

Friday, March 26, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

I mentioned the following a week ago, about Holy Week, which has arrived. Palm Sunday Weekend is this weekend. Palm/Passion weekend is the start of Holy Week. I'll be speaking about how in Holy Week, "The King has Arrived." During Holy Week, we will worship on Maundy Thursday at 5 pm. This night remembers the institution of Holy Communion. Pastor Ken will preach, and I'll assist with liturgy and Holy Communion. We will have Holy Communion at this service for the first time in a year. It will be done almost as self-serve, but bread and wine, body and blood will be present. The words, "given for you," will be offered. At the close of the service we will strip the altar to symbolize the stripping of Jesus' power at his arrest. Good Friday, we will have one service at 5 pm. I'll preach and Pastor Ken will have the liturgy. This is the day we remember what was done for us and the world on the cross.

For Easter we will have three services on Saturday, 1, 3, and 5 pm. All country gospel Easter services. On Easter Sunday, we have an online 6:30 am Sunrise Service from Pastor Ken and then 8, 9, and 11 am Easter worship services.

Our protocol will remain the same. For instance, I'll ask you to wear your masks when you forward for communion; you may remove masks again once seated, unless you are in the must wear a mask section.

A reminder that we will start new member classes on April 22 at 9:30 am. You may sign up at the front desk, by phone or in person. There will be a closing brunch on April 20 and then you will be welcomed as members on the weekend of May 22/23. Come and see.

My daily bible verse is Hebrews 13: 5-6:

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

*"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"*

What a great reminder. We all worry and often the worry can be about money. But the writer of Hebrews says that we can face life with a God who will not forsake us. He then quotes Psalm 118 that God is our helper. What a good thought for this Friday in March. I hope to see you during Holy Week and Easter either on-line or in person.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin