



The Pacific Hills

Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH — OCTOBER 25, 2019 — VOLUME 4 NUMBER 43

One of our great traditions as Lutherans is to sing Luther's monumental hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" as we celebrate the Reformation, where we are reminded that Christ alone saves us. Most of us probably know the first phrase of the hymn from memory and have thought before about the imagery used by Luther that God is our fortress, our refuge and strength. But as I was reading this hymn this week, I was struck by the second phrase where Luther refers to God as "a trusty shield and weapon."

A shield is, of course, something that offers us protection. And, it probably isn't a stretch for us to think of God as our shield. Luther writes in his explanation to the first article of the Creed in the Small Catechism, "He defends me against all danger and guards and protect me from all evil." That's what a fortress and a shield does; it offers protection.

But have we thought about God as a weapon? A shield is defensive, but a weapon is an offensive object used for attack. Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word of God as being "sharper than any two-edged sword." Why do we need a weapon? Because, as 1 Peter 5:8 warns us: "Be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

The first three stanzas of Luther's hymn expand on the imagery of God as *both* a shield and a weapon. Consider these phrases: "He helps us free from every need that hath us now o'er taken." "But for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected. Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is!" "Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us, we tremble not, we fear no ill, they shall not overpower us."

The final stanza of the hymn then looks toward the future. What does the future hold after the shield and the weapon have done their jobs? Luther tells us that, in the end, it is the Word which will remain, and that "the kingdom ours remaineth."

So let's rejoice together, and let us make diligent use of the shield and weapon that has been given to us through the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

Peace,
Jeffrey Blersch, Director of Music

Church Events

Sunday	Reformation (observed)
	8:00am Eucharist
	9:15am Choir Rehearsal
	9:15am Education Hour
	9:30am Adult Bible Study - Topic: <i>Does the Bible Contradict Itself?</i>
	10:30am Eucharist
	11:30am Outreach Board
	5:00pm Trunk or Treat Pancake Man (until 7:00pm)
Tuesday	9:00am Tai Chi
	9:30am Alanon
Wednesday	9:30am Eucharist
	10:00am Fellowship
	6:00pm Youth Confirmation Class
	6:45pm Women's Bible Study
Thursday	10:00am Women's Bible Study
	6:30pm Tai Chi
	7:00pm Gamblers-12 Step
Saturday	Daylight Savings Time
Sunday	8:00am Eucharist
	9:15am Choir Rehearsal
	9:15am Education Hour
	10:30am Eucharist

Sunday's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill Wagner in thankfulness for Pacific Hills Lutheran Church.

Schedule of Events:

October 25

Reformation Sunday (observed)

October 27

Trunk-or-Treat and Pancake Man, 5pm to 7pm

November 3

All Saints' Sunday (observed)

Pacific Hills will continue the tradition that was started in 2011 that will give worshippers the opportunity to commemorate one or more loved ones who have passed away over the course of this last year and are now numbered among the saints. Sunday you can pick up two 3x5 cards on the table in the Narthex (one to keep and take home, and one to use during the service). There will be a place on the card for you to include name(s) that you wish to have commemorated during the service. You will have the opportunity to bring your card up to a receiving basin in front of the chancel during the singing of the hymn, "For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest." At the conclusion of the service the cards will be placed on the credence table in the front left corner of the chancel and remain there a year. Members of Pacific Hills who have passed away this year are: **Norma Payne, Dorothy Storek, Paul Gladman** and **Helen Glanzer**

November 9

Smiles at the Laundromat, 10am

November 10

Annual Congregation Dinner and Meeting, 11:30am (Immediately following the 10:30am service) CYF is hosting the pot luck dinner and preparing the turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy dinner before the meeting again this year. We are asking the congregation to bring their favorite side dish or dessert. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway. Call Sandra Glissmann at 402-571-8407 if you have questions.

November 24

Christ the King Sunday, November 24

November 27

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7pm

December 1

Advent Begins

Lamb of God Preschool will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event on Sunday, October 27, 5pm to 7pm. A free meal from the Pancake Man will be served as well. We encourage Pacific Hills members to join us for this event. We need people to decorate the backs of their vehicles and pass out candy to families in the neighborhood. Please contact Kay Storck with any questions or to sign up to help. Thank you!

Smiles at the Laundromat Our next OutReach and Social Ministry event is November 9, 10am to 12pm. We will meet at church. Can random acts of kindness and sharing the love of Jesus make a difference. You bet! Come join us and help create more smiles as we share the love of Jesus.

Direct questions to bryanddrebes@pacifichillslutheran.org or mmwegehaupt@gmail.com.

Bible Verse of the Week

"We maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law."

Romans 3:28 18:7a

Sunday School Classes begin at 9:15am:

Nursery opens at 9am (main floor-south door entrance-canopy extension)

Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will meet together for opening in Rooms 206/207 and then break into two separate groups for lessons.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will remain in Rooms 206/207

1st and 2nd grade students will move to Room 212

3rd through middle school students will meet in Room 208

Adult Bible Study begins at 9:30am in Acker Hall

Topic: Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

PACIFIC HILLS IS LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER!

If you think you have the skills required, please give John Thomas a call at 402-319-5433. This is a really exciting time at Pacific Hills. A new building and remodeling campaign is underway. And there are many more exciting projects in the works to help us grow in our faith while bringing new members into the congregation. Give it some thought . . . and give John a call!

Time and Talent sheets have been placed in everyone's mailboxes for updating. Please return your completed form to the Church office. Thank you for volunteering your "time and talents".

Pacific Hills members who have pledged to support the Forward in Faith Together capital campaign should use separate envelopes from your regular offering envelopes. Envelopes are available in the narthex.

Events of Other Congregations and Agencies

The first **Believe, Teach and Confess** happens this Saturday at Mt. Calvary at 9am to 12pm, for both adults and children! Learn more about the Reformation as well as spend a great morning in fellowship. Everyone welcome!

Thrivent Financial hosting "Identity Theft & More", Saturday, November 2, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 5151 NW Radial Hwy, 9am to 2:30pm. RSVP by October 28. Coffee, snacks and lunch will be served. Call church office at 402-558-6212 or email jaison.samuel@thrivent.com or dffam@cox.net.