

Monday, June 22, 2020

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

Let me begin with our pack rats. This past weekend I met a neighbor and she said that the place on the street where our cars have been parked is pretty much infested with rats. I've put a light under the hood, however these pack rats must wear sunglasses at night; light doesn't seem to bother them. There were seeds everywhere again. I feel like Bill Murray in Caddyshack chasing down varmints on the golf course. Oh, it's war.

Yesterday was Father's Day and I was feeling so blessed. Grant and Jessica were here for the weekend from Flagstaff. I was very happy to get phone calls from my other children. Daughter Britta and son-in-law Pete in Memphis are hanging in there. Our grandchildren greeted us on Facetime and oh my, are they active. I was complaining to them about the \$300 in damage to my car from the pack rats. I soon was quieted. Britta and Pete just spent \$2000 of their stimulus check to get rid of rats in the attic of their fairly new home. Our son Sam, also in Memphis, is doing well. Our son Alex is getting ready to leave Astoria, Oregon and and move to San Diego to a new Coast Guard assignment.

Also, this weekend our clothes dryer quit. An F10 error usually means a control board has gone out. I've ordered a new part and once it's here hopefully I will be able to pop it in and we will be back in business. Thank goodness for You Tube videos. I'll keep you posted.

Tomorrow the church council will hold our monthly meeting. We will discuss the decision to open July 4/5 in light of the Pima County Supervisors' vote. We will be prayerful and deliberate. The Wednesday e-update will let you know our next plan.

Pastor Ken and Susan leave tomorrow morning for a month-long visit with children and grandchildren in Minnesota. Our prayers are with them for a safe and wonderful visit with family. He will take a break from the e-update for the month, but I'll still write every other day.

I'm taking an online course from N.T. Wright on Paul's letter to the Philippians. So, for the rest of June and July I'll include something from the letter. Paul and Timothy co-wrote the letter mid 50's or early 60's A.D. We are not sure which imprisonment Paul was in. Some say Rome, others Corinth, Caesarea, or Ephesus. He sure loves that church at Philippi. In Philippians 1:3-4 he writes, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of us."

We have had some self-imposed prison time in our own homes. Paul has it right: pray constantly with joy and thanks for all of us in this upside-down time.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin