

Friday, September 18, 2020

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

Yesterday we continued to welcome twenty people into membership here at Desert Hills with a brunch. They will be officially recognized next weekend at the worship service of their choosing. As always, we will ask if they believe in a triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will also invite them to join us on the path of discipleship by promising to do these disciplines: worship regularly, pray daily, read their Bible daily, discover and use their spiritual gifts, tell others of God's grace, and give some percent to God's mission in the world. As we have done in the past, we will ask our new members to do these things to the best of their ability, then as a congregation we will make the same commitment. It is another terrific group of Christians who have chosen to walk their faith with us. It is an honor to have them.

This weekend we will have our soft opening, holding all five services. We will ask that you wear masks into the building and when you leave. There will be a section on the choir side of the sanctuary in the back where wearing a mask will be mandatory. We will not take an offering but will have baskets at the exits when you leave. It is necessary to leave the sanctuary quickly after the service so that we can sanitize between services. On Saturday, the band will be with us. On Sunday, during the 8 am and 9:30 am services, Gordon Swanson and Mary Lou Catania will lead music along with song leader Roy Baker. There will be a band for the 11 am Contemporary worship. The 3 pm Saturday service and the 9:30 am Sunday service will be recorded and be available later each of those days online. An email will be sent when the service has been posted for you to watch.

If you are at all uneasy about attending, please continue to join us online. There are no judgments here. I and some others believe it is time to slowly open for worship and open up the country from this lockdown. If this is not your belief, then we will see you when you are ready.

Let me close with a verse from today's Psalm for me, Psalm 18. I've taken both Luther's and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's advice to pray the Psalms each day. Here is my verse for this Friday, Psalm 18:46 "The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation."

Blessings on this Friday. Some of you I'll see this weekend. I look forward to it.

Pastor Martin