The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Jesus as Alpha and Omega

The Apostle Paul noted in Acts 17 that the Athenians had temples to many idols. One of the numerous gods worshipped in the Greco-Roman world was Janus, after which January is named. Often depicted with two-faces – each facing in opposite directions, Janus was thought to preside over transitions, looking both back at the old year and forward to the new.

As Christians, we serve a God who does more than simply look forward and back. John the Revelator records Jesus' pronouncement, "I am the Alpha and the Omega". The Greek alphabet begins with the letter Alpha (A) and ends with the letter Omega (Ω). What did this mean for first-century believers and continue to mean for us today?

In Christology (the theology of the person and work of Jesus the Messiah), "Alpha and Omega" speaks to the eternality, completeness, and divinity of Christ. Eternal because Jesus has always existed ("In the Beginning was the Word") and will always exist. Complete in that He encompasses all wisdom, knowledge, and power – everything "A to Z", as it were. Divine showing Jesus' authority over creation and redemption, the ultimate source and goal of all things.

For believers, Jesus being the Alpha and Omega assures us that He is with us every moment of our lives, from our first breath until our last … and beyond. So, in the time between Christmas, when we remember the birth of Jesus, and Easter, when we remember His atoning death and resurrection, let us also remember that our Savior is with us always, a constant presence and support, not just on the Holy Days but every day.

Michael Kanter

Church Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
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
12:00 pm PHLC Foundation Meeting
6:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
1:00 pm Quilting Group
6:30 pm AA Meeting (Acker Hall)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
11:30 am Lunch Bunch (FarmHouse Cafe)
7:30 pm Pray, Knit, Crochet (Narthex)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
7:00 am Men's Bible Study (FarmHouse Cafe)
9:30 am Devotional (Zoom)
6:00 pm Youth Confirmation
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Narthex)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting (Rm 115)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
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 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 pm in Room 114. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or contact the church office. Classes meet for 6-sessions and leads to membership at Pacific Hills.

NEW YOUNG ADULT GROUP

We're excited to announce the launch of a new young adults group, *Living the Ancient Faith*. They will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm in Acker Hall.

All young adults are warmly invited to join us as we begin this journey of learning, fellowship, and faith.

For more information, contact Isaac Dorenkamp (dorenkampisaac@gmail.com).

EPS GLOW BENEFIT

You are invited to Essential Pregnancy Services' Annual Benefit Dinner, GLOW—Giving Life through Our Works! The event will take place on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center (12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE 68128). Cocktail hour begins at 5:15 pm with dinner service at 6:15 pm.

Keynote speakers, Al and Lisa Robertson, members of America's favorite back-woods family and the Duck Commander crew, will share their story of faith and resilience.

We hope to sponsor 2-3 tables at the dinner. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact Pastor at bryandrebes@pacifichillslutheran.org. Tickets are $75 per person.

2026 OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT CHALCO HILLS

After pausing this year's outdoor worship service to celebrate our 70th anniversary, we are excited to announce that the tradition will resume in 2026 at Chalco Hills Recreation Area. The park's group shelter has been reserved for Sunday, June 14, with worship at 10:00 a.m., followed by a lunch featuring sandwiches and chips. We look forward to gathering together in God's creation for a joyful day of worship, food, and community.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

January & February Missions will support Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS). EPS provides free support to women facing unexpected & under-supported pregnancies.

Your Good Samaritan and Mission designated offerings support our Mission of the Month Missionary. Thank you for your generosity!

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

"And behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

(Matthew 3:17)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

The Sunday evening Zoom Bible Class is now studying the book of Amos. If you are interested in joining please contact Bob Vandervort at rvandervort84@gmail.com.

SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

Senior Lunch Bunch will be enjoying food and fellowship at the Farmhouse Cafe, 3461 South 84th St. on Tuesday, January 13 at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join us and get to know other PHLC members!

MEMBER UPDATES

If you've recently changed your address, phone number, or email, please notify the church office so we can keep our records current.

Email KimKielty@pacifichillslutheran.org, call 402-391-9625 or check the "New Address or Phone" box on your Worship Card.

Your updated information helps us stay connected and serve you better. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER LAY READERS

We are looking for individuals who feel called to share God's Word by serving as volunteer readers during our worship services. Whether you're a seasoned speaker or simply have a heart for Scripture, your voice can help bring the Bible to life for our congregation. Sign up to be a Volunteer Lay Reader through one of the following methods:

* Fill out and turn in your Time & Talents survey
* Email Bob Glissmann (bob.glissmann@gmail.com), Vicky Vandervort (vicky.vandervort@gmail.com), or the church office (KimKielty@pacifichillslutheran.org)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2026 Flower Calendar is now available! Please sign up to provide altar flowers on the calendar in the coat room and contact the office to share your dedication.

Due to the generosity of our flower provider, the suggested donation is will remain $25.