

+ July 2016+

GOOD NEWS

FOR OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH • ALTOONA, PA

FROM PASTOR FOLMAR

IS JESUS SPEAKING TO YOU? *Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11: 28 – 30.

When are these words real for you? Perhaps when death comes and you are sad, weary and burdened, then Jesus' invitation is real. Or how about when you heard about tragedy, as happened in June in Orlando? Is Jesus speaking to you?

We live in a time filled with death and destruction and there are many competing contradictory voices shouting out. Do you sense violence all around? You are right of course. And in our country now, in the heat of the political season, we worry and hope for the best outcome.

On The Fourth of July patriotism is strong and we celebrate our country and know it is not perfect, yet this is our country. With an awareness that none of us are perfect people, so too, no country is a perfect one. The challenge is to consider how to live with conflicting alternatives first as Christians and secondly, as citizens of the USA.

One way to live in this time has always been true, asking Jesus to help with the burden of living. This is a continuous invitation to return to the source of life for help. My personal desire for you is to worship regularly and be with people of faith. The words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel are true, as well as the life-giving grace received in the Sacrament of The Altar. There is a place for you at First Lutheran Church where burdens are lifted.

Our help for living in these days comes from our Lord Jesus.

Pastor Folmar