



# *The Pacific Hills* **Messenger**

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH — JULY 10, 2020 — VOLUME 5 NUMBER 27

## God gives us the gift of faith in our hearts.

Both the Old Testament lesson and the Gospel lesson this week talk about plants. The Gospel lesson is the parable of the sower (Matthew 13). Our family likes to garden; Nathan and I like to plant flowers, and Matt is the one in charge of planning the vegetable garden. One thing we've learned over the years is how important the soil is for plants to grow. Even if the plants get sun and we water them regularly, if they are not in good soil, they will not do well. Our first couple years of gardening in our yard were not very successful; we had a lot of grass, weeds, and rocks to dig up, and the ground was hard clay. Every spring we have added bags of good soil as well as our own compost to the garden, and our plants now flourish. This is the time of year when we reap the rewards of our hard work. The rhubarb, berries, and lettuce are done, but we have cucumbers, green beans, and tomatoes coming on and flowers blooming.

The Gospel lesson reminds us that God gives us the gift (the seed) of faith in our hearts, and He gives us the means to grow that faith. Even during these challenging times our faith can grow in good soil when we read His Word, attend (or watch) worship services, spend time in prayer, and nurture relationships with fellow believers. Praise God for the seed and the growth!

Kay Storck, Director/Teacher  
Lamb of God Preschool

## Church Events

**In July**, guideline changes continue relating to coronavirus distancing: Families to stay together distancing 6 feet from others.

Sundays	<u>12, 19, 26</u> 8:00am Eucharist 10:30am Eucharist 11:30am Worship & Music
Sunday	<u>July 19</u> 11:30am Foundation Trustees 7:00pm Jazz Concert
Tuesday	<u>July 21</u> 4:30pm Siena Francis House 7:00pm Directors Board
Thursday	<u>July 23</u> 6:30pm Tai Chi

**Sunday's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God by Richard and Ruth Laughlin in thankfulness for the many blessings received in their 59 years of marriage.

**Sunday Worship Notes** -- The Elders and Pastor recommend that everyone wear some kind of face covering in worship. Also, there are no children's messages on Sunday mornings, due to social distancing requirements. Thank you.

**There will be no Tai Chi class, Thursday, July 16. See all of you Thursday, July 23, at 6:30pm.** Class will be held outside in the grass south of the south parking lot. Chairs will be provided and disinfected after class or you can bring your own. Questions, call Sandra, #402-571-8407.

#### **OUR SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNION PRACTICE**

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.

#### **Court Yard Jazz Concert, Sunday, July 19, 7pm.**

Jennifer Novak Haar, piano, Mark Haar, bass, Jim Schweigert, trumpet, Doug Montera, drums. **Novak & Haar** is a jazz group led by the husband/wife duo Mark Haar and Jennifer Novak Haar. Mark and Jennifer perform together extensively around Omaha, the Midwest, and beyond. They toured nationally with the Mannheim Steamroller Christmas 2019 tour, play for Broadway touring productions and local theater, with the Omaha, Lincoln, Sioux City and Sioux Falls Symphonies, and in many jazz venues in the area. Both cancer survivors, they also volunteer at the Buffett Cancer Center by playing a weekly Friday lunch jazz gig in their restaurant. They are frequently joined by drummer Doug Montera, and when expanding to a quartet, trumpet player Jim Schweigert.

## *BIBLE VERSE of the Week*

"The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it."

(Matt. 13:23a)

### **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](http://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."

### **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@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.stirtz@lfnd.org).