

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

Today is Ash Wednesday. Christians have been observing this day since the 4th century so that is 1700 years give or take. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season in our church year. It lasts 40 days not counting Sundays since Sundays are feast days remembering the resurrection. The word lent originally meant spring. The time of Lent is to be spent thinking and praying on baptism and the death and resurrection of our Lord. It is a time to prepare for our greatest celebration. . . Easter.

The church year is divided in half. Half the year we remember the life of Jesus from preparing for his birth (Advent) to his birth, Christmas. Epiphany is the bridge between Jesus' birth and resurrection. It begins with the Baptism of Jesus and ends with the Transfiguration. Last weekend we spoke of the Transfiguration as well as Global Mission. Following Easter, we enter into a week of weeks, seven Sundays of Easter. We have 40 days of preparing for Easter and then 50 days of rejoicing. The Day of Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter celebration. The Risen Christ sends his Spirit to create the church. For the next half a year we enter into the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit, the time between Jesus' earthly life and the final consummation of creation.

Back to Ash Wednesday. I may see you at the noon worship, but if not, then you can watch online today. We begin our time of reflection on our Lord's death and resurrection. We can either add things to our routine or subtract things (giving up for Lent), but either way we can do some things differently to keep our focus on our Lord. See you at worship this weekend either in person or online. I'll be continuing my seven-week sermon series on Broken Signposts, this weekend the theme is freedom.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin