

## Month #9

Esther was a young Jewish girl who was living in exile in what we know today as the Persian Empire or Iran. She was placed in a unique position to help the nation of Israel. In fact, she was elevated to queen even before the need for her help arose. Her story, which is recorded in the book of the Bible that bears her name, is a picture of God's intervention in the affairs of people and of God's protection.

Esther is a personification of the principle of standing for what is right. Against all odds, and literally standing alone, she was reminded by her cousin of the fact that she had been brought to this strategic place in history by Almighty God. When the need arose, she was vividly reminded of her role with this penetrating question: “. . . who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

Each of us could ask ourselves that question as we consider our individual roles in the 21st century. Although we might not be called upon by God to intervene on behalf of a nation, each of us — in our own way — has been brought to God's kingdom for such a time as this. Each of us is God's messenger of light in a darkened world. Each of us has been placed in our surroundings — including here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church — and given our circumstances by none other than Almighty God.

You see, we are here by divine appointment to make a difference for Christ. What we do and how we do it have the potential to influence others and to cause the light of the Gospel to shine in their hearts through faith in the Savior.

The *Baltimore Sun* once conducted a contest to see which reader could provide the best answer to the question, “What would you do if you had only one more year to live?” Mary Davis Reed won the prize with this poem:

If I had but one year to live;  
One year to help; one year to give;  
One year to love; one year to bless;  
One year of better things to stress;

One year to sing; one year to smile;  
To brighten earth a little while;  
One year to sing my Maker's praise;  
One year to fill with work my days;  
One year to strive for a reward  
When I should stand before my Lord. . . .

So if I have a year to live;  
Or just one day in which to give  
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,  
A mind that tries to understand  
A fellow-creature when in need;  
'Tis one with me — I take no heed  
But try to live each day God sends  
To serve my gracious Master's ends.

How would you answer that question posed by the *Baltimore Sun*? What would you do if you knew that you had only one more year to live? Would you change how you are living, your priorities, those things in which you invest your time, talents and treasure? Or to ask another question, “. . . who knows but that you have come to where you are in life for such a time as this?”