

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania  
† January, February 2019 †

Vol. 2019, Issue 1

## P ASTOR'S CORNER

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Have you ever sat in the dark either by choice or maybe the electricity went off. What was your first reaction? We live in a world that is filled with light. From the fluorescent lights that light up rooms to the small flashlights we can use when we walk in the dark. We even have night lights to shine in the darkness so we can find our way. We need light!

I know my grandchildren love to play with the flashlights in our house and shine them on the walls. They love to go into dark rooms and shine the light on the ceiling or at each other. Why do we need light? Psychologists say that we are affected by the early darkness and the dreary days during this time of the year. We become more depressed and we become more anxious as the darkness of the day lingers on.

As children of God, though, we can find peace even in the midst of the darkness. The True Light, Jesus Christ, brought light into a dark world when he was born as a baby in the manger. He brings peace and tranquility in a world that is often chaotic and troublesome. Even when we sit alone in the darkness of this world, we know that Jesus Christ shines for each one of us who calls Him our own personal Lord and Savior. We start now a new year—a year of uncertainties. We know there will be times of joy as well as sorrow during 2019. We know there will be moments of gloom as well as contentment. There will be moments of darkness as well as light. Throughout the whole year we need to remember that the Light of the World is with us each step of the way. May we all have a blessed and Light filled New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation from December 26 until January 10. If you need pastoral assistance, please call the church office., 610-262-1600.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 4:00 pm - Candle Lighting  
Holy Communion
- 7:00pm - Candle Lighting  
Holy Communion
- 10:00 pm - Candle Lighting  
Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

At 9:00 - ONLY ONE SERVICE

Service of Lessons and Carols

### THE ANNUAL MEETING of SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 immediately following the second service. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

### YOUTH SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Our youth will lead our 8 and 10:15 a.m. service. Come and support our young people.



On February 3 we will be collecting for those less fortunate than ourselves so they will have food to eat. Please give to this great cause. The proceeds will be sent to the local food bank.

Ash  
Wednesday

March 6. Services at noon  
and 7 PM.



*This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored in honor of God's Blessings by Michael and Karen Haberern and family.*

*This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored by Todd and Melissa Sassaman.*



## YOUTH SUNDAY

on **January 27th**, at both services, the Youth will lead us in worship.

### 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 and also Radio-WAEB 790 AM. The Resolution is on display on the bulletin board.**

## ANNUAL REPORTS

are needed in the church office by **JANUARY 6** for printing.

Copies of last year's reports have been distributed to chairs and deacons (check your bins). Please help us by completing your report ASAP. Thank you!

Every week we place an ad in the **Times News** listing our services. This paper reaches residents in the Whitehall/Coplay area.

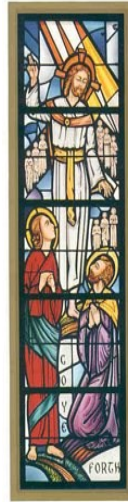
Here is an opportunity for **YOU** to sponsor our ad. The cost is \$25 a month.



Envelopes are provided in the Narthex. Your sponsorship will be acknowledged in the bulletin and the Rod and Staff.

*The January advertising in the Times News is sponsored in loving memory of Harry (Pinky) Messinger by the family.*

*The February advertising in memory of our parents, Arlan and Anna Koenig and Clarence and Lillian Schlegel by Pastor and Cindy Schlegel.*

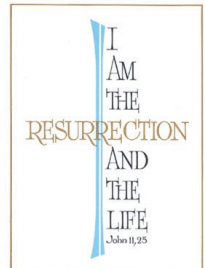


*In Loving Memory*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Margaret Leidy** by Mary Zader, St. John's Pie-rogie Workers, Charles and Julie Roth, Louis and Bernice Tepes, Stan Szymanski, Stefania Sawka, Mariam and Jane Swartz, Jeffrey and Marcia Chureta, Virginia Hal-deman, Selena O'Neill, John and Doris Drabic, Martin and Debra Hartman, Jeanne and Dave O'Neill, Matthew and Jodi Keim, Gerald and Tessie Reenock.*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Glen Scheirer** by Barbara Scheirer, Brad Scheirer*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Janice Miller** by Fran Worman and Richard and Blanche Rank.*



**Margaret Leidy** entered into eternal rest on November 14, 2018. We commend Margaret into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**Janice Miller** entered into eternal rest on November 26, 2018. We commend Janice into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

### Sunday School Perfect Attendance for :

#### October:

Kyleigh Greiss  
Grace Smith  
Dylan Rapchak  
Ian Bordenick

O  
U  
T  
S  
T  
A  
N  
D  
I  
N  
G

#### November

Robert Bordenick  
Steven Hanson



### Youth Group News

We sold 135 nut rolls and made a profit of \$550. Thank you to everyone who purchased from us!!

On November 4, the youth group filled 35 shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse’s Operation Christmas Child program. The boxes were filled with items that were donated by the children that attended Vacation Bible School. These boxes will be sent overseas to children who would not receive a gift for Christmas.

Our gift card program was a success. We made a profit of \$893.11. Thank you to everyone who ordered gift cards from us!!

On December 2, we went to the Lights at the Zoo. Although the weather was a bit dreary and foggy, we made the best of it and enjoyed ourselves. We said hi to Santa, ate some hot chocolate and cookies, saw Elsa, the Grinch and Woody from Toy Story and enjoyed our time together.

As you clean out your closets to make room for all your new Christmas gifts, don’t forget that 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.

Come and join us on January 27 as the youth group leads both services for Youth Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!!

The Revitalization Committee Presents  
Faith Night at PPL Center

LV PHANTOMS vs. PROVIDENCE BRUINS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019  
at 7:05 p.m.

Tickets are \$19.00 each  
Payment due Sunday, February 3rd

Forms are available on the table in the narthex.



On October 28 we welcomed new members, James Allen Blocker and Mariane Rose Blocker into our church family. We wish God’s blessings on James and Mariane.



**Night of Cabaret:** On February 24 at 5 PM we will gather for an evening of fun, food, and laughter. Come and join us for this covered dish meal and night of entertainment.

### THE WORD OF THE LORD

Come and join us for weekly Bible Study.

- ◆ Mondays at 9:30 am as we discuss the scripture lessons from the previous day
- ◆ Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We will continue to discuss the book of Micah.



**Please put the dates in your calendar and come and join us.**

### Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers:



Louis Albright, Bette Amici, Alice Baran, Andi Cook–Becker, Linda Bennicoff, Pastor Michael Bodnyk, Bonnie Brown, June Brownlee, Janice Buckwalter, Jacob Campbell, Janis Campbell Verna Chandick, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Margaret Dellmore, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ray Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Brian Dilcher, Elizabeth Fegley, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Gene Frassetto, Kay Fronheiser, Ann Gaspar, Aaron Gaylord, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Jim Gilbert, Jason Greiss, Theresa Grim, Evelyn Groller, Shirley Grover, Lisa Haas, Ethel Harakal, Robert Hartzell, Nancy Horning, John Huyter, John Kremser, Marilyn Kern, Gary Kintzler, Tina Kocher, John Kremser, Marge Kunkle, Jackie Laabs, Diane Larior, Lorene Lazarus, Philip Lichman, Bernadette Marushak, Ethel Mertz, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michner, Anna Louise Miller, Doris Miller, Christopher Moakley, Lori Molchany, Kayleigh Moyer, Cathy Nelcoski, Gloria Oxenreider, Ron Reynard, Kenny Redline, Doris and Mark Reitz, Sarah Reinhard, Dee Renner, Ellis Cade Rice, Eleanor Rilko, Tom Ritter, Nelson Rodriques, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Fran Schimeneck, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, Wayne Searfass, June Sell, Sean Skelonis, Brett Snyder, Joe Steiner, Renee Strauss, Yolanda Sunderer, Robert Tacker, Ray Tremba, Mary Tucker, Cheryl Tully, Martha DeTutk, Pat Walschburger, Kimberly Weaver, Jennifer Wentling, Wilbur Young, The family of Roy Strauss, Eleanor Scherr, Margaret Leidy, Janice Miller, Raylene Ballard

### ALTAR FLOWER POLICY



The Altar flowers each Sunday will be placed in the back porch. 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. This was approved by the church council.

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 to you.



**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: **Keith Moyer, Jan Masonheimer, Linda Schock, Joe Kroboth and Karen Zimmerman.**

### Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. During the months of January and February envelopes will be available in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family.





## COMMITTEE NEWS

### **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: Reach out to those in need!** We are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups* and cereal 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.*



**Our Lenten series beginning on March 6** and continuing for the midweek Wednesday night Lenten services will center on "Six Lives—Six Stories". There will be six dramatic monologues Presented at each mid-week Lenten Service.

## The 2019 Congregation Council

<b>President:</b>	Joel Zimmerman
<b>Vice President:</b>	Karen Haberern
<b>Secretary:</b>	Cheryl Reisinger
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Colleen Ehst
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Eric Minford
<b>Learning Team Deacon:</b>	Michelle Ferenchak
<b>Witness Team Deacon:</b>	Denise Smith
<b>Worship Team Deacon:</b>	Scarlet Randolph
<b>Service Team Deacon:</b>	Michael Saraceno
<b>Support Team Deacon:</b>	Randy Marushak
<b>Youth Deacon:</b>	Drew Null
<b>Youth Representative:</b>	Brianna Baer
<b>Pastor:</b>	The Rev. James W. Schlegel



*Thank you to Kayleigh Moyer for serving as Youth Representative . Also thank you to Lisa Kroboth and LeRoy Smith for finishing their second term. Thank you to Randy Marushak and Karen Haberern who finished their first term and have agreed to stay on council for a second term.*

The Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 except in July and August when it holds a single, summer meeting. Special meetings are held on rare occasions when it is determined that an issue requires immediate consideration.

All meetings are open to members of the congregation. Much of the council's agenda is generated from the six ministry teams which administer most of our congregational programs.

If you have an item to be considered by our Congregation Council, contact President Joel Zimmerman at least ten days in advance of the meeting so that your concern can be placed on the Council agenda (some concerns will be referred to a ministry team for study and a recommendation before they are considered by the full Council).

**T  
H  
A  
N  
K  
Y  
O  
U**

- ... **Pastor and Cindy Schlegel** would like to THANK everyone for the gifts, cards, and well wishes during this joyous season.
- ... **To all the people who decked the halls.** What a wonderful response and time.
- ... **To** those who served on Church Council. Thank you for serving our church and our Lord.
- ... Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's Ingathering. .
- ... **To the four families** who provided food for Thanksgiving and gifts and food for Christmas to people who are in need in our congregation. Thank you for sharing Christ's love.
- ... **Thank you to everyone who helps with the Newsletter.**
- ... **Thank you to Jan and Diane Masonheimer and Barbara Scheirer for their December Thrivent contribution to Shepherd of the Hills church.**

We received the following thank you notes:

We want to thank you for all the goodies you gave us for Thanksgiving.  
 It's so nice to know that people think of you in their time of need. We really enjoyed everything.  
 The Church as been so good to us and we love you for it.  
 Thank you again.  
 Bless you all.

Dear Friends in Christ,  
 On behalf of the Whitehall Copley hunger Initiative, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you for your support of our mission. The free meal provided by your church, shows our guests that our community considers their safety and well-being of utmost importance.  
 We thank you for your caring spirit and generous support and wish you a happy holiday and safe winter.  
 With blessings,  
 Judy and Sheldon Ehret for  
 The Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative



On November 2, **Jason McDonald and Morgan Fragnito** were united together as one. May God be with you Jason and Morgan as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

On November 3, **Trevor DeLong and Brooke Merkel** were united together as one. May God be with you Trevor and Brooke as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

On November 8, **Kevin Becker and Andrea Cook** were united together as one. May God be with you Kevin and Andrea as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

On November 10, **Jason Beck and Ashleigh Marsteller** were united together as one. May God be with you Jason and Ashleigh as you begin your life together as husband and wife.





**4:00 PM - Candle Lighting and Holy Communion  
STAR OF THE EAST  
Featuring our children**

**7:00 PM - Candle Lighting and Holy Communion**

**10:00 PM - Candle Lighting and Holy Communion**

**Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction at all Services**

**Sunday, December 30 —There will be one service—Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 AM**



**Send A Christmas Greeting to these very special people.**

Lorene Lazarus  
4290 Bridge St.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

Jean Roth  
3000 Fellowship Dr.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

Luther Schweitzer  
205 Molly Dr.  
Palmerton, PA 18071

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

Dorothy Karpyn  
5250 Second St.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

Evelyn Groller  
Whitehall Manor  
1177 Sixth Street  
Whitehall, PA 18052

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

Marilyn Kern  
3000 Fellowship Dr.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

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

Edna Warmkessel  
21 Saylor Dr.  
Coplay, PA 18037

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

Ethel Harakal  
4129 Scheidy's Rd.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

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

Alice Nero  
5250 Second St.  
Whitehall, PA 18052

Dolores Sywensky  
5506 Second Street  
Whitehall, PA 18052

Ann Hricinak  
PO Box 76  
Taneyville, MO 65759