



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

## Ordinary or Extraordinary?

I don't care what any of you think about your talents, each of you is EXTRA-ORDINARY! When I am with you I learn things – yes I do. You surprise me with your talents, your insights, your graciousness and your goodness. You do things for me, things about which I am totally stupid. You amaze me with your creativeness and your specialized knowledge. Some of you older folk amaze me with your energy – as much as a child sometimes. And the children amaze me with the understanding that sometimes just gazing at the stars is the best thing that can be done at that moment!

Some of you have drawn me to the Neighborhood Center – and I have learned a few things – but not how to check people in; you have to have your alphabet pretty well established to do that. I love music but am not terribly accomplished at it – and I have discovered that as I grow older my voice is happier in a lower range. I like making individual cards and such, but as an artist I am a failure, so I listened to some of you, experimented and found that computers contain all kinds of good pictures.

You have all reminded me that life can be filled with joy and when needed, you support me and others with your love and care. I have learned about generosity from you – you are generous with your time, your talents and your money. You help each other during tough times and you ask, sincerely, how others are doing in their lives. You have taught me that, even with mistakes, we can still help each other out – and in!

How do we think of ourselves? Unfortunately we usually think of ourselves as “ordinary”, nothing special. Well, good folk, we are all wrong. We are children of God and in this world that is extraordinary. But being wonderful, extraordinary people because of God means that we also have extraordinary responsibilities. Our days need not be filled with preaching on

street corners. There are those who feel that is the only way to serve God. I walk away from that kind of thing myself.

Rather, as extraordinary people, we do ordinary things for the sake of God's children. We do those things because we see the children of God in need. But sometimes we do ordinary things because we enjoy the fellowship of fellow Christians. Sometimes we do ordinary things because God's Spirit guides us to certain places at certain times and - WOW - we discover we are needed and we didn't even know it.

I have learned a lot from all of you, but I have also learned a lot from others over my lifetime. Children have opened their arms to me so that not having been a parent; I have still had the joy of children in my life. Some who are confined to home have taught me that quietness and meditation are ways that seem to make time fly at times. Conversations about prayer have led me to more times of conversation with God than many of you know - I just haven't mentioned it to you - Thanks.

In all things we are extraordinary as we move in very ordinary ways in God's world. Remember, God makes all things good.

*TMK*

*-- Week of November 15, 2009*