

# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 12, 2024  
VOLUME 09 NUMBER 02

## Children, Youth & Family Board Update

Blessed Epiphany to everyone! I'm pleased to be back writing articles for the Messenger, this time as the new chair of the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) board. I'd like to share a couple Sunday School highlights as the new calendar year gets underway.

The lower and middle grade Sunday School students are starting a new unit called God Leads a Nation. It will cover the time from the Exodus to the building of Solomon's temple.

We have started a mission collection for January and February. We are collecting birthday kit items for the Heart Ministry Center in north Omaha. There is a collection box outside the middle grade Sunday School room on the upper level.

This Sunday is the commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord. This is a great opportunity to remember the baptisms of everyone in our family. Do you remember your baptism date? Do you know your sponsors or godparents? What do your parents (or you) remember about that special day? Do you have any mementos, such as a shell, cloth, or candle? If you don't remember your exact baptism date or you want to celebrate all the baptisms in your family at once, I suggest lighting a candle on Sunday, reading the Gospel lesson for the day (or one of the reading below), and singing a hymn such as God's Own Child I Gladly Say It. Do something to celebrate that you are a baptized child of God.

Some further verses on baptism include:

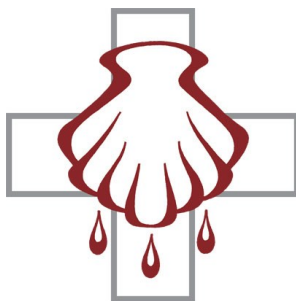
Colossians 2:12-15

Galatians 3:27

Romans 6:1-18

And, as Luther said, "every morning when you wash your face remember your baptism."

Blessings,  
Kay Storck



## Church Events

### 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)
- 6:30 pm Youth Group (Aulner's House)

### MONDAY, JANUARY 15

- 6:30 pm Quilting (Quilting Room)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

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

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 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 18

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)  
Board of Trustees Meeting (Rm 114)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- 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)

## CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

Universal Church Directories includes an APP for your phone to access our Church Directory electronically. You should have received an email from Kim Kielty in early December. I (Pastor) have been using the app and find it extremely helpful. You can call, text, or email any church member from the app. Check your email or call Kim, if you have any questions.

## 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.

## YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

The PHLC Youth Group program had a great turnout during fall and winter 2023, and we're so excited to keep the group going into the new year! We even had some of our youth members help move furniture for a PHLC family (the Vandervorts) on the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6)!

The youth group will now meet roughly every other week at Andrew and Samantha Aulner's house (7749 Davis Cir) from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m beginning this Sunday, January 14. A dinner and/or snacks will always be provided, and parents are also encouraged to contribute food if they feel so inclined. Guest students are always welcome to attend!



This semester, we will be focusing on "Knowing What You Believe and How to Defend It." We intend to cover the basics of Christian apologetics, how to interact with other worldviews, and everything in between. A full schedule through May will be available at the church and youth group websites.

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

## BIBLE VERSE of the Week

*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

*(Romans 6:4)*

## 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.

## 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

## 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!

## GARUNA MINISTRIES PARTNERSHIP

Pacific Hills joins 10 other Omaha Lutheran Churches to celebrate what our contributions and commitments have done in Cambodia. We have partnered with Garuna Ministries to build a Christian school in Prey Veng, which recently opened with 225 students. This is a village that is 95% Buddhist and now is being reached for Christ. Our Omaha team visits for the dedication on the 25th! Please pray for our partnership!