

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

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

This morning Council President John Martin sent out an email about our church remaining closed for live worship at least through July. We have not set a new date to reopen, but everyday staff and council will be in conversation about it. Our prayers continue to end the virus.

We also need to pray for an end of a second virus attacking the country. What virus is this? It's the virus that infects people to believe that all police are bad, all white people are racist, that the entire country is racist, that all history is relative, and that skin color is the only thing that matters, not the content of one's character. It is a virus that infects people with a belief that there can be no free speech, only agreement speech. If you agree with me, I will listen. If you don't agree with me, I will shout you down, get you fired, call you every name in the book, burn the book, then burn your business. It is a virus of stealing, burning, shooting, and beating.

Dear Lord, deliver us from both viruses on this Wednesday in June. Help us to love you and love our neighbors. We pray for a time when we as Christians can gather again in person. We pray and seek reformation where it is needed in our country not by cancelling and bullying and silencing but by working together. More than ever Lord we need your help.

In Philippians 1:3-11 Paul writes such heartfelt encouragement to the Christians in Philippi. They had sent Epaphroditus with gifts for Paul while he was in prison. Epaphroditus became ill while with Paul and almost died so Paul sent him back (2:25, 28). All of his emotion comes out in 3-11. In 1:8-9 Paul longs for the people of that church as Christ longs for us. And Paul hopes that their love may overflow so they can determine what is best.

We must not lose our love nor our insight and common sense.

Blessings to you on this Wednesday

Pastor Martin