

The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 8, 2020
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Happy Mother's Day!

Every year at this time, children, of all ages, have quite a challenge. How are they going to pay attention to mom in such a way that the day goes well? There are the standard and routine ways to recognize this one very important person in the family – a card, a phone call, flowers, children trying to be on their best behavior. Mothers and their children tend to have high expectations for what the day will be like.

I'm not sure how many of you are familiar with the history surrounding Mother's Day? The history behind Mother's Day begins with Anna Jarvis who first suggested a national observance honoring all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years, the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities throughout the United States.

Then on May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for what he called the "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations to honor departed mothers and red to honor the living, a custom that continues to this day.

Mother's Day is filled with much fanfare and celebration—the cards, the flowers, the special treatment for mom. But we would be remiss if we did not also point out that there is a lot of pain and raw emotion associated with this day as well. Some people have buried their mothers whom they very much loved. Others are estranged from their mothers. Some don't know their mothers. Not to mention, many women feel like failures as mothers because their kids didn't turn out well. Some want desperately to be mothers but God has not given them the gift of children. Some have lost children. Some have miscarried. Some have aborted their children. For these reasons, and more, Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for a lot of people.

Despite the complexity of this day, many churches choose to celebrate Mother's Day with much gusto – giving flowers to mothers, recognizing the oldest mother present, perhaps the pastor even gives a sermon on the topic of family and motherhood. While we do not typically do these things in the Lutheran Church, we still recognize this day, but from a different perspective. We recognize the fact that in Christ Jesus the old roles in life are broken down. In Christ we are mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters and children to one another. Today we don't observe a holiday which excludes people. Rather, we celebrate Christ who through His life, death and resurrection connects and binds us to one another.

Blessings,

Pastor Drebes

May Schedule: New guideline changes relating to coronavirus distancing: Families to stay together distancing 6 feet from others.

May 10 — 9:00am Livestreaming and attendance in church

Happy Mother's Day!

May 17 — 9:00am Eucharist in church and Livestreaming

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

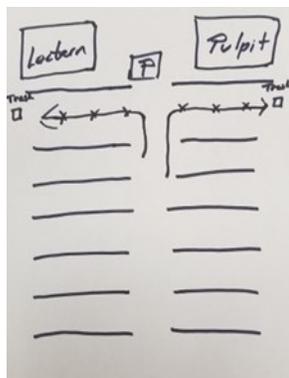
May 31 — 9:00am Eucharist in church and Livestreaming

Livestreaming available on Facebook and

Website: www.PacificHillsLutheran.org

OUR SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNION PRACTICE BEGINS MAY 17, 2020

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.



Ring Those "Bells" – Participate in Omaha Gives!

Mark your calendar for May 20 – the date of Omaha Gives! Omaha Gives! is an online giving platform organized by the Omaha Community Foundation that helps local nonprofits, including religious organizations such as Pacific Hills, raise funds to support their operations and missions. This year, support given to Pacific Hills will help defray the cost to have the carillon in our bell tower repaired. For years, the carillon rang out to our area calling us to worship. Our carillon was damaged and requires extensive repair. To support Pacific Hills, go to www.Omahagives.org. Scroll down and type in "Pacific Hills" in the "Find Your Cause" frame.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK

"In my Father's House are many mansions."

(John 14:2a)

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!

GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School - 156th and Fort St. Campus

1 John 4:19- We love because he first loved us.

Dates and Times: May 18, 19, and 20 at 9am to 12pm

Donate: Boxed Dinners, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruits, Veggies, and Granola Bars

Support:

- *Concordia Academy's Blessing Box
- *YES (Youth Emergency Services)
- *Open Door Mission

Safety Precautions:

- Have your "give back" items in your trunk
- Drive through the front parking lot for your drop off
- Stay in your car, and a staff member will assist you