



Message from Pastor Tim

January 2011: *God, who is leading us, will not abandon us*

As we go through this time of transition together there are many different feelings that the congregation is connected with. Some may feel anxiety because things that are “known” may be changing. Some may feel a sense of loss because that which was is no more. Some may feel worried because the future, while possibly exciting, is not a “for sure” thing.

In our just passed season of Christmas we heard a familiar story which we might not have focused too much on because of all the excitement around the Baby Jesus and the manger. From the Gospel of Matthew 2:13-15a:

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the death of Herod.

It is difficult to imagine the stress and worries that confronted the parents of a newborn as they thought about his needs and his safety. Their infant son's life was being threatened by the King and their only hope was to flee to Egypt and get away from Herod. No car, bus, train or plane would make their travel easier. Instead they piled everything on a donkey and set out on foot for a journey of several hundred miles.

There are several messages in this story that we don't often focus on:

- God cared for them and was leading them along the entire trip.
- They did not know what lay ahead as they journeyed into this strange land.
- They faced the hardship of their journey with a resilient courage and steadfast faith.
- When the whole ordeal was over, they could look back with joy and thanksgiving at all the things God had done through them.

I invite you to take that story and those messages with each of you as we journey into this new year of 2011. God is leading Lutheran Church of Our Savior into this year of changes. Will we walk in faith and trust that God, who is leading us, will not abandon us? We will likely see portions of good and bad, the joyful and the sorrowful, as we travel on this journey. The bottom line is the 2011 is in God's hands, and so are we. May we walk with boldness into this journey that the Lord is leading us on.

Peace,

Pastor Tim

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