

# The Pacific Hills Messenger

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PACIFIC HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 26, 2024  
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## The Lenten Season 40 Days to "Lent" a Hand

While certain things have changed over the years, observing Lent as a time of contemplation, repentance, prayer, almsgiving, and faith has not. This year we are encouraging the congregation to put faith into action and to "Lent" a hand during this holy season. How can you use your hands to be a blessing to others? Perhaps you could volunteer in a soup kitchen, perform a random act of kindness like making a meal for a new mom, or shoveling an elderly neighbor's driveway, or sending a handmade card to someone. The list of things you can do to "Lent" a hand is endless.

Our Mid-Week Worship  
Wednesday at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
Beginning with Ash Wednesday and Weekly Throughout Lent

Jesus used his hands to heal the sick. He gave hearing to the deaf and sight to the blind. He used his hands to make the lame walk and the mute speak. And even when people were determined to walk in the way of sinners, he still embraced them with his hands, the untouchables and outcasts, the tax collectors, and sinners. His hands are strong hands. He, ultimately, stretched out his hands in suffering for the world. Today Jesus is still using his hands to bring about healing but he does so through you and me. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink..." (Matthew 25: 35).

Plan now to join us for our Midweek Lenten Series: Hands of the Savior

Ash Wednesday -- Hands That Discipline (Joel 2:12-19)

Week 2 -- Hands That Heal (John 9:6-7)

Week 3 -- Hands That Provide (Matthew 14:19-20)

Week 4 -- Hands That Pray (Matthew 26:36-45)

Week 5 -- Hands That Resurrect (Matthew 9:19, 23-25)

Week 6 -- Hands That Protect (Matthew 14:28)

Maundy Thursday -- Hands That Consecrate (Matthew 26:26-30)

Good Friday -- Hands That Are Pierced (Luke 23:32-46)

Easter -- Hands That Prove (John 11:25-27)

Blessings,  
Pastor Bryan E. Drebes



## Church Events

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

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

### MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- 7:00 pm Adult Confirmation Class (Rm 115)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- 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, FEBRUARY 1

- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Acker Hall)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 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)

## ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES

*New Adult Confirmation Classes* begin Monday, January 29 at 7:00pm 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 at the 10:30 AM service. This will include transfers and adult confirmations.

## CONCORDIA OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for our Concordia Jr.-Sr. High Open House (15656 Fort St., Omaha). We would love to see you on January 30th from 5:00-7:00 PM for an evening of information and fun! Our basketball teams will be playing at 4:30, 6:00 and 7:45, so come on out to catch a game, enjoy a meal deal, and take a tour! This event is specifically designed for students entering 6th-12th grades.

## THE DIVINE SERVICE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*The Hymn of the Day* is the principal hymn of the Divine Service and is most frequently selected to assist the Gospel reading. The Hymn of the Day may, however, simply support the proclamation of the Word regardless of the Gospel reading. The goal is that the Good News about Jesus is presented three times: in the Gospel Reading, in the Hymn of the Day and in the Sermon. Taking cues from Scripture's own songbook, the Psalms, the Church's hymns give a variety of ways to thank, praise, and proclaim the God who has done marvelous things for us.

*Next time we will highlight the Creed.*

## 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

## 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

**“Be silent, and come out of him!”**

**(Mark 1:25b)**

## 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 Tuesday, February 13 at Charleston's Restaurant at their NEW LOCATION, 105 N. 145th St. (SW corner of 144th & Dodge in the former Boystown Farm area). Join us for food & fellowship - 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!

## 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!