



Pastoral Update—September 25, 2020

Fall Feelings

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12



The first day of autumn has arrived! This photo reflects a crisp fall day in my parent's Wisconsin neighborhood from our last visit. The change of season may evoke warm feelings anticipating pumpkin lattes, football games, colored leaves, and cooler air. We look forward to family gatherings, pumpkin patches, apple orchards, and trick or treating. Yet, everything is different this year. Sometimes our feelings won't match up with 2020 reality. Feelings may change but our faith and mission remain steadfast. Paul's words in Romans encourage us: be joyful, patient, and faithful.

As fall brings changing leaves, there are many changes ahead for DCLC:

- As I shared in Monday's devotional email, Pastor Doris is on medical leave due to the difficult side effects from chemotherapy and radiation. Please keep her in prayer as she rests and heals. Messages of support, comfort, and love are welcome and appreciated.
- All church member communications regarding pastoral care, church business, inquiries, etc. should be directed to me at acain@desertcross.org.
- Synod supply pastors aren't available, so I serve as solo pastor. Program changes are necessary as we adapt to our new circumstances. I give thanks for Council, Chamber, and Staff support.
- As we trust the Spirit and patiently await our new Associate Pastor, an abundance of flexibility and understanding is needed to faithfully serve two campuses when we begin to reopen.
- The Reopening Team is in full swing and we are working towards in-person worship this fall. Please keep us in prayer as we make all the necessary preparations and watch for communication of our plans coming soon! Online worship will continue to be provided.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. We are blessed to be a blessing and Dawn Collins shared an Autumn blessing today. I'm passing it on to you!

In faith,

Pastor Andrea

Blessing for Autumn

(Notre Dame University Alumni Association)

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,

may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields

remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit

remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.