

Monday June 8, 2020

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

This morning our quail family was back. The babies are getting bigger, and not one has been lost. Dad comes first and stands guard but once they get to the ground below the bird feeder, the whole family gets very busy with the seeds. Julie and I go from window to window to watch their progress. In our old house we never had a quail family in our back or front yard. We would see them in the cul-de-sac, but it must have been more dangerous as each day brought a smaller group of babies.

Why all the talk about birds? Perhaps I just have a need to focus on something normal and not threatening and not pulsing with anger and fear and violence. I'm okay if I stay away from the news. Like one of my uncle's favorite jokes, "Why are you banging your head against the wall?" Answer: "Because it feels so good when I stop."

On this Monday then, what is the good word? Jesus once told his disciples to not be afraid. And Jesus mentioned birds.

Matthew 10: **28** Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. **30** And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. **32** "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

As Julie and I watch the quail, God watches the quail, Julie, and me and all of you. The best we can do is to constantly acknowledge our God before others and maybe stop banging our heads against the wall.

Please keep praying for our country.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin