



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

**Love**

Who doesn't want to be loved? We all want that for all people. Yet there are those in the world who treat others as if they were "things", not the people of God.

We do the best we can in this particular family of God. We have collected toys and food for those who are less fortunate than we are and some of us spend a good deal of time helping out at the neighborhood center so that what we have given can be distributed with dispatch.

What we need to do is, somehow, reach out to people who are neglectful of those in need. We need to be a blessing by helping others begin to understand that love doesn't just mean taking care of your family but it also means giving assistance to others.

I'm going to tell you about one of our littlest angels. This angel is a giver - something that has been learned by watching friends and family. This year, instead of a receiving a gift, this angel took money given and went "shopping" for those less fortunate. This angel has also given time at the neighborhood center sorting food and bringing happiness to other volunteers by constantly smiling as young legs help the older folk move stuff around.

Our angel has given a lot of love but has received a lot of love and satisfaction watching others benefit from what is done. And it is never enough. This angel would take food out of the family's mouth if someone less fortunate could be helped. So, some harsh learning has to take place. We can't help everyone no matter how much we'd like to.

Now you need to know that there are also some larger angels in our midst. There are those among us who give countless hours and attitude to

those in need. They have discovered that giving is almost like an aphrodisiac. Volunteering is time well spent. Seeking out instances where we might be a help is a blessing.

Some of us have been generous with our time in providing transportation to doctors or shopping or other necessary things. Some of us discover needs in a family that we can provide for. Some of us make sure that families have the fellowship of others to share on holidays. Some of us give countless hours on handcrafts for others, on doing chores others might find difficult or even impossible. Some of us have the biggest hearts in the world and very few, if any others are even aware of how our time is spent.

As I look over the congregation on a Sunday morning, I see person upon person who I know is giving beyond their means in time and talent. I am happy to be a member of this family of God because I know the community is better because of the blessings given by so many people who worship here.

Are you looking for something to do or give to or someone to help? Just ask. We are overloaded with talented people who come up with amazing ideas for gifts of hope and love. If you don't know how to distribute your gift, just ask. We may not be able to fill all needs, but we can always find a way to make our blessings go further. God never asked us to do it all by ourselves but we can each pitch in our bit and the blessings will expand.

*TMK*

*-- Week of December 20, 2009*