



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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A Message from Our Pastor

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods." (Psalm 96:1-4)

Easter is the time to ask the question: "How will I now live for the Christ who died, rose and now lives for me?" This is not always an easy question to answer and sometimes it can be hard to tell if our lives are making a difference. It may feel like the problems of this world are too much to overcome: the coronavirus and other various diseases, natural disasters, poverty, war, prejudice, addictions, broken families, not to mention concerns about job loss, our retirement and the tanking economy. Our individual lives and collective ministries can sometimes seem small in the face of such incredible brokenness.

I suspect the ancient Israelites sometimes felt the same way. They lived in places where three continents connected and different cultures intersected. In fact, their own kingdom was just a tiny speck compared to the other powerful nations around them. How could their faith stand in the face of such impossible odds? Would they survive into the future? Could they make a difference?

The author of the above Psalm confronts all of this as he writes, "Declare [God's] glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples." Even though the ancient Israelites might have felt small compared to the powers around them, God was still overseeing the entire world. God is still huge. God is still the Lord of all. Although they were tiny, God made it clear that He is not.

The same could be said for our individual lives and the ministries that we facilitate today. Even if it feels like we are only making a small difference, we should remember that we worship a big God who does big things. Our work might touch the lives of people in ways that we will never see. When we care for our neighbors, during this pandemic and at all times, perhaps God is using us to set up a line of dominos that will continue into the future. You are God's hands in the world, and the effect of His love working through you expands outward. Sometimes we might not see the big picture, but God certainly does. Do you make a difference? Absolutely! Because God is working through you – His redeemed and chosen child!

Blessings,



Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Church Events

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Holy Week Schedule:

Good Friday, April 10

Facebook Live Streaming Worship at 5pm

[\(Church Office Closes at noon\)](#)

Easter Sunday, April 12

Facebook Live Streaming Worship at 9am

Easter Monday, April 13

[Church Office Closed](#)

Blessings to you on a different kind of Holy Week. The good news is that we have hope and look forward to Easter Sunday. We had promised to be transparent and wanted to give an update on the renovation process. We were asked by our architects if there was a recent survey completed for possible asbestos in the facility, as the church is approaching 65 years old. We didn't locate any current report, so Terracon was hired and performed an analysis, which determined the church does have levels of asbestos that require an abatement company to give us bids to remove the asbestos before any remodeling can begin.

Let me assure all of you that no one has been at anytime at risk in contracting any asbestos related illness. We will keep you posted. Blessings on your Holy Week Worship.

Jim Mueller

Inclinor Elevette Inspection: On March 6, our Inclinor Elevette was inspected by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Division. The inspection failed as the elevette was found not in compliance as the equipment tag did not display a current date tag. The requirement is that side hoists cables must be re-socketed every two years. The Fire Marshal was contacted and informed that we would be beginning the construction of a new elevator and would not want extra expense of repairs. We were told the elevette must be taken out of service. The elevette has been turned off and signs posted—"Out of Order". Sorry for this inconvenience.

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Returning to God, Tithes and Offerings During the Pandemic

As you know the church's ministry and expenses continue even though services and programming are a bit different. You can still give your tithes and offerings by mail. You can set up your bank account to give electronically or you can utilize MyEOffering. There is also a link to MyEOffering on our web page, on the top menu. Our web page is: www.PacificHillsLutheran.org. You can sign up at <https://members.myeoffering.com> Your church needs people like you to continue their regular patterns of giving despite virus-related closures to maintain current ministry. Consider the following passages:

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Malachi 3:10 - Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Proverbs 11:24 - One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

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BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

He has risen! He is not here."

(Mark 16:6b)

Patience and Grace Requested: As you know two weeks ago we had our first live broadcast of Sunday worship via Facebook live-streaming. Admittedly, we have had a few issues and much feedback from the congregation and others, perhaps the most feedback has been with the sound quality, and there are a variety of factors involved. We are aware and we have experimented with the sound quality and have had mixed results. Because of the limitations on the process and platform we use, we are limited in what we can do. Pacific Hills does not have elaborate production equipment. That said, we do have a possible solution for the next few broadcasts, and another possible fix is on the way, but it likely will not be available until after Easter. So, we ask for patience and grace as we move through the weeks ahead. By God's grace, we will make it through this, if we all pull together and understand the constrictions of our imperfect world. Blessings, Pastor Bryan Drebes

Things to remember with Coronavirus: Remember to practice good health. If you are not feeling well, have a cough, elevated temperature, or feel flu-like symptoms then please stay home. Please know you can always tune into 850 AM for KFUE programs and worship services. You can go to www.LHM.org for devotions and the Lutheran Hour program. You can go to www.IssuesEtc.org for LCMS programs and blog posts. You can even access www.CPH.org for their numerous resources. Just please do whatever you can to stay in the Word. I would remind you to like our Facebook page. By doing this you will see current posts and be reminded of upcoming sermons and services. **Remember we are live-streaming Sunday Services via Facebook at 9am.** Finally make sure you stop by our website www.pacifichillslutheran.org where you will find a wealth of information including past sermons. At times such as this we need to be extra vigilant about looking out for each other. So pick up your directory, call a fellow member and let them know that you care about them as does the entire church.

Church Office will be closed Good Friday, April 10 at noon, and all day Monday, April 13.

Preparing to Celebrate our 65th Anniversary. Mark your calendars. On Sunday, June 14, we will be celebrating 65 years as a congregation. It was "near" this date in 1955 (on June 12th) that Pacific Hills Lutheran Church was organized with 112 communicant members, most of which were transfers from First Lutheran. To commemorate this day, our Board of Elders is putting together a special committee to help facilitate a day of worship, fellowship, lunch and other activities. The renovation will be well underway by June 14. This will give us opportunity to look back and thank God for what has been even as we look ahead to the great things that God has in store for us as a congregation. Stay tuned for more details.