

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"A Better Place"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

The world can be a dangerous place. Even now, our President, his advisors, the Congress, and others are contemplating a response to what appears to be the use of chemical weapons by Syria. Apart from the chemical agent issue, the United Nations estimates that 100,000 people have died in the Syrian conflict since March of 2011. Syria is certainly a dangerous place.

It can be dangerous here in the U.S. as well. Every day the papers report on homicides, armed robbery, traffic deaths, etc. So while we are, thankfully, not embroiled in a war on home soil, we know also that danger lurks in many corners of our own country.

We often struggle to find reasons for these awful things that happen in our lives. And it saddens us that each day, a family buries a loved one who has been victimized by senseless violence. But the root cause goes back to events in the Garden of

Eden many years ago when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and plunged the world into sin.

In the book of Proverbs we read, "Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel"

(Prov. 25:4, ESV). Dross is a lot like chaff. Just as chaff must be separated from the wheat, dross must be separated from silver. Only then can it be fashioned into something beautiful. The dross in our lives is sin. The

wages of sin, Paul tells us in Romans, is death.

This is why Jesus came to die on a cross. His blood removes the dross of sin from our lives that we might be counted righteous before God. Jesus came to save us from eternal death. He came to release us from the consequences of sin to live in His Kingdom forever.

Jesus once said it is better to take the worst seat at the wedding banquet, then be invited by the host to move up to a better place. This is exactly what Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. The world is a difficult and dangerous place. But Jesus invites us, saying, "Come up to a better place." That better place is the one that He will establish upon His return, at the last day. Yet even now He invites all people to have faith in what He has done, that all would enjoy a better place in eternity, a place where sin, violence, tears, and death are replaced with eternal joy and peace.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE



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As our children return to the classroom this fall, we are aware of dangers that we never used to concern ourselves with. How can we protect them in what was once thought of as a secure environment? There are no guarantees, but we must pray for their safety. It is important to ask God to work in the hearts and minds of those who shape the moral standards of our nation and the wonderful teachers who guide our children. We must take time to talk with our children and listen when they talk to us, for molding young spirits is not accomplished quickly. Lastly, and most importantly, it is imperative that we set the proper example for our youth. Worship together regularly as a family; ask your children to invite a friend to worship. We are determining the future of our society...for better or for worse.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Daniel 4:1-18	Daniel 4:19-37	Job 28:1-28	Luke 8:4-18	Luke 11:14-36	Luke 12:1-21	Luke 12:22-48
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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E	N	T	E	R	L	I	E	N	A	N	O	N		
S	T	A	R	T	L	E	S	T	N	A	P	S		

Sudoku Solution #3014-M

8	1	6	9	4	2	7	5	3
3	4	9	1	7	5	8	2	6
2	7	5	8	6	3	9	1	4
4	2	3	6	8	7	1	9	5
6	9	8	5	1	4	3	7	2
1	5	7	2	3	9	6	4	8
7	6	2	3	5	1	4	8	9
5	8	1	4	9	6	2	3	7
9	3	4	7	2	8	5	6	1

