Church”, however he did it was important. He and I did stuff at the church together. I helped “build” the new building because he needed some extra hands at times.

Faithfulness is an interesting concept. Some people think that if they provide a roof overhead and food on the table, that’s enough faithfulness. Others feel that if they aren’t at every child’s game or spending hours on end with their children, they aren’t faithful to their children as parents. Children also have different ideas about what faithfulness is.

But for a family to be strong, the members of that family need to be faithful to each other and with each other. We need to express our desires but know that they can’t all be met. We need to know that some things have to be set aside for a while. We need to know that each of us is a valuable part of that family.

Today, it’s dads. Tomorrow it’s someone else or all together. But it’s family. It’s us and with God in the mix, we can’t go wrong.

*TMK*

-- *Week of June 21, 2009*