

Friday, January 15, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

This weekend I'll start my seven-week sermon series on "Broken Signposts," with the value of justice. Next week the value is love. The idea came from N.T. Wright's book, *Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World*. Christians believe that we live in a fallen world and that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Many Americans don't believe that, they believe that people are basically good and that through our own efforts we can create utopia here on earth through government and our own efforts. N.T. Wright a New Testament scholar and Bishop believes that only God can make sense of the world. All seven values are broken, broken signposts but each one is addressed by God to help us make sense of the world. However, one needs God in their life equation and vast numbers of people believe that is foolishness. Next week the value is love. We all know about that, but we know that without God even love can be tainted and twisted for our own pleasure and purpose.

Our baby step opening of the building went well. The numbers were small but those gathering again followed the protocol and were happy to be back with other people.

I keep a small five-year journal. Last year at this time we closed on our current home and then sold the home we purchased in 2003. We had an estate sale and I'm still so thankful for the help of the DHLIC Estate Sale people. We moved ourselves with our next-door neighbor's small trailer, a pick-up and the energy and help of youngest son Grant and wife Jessica. They were lifesavers. On the last load, Julie and I went to McDonald's late. There were javelinas all over the parking lot. We were both exhausted; we could have put our heads down on the table and just slept. It seems like years ago. We were just getting word at the time of a possible terrible flu outbreak.

We continue to place our country in God's hands.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin