The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUGUST 21, 2026
VOLUME 11 NUMBER 34

Come, Make a Joyful Sound

As summer begins to draw to a close and another busy fall approaches, August is a wonderful time to consider the many ways we participate in the Church's song. Music in worship is not simply something offered to the congregation by a few musicians. Whether we are singing a hymn from the pew, ringing a bell, singing in the choir, or playing an instrument, we join together in proclaiming the Gospel and giving thanks for all that God has done for us in Christ.

One of the great gifts of church music is that there is room for many different abilities and levels of experience. Our Choir rehearses Sundays from 9:15–10:15 a.m. and helps lead the congregation through anthems, hymns, and other music throughout the church year. If you enjoy singing—or have simply wondered what it might be like to sing in a choir—I encourage you to join us. You do not need to consider yourself an accomplished singer; a willingness to learn and make music together is far more important.

For those who prefer making music with their hands, our Bell Choir rehearses Sundays from 11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Handbells provide a unique opportunity to participate in an ensemble because every ringer contributes an individual part to create something that can only exist when everyone works together. In that sense, bell ringing offers a rather fitting picture of the Church itself: many members, each with different gifts, united in one body.

There are opportunities beyond our regular ensembles as well. If you sing or play an instrument and would be interested in sharing your gifts as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble, please contact me. I am always glad to find appropriate ways to incorporate the musical talents within our congregation into worship.

The music of the Church gives us a way to proclaim together the message at the heart of our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. As we enter another season of ministry together, perhaps this is the year to add your own voice—or instrument—to that song.

In Christ,

Zach Hastings
Director of Music

Church Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
8:00 am Eucharistic Worship
9:15 am Education Hour with Pastor Bryan
10:30 am Eucharistic Worship

MONDAY, AUGUST 24
11:30 am Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
1:00 pm Quilting (Rm 209)
6:30 pm AA Meeting (Acker Hall)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
7:00 pm CYF Board Meeting (Rm 114)
7:30 pm Pray, Knit, Crochet (Narthex)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
7:00 am Men's Bible Study (FarmHouse Cafe)
9:30 am Devotional (Zoom)
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Narthex)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting (Rm 114)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
7:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Society (Acker Hall)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
9:00 am Eucharistic Worship
10:15 am 5th Sunday Fellowship

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Parents of confirmation age youth in 5th - 9th grades and their eligible youth are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 7:00 pm in Acker Hall to learn more about our confirmation ministry at PHLC. The first Confirmation class will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 6:00—7:15 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for September 13th when Sunday school will resume with Rally Day Kickoff.

PHLC FOUNDATION UPDATE

The PHLC Foundation has updated and revised its Bylaws. The updated Bylaws will be presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting in November. Congregants wishing to review the bylaws with PHLC Foundation Board members prior to the November meeting, are encouraged to do so at 11:40 AM after the late Worship service on August 16th, and October 11th in Room 115. Copies of the documents for review will also be available in the church office.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for the wonderful ordination anniversary recognition and reception on Sunday. Twenty-Five years have gone by fast. I appreciated the thoughtful gifts as well. It continues to be a pleasure serving alongside all of you.

Blessings,

Pastor Bryan

Second Service Readers Needed! Please sign up in the Narthex.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Mission offerings this month are being directed to PHLC's ongoing support of LCMS missionaries. LCMS missionaries have to raise their own funds for living expenses while in the mission field. Our support enables them to share the Gospel around the world. Thank you for your Mission offerings!

On November 22, be sure to join us when we welcome Rev. Jonathan Clausing at PHLC.

Bible Verse of the Week

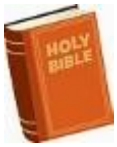
"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

(Matthew 16:15-16)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM



Bob Vandervort's Bible study group will resume on Sunday, September 13th at 6:00 pm via Zoom exploring and meditating on the books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Bob at rvandervort84@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Zion Lutheran Church in Omaha is hosting a women's retreat on Saturday, September 26th, 2026 from 9-noon with a light breakfast and fellowship/registration time from 8:30-9 am.

Our Women's Retreat is titled "Rest for Your Soul" and our retreat leader is Faith Doerr. Faith and her family are members of Zion, she is an author and speaker, and she and her husband, Preston, are both on the faculty at Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha.

Scan this QR code or visit https://zionwest.org/ to register.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up to provide altar flowers on the calendar in the coat room and contact the office to share your dedication.

The suggested donation is $25.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Break: 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM