



The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 27, 2023
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“For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.” (Romans 3:28)

On October 31st in the year 1517, a 34 year-old Augustinian monk walked up to the castle church door in Wittenberg and posted 95 theses penned in Latin for the purpose of theological debate. Martin Luther wanted to talk. He wanted to know why the teaching of his church did not square with what he had learned from Holy Scripture. He wanted to know why, if the pope had the power to spring souls from purgatory, he didn't just do so out of the goodness of his heart. He wanted to know how a piece of paper, an indulgence letter, could take away God's punishments, as though God were a crooked jailer who could be bought with a bribe. Luther wanted to know what all this have to do with Jesus who hung dead on a cross one good, dark Friday for the sins of the world. And so began what we now call the Reformation of the western Catholic Church.

When you reform something, you don't start from scratch. You conserve what you can and you fix what you can't. Reformations tend to be conservative. It's like pruning a perennial or trimming a tree. You don't dig out the whole plant and put another in its place. Nor do you whack down the whole tree to the root. You prune selectively, skillfully, carefully. Luther did not intend to split an already fractured church. Nor did he intend to start a new church, as if such a thing were possible. This was not about shaking a defiant fist at the Pope, though he did do a bit of that later on, nor was it about breaking away from the big bad Catholic Church, nor was it, as the radical reformation believed, some pure church emerging from the impure Catholic Church. This was to be, and always is, about reformation. Correcting what is wrong, conserving what is right.

And so it is today. The Church is always and ever being reformed. Happy Reformation Day!

Blessings,
Pastor Bryan Drebes

Church Events

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 9:00 am Eucharistic Worship with Choir
- 10:00 am 5th Sunday Fellowship
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 9:30 am Devotional (Zoom)
- 12:30 pm First Ladies AA Meeting (Room 114)
- 6:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm Wednesday Women's Group (Narthex)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- 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 Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
- 6:30 pm Youth Group (Aulner's)

EXPERIENCE CONCORDIA DAY

All prospective 6th-12th graders are invited to Experience Concordia Day on October 27 from 12:30 - 3:30.



Scan the code to register or contact Dawn Cooksey at cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org or 402-990-9444.

TURKEY DINNER FUNDRAISER



On Sunday, November 12, PHLC youth will be hosting a turkey dinner after the 10:30 worship service as a fundraiser for the next LCMS Youth Gathering. Thousands of youth and adults from all 35 districts will join together in New Orleans from July 19-23, 2025. This will be the 16th triennial LCMS Youth Gathering. Plan now to come and support the work of our church and youth.

Suggested donation for the dinner will be \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Cash or check will be accepted.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for November 12 and plan to attend our annual congregational meeting, following the youth turkey dinner fundraiser. The 2024 budget will be presented, discussed and voted on at this meeting. BOD elections will also occur at this meeting.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Church bulletins aren't just for grown-ups! Now available at the table in the Narthex, these bulletins are packed with Bible-focused fun to engage kids in the weekly readings and lessons!

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Set Apart to Serve is a LCMS initiative to encourage individuals to serve in the church. Our Mission focus during church worker appreciation month is on those set apart to serve in the pastoral ministry. This includes Nebraska students at Concordia Seminary St. Louis and our own Andrew Aulner.

Jonathan Bartels – King of Kings in Omaha

Aaron Carlson – St. John in Seward

Timothy Reicks – St. John's in Pierce

Adler Rickords – Christ in Lincoln

Jonah Wilson – Lord of Life in Elkhorn

Julia Witt – Our Redeemer in Elwood

Andrew Aulner - Pacific Hills (studying with AALC - American Association of Lutheran Churches, a partner church of the LCMS)

Your mission designated offerings October 22 and 29 will support these men who have been Set Apart to Serve. Thank you for your generosity and support.

BIBLE VERSE of the Week

“For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law.”

(Romans 3:28)

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

PHLC website: www.pacifichillslutheran.org

BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the Book of James 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.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1. It will be observed next weekend, November 5. We will continue the tradition that was started in 2011 that will give worshippers the opportunity to commemorate one or more loved ones who have passed away over the course of this last year and are now numbered among the saints. Commemoration cards will be inserted in the bulletin next week and they can also be picked up at the back table in the Narthex. You will have the opportunity to bring your card up to a receiving basin in front of the chancel during the worship service.

THE DIVINE SERVICE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Salutation -- “The Lord be with you ... and also with you.” -- is a special greeting between the congregation and its pastor. The greeting goes back to Bible times. For example, when the angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would give birth to the Son of God and call him Jesus, the angel first greeted her, saying, “The Lord is with you.” The Salutation reminds us that we are a family. The group response affirms that the Lord is also with the pastor who greeted the congregation in Christ.

Next time we will highlight the Collect of the Day.

SECOND READERS NEEDED!

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar flowers may be placed for any celebration, remembrance or to the Glory of God.

Please sign up on the flower calendar in the Narthex. Share your request with Kim at: KimKielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org or call the office. The cost is \$25.