

Monday, June 16, 2020

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

First of all, thank you for the positive comments on the Flag Day update. Also, thanks for all the hints and suggestions about packrats. I'm going to redo the outside and get some lights for under the hood and around the house, etc. On our weekly Zoom with my brother Bruce and brother-in-law Rob, I mentioned the packrats and they both just sort of stared at me. Bruce said, "There really are such things as packrats?" Both men live in Minnesota. Then Bruce said, "Well I think I get it though; we now have a grey squirrel on our tiny island. I think it is part squirrel, part rat, and my wife thinks it has part jungle monkey." I do know it must be part beaver because it is chewing everything. We have set live traps with no success. "I don't want to shoot it." Bruce said, "No, I'd wait to make that decision until after the demonic squirrel chews up \$10,000 dollars of damage in the cabin." "Oh."

I asked Robin how he was doing in Minneapolis. He told about going to a drive-in jazz concert at a local bar. They listened to music and their food was delivered to their car. He said, "I think I could get used to drive-in concerts. I'm comfortable in my car and I don't have to put up with knuckleheads inside the bar." Robin has almost finished a beautiful new sewing room for his wife (my sister) Amy in their lower level. Bruce is going to visit his daughter on Lake Minnetonka and go out on their new used pontoon.

I'm writing all of this just to say that things are slowly settling down and that we will all get through this. I don't know what the next crisis will be but I'm sure our media will alert us all to it. In the meantime, I take great comfort in your kind emails of encouragement and the love of family and friends, my beautiful wife Julie, and I look forward to continuing to take steps to open up with some of you for live worship. Online services will continue. And where is God in all of this? I often remind myself of Jesus' last words in the gospel of Matthew: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded, and remember I am with you to the end of the age."*

Have a wonderful Tuesday.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin