

Giving ourselves over to God

Reflections for October by
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In the middle of things we can't control, can't fix, or can't predict -- that's where we find ourselves more often than we care to admit. We can get so fixated on these things that we begin to wonder if God's even listening, even seeing, what's going on all around. We can get so reliant on our own strength and abilities that we miss seeing God at work, the God-wonders all around us. We tune out God's thoughts and fill our ears and minds with what the world worships and relies upon.

Rest assured. God is listening and watching and working all things for his glory and our good. His word for us promises us just that, in the opening words of Psalm 40, about waiting patiently for the Lord, and countless other biblical texts. It's right there for us to read, ponder and talk about.

Yet, it's not always an easy thing to say, that God is listening and watching and working all things together, in Christ, for the good of those who love him. Nevertheless, it is the only thing that will give hope against hope – the hope that comes from relinquishing, entrusting, turning over everything to the Lord.

We rather like the bumper sticker that says “God is my Co-Pilot.” However, we're better off paying attention to the bumper sticker that says: “If God is your co-pilot, change seats now.” Even better still, we are, when we pay attention to God's word itself, such as Psalm 40:4-5 (see box).

As I write, Peace and your interim pastor are in that in-between time of waiting on the Lord and entrusting everything to him. Nowhere is that more obvious than in moving through this interim ministry and towards the identification, call and welcome of the next settled pastor of Peace Lutheran Church -- Deshler. Even the newsletter deadline comes in that in-between time. Tomorrow morning is the deadline. Tomorrow night, God's people of Peace will be introduced to the candidate whom the Call Committee and Church Council are recommending for Peace's next pastor. On Sunday, the day the newsletter comes out, the congregation will vote on whether to call this candidate.

In other words, this column would be old news before you read it except for one thing. Our God is always with us in the present tense, and the provisions and promises of his word will never be old news. And as the Psalmist wrote, NOTHING and NO ONE in the world can come close to the hope, comfort and blessed assurance we have with the God who listens and cares enough to give us the very best – even when we have to wait for it in hope against hope. That's just a part of the Good News of Jesus Christ that we have to share with our community and countryside, and it's news that never gets old. Don't keep this Good News to yourself, now!

Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world's “sure thing,” ignore what the world worships;

The world's a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one comes close to you!

I start talking about you, telling what I know, and quickly run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you.

*Psalm 40:4-5
The Message Edition*

In Christ,
Pastor Cathi