

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### Teaching and Trusting



Upon my retirement, I thought I'd be a nice guy and try my hand at doing more cooking. I thought it would give my wife a breather and a surprise. The first thing I learned when putting together a meal is this: make sure you have all the ingredients on hand. Several times, I had to stop putting the recipe together and run to the store.

Eventually, I wised up and looked around for the necessary items in advance. I thought I had pretty good success; my wife didn't complain, nor did she get sick.

But I wasted time, money and frustration simply because I didn't plan. I'm sure all of us, at one time or another, have been just as foolhardy. We've attempted to do a task, only to learn that we couldn't finish because we didn't look ahead. You know what I mean: running out of gas, not writing down directions, forgetting someone's size at

the store, trusting a friend's hot tip on the stock market, the list goes on. When it comes to giving our time, money, and talents to God, how much of ourselves comes into play? Are we more likely to skimp in order to satisfy a selfish need? Do we lack commitment? Or do we jump in eagerly to serve with ideas and enthusiasm, only to learn we can't arrive at the goal because of poor planning or personal distractions? In the business of it all, did we leave God off to the side? Wishful thinking isn't proper planning; we need the help and trust of others to reach a goal. We also need help from, and trust in, God's grace to become the faithful disciples that God wants us to be.

And don't forget to stir in a generous helping of prayer.

-- Week of March 21, 2010