

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

Saturday, July 18, 2020

Yesterday was Julie's birthday. It carried over to this morning when we had some amazing chocolate birthday cake for breakfast. If you haven't done this in some time, it is a treat. Have it with coffee and you will get the full chocolate/caffeine/sugar buzz, and that all-morning queasy (but happy) feeling. It was a truly delicious cake baked by a dear friend (layered with chocolate mousse, topped with chocolate ganache and decorated with fancy cookies). Happy Birthday, Julie.

We are moving through July. The council, staff, and I continue to talk about when we will open. There are strong feelings on both sides. For us, we must decide on the number of services we will hold and whether or not we will require masks. These decisions are nothing compared to what our school districts are trying to weigh. It looks more and more like there will not be children in-person at school in our area until at least October, but there will be online teaching beginning soon. How does one teach Kindergarten with online teaching? When children are back in school, how are the masks and distances handled? Along with these questions are the very strong opinions for both opening schools now and keeping them closed. I/we continue to pray for guidance.

Julie and I are getting away for a couple of days. After that will be the end of summer for her. I will not be writing to you on Monday, July 20, but have no fear, Pastor Ken is returning from Minnesota and will be back in the queue for writing.

This weekend I am talking about Jesus' parable of wheat and weeds in Matthew 13. Jesus says that when good seed is planted, an enemy comes along and plants bad seeds. However, Jesus warns us not to pull up the weeds. It is a time when more and more people believe they know the weeds and want them all pulled. Better to let both wheat and weeds grow and let Jesus be the judge. You can let me know what your take is on the parable.

That is all for now. My hands have stopped shaking from the chocolate buzz; time to get on with chores for Saturday. Blessings to you all.

Pastor Martin