

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

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

Yesterday I did a Zoom chat with my brother Bruce and brother-in-law Robin. There was a lot of hilarity both in trying to get sound and video going and then once that was set, just the silliness that has always surrounded us. We talked about family and how we were doing. There was laughter but also quiet times recognizing that the future is uncertain, and we all hope to be able to get together in person soon. I'm guessing many of you have also done some video chatting. We also visited daughter Britta and son-in-law Pete, both working from home. Also, very, very active 9-month-old Lynnea and 3 ½-year-old Cooper. I asked Britta how it was going. She said, "Dad, this isn't a favorite time in my life." Julie and I were tired just listening and watching for thirty minutes. We stay in contact as much as we can.

Welcome to Holy Week. This is the week we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday online services are being prepared, as are Easter services for online worship. A special note about Maundy Thursday, the day we celebrate the commandment of love and the institution of Holy Communion. After much thought and prayer, Pastor Ken and I would like any of you who care to join us in communion to do so online from your home during the Maundy Thursday service. BYO Bread and wine or grape juice. We live in "emergency" times and until we can join with each other in person, sharing Christ's words with each other in remembrance of Christ's holy meal seems to be a very good thing to us. If you are not comfortable, please be free to wait. Part of my decision is based on how this disease causes people to have to die alone. We are not alone. As Jesus said at his ascension in Matthew's gospel, "And behold I am with you until the end of the age."

I'll write more in a couple of days. For those of you mailing in your offerings or online, thank you so much.

Pastor Martin