



## Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

**Dear Friends,**

I have been spending time up in Hovland these past few days as the search for Denny Pechacek continues (as of the writing of this column on Wednesday at noon). He has been missing since Friday evening after going up in his ultra-light aircraft to take a short flight. There are no answers to what happened or where he is.

What I have witnessed is a community that has come together and dedicated people through the Sheriff's department, Search and Rescue, and now the Civil Air Patrol, along with other groups who have come up aid. It has been high on emotion and there have been too few answers.

In a time like this, there are too many questions, not just of where is Denny and how did this happen, but of our role and place in the universe. There are questions by the family of how they are going to get through this and what is the last thing they said to each other. It is also not the time for deep theological conversations and asking the 'why's of our existence.

It is a time for action as places need to be searched, as search parties need to be coordinated, volunteers found and organized, and people fed and cared for so they don't become injured or lost themselves. There is much to be done.

We can acknowledge this situation really sucks. We can admit that we are afraid, scared, angry, and empty. We may have a hard time admitting that God is present, even in the uncertainty and panic.

Psalm 23 tells us, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." May the family and community find some comfort in God, each other, and those who have come to help.

**Peace**

*Post-Script.* Denny's body was found Thursday morning off the shore in Lake Superior. We hold his family and the Hovland community in our prayers.