

The Pacific Hills *Messenger*

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 6, 2023
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

The Epiphany of Our Lord Mystery Solved

Clue number 1: In the Old Testament, God promised, “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Num 24:17).

Clue number 2: Sometime between 8 and 4 BC, a great new star appears in the sky.

Clue number 3: Wise Men from the East, Gentiles, follow that star to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” (Mt 2:2).

Clue number 4: The Holy Spirit inspires Matthew to record that when these Wise Men found the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, they fell down and worshiped him and presented gifts to him.

Can you solve the mystery? St. Paul does for us in Eph 3:6: “This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs”—with Israel, the Jews—“members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” For centuries, this was indeed a mystery; it seemed as if only one family of people was included in God’s grace. But Epiphany is the revealing that Jesus is the Savior of all people, including you and me.

Church Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

- 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 Choir
- 11:30 am Worship & Music Committee Meeting
CYF Board Meeting (Narthex)
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

- 9:00 am Care Ministry Meeting (Rm 114)
- 10:30 am Missions & Social Ministries Mtg (Rm 115)
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ the FarmHouse Cafe
- 5:30 pm AI-Anon District Meeting (Acker Hall)
- 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting (Rm 209)
- 7:00 pm Pray, Knit & Crochet Group (Narthex)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 12:30 pm First Ladies AA Meeting (Rm 114)
- 6:30 pm Wednesday Women’s Group (Narthex)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)
- 7:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting (Rm 115)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

- 7:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Society (Narthex/Acker)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 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
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES



New Adult Confirmation Classes will begin Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 pm in Room 115. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Kim in the church office. Classes meet for 6 sessions and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

New Member Sunday will be March 5, 2023 at the 10:30 AM service. This will include transfers as well as adult confirmands.

CIRCUIT-WIDE LIFE EVENT

Save the date – January 15th at 5:30 PM. A MEMORIAL LIFE SERVICE for the victims of abortion will be held at our sister congregation, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Omaha. Fellowship and special presentation will follow via Zoom with Executive Director, Rev. Michael Salemin, who will discuss among other things, the recent Dobbs decision of the United States Supreme Court, which struck down Roe as the law of the land and has ignited a firestorm of on-going debate in our country. So much work is still needed in terms of education and supporting women in crisis pregnancies. The love of Christ compels us to serve neighbors in need with His love, mercy and grace.

This circuit wide life event will initiate “Life Week” and a series of presentations Sunday through Wednesday (January 15-18) at Mt. Calvary .

CONCORDIA REGISTRATION & EVENTS

K-12 registration is open for the '23-'24 school year!

Upcoming Academy events @ 1821 N. 90th St:

Kindergarten Round-Up—1/19, 6-8pm or 1/20, 1-2:30pm

Academy Open House—2/2, 4-7pm

Jr & Sr High Open House—1/13, 5-7pm

Take a tour & enjoy food & free admission to the Varsity Girls & Boys basketball games!

For more information visit WWW.CONCORDIAOMAHA.ORG

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

The month of 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 teethers, sippy cups, thermometers and toys for babies and toddlers. Cash donations are also much appreciated.

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

“They [the wise men] fell down and worshiped him”

(Matthew 2:11b)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the 1st Samuel 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.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES DELAYED

Our offering envelopes for 2023 have long ago been ordered, but we have yet to receive them in the church office to make them available to the congregation. They are delayed because of worker shortages, machine difficulties, etc. We should receive them in the first quarter of next year, but in the meantime please use the temporary envelopes in the back provided by the usher. Please print your name and offering number on the envelope. Thank you!

JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at the FarmHouse Cafe on 84th street on Tuesday, January 10 at 11:30 am. Join us for food and fellowship, Everyone welcome!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Please join us this Sunday, Jan 8, as we take down Christmas decorations and put them away for another year.

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

Wednesday evening women's Bible study will resume January 11, 6:30 pm in the narthex. We will be listening to Will Weedon's The Word of the Lord Endures Forever podcasts on 1 John. All are welcome!

SECOND READERS NEEDED!

Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Have an upcoming celebration or anniversary? Altar flowers may be placed for any celebration, remembrance or to the Glory of God. WEEKS STILL AVAILABLE FOR JANUARY. Please share your request or intention with Kim at: KimKielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org or call the office. The cost is \$25.