

Thursday, May 21, 2020

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

Today is Ascension Day. How do I know this? I googled it.  
According to Acts 1:1-4:

1 In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God.

Today marks forty days past Easter. In our church history the Ascension has usually not garnered much attention. Too bad, because from the Ascension through Pentecost, the world changed. The church was born, and Jesus took his seat at the right hand of God. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to him.

How do we remember it? I read about an event years ago at an Episcopal Seminary. They do the Ascension up big time. There was a huge celebration and worship service with the President, Deans, and Bishops. Also, a procession with robes and regalia to celebrate the Ascension. When they left the chapel, an enterprising seminarian had taken a life size Christmas crèche figure and strapped it to a rocket. When the procession came into the courtyard, he lit the fuse and shot "Jesus" into the sky, where he crashed on the roof of a nearby dormitory. The Dean of the seminary was not amused. The young man said he just wanted to dramatize the event of Jesus going up.

Nothing so dramatic today. Jesus transformed his presence, joined heaven and earth together, gave us a purpose and witness for this life. Happy Ascension Day.

A last couple of notes. Thank you all for continuing to give gifts to Desert Hills. Our hope and prayer are to proceed together, move through this pandemic and come out ready to move forward with our mission. Finally, for the last few days a turkey has been lurking around the church property. He or she is not too afraid of people. Has anyone lost a turkey? Of course, the dang bird parks outside my office windows the most. I heard in the hall,

“Well Pastor, birds of a feather flock together.”

Blessings,

Pastor Martin