

# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 5, 2024  
VOLUME 09 NUMBER 01

## 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 7

- 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 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

- 9:00 am Care Ministry Meeting (Rm 114)
- 10:30 am Missions & Social Ministry (Rm 115)
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch (Charleston’s)
- 7:00 pm Pray, Knit & Crochet Group (Narthex)  
Board of Director’s Meeting (Acker Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

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

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

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

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

- 7:30 pm Omaha Philatelic Society (Acker Hall)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

- 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)

## ACTIVITIES RESUMING AFTER BREAK

Several church activities took a break over the holiday season. Check the church calendar of events and please note the following:

- Youth confirmation resumed on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Tai Chi classes will resume on January 11.
- Wednesday Women's Group will resume on January 10.
- Zoom Bible Study resumes this Sunday, January 7.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



If you purchased a Christmas poinsettia plant placed in the sanctuary, please take it home to enjoy now that the Christmas season is coming to an end.

## ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

*New Adult Confirmation Classes* will begin Monday, January 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm in Room 115. Please indicate your desire to participate with Pastor directly or with Kim or Jen in the church office. Classes meet for 6 sessions and lead to membership at Pacific Hills.



*New Member Sunday* will be March 10, 2024 at the 10:30 AM service. This will include transfers as well as adult confirmations.

## EPS GLOW BENEFIT DINNER

You are invited to Essential Pregnancy Services' annual benefit dinner, GLOW, on Leap Day! You won't want to miss hearing exciting EPS updates and inspiring stories from our speakers. See details below. We hope to see you there!

THURSDAY, FEB. 29, 2024

Mid-America Center - 1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs, IA 51501

## KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

If you have a student ready for Kindergarten for the fall of 2024 (or later) come learn more about Concordia's Kindergarten options! Meet the Kindergarten teachers, visit with experienced and new families, and learn about program specifics. Join us either Thursday, Jan. 11th beginning at 5:00 PM (pizza meal included) or Friday, Jan. 12th at 9:00 to learn more. New this year: feel free to join us both days if you wish, so that your student may enjoy a brief shadow experience in the classrooms on Friday morning! Reach out to Dawn Cooksey at [cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:cookseyd@concordiaomaha.org) with questions or to register for the event.

## JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

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 teething, 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](http://www.pacifichillslutheran.org)

## BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Dr. Bob Vandervort and a bible study group are studying the Books of Jude & 2 Peter via ZOOM every Sunday evening from 6:00 — 6:45 pm. Please email him at [rsvod@cox.net](mailto:rsvod@cox.net) or 402-350-0872 for more information.

## SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

Senior Lunch Bunch will meet for food and fellowship at Charleston's Restaurant, 13851 FNB Pkwy, on Tuesday, January 9 at 11:30 am Everyone is welcome!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION

Sunday School children and families may bring in offering money or collect items to support missions in the community. A different opportunity will be provided each quarter. From January to March of 2024 we will be collecting items to create birthday kits for Heart Ministry Center. Items needed to create these kits include cake mix, frosting, candles, paper products (napkins, plates, table cover, banner, etc.), birthday cards, balloons, and disposable aluminum cake pans.



There will be a labeled bin outside the middle level Sunday School classroom upstairs for collection items. Please contact Kay Storck if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The lower and middle elementary children are wrapping up their Old Testament unit on God calling a nation, which started with Abraham and concludes with the Exodus.

The new Sunday School unit will continue in the Old Testament. God Leads a Nation will cover the time from the Exodus to the building of Solomon's temple.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



The 2024 Altar Flower calendar is now available in the Narthex. Altar flowers may be placed for any celebration, remembrance or to the Glory of God. Please share your request or intention with Kim at: [Kim-Kielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org](mailto:Kim-Kielty@PacificHillsLutheran.org) or call the office. The cost is \$25.