

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

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

We now have had two weekends back with people in attendance at worship. The numbers, this past weekend, were down a bit from the first week, but I think that is to be expected. This weekend we will be having a few choir members helping with singing on Sunday. We are still looking at the best way to share Holy Communion in these times and I think it best to take our time with the possible solutions.

I'm starting the next round of new member classes. We will meet tomorrow at 9:30 am. It will be a small class but that will make it easier to get to know each other. You may sign up in the next two weeks because we will start tomorrow at 9:30 am then take a week off and gather again on Thursday the 15th. I'm hoping one or two or five more will join the class.

Wednesdays I do two bible studies, one at 9:30 am and a second at 5 pm. All are invited. I try to have the same lesson for both, but sometimes one group just moves more quickly. We are studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. We started with Philippians 2:12, "Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, (Paul was in prison for being a Christian, most likely in Ephesus) work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." It isn't what it sounds like. Paul is not telling us that we save ourselves. No, that was done for us by Jesus on the cross. Paul is exhorting the church in Philippi to continue to grow up in the faith, to work out what it means to be saved. It is like how Paul wrote to the Romans in 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." It is all about growing up in the faith, having the mind of Christ, being transformed into his image. Each day we are on that road of growing up.

Speaking of growing up, today is my grandson's birthday. Cooper Michael Hall is four years old today and his party will be in Memphis. I'm hoping to Zoom in for a greeting later today. In the meantime, continue to grow up. Happy Birthday Cooper.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin