

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

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

I just talked on the phone with Pastor Ken. He is enjoying beautiful Minnesota weather and lots of family. He sends his greeting to you all and especially to President John Martin for his excellent job with the liturgy last week for our online service.

This morning after our early walk Julie and I were treated to a sighting of the Overson Quail Family. I hadn't seen them for a couple weeks; now they are almost full grown, and I counted the same number, thirteen teenagers now. They ran along the wall and then jumped down for breakfast. Very fun.

I got word that the part to fix our clothes dryer should arrive tomorrow. I'll be sure to keep you posted on the repair. This may be of no interest to you, but when one writes an e-update every other day, sometimes one reaches.

Now, let me get to Philippians 1:27-2:4. Paul starts with verse 27: "Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of King Jesus." In the ancient world most people lived public lives; there really was no private life unless you were terribly rich or in the Roman ruling class or both. Paul was reminding the members of the little church that the pagan public was always watching and always looking for any excuse not to believe in King Jesus. (Messiah, Christ, and King are all appropriate names for Jesus.)

Paul was urging the congregation not only to behave well as individuals, but also to have great unity as a church. Enemies of the church love when we fight and disagree and wander away from our mission and purpose. In Chapter 2: 3-4 Paul encourages us to get along. "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

Paul writes this because we always should strive to live as servants of King Jesus in a public way; our hope is that those who don't believe might have pause to wonder, "Who are these people and why do they behave in the kind and decent way we see? Who is this King Jesus?"

For many of us, there is far less public behavior right now, but we still are out and about. Currently in our country, people increasingly are being confronted by rude, violent, disrespectful, and uncivil people. It is good for all of us to behave as servants of King Jesus anytime we can.

Blessings on this Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Pastor Martin