



“Thank you” - two little words too often overlooked. We become so focused on what is wrong and needs correction that we tend to take for granted that which is right and a source of joy. True as individuals - true as a congregation.

On Christmas Eve we will gather as community to give thanks for light shining in the darkness - for the birth, presence, and gift of hope, and for God moving to God’s people. We gather in response to God’s action - we gather to pray, praise, receive and rejoice. We gather to say “thank you” for a gift we do not deserve which comes to us by grace alone. Jesus Christ.

The choice is always before us - focus on the darkness or focus on the light. How we choose says much more about us than it does about either the darkness or the light. Where is our focus? What moves us forward? Why are we here? We will explore these issues in 2010 in great detail. For now, suffice it to say:

OUR FOCUS IS JESUS CHRIST WHO MOVES US FORWARD IN MINISTRY.

There is always work to be done and issues to be addressed. Yet the scriptural witness is that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. We need not deny the reality of the darkness in order to give thanks for the light. But our focus remains on **THE LIGHT**.

As we begin a new year, let us close this one in gratitude:

THANK YOU to all those faithful people who remain engaged and committed to Gospel ministry through St. Timothy Lutheran Church and the ELCA;

THANK YOU to those people who support this ministry with their **TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE**;

THANK YOU to those people working through Commissions and committees;

THANK YOU to the TOTS program;

THANK YOU to those working behind the scenes to insure that ministry continues;

THANK YOU to the musicians, the ministers of the service and the worshipers for creating a grace centered and joy-filled experience;

THANK YOU to the Stephen Ministers, Intercessory Prayer Group and Home Communion people;

THANK YOU to the Staff of St. Timothy;

and most importantly THANKS BE TO GOD for all that God is doing in, with and through St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Merry Christmas - God’s Peace - and **THANK YOU!!**

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