



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

Daily Bread

What does “daily bread” mean to you? To decide where to go out for dinner? To grab something out of the freezer and nuke it? To make a PBJ instead of actually cooking something? To panic if we don’t have enough food in the house at hurricane time? What is “enough”?

At the food pantry many people are really happy to get the bit of food they receive – a whole 2 days food once a month! But others are disgusted that they can’t get just what they want – and plenty of it. Some volunteers have seen people out in the parking lot tossing out the food they don’t want rather than bringing it back in for someone else to receive. How thankful are we for our full pantries and overflowing freezers?

There are those who are trying to make ends meet so they can pay rent/ mortgages, utilities and the like. Are we ready to support those folk? Sometimes the neighborhood center can find money for rental assistance, but right now, as you well know, money is scarce. There are those who are almost panicked wondering where their help is going to come from.

Do we, as Christians, trust God enough to know that we will be taken care of one way or the other? We think we do and we don’t know why others are not as assured. Most of us are the lucky ones. We have decent educations and our families have given us a good start in life. We don’t know many people who are not as fortunate as we are. Our daily bread is pretty much taken care of by the resources we have or the resources we know are available to us. We are pretty well set.

But what about that family which is being foreclosed on? What about those whose resources are running low? Most of those we know wouldn’t tell

us if they are in financial trouble. Somehow it's not an acceptable subject. We become ashamed if we can't handle our financial lives.

Hey, it's not something to hide. And those of us who are feeling comfortable need to be there to use our talents and resources to help them through. Maybe we don't have extra money, but we may have some talent that can help – debt counseling, tax resources, pointing the way for social resources which may be available.

Daily bread is a gift of God for all people. We may feel that other people could use their resources differently and come out of it better (we do love to judge others, don't we?) but we need to do what God does – we need to meet people where they are and help them move on from there.

We need to give thanks again and again for our daily bread. God has been good to us. We've had our ups and downs, but we have managed to keep our feet on the ground, a roof over our heads and good contact with this family of God which is our spiritual and loving support in both good times and bad.

If you are in good shape, use your resources wisely and support programs and people who are in need. Give before you are asked and offer gifts of time and goods when you can. God is good. He has given us much to be thankful for. Go on in life living in thanks for a good life, a good family and good daily bread!

TMK

-- Week of August 9, 2009