

### THEY SHALL BE CALLED

"Got a name picked out?" we asked our youngest son. "We've got some ideas but we'll wait until after the birth before finally deciding," he replied. It's hard to believe that the delivery date of the much anticipated new addition to the family is just weeks away now. The last several days I've been contemplating the names we chose for our two sons. Leonard is our eldest, named after my brother. According to sources dedicated to those kinds of things it's a German name meaning "lion strength". When I think of the obstacles he's had to overcome, that choice was perfect. When it came to naming John, there was never any question. Because doctors didn't give us much hope of his being born alive, his safe and healthy arrival dictated his appellation. John, "a man sent from God".

Our little church has just gone through its own naming process. Although we rejoice in the recent addition of new folk to the assembly, waiting for our new label created its own sense of excitement. Today was the day for the announcement. After presenting the final choice an audible buzz of approval spread through the congregation. It's a succinct description of where we live, who we serve and what we are to be.

Continuing on the theme of names, there is nothing much more reassuring to me than to know God calls me by mine.

"Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— because I am God, your personal God...." Isaiah 43:1 (The Message)

Oh yes, the baby's name – to be announced; the church – Lighthouse Community Church