# Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE

# "Because of Jesus"

## By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

their Lord and Savior. just didn't fit the bill. persecution as secular thinking becomes more prominent in the world. When Jesus prepared

His disciples for their mission trip to the towns and villages of the lost sheep of Israel, He told them, "You will be hated by all for my name's sake" (Matthew 10:22, ESV). That's not a pleasant thought. The disciples would go out with the Gospel of Jesus, but many would hate them because of Jesus. The reasons were both simple and complex. Complex in the sense that many Israelites, who really were looking for the coming

Indications are Messiah, couldn't bring solution for sin. More news: because of that the persecution themselves to believe than that, Jesus said that Jesus and His death on of Christians has that Jesus was, indeed, it was only through Him the cross, forgiveness increased considerably the Messiah. In many that one could come to of sins has come around the world. In ways He simply didn't the Heavenly Father. into the world. And places like Nigeria, measure up to their This exclusivity was a because Jesus rose Kenya, Indonesia, expectations. Whether scandal to many, then from the dead, all who and the Middle East, they were looking for a and now. Christians are dying military leader, a king, So we shouldn't be have forgiveness and for confessing Jesus as or something else, Jesus surprised that Christians everlasting life.

States perhaps do not rejecting Jesus and the disciples ended up dying 'Jesus alone' all face threats on their ones He sent was that as martyrs for the faith. who believe and are lives, but there is subtle Jesus said He was the Yet, here is some good baptized into the

are persecuted today. Christians in the United But a simple reason for Many of those first salvation is exclusive

put their faith in Him

Though the means to Name of Jesus will be saved. Nothing can take that away, not even persecution and death.

Though Christians in America are still somewhat insulated from the type of persecution that goes on elsewhere in the world, we should not thinkthatitcouldnever happen here. To be prepared, we continue to look to what Jesus did for us. We might be hated by the world because of Jesus, but we know that we are loved by God because of Jesus. This is the hope that sustains us in a sometimes hostile world.

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Page 7

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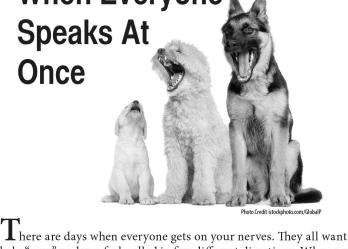
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faith can give you peace that is uninterrupted by the world.

help "now" and you feel pulled in five different directions. Who can

possibly handle such a situation? God can. He can hear all of us...all

of the time. When we think of this from a human standpoint it is just

too incredible to fathom; we take it on faith. We can communicate

with Him anytime we choose; whatever we need, whenever we need

#### **Weekly Scripture Reading**

John John John John John 1 Cor. 1 Cor. 14.1-14 14.15-31 14.1-25 15.1-27 16.1-15 16.16-33 12.1-11 Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society ©2014, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.con

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