



The Pacific Hills **Messenger**

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH — AUGUST 28, 2020 — VOLUME 5 NUMBER 34

The Last Word

Sometimes things happen in life, and it's so tempting to think darkness has had the last word. I'll be the first to admit it sometimes seems that way:

The door gets slammed.

"I'm sorry, we've got to let you go . . ."

"The test results aren't good . . ."

The casket is lowered into the ground.

There's no hope left. There's nothing left to say, no chance to say it, and we know the happy ending we were hoping for, even praying for, isn't coming. The story is over. Evil has had the last word. Sin has had the last word. Death has had the last word.

Except that it's not over. The last word hasn't been spoken yet, but it belongs to a good and loving God who gave His life to redeem His creation.

Good-bye is not the last word.

Unemployment is not the last word.

Cancer is not the last word.

Death is not the last word.

There is a God in heaven who specializes in bringing light in the middle of great darkness, hope in the midst of despair, and life in the grip of death. The last word is His and His alone. It's a word of hope. A word of peace. A word of love.

Blessings,

Pastor Drebes

Church Events

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

Sunday	<u>August 30</u>
	8:00am Eucharist
	10:30am Eucharist
Thursday	<u>September 3</u>
	6:30pm Tai Chi
	7:00pm Gamblers
Sunday	<u>September 6</u>
	8:00am Eucharist
	10:30am Eucharist

It has been our tradition for the past couple of years on months with five Sundays to have a single service, followed by fellowship in Acker Hall. Due to the COVID situation, and the construction underway in our building, we will have two services on August 30, without the fellowship time in Acker Hall.

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.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY MEMO: Parents of confirmation age youth in fifth through ninth grade and their eligible youth are encouraged to attend an information meeting on Wednesday, September 2, at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Sunday School Rally Day, September 13, between services is for all Youth and Adult Bible Study classes: The plan is to have a short session outside for social distancing. Have a treat and learn about the plan for fall Sunday School. We will also celebrate the Bible and the Lord's Prayer milestones. Questions call Sandra Glissmann #402-616-3446.

New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, September 14, at 7pm in Room 208. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Jackie in the church office. Classes meet for 6 weeks and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.

See the Renovations Online! You can see what's happening with the facility renovations, on the Pacific Hills web site. On the top green menu bar, there is a Renovation Update selection. (There is also a link under About Us.) Click on that to see the latest -- with photos -- on the progress. No hard hat required.

Directors mail boxes are now located in the church office on second floor (Room 212).

Due to the church remodeling the Board of Social Ministry **WILL NOT COLLECT DONATIONS OF FOOD AND TOILETRIES.** If desired members can contribute to the Yahweh Fund. HyVee gift cards are purchased for those who seek assistance for food or gas.

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

"From that time on Jesus began to explain ... that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

(Matthew 16:15b)

For your consideration: The piano in Acker Hall has been replaced. The old one is still available for donation to the first person who claims it. You must also be responsible for moving it out of the basement hallway. Call the church office to let them know you would like to claim the piano and will move it. If you have questions or need more information about this instrument, call Sara Young at 402-397-7987.

For those worshipping with us in August: Please Enter through our East Door (Eastern Gate)

Jewish literature says that when the Messiah arrives, he will enter Jerusalem through the Eastern Gate. Christianity says that Jesus passed through this same gate on Palm Sunday, giving the gate messianic importance. The Eastern gate gave the most direct access to the Jewish temple.

Due to removal of asbestos in our normal entry way, the only access to OUR temple (the Sanctuary) will be through our East door.

Our Pacific Hills address is based on our East door. Most people never use that door, but since August 2, we have been using that door to get to the sanctuary for worship services. Those needing restrooms will need to go downstairs during that time.

Matthew 7 tells us to "Enter through the narrow gate; ... 14 For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. We hope you find your way to worship with us as we follow God's way.

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. 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."