

Friday, October 22, 2020

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

I hope you got the mailing on our Stewardship theme for this year, There is No Place Like Home. Please prayerfully consider attending one of the lunches or dinners. We will keep distance and be as safe as we can be but that will mean a smaller crowd. Our giving is holding very well and I'm so grateful for that. Next year will have its own challenges but won't we all be glad when 2020 is over???

This weekend as I said Wednesday, we will celebrate our Lutheran birthday called Reformation Weekend. I will make a case for why I have chosen to live within the Lutheran tribe. Next weekend we will have a celebration of All Saints Weekend.

Wednesday I was thinking about Psalm 23 and especially verses 2 and 3. How does God make us lie down, or lead us beside still waters or right paths? I got some responses from you. I'm going to share a couple.

Mary wrote:

I am responding to the message from Pastor Overson regarding Psalm 23. He invited the readers to share our take on verses 2 and 3. God is my strength and song. When I am patient and give my troubles to God, I trust that His Will will be done. Then, I can let go and feel calm and peaceful. It feels like being able to be laying down in a soft green pasture and looking at the sky or listening and walking beside a still waterway. Thanks for the invitation to share!

Mike wrote:

- “The Lord makes me lie down”—I need not dwell on Expectations that keep me a slave to trying to get things the way I want them to be. Getting mired in Expectations only makes me chase the things that are not important and evaluate each as a “success” or “failure.” I need to be humble and give up that frustrating scurry to find meaning when it's not there and lie down and rest and be open to Receive the Grace of God. Grace brings “success” every time.
- “The Lord leads me beside still waters”—Why do I continue to embrace and get caught up in the roiling turmoil of the stress and strife of the raging waters of living that get stirred up through constant Worry? Once you Accept what you have and are grateful for it, you will be led to the peace and stillness of life that allows you to truly Enjoy it.
- “He restores my soul”—I think it restores my spirit down into the depths of me when I can turn over these wants and Expectations and Worries to Him so I am free to be Accepting and can Receive and truly Enjoy the life he has given me.
- “He leads me in the right paths”—When I see it front of me and can believe it's really a path there ahead for me, I can walk it more easily and I can actually see that it's much more “right” for me. It doesn't mean I am a more righteous or

better person than another, but I think it means I can see how to take some of the pressure off myself to do that by letting myself be guided toward the “right” path for me.

I thank you for the responses. I think I’ll try this again, I enjoyed hearing from you.

I’ll see you either at 2150 S Camino del Sol or online this weekend.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin