

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

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

We are going to have a soft opening of worship September 19 and 20! At this time, the soft opening will begin with all five services. Every service will have an area (Northwest section) for masks only. There will be no one unmasked in this section. Masks will be on for entering and leaving the building by everyone in the congregation. We will use common sense distancing and we will hold that all stand level at the foot of the cross with or without masks. Troy has gotten a new system up for live streaming of a Saturday service and Sunday service. If you are not ready to come back for worship, the services will be streamed and will be available also later in the week. My expectation is that about 25-30% will begin in person worship. The majority of our congregation will continue online.

Our congregation consists of older members and I'm aware of five members who have tested positive for Covid and no deaths in our congregation of over 1000 members. We thank God. We have been shut down for six months. It will never be completely safe, but life is not safe. It is time to join in worship in person for those ready to do so. If you are not ready, please take your time, but do join us for worship online.

We now have twenty new members in the class. We meet and have distance and masks if wanted. The morning Wednesday Bible Fellowship continues at 9:30 a.m. I'll be starting the evening Wednesday Bible Study on September 2. The time will be 5:00 p.m. I'm hoping that an earlier time will help increase the number who attend.

This morning I read Psalm 8. The psalmist is looking up at the heavens; the moon and stars and is blown away that God who created all that, pays attention to human beings. Verse 5, "Yet you have made them a little lower than God." The word God can also be translated divine being or angel or even calling to mind Genesis 1:26, in 'our image.' Jesus came to help us live out that image of God through the cross and resurrection. We are not allowed to have low self-esteem in the presence of God, for God crowned us with glory and honor.

Have a blessed Wednesday.

Pastor Martin