



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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A Message from Our Pastor

"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods." (Psalm 96:1-4).

As we shared recently in our sermon series on 1 Peter, Easter is the time to ask the question: "How will I now live for the Christ who died, rose and now lives for me?" This is not always an easy question to answer and sometimes it can be hard to tell if our lives are making a difference. It may feel like the problems of this world are too much to overcome: diseases, natural disasters, poverty, war, culture wars, prejudice, addictions, broken families, not to mention concerns about job loss, our retirement and the tanking economy. Our individual lives and collective ministries can sometimes seem small in the face of such incredible brokenness.

I suspect the ancient Israelites sometimes felt the same way. They lived in places where three continents connected, and different cultures intersected. In fact, their own kingdom was just a tiny speck compared to the other powerful nations around them. How could their faith stand in the face of such impossible odds? Would they survive into the future? Could they make a difference?

The author of the above Psalm confronts all of this as he writes, "Declare [God's] glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples." Even though the ancient Israelites might have felt small compared to the powers around them, God was still overseeing the entire world. God is still huge. God is still the Lord of all. Although they were tiny, God made it clear that He is not.

The same could be said for our individual lives and the ministries that we facilitate today. Even if it feels like we are only making a small difference, we should remember that we worship a big God who does big things. Our work might touch the lives of people in ways that we will never see. When we love and care for our neighbors, God is using us to set up a line of dominos that will continue into the future. You are God's hands in the world, and the effect of His love working through you expands outward. Sometimes we might not see the big picture, but God certainly does. Do you make a difference? Absolutely! Because God is working through you – His redeemed and chosen child!

Blessings,

Pastor Drebes

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Church Events

SUNDAY, MAY 7

- 8:00 am Eucharistic Worship
- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
Education Hour with Pastor Bryan
- 10:30 am Eucharistic Worship with Choir
- 11:45 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

TUESDAY, MAY 9

- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch (Brazen Head)
- 7:00 pm Pray, Knit, & Crochet Group (Narthex)
- 7:00 pm Board of Directors (Acker Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- 9:30 am Devotional (Zoom)
- 12:30 pm First Ladies AA Meeting (Rm 114)
- 6:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group (Narthex)
- 7:00 pm Mental Health Matters Night (Acker Hall)

THURSDAY, MAY 11

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
- 7:00 pm Board of Elders (Rm 115)

FRIDAY, MAY 12

- 7:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Soc. (Narthex/Acker)

SATURDAY, MAY 13

- 11:00 am LCEF Presentation (Acker Hall)

SUNDAY, MAY 14

- 8:00 am Eucharistic Worship
- 9:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
Education Hour with Pastor Bryan
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Eucharistic Worship with Bell Choir
- 11:30 am Worship & Music Committee (Rm 115)
CYF Board Meeting (Narthex)
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

MENTAL HEALTH MATTER NIGHT



PHLC is pleased to be hosting a Mental Health Matters Forum on Wednesday, May 10th @ 7:00pm in Acker Hall presented by the Kim Foundation.

Join us for a presentation of hope and healing to discuss the importance of mental health awareness and suicide prevention at PHLC. All are welcome at this community event!

MAY LUNCH BUNCH

Pacific Hills Senior Lunch Bunch will meet for food and fellowship at The Brazen Head Restaurant, 319 North 78 St, on Tuesday, May 9 at 11:30 am. Everyone welcome!

END OF SCHOOL PARTY



This year's end of school party will be at Papio Fun Park on May 21 from 3-6pm. Please email Pam Hafsaas at phafsaas@icloud.com or call the office to RSVP by May 14. Come join in the fun!

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

The Red Cross is coming to Mount Olive Lutheran Church, located at 7301 N 28 Av, on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Please consider visiting www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 10 Mental Health Awareness Workshop at 7:00 PM in Acker Hall.
- May 13 Lunch and Learn with LCEF. Learn more about their products and services at 11:00 AM in Acker Hall. Contact Nate.Meier@lcef.org to register.
- May 14 Mother's Day. What a wonderful time to worship together as family.
- May 24 Confirmation Faith Sharing Night at 7:00 PM in Acker Hall.
- May 27 Confirmation Rehearsal at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary.
- May 28 Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday.

MAY MISSIONARY FOCUS

May is mental health awareness month. As the body of Christ, the church is called to promote mental and spiritual wellness, embrace those with mental illness and provide a community of help and hope. In support of this call, all contributions designated to Missions this month will be distributed to mental health agencies—Lutheran Family Services, Community Alliance and Shepherd's Canyon Retreat which provides clergy mental health services.

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

(1 Peter 2:7b)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the Book of James via ZOOM every Sunday evening from 6:00 — 6:45 pm. Please email him at rsvod@cox.net or 402-350-0872 for more information.

ROSES FOR MOTHER'S DAY FROM EPS

Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS) will have roses for purchase after services on Mother's Day with a donation of just \$5.00. Your donation will help to support EPS and give women, who are facing unexpected or unplanned pregnancy, loving care, support, and education about life affirming options.

CONCORDIA SPRING CONCERTS

Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School presents its Spring Bands/Orchestra Concert on Monday, May 8 at 7:00pm and Spring Choirs & Bells Concert on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00pm. Both will be held in the CHS gym at 15656 Fort Street.



There is no admission charge, however a free-will offering will be taken to support the CHS Music Department.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed for assistance with funeral luncheons. Please contact Dorothy Cornish at 402-392-2544 if you are interested.

SECOND READERS NEEDED!

Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Have an upcoming celebration or anniversary? Altar flowers may be placed for any celebration, remembrance or to the Glory of God. Please share your request or intention with Kim at: KimKielty@PacifichillsLutheran.org or call the office. The cost is \$25.