

Friday, May 15, 2020

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

Fridays are what I call my 'cave day'. It used to be that I would have to make sure I had a finished sermon on Friday by 4 pm, and then I would get five times to deliver it on the weekend. I am doing the same thing, but now I am working a week ahead, so today I will be thinking about Ascension Day and what that means. I have never been a week ahead on sermons, but old dogs can learn new tricks.

We have had another week go by and still we are home. It can be very wearisome. On the last Tuesday of the month the council and executive staff will meet for an extended time to brainstorm about reopening. There are so many factors that will go into that decision. Can we be safe? We can never truly be safe because life is difficult and dangerous, but we can try to minimize dangers. It has become difficult to even gauge how dangerous it is out there anymore. We all want to be gathered again, so let the talks begin.

The last weekend of May is Pentecost. Pastor Ken and I thought it might be nice to include communion for that weekend's worship services. You will be invited to share communion with us from your homes. Just have your grape juice or wine, bread or crackers ready. It is the safest way to move forward right now.

Here is something to ponder: Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. Luke tells the story of the ascension twice. At the end of Luke's gospel, Jesus ascends on Easter in chapter 24. But in Acts 1, Jesus ascends forty days after Easter. That is one of those biblical mysteries.

Be safe. Have faith. Hang in there, for this too will pass.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin