



Bethany Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603

bethanysaginaw.com | 989.793.9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Tracking Life's Storms ~ October 13, 2016

We have something more protective than aircraft, buoys and satellites

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Thanks to the brave work of the so-called *Hurricane Hunters* – the personnel from the Air Force Reserve 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron– the movement and measurements of the hurricane Matthew were used to prepare and protect people in its path.

Relying on a 48-million-dollar aircraft, the crew not only flies near the hurricane's perimeter, the crew actually penetrates the turbulent wall of the storm to reach the eye of the hurricane (its center). An amazing amount of data is collected and transmitted to ground stations poised to study and analyze it. Tracking instruments inside buoys are dropped into the ocean while others instruments tethered to balloons (called a dropsonde) are deployed in the air. The data these instruments collect is transmitted to the National Hurricane Center via satellites, allowing technicians to determine the exact latitude and longitude of the center of the hurricane, as well as maximum wind speeds.

From the Hurricane Hunters who fly into the eye, to the relay satellites orbiting high in the sky, to the technicians on the ground-- that's a lot of information being collected, transmitted and analyzed. All of which reminds me of our faithful God, who keeps track of us when life's storms smash into us.

The Hurricane Hunters who fly into the center of the storm reminds me of God the Son, who came down from heaven into this sin-energized and turbulent world. Even though he rules in heaven, he also promises: "**Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age**" (Matthew 28:20). No matter what storm threatens you, Jesus is with you at its center, perfectly collecting real time data by which to help you.

The indispensable satellites orbiting in the earth's atmosphere (which also provide an additional bird's eye view) reminds me of God the Father, whose governing measurements are continually monitoring our situation. Psalm 33:13-15 teaches, "**From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-- he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.**" And Psalm 139:1-2 & 9-10 sings these truths: "**O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**"

And finally, the buoys and the dropsondes that collect and transmit data remind me of God the Spirit who transmits (and, yes, even translates) our inmost feelings and needs: **“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express... because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will”** (Romans 8:26-27).

It's impressive how Hurricane Hunters use an array of modern machines, tools and technology to track tropical storms. But then what greater comfort is ours, to realize that the Lord God of the Bible monitors and tracks everything about each one of us who trusts in him. And God doesn't need aircraft, buoys, dropsondes or satellites, because he himself is personally involved. Certainly, this is not a surprise to you, because you know how God is also personally invested in you-- just look at the blood-stained cross.

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Hurricane Hunters Association](#)

To become a recipient of Viewpoints, please email mike.nitz@bethanysaginaw.com and simply type the phrase "VP please" in the subject line. Or if you wish to no longer receive Viewpoints, type the phrase "discontinue VP" in the subject line. Thanks.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

