

Friday, March 12, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

I have a small five-year journal. On this day, a year ago, the worldwide pandemic was announced. It was a Wednesday. The council met in the next days and we decided to close worship for two weeks. That was the beginning for us and for the country and the world. A year later, some states are open and some like California are still in lockdown. What a year.

Interestingly on March 11, one hundred and three years ago, a soldier died in Kansas of the Spanish Flu. He was the first death. In two years, this pandemic would kill 50 million people of which 675,000 Americans lost their lives. We have lost 530,000 Americans and over 2 million worldwide, but I believe neither China nor Russia are reporting their deaths. I'm so very thankful that the vaccine is working, and we are reopening, and the number of deaths is slowing.

Last weekend we had a surge of on-site worshippers. It was so great to see people I hadn't seen in a year. You have seen me, but I have missed you. I feel much better and I am happier when I worship in a crowd. This weekend I'll be looking at the first part of our mission statement "Celebrating Grace." I do this every couple of years. It isn't the same sermon just the same topic. I am thinking about another sermon series in May about grace. I can't get enough of it.

My devotional verse for today is Philippians 2.13, "for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." God has a plan for the world. That all humans might know of his love through His son. God works that plan through us, all of us who believe. It is an amazing thing that 'Our father who art in heaven,' wants His Kingdom to come through us to the world. God is working in us for His good pleasure. Quite a thought, that the creator is still working his plan for the world through each of us. Something to think about for sure.

I hope to see you this weekend either in person or on-line.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin