

Friday, March 5, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

As I mentioned on Wednesday, this weekend is the seventh of seven sermons on "Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World by N.T. Wright. We have looked at justice, love, spirituality, beauty, freedom, truth, and the last one is power. Can power be broken? Of course, but in Jesus, we are given an example of proper power use.

Today by the end of the day we may know who our interim pastor will be. The council and transition team will be interviewing him in a zoom meeting. Keep them in your prayers. It is an important step in this transition process. We all must continue to pray both for the interim and future senior pastor for Desert Hills Lutheran.

I teach a bible study on Wednesdays at 9:30 am and again at 5 pm. We had been looking at Zechariah, the second-to-last book in the Old Testament, a prophet who lived around the time of the building of the second temple, dedicated in 515 B.C. It is not an easy book, only 14 chapters but it is filled with apocalyptic oracles and visions. I have to say, I was happy to be saying good-bye to the book last Wednesday night. The morning class will finish this week and the evening class will begin the next study. We will look at the oldest book in the New Testament, Paul's two letters to the church in Thessalonica. It was written about 50 A.D., just twenty years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Come and see.

We held our staff retreat yesterday. One of the things we ask all staff members is to take an instrument to measure personal and team strengths. We ask our council members to take the same thing. There are thirty-four categories. This year's staff's top five strengths are: achiever, responsibility, empathy, learner, positivity. What this means is that as a group of people, we scored very high in energy to make things better. We are very responsible, the staff as a whole has high empathy for others, we like to learn new things, and we as a group are very positive about today and the future. We are blessed with a very fine church staff.

Finally, my devotion verse is 1 Peter 2:16, "As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil." We are servants of God; we serve Him. At the same time, we must watch ourselves and keep our nature in check, so we don't hurt others.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin