

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

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

This weekend we will celebrate during worship All Saints. All Saints began as a remembering of martyrs in the first century. It was later changed from All Martyrs to All Saints. I'll be thinking with you this weekend on what it means to be a saint. We will also remember all the saints who died this past year.

A soft opening for coffee time on Sundays after the 8 and 9:30 am services begins this weekend. We will be serving Fair Trade Coffee, a make a difference project to help farmers in third world countries.

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 so register early. We will keep two people to a table unless you have friends with whom you would like to dine. Just let the office know. Our giving is holding very well and I'm so grateful for that. Next year will have its own challenges but we are facing the new year well with your help.

Yesterday I got word of the passing of Leo Ellison. Leo was our Senior Chancel Choir Director when I arrived. He was a superb choral leader and musician and I so enjoyed working with him over the years. I asked him early on if he would move the Chancel Choir to 8 am so we could start another choir. He said on two conditions: that his choir would not be divided; and that he had control over the music picked for the choir. Done! Both Leo and wife Diane were instrumental in the growing of our most excellent music program here at Desert Hills Lutheran.

I'll close with the verse of the day from my desk calendar. John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live." Today I visited a member in hospice. I talked about life, not death. We have life after death in Jesus. He prepares a place for us. He is the resurrection and the life. Always good to remember what it is we believe and look forward to experiencing.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin