By Pastor Ronald E. Krause

Zion Lutheran Church, Grant

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

This weekend we will be observing the 10th anniversary of 9/11, one of the most tragic events in the recent history of our nation.

In many ways it seems like only yesterday that we were glued to our televisions, witnessing what was taking place.

I still remember the increased interest in spiritual matters during the days that followed–how everyone was attending prayer services and looking to God for answers and guidance. The prayers, concern and support for those affected personally by these attacks were truly commendable and showed the compassion that our nation often expresses during times of tragedy.

I believe that one of the lessons our Lord would have us learn from catastrophes such as this is that we're not nearly so much in control of things as we might think.

Perhaps as a nation we have had delusions of invulnerability at times—imagining that nothing could seriously disrupt our way of life, that we had things well in hand. What a wake-up call 9/11 was in regards to that.

Recent severe weather in our land—Hurricane Irene and such terrible drought and fires down south—should help us to realize also that we are not in control of anything; it is not within our power to turn the rain on or off or redirect the course of wind and storm.

Our Lord alone has the power to control all things in heaven and on earth, and He is the One to whom our eyes turn in times of need–be it major tragedies, or the simple problems of everyday life.

We are assured that if God loved us enough to send His own Son into this world to be our Savior from sin, to suffer and die on the cross so that we might be the holy, redeemed people of God through faith in Him, then He will surely see to all of our other needs as well.

But it shouldn't take major tragedies for us to turn to our Lord for the help He supplies. He is our constant source of guidance and love and forgiveness, and he is deserving of our prayers and praise every day!