

# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

What will you do to celebrate the Fourth of July? If you are like most people, you will have a get-together with your family and perhaps watch and/or set off some fireworks.

This Sunday we will celebrate our nation's 245th birthday. On this day we celebrate the precious gift of freedom because of the price others have paid. The ideal of freedom is one that our founding fathers believed valuable enough to risk everything on. They risked their fortunes, their families, their reputations and their sacred honor. They risked their very lives and many of them paid for our freedom with their blood and the blood of their children.

Today as we worship in security and comfort, we do so because thousands of young men have given their lives and shed their blood on foreign soil. They died in forsaken places with names not remembered so that we could experience the joy of freedom. No, freedom is not free. The price is always paid in blood.

Freedom can also be lost. Together, as a country, we are witnessing the fraying of our society. The 40th President of the United States once said, "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again."

So, freedom is a gift paid by others and it can be lost. This is true spiritually as well. Christ Jesus paid for our eternal freedom with his most holy precious blood, and it can all be lost if we turn away from Christ and back to a life of unbelief and sin. St. Paul said, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). Such wise words for us to consider on this Independence Day!

Blessings,



"I lift my eyes unto the Hills" ... Psalm 121:1

## Church Events

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

Sun July 4	8:00 am Eucharist 9:15 am Educational Hour 10:30 am Eucharist
Mon July 5	Independence Day (observed) Church Office Closed
Tues July 6	9:00 am Care Ministries 10:30 am Missions
Wed July 7	9:30 am Holy Communion (ZOOM)
Thurs July 8	6:30 pm Tai Chi 7:30 pm Elders Board
Sun July 11	8:00 am Eucharist 9:15 am Educational Hour 10:30 am Eucharist 6:00 pm Adult Bible Class (ZOOM) 7:00 pm Courtyard Jazz

## Returning to God, Tithes and Offerings



## Remember Your Offerings

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](https://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."

Members can contribute to the Yahweh Fund to address community assistance. During this pandemic, PHLC offers **Walmart and HyVee gift cards that are purchased for those who seek assistance for food or gas.**

## Mission and Social Ministry: July Mission of the Month: Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry

Church workers provide care to others. Who takes care of them when crisis or "burnout" affects their lives? Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry, located in Wickenburg, Arizona, is one of a few ministries who provides a specialized Christian counseling program to church workers (Pastors, missionaries, DCEs, chaplains, rostered teachers, and their spouses) who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. During a weeklong retreat the goal is to make sure participants return home having experienced God's healing love and grace in an atmosphere that is safe, confidential and restorative.

The ministry was founded by Dave and Barb Anderson 11 years ago following a traumatic plane crash in the Bering Sea. They presented their music ministry at PHLC several years ago and spoke about Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry. Your special Mission offering will help this ministry provide care for the caregivers in the church!

## Sunday evening Courtyard Jazz at Pacific Hills at 7pm:

- o July 11—Matt Wallace Latin Jazz Trio
- o August 8 –Tuffy Epstein Quintet

**Mobile Grace food truck for all concerts at 6PM**

## BIBLE VERSE of the Week

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."  
(2 Cor 12:9b)

**Online Worship Services:** Go to our website [www.pacifichillslutheran.org](http://www.pacifichillslutheran.org) for more information.

If you can offer to help in any way in the Church Office with bulletins, birthday card preparation, computer data entry, etc., please contact Kim in the church office!

**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.

Bob Vandervort is offering a **Bible Class on the book of Hebrews via Zoom every Sunday evening** from 6:00 – 6:45 pm. Email him at [rsvod@cox.net](mailto:rsvod@cox.net) or call 402-350-0872 for more information. Everyone welcome!

**Directors mail boxes** are now located in the new Church workroom 119!

The **Altar Flowers for July 4, 2021 Services** were given to the Glory of God by Danny & Kang Ae Reyelts!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be 6:00-8:00 pm, July 26-30 in Acker Hall. We will explore 5 stories about Jesus that center around food and fellowship. So, **"Come to the Table"** and enjoy **DINNER, WORSHIP, STORY TIME, CRAFTS and GAMES!!** To register go to [www.pacifichillslutheran.org](http://www.pacifichillslutheran.org)



**Tai Chi offered every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm in Acker Hall**