



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — MARCH 1, 2019

PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LENTEN SEASON

The Lenten season is the fourth season in the church year (after Advent, Christmas and Epiphany). It begins with Ash Wednesday and is the oldest season of the church year. The original period of Lent seems to have been 40 hours. It was spent in fasting and contemplation on the sufferings of Christ. Later it became 30 days, then 36, and finally, in the reign of Charlemagne (about 800 AD), 40 days. Lent originally had one purpose — to prepare candidates for Baptism. For hundreds of years, the Baptism itself took place late Saturday evening or early Sunday morning before the dawn of Resurrection Day, during an all-night vigil.

The 40 days of Lent do not include the Sundays. Sundays in Lent — like every other Sunday — were to be “mini” resurrection days celebrating Jesus’ resurrection and not part of the Lenten fast. The 40 days of Lent correspond to Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness. The date of Lent is determined by the date of Resurrection Sunday. The Council of Nicea (held in 325 AD) determined that Resurrection Sunday would be observed on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal moon. Lent probably comes from the old English word for Spring: Lenten (it may also be related to the German word for the time when the days lengthen: lenz).

The day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove (or FAT) Tuesday, is celebrated in many parts of the world with feasting. The French call it Mardi Gras; the Germans call it Fasching. The feasting comes from the custom of using up household fats prior to the 40 days of Lenten fasting when no fats were used. Today, many people have the tradition of “giving up” something for Lent or dedicating themselves to greater service and alms-giving during Lent as a way of focusing more attention on our Savior — who gave up His very life that we might live with Him in His heaven forever!

However, more than “giving up” or “doing” something the Lenten Season is a bold exhortation and call to “repent” and return to the Lord! The Lenten Season has a strong repentance theme. What our Lord wants us to give up is our “sin” and then to bear fruit in keeping with that repentance ... not just during Lent, but “daily.” Luther rightly taught they we are to “daily” drown the Old Adam within, so that the New Man might “daily” emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

May your Lenten journey be blessed and may the season be a reminder to you to “daily” answer our Lord’s call to return to Him in repentance and faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Bryan E. Drebes

Church Events

Sunday	8:00am	Eucharist
	9:15am	PHAT Sunday Breakfast
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15am	Education Hour
	10:30am	Eucharist
	11:45am	Foundation
Monday	6:30pm	Quilters
Tuesday	9:00am	Care Ministry Committee
	9:00am	Tai Chi
	9:30am	Alanon
	10:30am	Missions/Social Ministry
Wednesday		Ash Wednesday
	9:30am	Eucharist
	10:00am	Fellowship
	2:00pm	Worship
	7:00pm	Worship
Thursday	6:30pm	Tai Chi
	7:00pm	Gamblers-12 Step
Friday	7:30pm	Omaha Philatelic Society
Saturday		Daylight Savings Tme
Sunday	8:00am	Eucharist
	9:00am	Blood Pressure Checks
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15am	Education Hour
	10:30am	Eucharist

The Sunday before Lent, **March 3, is PHAT Sunday**. It is a time to get Pacific Hills All Together (PHAT) to enjoy a big breakfast, “bury the alleluias,” and view the architect’s drawings for renovations. Bring your favorite breakfast potluck dish. Beverages will be provided. Encourage others to come March 3 — between worship services.

New Sunday Morning Bible Study Opportunity: A new Bible study will be starting on Sunday, March 10, during the Sunday School hour. We will be using the CPH adult Sunday School curriculum. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we especially encourage parents of Sunday School age children to attend, as the material follows what they are learning. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, during the Sunday School hour in Room 115.

PHLC Senior Lunch Bunch will meet for food and fellowship at the Longhorn Steakhouse, 7425 Dodge, on Tuesday, March 12, at 11:30am. Everyone welcome, no RSVP needed.

Our Midweek Lenten Themes *The Trials Of Jesus*

Like a courtroom drama, a series of witnesses comes forward to give testimony about their experiences with the accused—Jesus Christ. Through their accounts we come to know the truth, that Jesus came to take our place in the defendant’s chair.

Ash Wednesday, March 6

“The Voice of Satan” • Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus faces the tempter in the wilderness.

Week 1, March 10

“The Voice of Judas” • Mark 14:16, 32-42

Jesus’ betrayer defends his actions.

Week 2, March 17

“The Voice of Annas” • John 18:12-24

A chief priest discusses Jesus’ arrest.

Week 3, March 24

“The Voice of Caiaphas” • Matthew 26:57-68

The high priest faces off with the Son of God.

Week 4, March 31

“The Voice of Peter” • Luke 22:54-62

Jesus’ bold disciple speaks of his weak faith.

Week 5, April 7

“The Voice of Herod” • Luke 23:1-12

One king of the Jews testifies against another.

The Social Ministry and Mission Board is again partnering with **Essential Pregnancy Services of Omaha** in making a difference in the lives of at-risk mothers and their babies. During January and February we are collecting diapers (newborn to size 5), baby wipes, shampoo, lotion, diaper cream, baby clothes (can be gently used), bottles, formula, and breastfeeding supplies. Please place the items in the bins in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

The Bible Verse of the Week

“Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Luke 9:33b

Easter Lilies: If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily, please fill out an order form located in the church narthex and return the form to the church office (with your check payable to Pacific Hills Lutheran Church in the amount of \$10 per plant. The deadline for orders is March 14. You may also call the church office to place your order.

Events of Other Congregations and Agencies

Concordia University (St. Paul) Concert Band will be performing at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (7706 S. 96th St., LaVista) on Sunday, March 3, 7:30pm, as a part of their Regional Concert Tour. The 40-piece Concert Band is performing for congregations in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota presenting compositions that are sacred, based on beloved hymn tunes, as well as traditional band favorites, including marches and Cuban dance music. This 75 minute concert is free and open to the public.

Living H2o Lutheran Campus Ministry:

Sola Scriptura weekly Bible study Opportunity for Omaha Young Adults every Tuesday at 7pm at “The Gathering Place” (1124 S 90th St.). Our college age group still meets every Wednesday at 8pm for Bible study. Weekly suppers begin at 7pm.

Adopt a Meal program needs your help!! Here is how:

- Make a meal and bring it to “The Gathering Place” by 7pm on Wednesday evening for 10 to 15 students.
- Make a meal ahead of time, bring them by any time, and it will be heated up on Wednesday evening by the student leadership.
- Make a cash donation to help defray the costs of a meal. (Designate the donation as Campus Ministry Fellowship Meals.)

If you are interested in participating, please contact call 402-578-4177 or email MiKayla@living-h2o.org.