

Pastor's Note (Nov 2007)

Greetings in Christ,

The end of the year is rapidly creeping up on us and that means a time of harvest and celebration. We just celebrated the 490th year of the reformation by dedicating our 120 new hymnals to the glory of God. These new hymnals will probably serve this congregation for generations to come.

We have been very blessed this year in a number of ways; the calendar year of 2007 will have seen 8 baptisms, and 24 new members. We have been blessed to be able to actively support through our time talents and treasures the following organizations; the local ministries of , UT Campus Ministry, Rocky Top east Tennessee mission council, Smokey Mountain Area Rescue Ministries, Sevier County Food Bank, Woman's Care Center, Tennessee Helping Hearts, Toys for Tots, Safe Space, Sevier county Right to life; Mid-south district ministry of, Wells for Tanzania, Lutheran National & international ministries of, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran World Mission, Bethesda Lutheran homes for the mentally handicapped, The Synod Seminaries, and we participated in translating an entire book of the New Testament onto a new language for the "Faith Comes by Hearing" proclaiming device.

As Thanksgiving approaches and the happy time of advent and Christmas follow short behind, this is a time when we can all look back on how we spent our time, talents, and treasures in the past year. If we take a moment to prayerfully review our stewardship. We will be able to see a clear reflection of our priorities in practice. We make time and resources available for the things that are important to us. Being a good steward is an important part of a Christ centered life.

That being said you will receive a stewardship letter this month and will be asked to prayerfully review your personal household stewardship. Please take this review seriously and spend some time with God in prayer seeking to make the most of all His blessings.

This little congregation of 142 souls made a great impact on a dark and dieing world this year, let's work hard together to make 2008 another banner year for crashing the gates of hell with the message of God's saving grace through His beloved Son Jesus Christ!

In His name
Pastor Portier