

The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 22, 2020
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The Ascension of our Lord

There are no decorated evergreens, no greeting cards, no gifts, no poinsettias or lilies, no colored eggs, no chocolate bunnies, and no responsive salutation. There's just a Thursday with an extra name: Ascension. But it does matter. In fact, it matters every bit as much as Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas. It deserves to be celebrated. For those still unconvinced, here are seven reasons to rejoice on Ascension Day:

1. Jesus ascended so that the Holy Spirit could descend.

The Spirit is the promised "other Comforter" essential to the life and growth of the Church—no Holy Spirit, no Church, no faith, no salvation. Jesus ascended to send the Spirit.

2. Jesus reigns now over everything.

He has been enthroned at the Father's right hand, and the full glory of the Godhead is His. The ascension is His coronation ceremony and highlights the splendor and authority of Jesus over every king, ruler, and nation.

3. The ascension was the plan from the very beginning.

Just as the passion and resurrection were predicted in the Old Testament, so too was the ascension. Jesus' extraordinary visible ascent is the essential capstone of his earthly ministry.

4. Jesus ascended bodily.

Joined eternally to true God, a true human body is the object of honor and worship. This has profound impact on our understanding of God's nature and also human nature. The material aspects of God's creation are very good and endure forever.

5. The commission announced by Jesus is now in full force.

Just as a death must precede the implementation of a will, so the ascension of Jesus must precede the implementation and empowerment of the command to the disciples (you included) to witness the reality of Jesus to the world.

6. The ascension of Jesus is a preview of the promised consummation.

At the Last Day Jesus will return as He went: physically and visibly. It will not be a "spiritual" or metaphorical return, but an actual coming of His physical body. No one is going to miss it.

7. Jesus is Lord.

Not only did Jesus come back from the dead, but He now reigns on high. He is Lord of all creation. He is Lord of your life.

So, whether or not you gazed skyward, studied a cloud or offered a prayer of thanks and praise to the one who now reigns on high; know he is coming again. Just as He went into the heavens, He promises to return from the heavens. You can count on it.

Church Events

In May, new guideline changes relating to coronavirus distancing: Families to stay together distancing 6 feet from others.

Facebook Livestreaming will continue at 9:00am

Schedule:

May 24 — 9:00am Eucharist in church
and Livestreaming

May 31 — 9:00am Eucharist in church
and Livestreaming

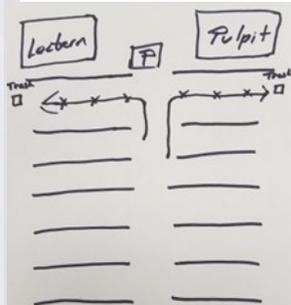
Livestreaming available on website:
www.PacificHillsLutheran.org

*Dr. Joel Biermann is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology
at Concordia Seminary Saint Louis.*

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Marlene Hawver in memory of Marjorie Timperley Hawver.

Our "Celebrate 65th Anniversary" scheduled for Sunday, June 14 has been cancelled.

OUR SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNION PRACTICE BEGAN MAY 17



The Ushers will dismiss one pew at a time, alternating between the pulpit and the lectern side, so that there are only a very small number of people present for Communion at any given time to maintain social distancing. When you come forward you will take a prepackaged communion kit from the center of the chancel. Pastor will be standing in the center at the spot marked with a P. You will then proceed until you

are in position in front of the altar rail, again no kneeling or touching the rail. Once you are in position you will be instructed to "take and eat" and "take and drink." Once you are dismissed you will dispense with your used cup and depart down the side aisles to your seat. Those seated in the transepts will be ushered up from their respective sides.

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."

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

"You are witnesses of these things."

(Luke 24:48)

Pacific Hills has four 4-drawer file cabinets available to anyone who wants them and can haul them away. They are in great shape. Take any number of them. No charge, but donations accepted, if desired. Talk to Jim Mueller or Kay Storck if interested.

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 KFUCO 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.

A note from the Missions and Social Ministry Board. PHLC has been blessed to have a benevolent fund called the Yahweh Fund for many years. Special offerings, even change placed in the collection box in the narthex, provides funds to help with emergency needs of rent, utilities, gas cards, food, medical bills, etc. for members of PHLC and those who seek assistance at our doors. Just last week we were able to prevent an eviction and cancellation of OPPD services. Due to the pandemic of Covid-19 in our country, anyone of us may face financial distress or have special needs. As brothers and sisters in Christ, PHLC is here for YOU and your family! Contact Marilyn Wegehaupt, Parish Nurse and Board Chair (402-334-2896) or Pastor with any requests for Yahweh assistance. Requests are kept confidential. We have also established a list of volunteers who are available to shop and provide transportation for those who need help. During these days ahead let us remember PHLC's mission statement: Share Christ-Serve Others!