



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

Mezuzah



<--- This is what Mezuzah looks like in Hebrew and this is a type of container it is put in on a doorpost. --->



Some older Roman Catholics follow a similar tradition by placing a container with holy water near the door they use most often so they may dip their fingers in it and make the sign of the cross each time they enter and/or leave the house. It is a wonderful reminder to keep faith close as we move through life.



How do you keep your faith in front of your life each day? Do you wear a cross or have a cross in your pocket? Do you know it's there or it is only a piece of jewelry? Do you begin each day with private or family devotions? Do you end each day with thanks to God for all the good gifts of the day?

All of these things are only reminders. It is how we put them to use that really counts.

Today is a day we give thanks and honor those folk who have helped us grow over the years. All of you parents know that your "Children" are always children no matter how old or mature they become. Then we become grandparents and great and great-great grands - and those little ones are so

welcome because they remind us of the joys of life. We give thanks that they come to us. I have known many families who have had great medical conditions to deal with when their children are born – but they don't regret one moment of time they give for that child's life and they love all their children with the same undying love.

That's what it means to know where your faith is. That's what it means to keep your faith active. We love all of God's children – even those we may have trouble liking! – and treat all people with respect and care.

All of us who are blessed with grands and more – even my 5'19" little guy – know how much we watch and care for them. We are proud when they do well and we hurt when life treats them badly. If we lose any of them, we mourn for the potential that was lost in their lives.

We have lived our lives in faith. We have tried, most times successfully, to pass that faith on. When we have failed, it is not a "fault" to mourn over, but an avenue for prayer and concern. Maybe we need more symbols to counteract the attraction of worldly symbols. Maybe we need to remember to show our love to others more frequently – to hold our temper more often – to praise another's work more enthusiastically.

Some have put symbols on their homes which signify to other Christians that there is a fellow believer who lives here. But it is when we interact with others that our lives show non-believers that Christians are different – "good" different! God is love! Live God's love today and always!

TMK

-- Week of September 13, 2009