

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Today is one of those days that draws so many people down here for winter and spring. It has been a cool winter and spring but today is warm and lovely. I have the cycle out and even had to make a couple of trips to the bank as an excuse to ride. There is less traffic which is perfect for cycles. It almost makes a guy forget the stress and fear so many in the world are experiencing.

As I thought of how grateful I am to live here, I also thought of some good things that have come out of this quarantine time so far. I preface this by saying I have not known anyone personally who has died. One can't make a list of good things if one has lost a loved one. But for the country there have been some good things. I'm thankful that the distancing is helping in many parts of the country. As introverts, Julie and I have very much enjoyed time together with very few interruptions. The pace of work is less. We are working and being paid for 75% of our normal salary, and I'm very grateful to still be working. I'm grateful for you as a congregation, continuing to give when you are alone and uncertain of the future. Bless you.

This weekend I'll be looking at John 20:19-31, one of my favorite stories of Easter. It is the story of doubting Thomas. We can identify, we all have our doubts about something. We see Jesus, the resurrected Jesus, like himself but also very different. There is joining of heaven (God space) and earth (our space) in Jesus' resurrection. I have no answers, but I believe that as Jesus ascended, he said that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to him. We have our marching orders and Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you to the end of the age." Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38-39 "**38** For I am convinced that neither DEATH, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Be safe. Keep the faith. Make a difference.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin