

† The Rod and the Staff †

A monthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† November/December, 2018 †

Vol. 2018, Issue 6

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What do you say?

This is a question I often ask my grandchildren when they receive something from someone. Recently I witnessed my grandson refusing to say thank you and his mommy saying "If you don't say thank you - you need to give it back". His mommy waited patiently for him to say "Thank You." We often urge our children to say thank you when they receive something.

How often as adults do we say thank you? So often we receive and feel that we deserve it!

When is the last time you said thank you to God? We will have several opportunities to say thank you to God during the month ahead. May we as children of God say thanks each morning for a new day, may we say thanks for the many blessings we receive, and may we say thanks as we gather together to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With a thankful heart,

Ingathering

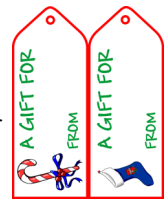
Union Lutheran Church will be the host church for the 2018 Northern Lehigh Valley Ingathering on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at noon. Kids Peace, Allentown Rescue Mission, Gracedale and the Sayre Center are the usual places where we donate our gifts. However, this year we are also adding Haven House mental health services, Scraps & Bits for Make a Wish recipients, and Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow ministry.

Haven House provides mental health services to Lehigh and Northampton count residents. Their mission is to improve and elevate the independence of individuals having mental illness while supporting recovery and enhancing their quality of life. *Scraps & Bits* create scrapbooks for Make a Wish recipients. *Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow* is a ministry of love and compassion to reach out to families who are experiencing a serious illness of a child or loss of a child. The Rainbow ministry will receive gift cards for food stores and gas stations along with donated money from each church.

We ask all our church members to take a slip from the basket after the church service beginning Sunday, November 5, and return the designated item unwrapped with their slip attached to the item by Sunday, December 2. Mittens, winter hats and scarves for children or adults are also appreciated for all the organizations.

Thank you for supporting this Christmas project.

Karen Haberem, Cheryl Reisinger and Linda Forand co-chairs this activity for Shepherd of the Hills if you have any questions regarding the Ingathering.



NOVEMBER 4, 2018 2:00 AM
REMEMBER TO
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK
1 HOUR



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given for the Glory of God
By Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor.*

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our family
By Tom and Lorraine Ritter.*



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER
PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

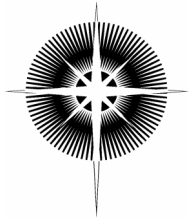
Aiden Tacker	Olivia Lesinski
Meghan Ferenchak	Andrew Baer
Steven Hansen	Kayleigh Greiss
Luke Melicharek	Dylan Rapchak



ALTAR FLOWER POLICY

Each Sunday after the service the Altar flowers will be placed in the back porch or foyer. If you sponsor the flowers, you should pick them up by noon on Monday. Any flowers that remain after noon on Monday will be taken to a sick or shut-in member.

PRICE FOR 2018 1 Vase - \$20.00
 2 Vases- \$40.00



The church office will be closed during the Christmas Holiday from December 21st through January 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES



On September 1, 2018, **Wayne Bob Ouldcott and Russlene Louise Bennicoff** were united together as one. May God be with you Wayne and Russlene as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

On October 13, 2018, **Matthew Rilk and Tasha Sward** were united together as one. May God be with you Matthew and Tasha as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

{GIVE THANKS}

for each new morning
with its light
FOR REST AND SHELTER
OF THE NIGHT
for health and food
for love and friends
FOR EVERYTHING
THY GOODNESS SENDS
~ralph waldo emerson~

**THANKSGIVING
EVE
SERVICE
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 21
At 7:00 PM**

DECEMBER 9th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following the 10:15 service for the election of council members and adoption of a budget. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

DECEMBER 16th



Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 16. In place of our usual fellowship, we are planning a "Deck the Halls" party. We will have a covered dish after decorating the sanctuary.

After fellowship we will go caroling to the shut-ins of our congregation. Come and celebrate!

DECEMBER 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**4:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M.
10:00 P.M.**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Christmas Eve services by intinction.



Whichever service you and your family choose to attend, come, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ the child was born for you!

DECEMBER 30th

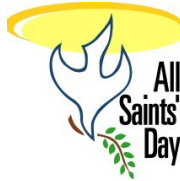
**1 service
9 A.M.**

Service of Lessons and Carols

November 4th

We will celebrate All Saints' Sunday and we will remember all who were members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and entered into eternal rest this past year:

- Lois B. Miller
- Glenn S. Scheirer
- Lori Farkas
- Irene M. Ritter
- Barbara Yakubecek



Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is sponsored to the Glory of God by Eric and Toni.

The December advertising is given with thanksgiving for all of God's many blessings by Jean and Craig Marsteller.



The **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR** will be singing on Sunday December 16th at the 10:15 worship service. The children will also be singing at the 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

Sunday School Children's Choir: The children will be singing on November 18, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, a song of "Thanks to God." On December 16, they will sing "Mary Make A Manger Bed." The children sing at the 10:15 AM worship service. The children will also participate in the 4:00 PM worship service on Christmas Eve.



CHOIR: Believe it or not, Christmas is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to join the choir. We have just started rehearsing ADVENT MUSIC and will begin rehearsing CHRISTMAS MUSIC very soon. The choir will sing at the 10:00 PM worship service on Christmas Eve.



Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Dennis Abruzzi, Louis Albright, Betti Amici, Colleen Bailey, Raylene Ballard, Pastor Michael Bodnyk, Bonnie Brown, June Brownlee, Janice Buckwalter, Jacob Campbell, Janice Campbell, Verna Chandick, Andy Cook, David Correll, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Margaret Dellmore, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Brian Dilcher, Ed Didra, Matthew Dornier, Elizabeth Fegley, Joe and Gloria Fischl, Gene Frassetto, Kay Fronheiser, Raymond Gagaway, Ann Gaspar, Jeff Gilbert, Jim Gilbert, Jason Greiss, Evelyn Groller, Lisa Haas, Ethel Harkal, Mae Hart, Robert Hauck, Nancy Horning, John Huyter, Marilyn Kern, Gloria Ketner, Cheryl Klock, Tina Kocher, Nancy Kotze, Keith Kramer, William Kramer, Gail Kramlick, Kayley Kromer, Marge Kunkle, Lorene Lazarus, Diane Lindeman, Bernadette Marushak, Ethel Mertz, Terry and Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michner, Anna Louise Miller, Anna Marie Miller, Doris Miller, Janice Miller, Lucy Miller, Adriana Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Lori Molchany, Kayleigh Moyer, Cathy Nelcoski, Gloria Oxenreider, Bette Phelps, Paul Rapchak, Kenny Redline, Doris and Mark Reitz, Dee Renner, Ellis Cade Rice, Brittany Richards, Eleanor Rilko, Tom Ritter, Nelson Rodrigues, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Julian Sanders, Gail Saraceno, Eleanore Scherr, Fran Schimeneck, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Brett Snyder, Amy Sterner, Alison Steventon, Renee Strauss, Roy Strauss, Gail Summers, Yolanda Sunderer, Ray Tremba, Pat Walschburger, Kimberly Weaver, Jennifer Wentling, Jodie Young, Christopher Young, Wilbur Young, The Families of Shirley Manescu and Eleanor Schneck, Toni Fillman, Lamont Grim, Lisa Hoffman and Fred Romano.



SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
End of Prior Month (as of September 30, 2018)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$14,743 YTD: \$136,297

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$12,405 YTD: \$158,619

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

September: \$818 YTD: \$4,783 (Budget for 2018—\$13,425) Paid to Date: \$6,712

August Electric : \$413 YTD: \$8,748

August Lawn Care: \$372 YTD: \$1,625

Youth Group News

Nut Rolls are on sale through October 28. Flavors are nut, poppy seed, lekvar, raspberry, apricot and pumpkin cheese. Cost is \$16. Delivery will be November 11. To order nut rolls, call Lisa at 610-262-4053.

The youth group is selling **gift cards**. The order forms are available for pick up on the table at the top of the stairs. Or go to www.shopwithscrip.com. Set up a user name, password and security questions. The enrollment code is **L9A248FA33862**. All checks and orders must be turned in by December 2. Delivery will be December 9.

The next **youth group activity** will be on November 4, 6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes. And on November 17, we will be heading to the Northampton Food Bank to volunteer.

Join the youth group on **December 16** as we help to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and go caroling to our shut ins.

The youth group’s clothing drive is in full swing. We are collecting new or gently used men, women and children’s clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens, stuffed animals and bikes in working condition. All items should be bagged or boxed and brought to the church **before June 23, 2019**. The bags and boxes will be stored in the Sunday School room next to the garage.

Thank you to everyone who bought hoagies. We sold over 200 hoagies and sandwiches and made profit of \$448.

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas!! Happy New Year!!!

Joseph and Gloria Fischl
 Whitehall Manor
 1177 Sixth St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Evelyn Groller
 Whitehall Manor
 1177 Sixth St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Lorene Lazarus
 4290 Bridge St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Ethel Harakal
 Sacred Heart by the Creek
 602 E. 21st St.
 Northampton, Pa
 18064

Marilyn Kern
 Fellowship Manor
 3000 Fellowship Dr.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Christine Kocher
 Cedarbrook
 350 S. Cedarbrook Rd.
 Allentown, PA 18104

Jean Roth
 Fellowship Manor
 3000 Fellowship Dr.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Alice Nero
 5250 Second St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Ethel Mertz
 Whitehall Manor
 1177 Sixth St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Janice Miller
 Manor Care
 2029 Westgate Dr.
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

Pamela Schussler
 55 E. Garrison St.
 Bethlehem, PA 18018

Dolores Sywensky
 5506 Second Street
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Mark and Doris Reitz
 Whitehall Manor
 1177 Sixth St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Dorothy Karpyn
 4296 S. Church St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Luther Schweitzer
 205 Molly Dr.
 Palmerton, PA 18071

Edna Warmkessel
 21 Saylor Dr.
 Coplay, PA 18037

DON'T FORGET OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS. SEND A CHRISTMAS GREETING.





COMMITTEE PAGE

The Worship Committee: **MORNING PRAYER:** Each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM we are meeting in our church sanctuary to pray to the Lord. Come and join us as we gather together in the House of our Lord.

The Service Committee: We are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups* for the Whitehall Food Bank. We are also collecting soap and shampoo for the ministries of Pathways and Daybreak. Please reach out in God's love to those in need. *God's Work, Our Hands.*

The Witness Committee: We have an e-mail address? Our address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org. We still have weekly devotions which are sent out by e-mail. If you would like to receive the devotions, please e-mail us and we

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Our Continuing Resolution of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church states that all cancellations or delays for worship services and activities at the church will be posted on

TV-WFMZ Channel 69
FACEBOOK: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church-Egypt
CALL THE CHURCH
610-262-1600



Attention Deacons

Yours will be needed in the church office by the end of 2018. The office will be mailing out copies of last year's reports to chairs and deacons (check your bins in the office). Please help us by completing your report ASAP.

Thank you!

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS received by the church on **Sunday, December 30, 2018 will be posted in the year 2018.** Offering Statements for 2018 will be available in the church narthex during the month of January or call the church office at 610-262-1600 to have your end of year statement mailed.

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- LeRoy Smith, Jr., President
- Karen Haberern, Vice President
- Cheryl Reisinger, Secretary
- Joel Zimmerman, Treasurer
- Eric Minford, Financial Secretary
- Michelle Ferenchak, Learning
- Michael Saraceno, Service
- Randy Marushak, Support
- Denise Smith, Witness
- Scarlet Randolph, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Youth
- Kayleigh Moyer, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel

On September 23, 2018

Todd and Melissa Sassaman

were welcomed into our family at Shepherd of the Hills. Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.

That day we also welcomed **Sewar Hadid** into our church family.

Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.





On **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM** we will continue to study the Gospel of Matthew.

Do you ever wonder what the Scripture meant on a Sunday morning and the Pastor didn't explain it? This Bible Study is for YOU! We will continue a Bible Study on **Monday mornings at 9:30 AM**. We will discuss the Scripture lessons from the previous day.

Come and share the Word of our Lord.

The Mutual Ministry Committee

If you have any concerns regarding the Church Staff, you may speak to any member of the Mutual Ministry Committee about praise or concerns you are feeling. This committee meets on a regular basis with Pastor Schlegel. Members are:

Joe Kroboth
Jan Masonheimer
Karen Zimmerman

Keith Moyer
Linda Schock

Cookie Ministry - seeking new participants

An important part of our efforts as a Congregation is the work of reaching out to visitors and others interested in possibly joining the family of Shepherd of the Hills. Part of this effort is the activity of the **Cookie Ministry**. Each Sunday, a member of the **Cookie Ministry** collects the pages from the Friendship Registers in each pew and checks them for visitors or individuals expressing an interest in joining our Congregation. For those who express an interest in joining, the **Cookie Ministry** member collects a packet of information on the church, purchases a small pack of cookies, and delivers the cookies and information to the home of the interested individual while expressing a welcome, answering any questions which they might have, and telling them that the Pastor will be getting in touch with them. If you think you might be interested in joining the **Cookie Ministry** for 2019, contact Toni Minford at 610-262-1419 or contact the Church Office at 610-262-1600.

THANK YOU

- to everyone who donated items for Harvest Home. Our Sanctuary looked beautiful. Thank you to Richard and Joan Brownell, Terri Miller, Denise Smith, Sherry and Grace Smith and Frances Worman for decorating the sanctuary.
- to Lisa Kroboth and Michelle Lesinski for directing Choice Dollars to SOTH.
- from Nancy Horning (Gantz) for the congregation's prayers.



© Can Stock Photo

Mark Your Calendars . . .

NIGHT OF CABARET—February 24, 2019. Come and enjoy a fun evening.

Remember to reserve your date and time to have you picture taken for our new Pictorial Directory.

Dates: Sunday November 18	Time: 9 AM to 1 PM
Wednesday, November 21	Time: 5 PM to 9 PM (Thanksgiving Eve)
Sunday, November 23	Time 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

If you are unable to make it for any of the three scheduled photo sessions, please let us know. We will come to you.



Save the date: **Faith Night at the Phantoms** Friday, March [15th.at](#) 7:05. Price \$19. More details to follow.