



# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — APRIL 19, 2019

PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Some time ago one of God's servants was lying in a hospital bed awaiting surgery. He told his sons that in his meditations and prayers he was invariably brought, as he put it, "to the prayer above all prayers: 'Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.'"

This was the prayer that was in his heart and on his lips as he went to surgery. It was his petition as he passed through the "valley of the shadow" and drew near to receiving his "crown of glory".

During this season of Lent, we think about our Lord's bitter suffering and death, traveling along *The Via Dolorosa*, "The Way of Sorrows," to Calvary's cross. Our one real aim in rehearsing this sacred story is for us and others to recognize our sin and be led to pray: "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The prayer comes to us from the lips of the tax collector in Jesus' parable, *The Pharisee and the Tax Collector in the Temple*. The Pharisee, in his prayers, chronicled all that he was doing for God – and went away still only full of himself. The Tax Collector humbly prayed for mercy and forgiveness – and went away justified, enjoying the Lord's presence within him.

As Lent focuses our attention even more sharply on the cross, we recognize that it stands as an awful condemnation of prideful human sin. It speaks to us of death, the consequence of humanity's willful separation from God. On the cross we see the suffering that was required of the Son of God as God's atoning sacrifice for our sin. We know Jesus' cry from the cross; "My God, why have You forsaken me?" should have come from our own lips. And so we are led to pray humbly, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner."

St. Paul confesses, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." With those words ringing in our ears, we look upon the crucifix and see that through Christ's death, He has given us life. For in repentant faith we receive the precious gifts He so richly and freely gives in forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

*Serving Christ with you,*

*Pastor Kumm*

## Church Events

Easter Sunday	8:00am	<b>Eucharist</b>
	9:00am	Breakfast
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30am	<b>Eucharist</b>
Monday		Church Office Closed No Preschool
Tuesday	9:00am	Tai Chi
	9:30am	Alanon
Wednesday	9:00am	Foster Care
	9:30am	<b>Eucharist</b>
	10:00am	Fellowship
	6:00pm	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	6:30pm	Tai Chi
	7:00pm	Gamblers-12 Step
Friday	7:30pm	Omaha Philatelic Soc.
Sunday	8:00am	<b>Eucharist</b>
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15 am	Education Hour
	10:30am	<b>Eucharist</b>
	11:30am	Outreach Board
	1145am	Foundation

**Sunday's Easter Lilies** are given to the glory of God by Randy & Joan Workman, John & Elaine Blacketer, Susan Hunter, Thomas & Rhoda Storck, Mike & Brenda Whealy, Jim & Kathy Stokes, Joe & Carla Risko, Leroy and Nancy Stuckenschmidt, Marlene Hawver, Rev. Bryan & Cheryl Drebes, Paul & Andrea Shultz.

**Easter breakfast at 9am.** Once again the youth and CYF board are hosting the meal between services. The meal is a free-will offering that goes into an account that supports youth ministry activities.

**A BIG THANK YOU to those who helped at last Saturday mornings clean up. Job well done!**

**Women's Bible Study** to begin Wednesday, April 24, 6:30pm. Please join us! We will be studying "The Letter to the Hebrews." Contact is Brenda Whealy at 402-201-1106.

**The Yahweh Fund** is a social ministry fund established to help those in need with utilities, housing, food, transportation, etc. The Yahweh Fund is undergoing a financial low at this time and this collection is an effort to build up the fund. You can give through your regular envelope giving by designating to the Yahweh Fund or by placing checks and \$20 gift cards from HyVee or Walmart in the wrapped box in the narthex (during the month of April and May). Thank you for your generosity.

The PHLC Missions and Social Ministry Board

**A Communion Steward informational meeting** will be held Saturday, May 4, at 9am at church. Current Stewards and those interested in serving the church are encouraged to attend. The Communion Stewards are necessary and valuable servants of the congregation. Interested? Come and learn what we do. Questions? Call Rhoda Storck

## The Bible Verse of the Week

"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;"

Joel 2:13 (ESV)

### Children Youth and Family Events:

- The board is helping to pay 50% of the cost for youth to attend summer Lutheran camps. Please keep your receipts and give them to Sandra Glissmann for reimbursement.
- The board is planning summer Bible study and mission activities for our youth, their families and the congregation this summer. One activity will be preparing a meal for the Ronald McDonald House on July 20. Be watching the newsletter for more activities and information.

Thank you! Questions? CYF Board: Alice Osborn, Cheryl Drebes, Sharon Irvin, Kay Storck, Pam Hafsaas, and Sandra Glissmann

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased to recognize that Lamb of God Preschool has successfully created a Certified Schoolyard Habitat® through its Garden for Wildlife program. Lamb of God has joined with over 5,000 schools nationwide that have transformed their schoolyards into thriving wildlife habitats that provides essential elements needed by all wildlife – natural food sources, clean water, cover and places to raise young. The habitat also serves as an outdoor education site where students can engage in cross-curricular learning in a hands-on way.

## Our Campaign Ends Soon

Pacific Hills' *Forward in Faith - Together* campaign ends in two weeks. Through this effort, we hope to make Pacific Hills a more welcoming place to worship our Lord. We also hope to make it more accessible. We have received decision from 49 members. If you have already turned in your pledge card, thank you. For those who haven't, there is still time. If you haven't been contacted, we apologize. Please contact the church office and we'll be in touch. Our hope is that everyone will join in so together we give all glory to our Lord.

*I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. -Psalm 63:2-4*

