



Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

Last year Maine had 26 homicides total. In one mass shooting, it will practically double (I haven't heard the official number as of this writing). Words matter! Ideas matter! How we view the world matters! For far too long, a group (multiple, in fact) has been spreading hate and lies and fear that people of color, foreign immigrants, and liberals are coming to take over their (the white people) nation. For far too long, there have been multiple media organizations (tv, radio, internet) that have been freely sharing this disinformation while at the same time saying the liberals are coming for your guns, which skyrockets gun sales. Then the conservatives don't do anything to address real problems facing our nation and local communities, leaving their followers even more frustrated, and to blame the other side.

This has been a recipe for disaster that has been building for a couple generations now. I do not think there is a solution that is going to de-escalate these groups soon. We cannot reason with them in any meaningful way because they are NOT interested in the facts, they are interested only in their 'pain' and 'anger' that their 'world' (of white patriarchy) is being threatened, which it is. We (people who love our neighbors) are creating a new world and a new vision of humanity. Rather than a hierarchy of who's on top, we are working to see that all have equal rights applied with equity. We recognize each human's identity and gifts, while at the same time we realize that we are a community that cannot live separately.

What those who live in fear and hate don't realize is that, in this new world, there is a place for them, and it is a brighter future for them as well as all the world. So let's keep building that world, that vision, and work to hold those who spread fear and lies and hate accountable, not out of hate and fear, but out of a view of justice and peace for all.

Peace