

The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pursuing the Office of Holy Ministry

St. Paul says that “if a man desires the position of a bishop (i.e. spiritual overseer), he desires a good work” (1 Tim. 3:1). Paul then goes on to list the many qualifications for a bishop/pastor, including moral uprightness, the ability to teach, fulfilling the vocations of husband and father well, and not being a new convert. That’s quite a tall order! Clearly, it is only with the grace and power of God that any man could hope to enter the Office of Holy Ministry.

Over the past year, as I have been studying theology with the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS), I have felt an “internal call” toward serving God’s Church in Word and Sacrament ministry as a pastor within the American Association of Lutheran Church (AALC). This is a sister body of the LCMS in full altar-and-pulpit fellowship.

Part of seminary training (whether remote or in-person) includes 6 academic quarters of field work in a local congregation. This field work includes occasional preaching, visitation, liturgical assistance, and catechesis, all done under pastoral supervision. I am grateful to serve PHLC in this capacity under Pastor Bryan Drebes.

Lord willing, I will complete my field work and begin a paid vicarage (whether in Omaha or at an AALC church located elsewhere) in 2025 or 2026. My current schedule has me finishing my Master of Divinity (MDiv) in spring 2027, after which time I can apply to the AALC Clergy Roster and receive an “external call” to a parish!

My wife Samantha and I are blessed by the continual prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support of our brethren at Pacific Hills. Wherever this ministry path takes us, we will always treasure your Christian love. I look forward to preaching the Word next Sunday at Pacific Hills. The Lord bless and be with you all.

Andrew Aulner,
Board of Elders and MDiv Student (ALTS)



Church Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- 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)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

- 9:30 am Devotional (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 25

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

- 7:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Society
(Acker Hall)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

- 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)
- 6:30 pm Youth Group (Aulner’s House)

CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

Universal Church Directories includes an APP for your phone to access our Church Directory electronically. You should have received an email from Kim Kielty in early December. I (Pastor) have been using the app and find it extremely helpful. You can call, text, or email any church member from the app. Check your email or call Kim, if you have any questions.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, January 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Room 115. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Kim or Jen in the church office. Classes meet for 6 sessions and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.



New Member Sunday will be March 10, 2024 at the 10:30 AM service. This will include transfers as well as adult confirmations.

CONCORDIA OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for our Concordia Jr.-Sr. High Open House (15656 Fort St., Omaha). We would love to see you on January 30th from 5:00-7:00 PM for an evening of information and fun! Our basketball teams will be playing at 4:30, 6:00 and 7:45, so come on out to catch a game, enjoy a meal deal, and take a tour! This event is specifically designed for students entering 6th-12th grades.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

The PHLC Youth Group program had a great turnout during fall and winter 2023, and we're so excited to keep the group going into the new year!

The youth group will now meet roughly every other week at Andrew and Samantha Aulner's house (7749 Davis Cir) from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. A dinner and/or snacks will always be provided, and parents are also encouraged to contribute food if they feel so inclined. Guest students are always welcome to attend!



This semester, we will be focusing on "Knowing What You Believe and How to Defend It." We intend to cover the basics of Christian apologetics, how to interact with other worldviews, and everything in between. A full schedule through May will be available at the church and youth group websites.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

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 teething, sippy cups, thermometers and toys for babies and toddlers. Cash donations are also much appreciated.

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

(Ephesians 6:11)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the Books of Jude & 2 Peter via ZOOM every Sunday evening from 6:00 — 6:45 pm. Please email him at rsvod@cox.net or 402-350-0872 for more information.

EPS GLOW BENEFIT DINNER

You are invited to Essential Pregnancy Services' annual benefit dinner, GLOW, on Leap Day! You won't want to miss hearing exciting EPS updates and inspiring stories from our speakers. See details below. We hope to see you there!

THURSDAY, FEB. 29, 2024

Mid-America Center - 1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION

Sunday School children and families may bring in offering money or collect items to support missions in the community. A different opportunity will be provided each quarter. From January to March of 2024 we will be collecting items to create birthday kits for Heart Ministry Center. Items needed to create these kits include cake mix, frosting, candles, paper products (napkins, plates, table cover, banner, etc.), birthday cards, balloons, and disposable aluminum cake pans.



There will be a labeled bin outside the middle level Sunday School classroom upstairs for collection items. Please contact Kay Storck if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

GARUNA MINISTRIES PARTNERSHIP

Pacific Hills joins 10 other Omaha Lutheran Churches to celebrate what our contributions and commitments have done in Cambodia. We have partnered with Garuna Ministries to build a Christian school in Prey Veng, which recently opened with 225 students. This is a village that is 95% Buddhist and now is being reached for Christ. Our Omaha team visits for the dedication on the 25th! Please pray for our partnership!