Make Church a Part of Your Life **WEEKLY SERMONETTE**

"Listen to the Word"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

that the people of Israel need forgiveness. weren't listening to Jertening to God. It was Jeremiah, even as the ESV). Sadly, the people of God who sent Jeremiah to bring His Word to the people. Therefore, they were rejecting God's Word. Instead, they served other gods and worshipped the works of their hands.

Because Jeremiah told the people that God was going to leave Jerusalem in ruins because of their disobedience, the Israelites were ready to put Jeremiah to death. It seems what they say is true: the truth hurts.

The truth of God's Word can hurt. If we examine our lives in light of the Ten Commandments, we can easily see how we fall short of God's desire for our lives. Yet. we will often fight back if confronted about our sinfulness, criticizing

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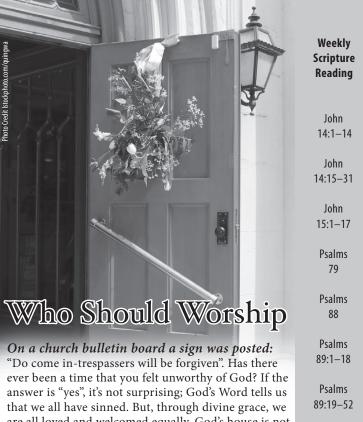
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"For 23 years...I have the messenger rather than people planned his exe- Jeremiah's time did not spoken persistently to listening to God's Word. cution, spoke a word of listen, and Jerusalem fell you, but you have not lis- Time and again, however, hope: "Now, therefore, to Babylon. tened" (Jeremiah 25:13, Scripture shows us our sin-mend your ways and your ESV). It wasn't simply fulness and how much we deeds, and obey the voice find the solution to the of the Lord your God, and problem of sin: Jesus Thankfully, God's Word the Lord will relent of the Christ. Listening to emiah, they weren't lis- also provides a solution. disaster" (Jeremiah 26:13, God's Word will certainly

From God's Word we

show our sinfulness. But listening to God's Word also shows us how Jesus has fixed this problem by His death on the cross. The events of that Good Friday so many years ago still stand: Jesus Christ is our forgiveness.

As Good Friday and Easter approach, now is a good time to listen again to God's Word. It might not always be easy to hear, but it prepares us for the Good News of God's Word: Jesus Christ has given His life so that we can have forgiveness and be reconciled to God. We need not suffer as the Israelites of Jeremiah's time did. Listen to the Word. Put your faith in Jesus. He will lead you to the eternal Jerusalem that will never fall.



are all loved and welcomed equally. God's house is not a gallery for the display of perfection but a school for the education of the imperfect. Who should worship? All of us...regularly...in our local house of worship.

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