

# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 14, 2022  
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 02

## The Epiphany Season

*Revealing, Receiving and Following!*

Epiphany starts and ends with a bang. The bright star begins the season, and it culminates with the Transfiguration a bright shining star of a different sort. This weekend the paraments are still white as we observe the Baptism of our Lord, but for the next several weeks the color will be green. During these Sunday's the celebrations recede, and everyday life re-emerges. What the time between Christmas and Lent captures is that we limited humans can't take it all in at once. We need a respite, a reprieve to reflect on what has been revealed as we examine our lives.

One of the things this journey of life teaches us is just how frail life can be. When you experience an accident and injury, like I have, you learn a lot about human frailty. Epiphany is like a bright light revealing our weakness, fragility, and our sin. Our ignorance of God starts out in ourselves and our sinful nature. We start out lost and estranged from God. We start out desiring our own way. It takes an Epiphany, a revelation of God, for us to see the larger reality of our world and our existence.

Mark's Gospel starts out with Jesus being revealed not to weary shepherds, or to star struck Magi but in His Baptism. Right away Mark wants us to have an Epiphany as we see Jesus taking on our sin in His Baptism. But Mark doesn't just want us to have an Epiphany about Jesus, his desire is that we follow Him.

You see, having an Epiphany is great, but the real task of having an Epiphany is following. The Magi rejoiced and they followed the star. The disciples left the mount and returned to the plain and continued to follow Jesus. The Christian life is one of receiving and following.

Herod heard the report of the Magi along with the scribes. None of them followed. The Galilean and Judean crowds saw the miracles but would each refuse to follow in their own way. The light continues to shine in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5), yet many yawn at the Christmas message and still more receive it and quickly turn away. The task of Epiphany is to "see" and to "follow."

Blessings,  
Pastor Bryan

## CHURCH EVENTS 2022

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

6:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Society Meeting

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00 am Eucharistic Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

Education Hour - Room 115

Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Eucharistic Worship with Choir

11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Adult Bible Class (ZOOM)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 17

6:30 pm Quilter's Group

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

7:00 pm Pray, Knit & Crochet Group

7:00 pm Director's Board Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

9:30 am Eucharist (ZOOM)

12:30 pm First Ladies AA Meeting

6:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class

6:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

6:00 pm Trustee's Board Meeting

6:30 pm Tia Chi

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00 am Eucharistic Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

Education Hour - Room 115

Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Eucharistic Worship with Choir

11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Adult Bible Class (ZOOM)

**MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:** If you desire to continue to wear a mask and social distance from others, please do so.

## REMINDER: JANUARY 30TH (5TH SUNDAY)



January has five Sundays, therefore a 5th Sunday schedule is planned for January 30th. One joint service at 9:00 am followed by fellowship in Acker Hall.

## SANCTITY OF LIFE MONTH

The month of January is regarded as Sanctity of Life Month and January 23<sup>rd</sup> will be observed as Sanctity of Life Sunday.

This year we are once again partnering with **Essential Pregnancy Services** of Omaha in our effort to make a difference in the lives of at risk mothers and their unborn and newly born children. EPS will be the Mission of the Month for January.

Life is a gift from the Lord. Psalm 139:13-18 reminds us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand."

## CONCORDIA ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP 2022

Is your family interested in Concordia Academy Kindergarten for the fall of 2022 or after? If so, please join us for our Concordia Academy Kindergarten Roundup! This year's event is planned for Thursday, January 20th from 6:00-8:00 PM and Friday, January 21st from 1:00-2:30 PM. A pizza meal will be served at 6:00 Thursday with a program overview beginning at 6:30, and the program overview begins at 1:00 on Friday. Tours and other admissions information will be offered at both sessions. Please RSVP to Dawn Cooksey at [cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org) or 402-990-9444. We look forward to seeing you there!

## RETURNING TO GOD, TITHES AND OFFERINGS



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](http://www.PacificHillsLutheran.org).

You can sign up at <https://members.myeoffering.com>. Your church needs people like you to continue their 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, say 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. Members can contribute to the Yahweh Fund to address community assistance. During this trying time recover from the pandemic, PHLC offers Walmart and HyVee gift cards that are purchased for those who seek assistance for food or gas.

**BIBLE VERSE OF THE WEEK**  
"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."  
(Luke 15:22b)



## WE NEED YOUR INPUT... NEW BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort is considering a new study via ZOOM. All suggestions should be made to him at [rsvod@cox.net](mailto:rsvod@cox.net) or you can call Bob with your suggestion at 402-350-0872.



## DESIRE TO JOIN PACIFIC HILLS?!

New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, January 24, at 7:00 pm in Room 115. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Kelly in the church office. Classes meet for 6 weeks (until February 28th) and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.

## 2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2022 Altar Flower Chart is located in the coat room. Altar flowers may be placed for any celebration, remembrance or to the Glory of God. Please share your request or intention with Kim at: [Kim-Kielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org](mailto:Kim-Kielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org). The cost is \$25. Please mail your payment to PHLC or drop it off at the office. The flowers are yours to take following the 10:30 am service.



- USHERS
- READERS
- COMMUNION STEWARDS
- WEDDING COORDINATOR

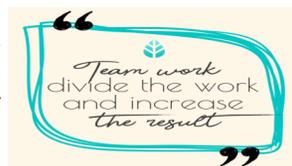
- *Ushers and Greeters* needed! It's a great way to meet people and serve our church. You can pick the months and service times you like, and we're flexible if conflicts arise. Contact Bill Wagner: [wlv767@cox.net](mailto:wlv767@cox.net) or 402-730-9505.

- *A Coordinator to schedule Readers as well as Readers* are needed!" This involves recruiting readers and providing the appropriate scripture which is planned well in advance. Contact Kevin Warneke: [kwarneke6593@cox.net](mailto:kwarneke6593@cox.net) or 402-612-9151.

- *Communion stewards* are needed each week to set up for each service and clean up afterwards. Contact Rhoda Storck [tnr-storck75@gmail.com](mailto:tnr-storck75@gmail.com) or 402-885-7506.

- *Wedding Coordinator* to help facilitate weddings at Pacific Hills. Typically we have 1-3 weddings a year. This is a volunteer position, but a small honorarium is paid by the couple. Contact Pastor Drebes at [bryandrebes@pacifichillslutheran.org](mailto:bryandrebes@pacifichillslutheran.org) or 402-391-9625.

**Please contact the above Coordinators with any questions or for more information. Give back to the Glory of God with your time and talents!**



## BIRTHDAY, THINKING OF YOU, SYMPATHY CARDS & MORE

A large and beautiful selection of assorted cards are available for only \$1 in room 115. The money goes for expenses for shut-in mailings, meals and more. Stop in and take advantage of this opportunity.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELEVATOR

The elevator in the Educational building that accesses Acker Hall and the 2nd floor of the Educational building is currently out of service due to water damage. We apologize for this inconvenience and will notify everyone when it is back in operation. Thank you!