

March 20, 2020

Greetings members and friends of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

Today the income tax deadline was extended to July 15, and the Governor of California asked the entire population to stay inside. Each day there is more developing news, with new warnings and precautions. Please be vigilant and safe, but also reasonable in your response.

Even with all this uncertainty and confusion, some things don't change; some of the mundane will remain, thank God. Julie made ribs a few days ago, and when I went in to sample them, I spilled sauce all over the oven. I didn't tell Julie, because I knew I'd clean it up later. Well, I forgot. Yesterday she turned on the oven, and the house filled with smoke. We currently are searching for our oven cleaner in unopened boxes.

I hope it is going well for all of you. Again, these are extraordinary times. Julie has been on spring break, but now there's a school closure at Continental for at least one week. I just talked with my brother-in-law, Robin, and both he and my sister, Amy, are working from home in Minneapolis. Some stores there remain open with limited hours. The two of them are enjoying takeout dinners twice a week to help local restaurants. If it's affordable for you, this is an excellent way to keep our local economy going.

Many thanks to Troy Justesen and Pastor Dennis Nelson for putting together a Lenten service online this week. The service can be found on dhlc.org, and it was excellent. My great thanks to Pastor Nelson for his theme of "Walking with Jesus". We will have two worship services available this weekend. Pastor Ken will bring the message, our Saturday musicians will bring the music for our Saturday worship, and our Sunday musicians will bring music for our Sunday worship. We are looking to have about a 30-40-minute service available to you. We ask for your patience and prayers as we continue to work out these details.

Please continue to set an alarm on your phone to pray for our church, our nation, and our world twice each day at 9:30 am and 5 pm. I have stopped doing whatever I'm doing twice a day to remember you in prayer.

A few weeks ago, in a sermon, I ridiculed a man for wiping down his shopping cart at Safeway. Now the world has changed, and I'll be using more oven cleaner to get the egg off my face. It isn't the first time I've been foolish, and it probably won't be the last. I sincerely apologize. I was at the same store this past week and I almost took a bath in chlorine wipes upon getting back into my car.

For a spiritual reminder, God is walking with us. I'm going to try to be in contact with as many people as I can and to not be afraid of walking through a valley of a shadow of death, because "YOU ARE WITH ME, YOUR ROD AND STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME." Do what you can to find ways to celebrate the grace of God, ways to behave like a disciple of Jesus, and ways to make a difference.

We pray for the people on our prayer list and for each other. Please keep checking for e-updates as Pastor Ken, others, and I will be reaching out to you every day.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin