

Greetings Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran Church,

It is Tuesday, March 24, my brother's birthday. He is 62. "Happy Birthday my brother, I love you!" You really didn't need to know that, but in these times, normalcy is still enjoyed. Yesterday I was at Walmart early. No, it was too early for fried chicken. There was something better. Yup, toilet paper! No, I'm not hoarding. When I got home, I scrubbed down the stuff I bought with Clorox wipes. Things sure change.

This morning the executive council and I met to talk about the future. Currently we are looking at a \$75,000-\$85,000 short fall each month, due to no attendance at worship. We are looking at making some across-the-board reductions of salary for our staff and finding ways of chipping down the shortfall to balance our budget. (A 25% across the board cut would save us \$27,000 leaving \$48,000 more to find). I will know more about all this after our council meeting later today when we will be looking at the way forward. We are so thankful that so many of you have kept up your giving even though we don't have live worship. I was thrilled to learn that last weekend we had almost 825 people watch one or both Saturday and Sunday recorded services and had over 1000 visits to our website. I was also thrilled that we had both Pastor Ken and Pastor Nelson give excellent sermons. If you wish to give, please do either online, by check, or credit card. My hope is that we make it through this pandemic with as few deaths as possible and once we begin live worship again, we are financially stable. You can make a huge difference in keeping us going through tough times. We've just learned one of our members has the coronavirus. I am now thinking, optimistically, about a July start for worship back in the sanctuary.

We probably will be closing the church building completely a few days each week as we cut back on hours. We do have savings and we will use some each month, but again, I'm hoping that when we start again and we WILL start again, we have some extra savings to jump-start things. We intend to continue streaming our services. You can still help by asking 'one more' to attend one of our shortened services online. This weekend I'll be starting a two-part sermon on the woman at the well from John 4. I'll preach on part two sometime in May. We are working on our Holy Week services, including Easter, for streaming. Some of you have called about the *Christ in Our Home* and *The Word in Season* three-month devotionals. We can send you one through the mail while the supply lasts, just call the church.

New member classes start April 23. We will do these online.

Finally, our Green Valley Food Bank also is experiencing a shortage. If you are able to help with bringing nonperishable food to people having difficulty, please call in or email and leave your name. We must have common sense with this, but we always want to make a difference.

Stay well,  
Pastor Martin