



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 17, 2020
VOLUME 5 - NUMBER 16

It's Been Quite a Month!

It's been quite a month, hasn't it? The past few weeks have been unlike any in history. It's easy to become anxious and worry about what will happen. Will we get sick? Will we lose our job? Will we have enough money? It's at times like this when we need to speak Truth to our worries, the devil, and our sinful nature. Turn to God's Word to calm our troubled hearts. Need to focus on Easter joy? Read *John 20*. Want to be reminded how big our God is? Read *Job 38-40*. Need to be reminded that we aren't the first people in the world to have big troubles and that God always hears us? Read the Psalms. In fact, I always suggest reading the Psalms. They compose the song book and prayer book of God's people throughout the generations. Christ himself prayed the Psalms. Some specific encouragement from the Psalms today:

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
Psalms 18:2

The Lord is my light and salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? *Psalms 27:1*

I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." *Psalms 31:14*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. *Psalms 46:1*
Psalms 23, 91, and 121 are favorites full of comforting imagery as well.

So in those dark times when you are anxious, when you've watched too much news, when the worries of this world seem to overcome, speak Truth. Sing Truth. Shout Truth. Let your problem know how big your God is.

We have a good, gracious, loving, and almighty God who is bigger than our isolation, stronger than our insecurities, mightier than any sickness, and triumphant over even death itself.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, hallelujah!

Kay Storck, Lamb of God Preschool Director/Teacher

Church Events

Sunday, April 19 and April 26

Facebook Live-streaming Worship at 9:00am

In May, based on possible changes relating to coronavirus distancing guide lines we may continue Facebook Live-streaming on the following Sundays:

May 3

May 10 — (also, Mother's Day)

May 17

May 24

May 31

Also, later available on
www.PacificHillsLutheran.org

Communion Practice: Please see the special letter that Pastor sent out Friday, April 17, regarding COVID-19 communion practice.

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.

*** ***** ***

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."

*** ***** ***

CYF board Coming Events

- **Vacation Bible School:** June 27, 10am to 4pm. A one-day Treasure Hunt-themed event with Bible stories, games, crafts, music, bounce house, food and more. We want this to be a big community event and will need lots of volunteers, so consider helping to organize or assist in any aspect. Questions, contact Sandra Glissmann at 402-571-8407.
- **LCMS District Youth Gathering:** November 20-22 at Embassy Suites - La Vista, for our high school youth. A chance to use your fundraising money.

Volunteers Needed: We will need volunteers in order to make our 2020 VBS a success. If you are able to help with games, crafts, music, food, or Bible time, please contact Sandra Glissmann. Someone from CYF may even call you to ask for your help. Thank you.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

*"Thomas answered him,
My Lord and my God!"*

(John 20:28)

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.

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.

As we begin our second year in the Together in Faith—
Together capital funds campaign, remember to enclose your check in a separate envelope from your General Fund envelope. Thank you.

Lamb of God Preschool is now enrolling for the 2020-21 school year. We have classes for children ages 3-5. Spread the word to your neighbors and family members. Affordable tuition with financial assistance if needed. See Kay Storck for more information.

One Way to Support Pacific Hills' Foundation

If you are required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you might not like the taxation associated with that. One option would be to use a provision by the IRS that allows you to make qualified charitable contributions (QCDs) directly from your IRA to a ministry (up to \$100,000/year), such as the Pacific Hills Lutheran Church Foundation. Being smart about which asset you use from which to make your contributions can save tax dollars, possibly allowing you to increase your gift. Do you want to know more? Craig Stirtz, a gift planning counselor who has assisted our congregation and the foundation, can help. Contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@fnd.org.