

Saturday, May 23, 2020

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

I have been reading Dennis Prager's commentary titled *Genesis: God, Creation, and Destruction*. His commentary *Exodus: God, Slavery, and Freedom* was one of my favorite books of 2019. Yesterday I read about Genesis chapter 11. Genesis 11:4 -And they said, "Come, let us build us a city, and a tower with its top in the sky to make a name for ourselves." People love to build cities. People love to build the tallest building. People love fame (name for themselves). Yet God comes down to look at this tallest building (catch the irony of God coming down to see this structure) and city and their attempt at a global one-language government.

God scattered the people, confused their language, and called their city Babel. Why did God do this scattering and confusing? When people or nations seek fame and power and glory apart from God, bad things happen. One language and a global world order are very bad ideas according to Genesis 11. We will celebrate Pentecost in another week. There will be the sound of rushing wind, tongues of fire, and people speaking the same language. Is this the reversal of Babel? I believe so and it is called the Kingdom of God and the creation of the church.

It appears that the turkey that was loitering around for two days has gone into the desert. The bad news for the turkey is that there were lots of turkey feathers in the parking lot the next day. Julie sighted some quail at our house with tiny babies. I'm keeping my eyes open for them; I hope they do better than the turkey. Nature can be a dangerous place.

Next week, the executive staff and church council will discuss plans to reopen, but there is no date yet. Wednesday I'll be on a zoom conference with the Bishop and all Pastors of the Grand Canyon Synod to learn from each other about moving forward.

Thank you for being in touch with Pastor Ken and me as well as the staff. Thank you also for your continued generosity for your congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin