

Friday, April 3, 2020

Greetings Members, Friends, and Guests of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Yesterday afternoon I worked from home. I was outside and reading when suddenly I heard bees, lots of bees. I don't like to hear the sound of lots of bees. Bees have stingers. I looked all around and then a swarm rose up about fifteen feet from our back wall. They were louder now. I didn't dare move, because I might look like a giant flower. I was wearing a pastel colored dress shirt. Luckily, the swarm moved south. I could see and hear them a block away, and then they were gone.

I wonder if our time with the Coronavirus will be like bees. Dangerous and swarming and moving but there will come a time when it will be gone. In working on my sermon for Palm/Passion Weekend, I was reminded again that the most important week in human history was that week called Holy Week. Because of it, the world changed. God ended the exile, brought forgiveness of sins, and by the self-giving death of Jesus the Messiah, a new kingdom has come. We pray in the Lord's prayer, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, ON EARTH as it is in heaven." No virus will have the last word.

We hang in there, being careful and doing what we can to be in touch with others and encouraging them. Thank you for your gifts to your church. It is helping. You are being kind and generous. We want to be as strong as we can be as a church on the other side of this circumstance. Our world and people are being pounded, some are being pounded to death, but the local church is the last hope, and our God is a great God.

Since we will be closed on Easter, we will not hold our Easter brunch. If you purchased tickets, please mail them back to the church with your name and address, and we will issue you a refund.

Finally, one of our members had an idea that on Easter morning at dawn, we go outside and yell "He is Risen" and perhaps ring bells or hit pots with a spoon. I'm not sure all neighbors would enjoy that so maybe at 8 am. I'm thinking about it. What do you think?

Be safe, be careful, and keep the faith!

In His name,
Pastor Martin