



Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

Peace, as a definition of the absence of violence, wouldn't be a terrible thing. Almost 18,000 Palestinians have been killed so far in this 'war', as well as over 1,500 Israelis. So far, this year in our country (U.S. of A.), 40,000 people have been killed with a gun, 22,000 by suicide.

Peace, as a definition of health, wholeness, and abundant life, is also lacking. Here in Cook County, over 50% of our children live in poverty. This means many of our children struggle to have good health (with good food) and thus have the emotional and mental health problems that come with this. We also have a real drug problem in our county with meth. As a spiritual counselor at a drug rehabilitation center in Aberdeen, SD, I learned that most addicts become addicts because they are unable (and/or unwilling) to deal with a trauma in their lives. When we don't live in a peaceful world, we experience trauma. Science is now backing this up. We need to find ways to help addicted people work through their trauma, and to help our community, whatever it may be.

If peace is health, wholeness, and abundance, we are not talking about the 'American Dream' of becoming a billionaire, but of enough. Families that have enough have a home, good food, rest, health care (physical, emotional, mental), good schools, a safe and connected community, time and resources to volunteer and give back, a way to help their children attain the education they aspire to, and enough to be able to retire in good health.

In this Advent season, we light the candle of Peace this Sunday. Let it be a symbol of enough, of healing, and of a better world that is filled with God's love, compassion, and justice.

Peace