

*You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God,  
says the Lord God. Ezekiel 34:31.*

The above verse concludes a long chapter in which the Lord, through the Prophet Ezekiel, castigates corrupt leaders in Israel. The people are reassured they will have a good shepherd who sees that all of their needs are met.

Our meteorologist nephew began his career on a Fort Wayne FM station 20 years ago, doing weather and agricultural commodity reports. A metaphorical light for Ezek. 34 went on when I heard him refer to *sheep futures*! (Pork bellies didn't do anything for me.)

The Church Year concludes Nov. 20, with Reign of Christ Sunday, when we put it all in perspective by celebrating the bright future for God's sheep, because in the end, The Lamb wins! This Sunday, we'll see how confidence in the Reign of Christ, enabled Luke to stay on message in the way he concludes his Acts narrative. Though Paul is in prison, facing martyrdom, the story is all about the unhindered spread of the Reign of Christ, not Paul's plight.

We made good progress in last Sunday's mission statement conversation. We attempted to put our sense of identity and call as a congregation, into the broader perspective of the Reign of Christ. There were good examples of speaking with humility, conviction, and willingness to release control of the outcome!

**Looking Ahead:**

11/20 9:30 a.m. *Putting it all in Perspective* Acts 28:11-31; Col 1:11-20 -Gary

11/24 Debut of e-mail newsletter, with feature article introducing Advent

Worship services: *The Holy Way: Walking in the way of God's heart*

11/27 9:30 a.m. Advent 1 *God's Peace is at Hand* -Brian Bither

Is. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Mt. 24:36-44; Rom. 13:11-14

12/11 11:00 a.m. Mission Statement, and *Leadership & Authority*

Gary's projected in town schedule: Nov. 18-22; Dec. 11-12