



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

Broken? There's an APP for that.

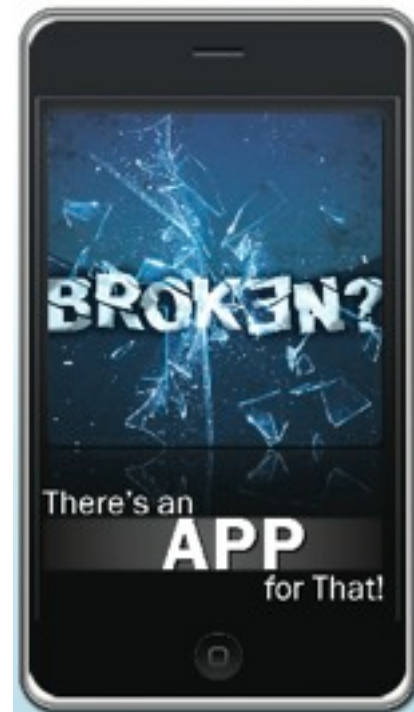
There are times when we all feel “broken”. We are well aware of our brokenness if we are not feeling well. We go to the doctor, get some pills, drink some horrid fluid and assume that we are on our way to wellness.

I've recently done it all! My “innards” have been stretched and probed, visualized and recorded for posterity. And it all happened, even though I didn't feel broken.

Sometimes it's good to have someone else help us understand when we need to have medical help. I have good friends like that. But there are other brokenness that is harder to heal.

That brokenness is often in our feelings. We feel that we have been denied our “rights”, whatever that may be. We feel as though we have been “put down” or neglected. We may even feel that someone is out to get us and make us useless to society. We may even feel useless to society and to our own family.

That's called depression. That is not easy to heal. Sometimes it's not easy even to recognize in our selves. This is when we need a caring family around us. I find this family in this congregation. There is support for me in the tough times and celebrations with me when things go well.



We have been baptized. What does that mean? It means that the family we have is far greater than this group that gathers under the giant flag and the giant cross on the road. It means that our family is world wide.

Have you ever met other Christians across the world? We had an interesting experience in Sweden a few years ago. We went to and English service of an evening. Attending that service were people from all over the world. Being a Lutheran Church, there was coffee afterwards and it was a great time to visit. I found out that all these people from so many different places came to the “English” service because it was the most common language they shared. Swedish is not high on the list of languages to learn in Africa!

When you travel – anywhere – find a local parish in which you can participate. You will be amazed at how welcoming they will be and how much you will feel the camaraderie of the faith.

And, no matter what, keep the faith and you will find that throughout the world, healing will begin to happen both to you and to those you meet. TMK

TMK

-- *Week of August 22, 2010*