

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

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

Julie and I went on a road trip. On the 4th of July we journeyed up to Utah, to Zion National Park and also Bryce Canyon National Park. It was interesting to see only one or two flags in Flagstaff on the 4th, but in Kanab, Utah where we stayed for two nights the streets were lined with flags as was the cemetery. We toured Zion and it was packed. It was encouraging to see people getting out. Bryce was not as packed, but most parking areas were full.

We went on to Page. We thought a boat trip on Lake Powell would be fun. Nope. Supposedly it was a two hour wait to launch your private boat, and all boat tours have been suspended. So, we relaxed by the pool in a gale wind and then went inside to play cards. On Tuesday, we stopped in Flagstaff to see the kids and their new dog, Bailey. This morning finds us in Winslow staying at the historic La Posada Hotel in a room Howard Hughes stayed in. I've got this very weird urge to build a model plane and to repeatedly wash my hands.

Masks have been mandatory everywhere. Exceptions were some restaurants in Kanab, the Visitor's Centers in the national parks and a fish and chips restaurant in Page called Nemo's where we met our new friend Don, owner, and operator. Best fried shrimp and french fries we've ever had!

I will be back in the office tomorrow.

Some words from Philippians:

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmuring and arguing. Verse 14 is a reference back to the Exodus. For Paul, the Church and Christians are the new people of God moving out of slavery to God's new life in Jesus. In the Old Testament the people complained and grumbled about the journey out of Egypt. Paul is saying we must not be like the Israelites. We are not to spend our time complaining or grumbling or arguing with each other. In Verse 15 Paul says we are the light of the world. And so, on this Wednesday, may we keep our complaining to ourselves and shine like the stars.

Finally, to our new friend Don from Nemo's: Hope you have a nice day off. Don has had to lay off most employees and so now is working 90-hour weeks to sustain his business. He is allowing himself to take Wednesdays off; we wish him a restful day.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin