



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — NOVEMBER 21, 2018 — PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH — VOLUME 3 NUMBER 47

Possibly the best-known Christmas service in the Western world is the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held each year since 1918 at King's College, Cambridge, England. Adapted by churches all over the world as part of their Advent and Christmas worship, Lessons and Carols is a service which celebrates the birth of Jesus through selected passages of Scripture interspersed with choral music and congregational singing which reflect on those Scriptural passages.

Pacific Hills' annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 9, during the 8am and 10:30am services. Our service begins the same way in which the King's College Christmas celebration begins – by recalling the rebellion and fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and the need for a Savior. We then hear prophecies from Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah which unfold God's message of love and redemption; God comforts His people, calls on them to prepare for their Savior to come, and promises a new covenant – a righteous branch to be born in Bethlehem to save us all. The festival culminates with a reading from the Gospel of St. Luke in which John the Baptist proclaims the Advent of the Messiah and calls us all to repentance as we prepare to meet him.

Advent is both a time of spiritual reflection and of joyful expectation as we watch, wait, and pray together as a community of faith. I can't imagine a more powerful service to invite a friend to attend with you than this one! What a marvelous opportunity we have to add new voices to our congregational song! Who do you know that needs to hear the message of hope and salvation? Invite them to come with you.

Peace,

Jeffrey Blersch

Director of Music

Church Events

Saturday	9:00am	Youth Raking and Run
Sunday	8:00am	Eucharist
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15am	Education Hour
	10:30am	Eucharist
	11:30am	Hanging of the Greens
Tuesday	9:00am	Tai Chi
	9:30am	Alanon
Wednesday	9:30am	Eucharist
	10:00am	Fellowship
Thursday	6:30pm	Tai Chi
	7:00pm	Gamblers-12 Step
Sunday	8:00am	Eucharist
	9:15am	Choir
	9:15am	Education Hour
	10:30am	Eucharist

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Joe and Carla Risko.

Pacific Hills' second annual Rake and Run will begin at 9 am, Saturday (November 24). As we did last year, volunteers will meet in the church's west parking lot with their rakes, grab a doughnut and a leaf bag, and head into the neighborhood to rake our neighbors' yards. The neighbors really appreciated our efforts last year, and our crew had a good time raking for a couple hours. Please join us if you can! If you have any questions, you can call Bob Glissmann at 402 571 8407.

Hanging of the Greens will be right after the second service on Sunday, December 2. All assistance will be appreciated! The whole process shouldn't take longer than about 90 minutes.

Tai Chi: Taking a holiday break. There will be no Tai Chi in December and early January. Last class is Nov. 29th and it starts back on January 8th.

Congregational meal: the CYF board would like to thank everyone for their help and donations. We served and made a great meal!

Missionary Coming to Pacific Hills: Cheryl Naumann, who is serving alongside her husband in the Dominican Republic, will attend our Wednesday morning Eucharist on November 28 and will give a presentation following the morning Eucharist service.

Our Mid-Week Advent Services

Advent Blues

The church uses various colors to mark the different seasons of the church year. Advent is no different. The color for the season is blue and during this season we give voice to the longing of our hearts for Jesus to come. The cry of God's people throughout the ages has been, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!" During the Advent Season we celebrate Jesus who was promised to come, who did come, and who will come again as our Prophet, Priest and King. The pageantry of our "Advent Blues" visually points us to the one who is pure and royal.

Join us each week during Advent (2pm and 7pm) as we examine the royalty of Christ.

December 5th -- Singing the Blues: Jesus as Prophet
(Luke 7:16-17)

December 12th -- Blue Ribbon: Jesus as Priest
(Hebrews 5:5-10)

December 19th -- Blue Blood: Jesus as King
(Luke 23:1-3; John 18:36-37)

This month the Missions and Social Ministry Board invites you to collect items for members of our armed forces. We are collecting for **Operation: Care and Comfort** which sends care packages to deployed troops. We would like to collect requested items. Please take list from the display in the narthex, and help us serve others who serve.

The Bible Verse of the Week

Mark 13:33a

"Be on guard, keep awake."

Don Bader, long-time Coordinator of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Omaha, will be retiring at the end of the year. The board is truly thankful for the work Don has done for many years in building relationships among college students and sharing Jesus Christ with them.

In recognition of Don's retirement, the board is sponsoring an open house at the Gathering Place, 1124 S. 90th Street, on Sunday, December 9, 3pm to 5pm.

Members, friends, donors, students, former students, and congregation pastors are cordially invited to attend and honor Don's ministry.

Please park in the Pacific Hills Lutheran Church parking lot and enter the Gathering Place through the back door.

We hope you are able to come and celebrate with us!

Rev. Stephen R. Bartelt, Campus Ministry Board Chair

Events of Other Congregations and Agencies

The members of Hope Lutheran Church are pleased to invite you to join them on November 25, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5020 Grand Avenue at 3pm as they celebrate the **installation of their new Pastor John Deang**. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Pastor Dean and Hope Lutheran. A reception will immediately follow the service.

Parents Night Out

Looking for a kids-free night to Christmas shop or have a date night? Concordia **National Spanish Honor Society** has a great and affordable option for you! On **December 7, January 18 and February 8**, they will be hosting **Parents Night Out** at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School ([15656 Fort St. Omaha, NE 68116](https://www.concordia.edu/15656_Fort_St_Omaha_NE_68116)) from **5:00-9:00pm**. Drop your kids off for a fun night full of games, movies, devotions, and snacks. A minimum donation of \$20 per family is encouraged for the service, which helps NSHS members raise funds for their mission trip to **Puerto Rico** in summer 2019.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH WITH FELLOW LUTHERANS:

- **JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL TOUR** – Athens, Corinth, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Ephesus, Patmos, with a 3-day cruise of Greek Islands included (April 27 - May 7, 2019)
- **LUTHERLAND TOUR** – Visiting all the Luther sites from Berlin to Wittenberg to Augsburg + The Passion Play at Oberammergau (June 28 – July 8, 2020) Contact Pastor Darold Reiner, Retired LCMS Pastor/Former International LWML Counselor, for a brochure & information: 406-890-1149 or email imhis38@gmail.com