



# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Baptized into the Family

We all want what's best for our children. We want them to have good educations, live healthy lifestyles, find decent jobs, and all the rest. But, in an earthly sense, the best thing we can do for our children is to let them know they're loved. We don't need to provide a mansion for them to live in, but we do well to furnish a house they can call a home and be the kind of parents they can rely on when things get rough. Children do best when they have moms and dads who love them.

And that is what Baptism is all about. I feel sorry for Christians who don't understand this or who think of Baptism as our commitment toward God. What Baptism gives us is stability. We didn't choose to enter into God's family; instead, it was God who adopted us and became our Father. And that relationship is not dependent on us being good. As wonderful as it is when families take foster children into their homes, we're even more than that to God, because we can't be handed over to someone else if things don't work out. And we're certainly more to him than employees, who are constantly being evaluated and judged for their performance. The reason Christ became a member of Mary's family was so that we could become members of his heavenly family (Gal 4:4-5).

In Baptism, God the Father adopted us into his family, and in Christ we will always have a place. Even should we one day stray and leave God's house, we know he waits for us and loves us, and he has a place for us at his dinner table, for in Christ, we are members of his family.

## Church Events

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 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
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 16

- 6:30 pm Quilters (Downstairs Quilting Room)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 7:00 pm Pray, Knit & Crochet Group (Narthex)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9:30 am Eucharist (Zoom)
- 12:30 pm First Ladies AA Meeting (Rm 114)
- 6:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group (Narthex)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
- 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting (Rm 114b)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

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

## ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES



New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm in Room 115. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Kim in the church office. Classes meet for 6 sessions and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.

## NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

New Member Sunday will be March 5, 2023 at the 10:30 AM service. This will include transfers as well as adult confirmations.

## WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesday evening women's Bible study will resume January 11, 6:30 pm in the narthex. We will be listening to Will Weedon's The Word of the Lord Endures Forever podcasts on 1 John. All are welcome!

## CIRCUIT-WIDE LIFE EVENT

Save the date – January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. A MEMORIAL LIFE SERVICE for the victims of abortion will be held at our sister congregation, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Omaha. Fellowship and special presentation will follow via Zoom with Executive Director, Rev. Michael Salemink, who will discuss among other things, the recent Dobbs decision of the United States Supreme Court, which struck down Roe as the law of the land and has ignited a firestorm of on-going debate in our country. So much work is still needed in terms of education and supporting women in crisis pregnancies. The love of Christ compels us to serve neighbors in need with His love, mercy and grace.

This circuit wide life event will initiate "Life Week" and a series of presentations Sunday through Wednesday (January 15-18) at Mt. Calvary .

## CONCORDIA REGISTRATION & EVENTS

K-12 registration is open for the '23-'24 school year!

Upcoming Academy events @ 1821 N. 90th St:

Kindergarten Round-Up—1/19, 6-8pm or 1/20, 1-2:30pm

Academy Open House—2/2, 4-7pm

Jr & Sr High Open House—1/13, 5-7pm

Take a tour & enjoy food & free admission to the Varsity Girls & Boys basketball games!

For more information visit [WWW.CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG](http://WWW.CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG)

## JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The month of January is regarded as Sanctity of Life Month. 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. As such, we are collecting diapers for children newborn to age 2. Also needed are baby bottles, diaper cream, onesies, 18-24 mo. long sleeve; pullups, sizes 2T-5T; silicone teethers, sippy cups, thermometers and toys for babies and toddlers. Cash donations are also much appreciated.

## BIBLE VERSE of the Week

*"We were buried with him by baptism into death"*

*(Romans 6:4a)*

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: [www.pacifichillslutheran.org](http://www.pacifichillslutheran.org)

## BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the 1st Samuel via ZOOM every Sunday evening from 6:00 — 6:45 pm. Please email him at [rsvod@cox.net](mailto:rsvod@cox.net) or 402-350-0872 for more information.

## 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES DELAYED

2023 envelopes should be received in the first quarter (see below). In the meantime:

- Use any 2022 envelopes you have remaining and adjust the date.
- Otherwise, use the temporary envelopes in the back provided by the usher or your own envelope. Please legibly print your name and offering number on the envelope.
- Provide written instructions for offerings not intended for the general fund.
- Please do not tape or staple unless coins are included in the envelope.

## NEW ENVELOPE SYSTEM

For many reasons, the Board of Directors has approved a new envelope system and company. The new system is one where giving envelopes are mailed to your home bi-monthly and the new company is called American Church. This system was very successful at pastor's former congregation and we believe this system will be a better system for us: They reduce waste. They are convenient. They are a regular reminder to practice good stewardship. Addresses can be regularly updated. New envelopes are always available for people who join. The first set of envelopes "should" arrive before February 5, 2023.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

The committee has finished their work with our church directory and has turned in their draft to Unique Church Solutions by UCD for preparation. We are incredibly indebted to Michelle Steen for her work with the activity pages and to Regina Marohn for her work with the roster. We are hopeful to have the directory delivered to the congregation by Easter.

## 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](mailto:KimKielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org) or call the office. The cost is \$25.