



SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Weekly Worship Services & Religious Events

Living Word Lutheran Church

14422 Meridian East
Puyallup, WA 98374
(Meridian Habitat
Community Center
Formerly Puyallup
Amphitheater)

As I write this article, my heart is heavy within me. On Sunday evening, Oct 1, a gunman opened fire on a crowd of people at a country music festival in Las Vegas. At last count, fifty-eight people have died and over 500 people have been injured. This has been classified as the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Just writing those words is difficult as many of us are still trying to make sense of this tragedy. This shooting is awful; a senseless violence perpetrated on unsuspecting people. One would think we would have grown numb to this violence by now, but thank God we haven't. Instead, I mourn and grieve the deceased, the victims and all affected. I shake my fist in the air and say, "Satan, go back to hell"! I raise my hands in prayer saying, "Why God, why?" I also turn to scripture and read...

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. [Romans 8:18-25]

The above text was the first place my heart went to after I woke up to news of this shooting, for it points me to a greater reality. Evil, violence, death and decay are integral parts of this world. No amount of legislation will end the violence. No amount of talking will stop the hate. No amount of force will send Satan back to hell. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ, who overcame this world through the cross. I read quote the other day that said, "When terror strikes, it is a tragic response to trust in man-made laws. When terror strikes, run to the eternal refuge found only in Christ." That is our only hope.

I am not saying that we turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to violence and hate. We need to take action, just don't put all your hope in man-made laws and policies. Fight injustice. Stop the hate. Love your neighbor. Run to the Lord. This world is scary, frustrating, seemingly hopeless and hate-filled, but this is not our home. Jesus is coming to bring healing and salvation. Life and joy. Run to Jesus and find your eternal refuge in him and him alone. Amen.

Come worship with		Rev. Eric Hullstrom, Pastor
LivingWord Lutheran Church		Meridian Habitat Community Center 14422 Meridian East, Puyallup, WA 98374
Sunday Worship • 9:00am Sunday School • 10:30am		
www.livingwordlutheranchurch.com		
Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ		

FOR RESERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT
ADVERTISING ON THIS PAGE, CONTACT

Laurie Herbert at 253.597.8539 or
laurie.herbert@thenewstribune.com