

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania

✠ March/April, 2019 ✠

Vol. 2019, Issue 2

## PASTOR'S CORNER

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

On March 6 we will begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is a time to reflect upon how we live our lives. Lent is a time to turn away from our foolish ways and ask God for forgiveness. It is a time to look in the mirror and realize that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

During the season of Lent we have many Worship services to reestablish our relationship with our Loving and Forgiving Lord. Each Wednesday night during Lent we will gather at 7 PM to confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness and hear His Words of absolution, love and care.

Come and join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this season of reflection and forgiveness.

In Christ's love,

*Ash Wednesday*



**March 6**

**Services at  
Noon and 7 PM**

*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20



**Beginning March 13  
Mid-Week Services  
Wednesdays  
7:00 pm**

*Passion*  
**SUNDAY**

**April 14**

Holy Communion at 8:00 am  
Sunday School at 8:50 am  
The Festival of the Palms at 10:15 am



**Maundy Thursday, April 18**

Fellowship Meal at 6:00 pm  
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

**Good Friday, April 19**

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

**The 24 hour Prayer Vigil**

8:00 pm Friday, April 19 until 7:00 pm  
Saturday, April 20

**Easter Sunday, April 21**

**Sunrise Service/Holy Communion  
at 7:00 am**

Easter Breakfast at 7:45 am  
Sunday School at 8:50 am  
Holy Communion at 10:15 am



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given with thanksgiving for God's Blessings

By Carol and Paul Balascki.

This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in honor of my grandson, Casey's birthday  
By Rozelle Higgins.

# I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



**Irvin L. Ketner** entered into eternal rest on January 20, 2019. We commend Irvin into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

**Evelyn R. Marsteller** entered into eternal rest on January 30, 2019. We commend Evelyn into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**William J. Pummer, Jr.** entered into eternal rest on February 2, 2019. We commend William into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Janice Miller** from Mr. and Mrs. Rodney A. Worman.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Margaret Leidy** from Randy Marushak.

## THANK YOU - - -

- ◆ . . . to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 27. What a wonderful job.
- ◆ . . . to all members who generously gave to Snack Pack Pals for the children in the Whitehall School District.
- ◆ . . . to Lisa A. Kroboth, Cheryl Reisinger and Jason and Michelle Lesinski for directing Thrivent Choice dollars to SOTHLC in January
- ◆ . . . to everyone who participated in Game Night.
- ◆ . . . to everyone who participated and attended our Evening of Cabaret. What a great and fun evening!

### We received the following notes:

Dear Rev. James Schlegel:

Thank you for remembering me in prayer at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. The congregation at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church as prayed many times for me and my sisters through many operations and illnesses. With faith I received results. I think it is nice to know where 2 or more are gathered praying and believing the illness becomes easier to cope with. God hears our prayers and praise be to God. May "2019" hold many blessings for you, your family and congregation.

Love Always,  
Carol Kuhns

**To:** Members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers that carry us through the days and lifted our spirits.

God Bless,  
Wilbur and Marian Kline

Thank you for remembering my son, David, in your services and your prayers. It is really appreciated.

Lisbanick and Graff Families

## Reaching out in God's Love

SOTH will be hosting a free dinner for the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative on March 3. The meal is for those in our community who are in need. If you would like to help with this dinner, please contact Karen Haberern at 610-767-7657. *Donations of baked goods are also needed for this dinner. A sign up sheet is on the table outside the office.*



Each Wednesday night during Lent at 7 PM we will hear from six individuals who reflect upon the living Jesus. Through their eyes comes a proclamation of this man named Jesus. Each individual has their own identifying tract, from the shrewd politician, Pilate, who worried about his control over the city, to the thief, Dismas, who found that the Son of God would forgive his sins. Come and hear their words.

- March 13** Judas, The Disciple Who Betrayed
- March 20** Caiaphas, The Priest Who Complied
- March 27** Peter, The Disciple Who Denied
- April 3** Centurion, The Soldier Who Proclaimed
- April 10** Dismas, The Thief Who Believed



**Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:**



Louis Albright, Betty Amici, Donald Baer, Pastor Michael Bodnyk, Bonnie Brown, June Brownlee, Janice Buckwalter, Jacob Campbell, Janis Campbell, Brian Carter, Verna Chandick, Andi Cook-Becker, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Brian Dilcher, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Elizabeth, Fegley, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Gene Frassetto, Kay Fronheiser, Aaron Gaylord, Terri Gerney, Jeff Gilbert, Evelyn Groller, Lisa Haas, Ethel Harakal, Robert Hartzell, Nancy Horning, Ann Hricinak, John Huyter, Joiceyn Kaligis, Dorothy Karpyn, Marilyn Kern, Gary Kintzler, Wilbur and Marion Kline, Tina Kocher, Nancy Kotze, Baby Ronan Knauer, Carol Kuhns, Ethan Kunkle, Marge Kunkle, Lorene Lazarus, Jacob Maldonado, Leatrice Masonheimer, Ethel Mertz, Debbie & Terry Messinger, Nancy Michner, Anna Louise Miller, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Kendra Mushrush, Cathy Nelcoski, Alice Nero, Gloria Oxenreider, Ronald Reimert, Dee Renner, Doris and Karen Reiss, Mark Reitz, Eleanor Rilko, Mary Rim, Lorraine Ritter, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Robert Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Fran Schimeneck, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Brett Snyder, Jill Steiner, Renee Strauss, David Stump, Yolanda Sunderer, Dolores Sywensky, Ray Tremba, Edna Warmkessel, Kimberly Weaver, Jennifer Wentling, Keith Young, The families of Nicole Shott, Roger Longenecker, David Liskavich, Lori Molchany, Erv Ulshafer, Evelyn Marsteller, Kathryn Werkheiser, William Pummer, Jr., Thomas Kern

**REMEMBER**— When giving a name for the

**PRAYER CHAIN**

please also give the address of the person. The church sends cards to inform people they were “remembered in our prayers during our worship services Sunday morning.” The person’s name will be kept on the Sunday prayer concerns for two weeks unless the person who submitted the name requests otherwise.

Call Scarlet Randolph at 610-262-7678 or the church office with any prayer concerns.

Remember Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10.



**HAVE YOU GIVEN UP YOUR LAND LINE?**

Please let the church office know your cell phone number and if you would like it published or private.



**FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**



will be held for all children in second grade or older on April 7th and 14th during Sunday School.

First Communion will be celebrated on April 18th at 7 PM.

**Healing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray that You lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask You to have compassion on those who are who are named above. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



# COMMITTEE PAGE

## SERVICE TEAM Support the Food Pantry During Lent

We will be collecting canned goods for the local Food Bank during the Lenten season. The Food Bank serves all Whitehall and Coplay area residents who are in need of food for their family tables. 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.* Please place your donations on the table in the narthex throughout the Lenten season.



**THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE** Morning Prayer: Each Thursday morning at 9:30 A.M. we are meeting in the church sanctuary to pray to the Lord. Come and join us as we gather together in the House of our Lord.

**THE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Please add this meeting to the enclosed church calendar.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

January

Grace Smith  
Steven Hanson  
Page Tacker  
Steven Hanson



Ryan Filer  
Alivia Deemer  
Jackson Lesinski  
Olivia Lesinski



## 2019 Congregation Council

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



### Let Us Know!



We need to know whether you will participate in several of the activities planned for Holy Week.

- **Will you attend the Maundy Thursday fellowship meal?** This year's meal is a covered dish. Participants are asked to contribute a salad, a meat casserole or a dessert.
- **Will you participate in the 24-hour Prayer Vigil** during Friday night and Saturday? We need 24 volunteers to spend one hour of prayer in the sanctuary. Guidelines will be provided.
- **Will you attend the Easter breakfast?** Reservations are an absolute MUST for those who plan to eat with us at 7:45 Easter morning.
- **Can you help at the Easter breakfast?** We need help with preparation, serving, and clean-up

**Just sign the sheets in the foyer or call the church office at 610-262-1600 to be included in these Holy Week activities.**

YOUTH GROUP FUND RAISER

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*

**End of Prior Month (as of January 31, 2019)**

**Monthly Stewardship Income: \$12,769 YTD: \$12,769**

**Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,561 YTD: \$16,561**

**Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:**

**January \$370 YTD: \$370 (Budget for 2019—\$14,455)**

**December Electric : \$1,356 YTD: \$1,356**

**December Snow Removal: \$350 YTD: \$350**


**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, Radio WAEB 790 AM., also on SOTHLC’s Facebook page and by calling the church.**

**CARE TABLE**

A Care Table is in the Narthex. We are looking for donations. If you have something to contribute, place it on the table. If you are in need of any items on the table, please take them along with you.

**The March Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated in honor of Kylee’s 2nd birthday. Love Poppy, Gigi & Titi.**

 **The April Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated in honor of our Director of Music and Church Choir.**

There are still some months available for sponsorship. Check the list in the narthex to sign up. Sponsorship is \$25 a month.



The Revitalization Committee has organized a group night out **Friday, March 15, 2019** for church members and friends at a **L.V. Phantoms ice hockey game** at Allentown’s PPL Center. This is **Faith Night** at the PPL Center. The Phantoms will play the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. Being also the Phantom’s movie night, the film *“Invincible”* will follow the game.

SOTHLC will be hosting an **AHA Heartsaver CPR/AED class** on March 14 in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:30 PM. The cost for the class is \$25. Please sign up on the sheet provided on the table outside the church office

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

On January 27, the youth group led both services as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service.



The youth group went snow tubing on February 10. It was a perfect night for tubing—cold and clear. There were very few other people on the mountain and we had a fantastic time!

**Nut rolls go on sale March 10.** The sale will run through March 24, with a delivery of April 7. Cost will be \$16 and the flavors are nut, poppy, lekvar, apricot, raspberry and a *new flavor--coconut*. *Samples of the new flavor will be available to taste on March 3.*

**We will have a Penny Party on April 28.** Doors open at 12 and games begin at 12:30. It only costs \$1 to buy an envelope of numbers. Trays will be passed around the tables and you will be able to bid on the item(s) on the tray. Cost for a bid ranges between 1 cent and 1 dollar. This is a fun and relatively inexpensive way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Please join us as we raise money for our youth group and share some time of friendship and fun.

Thank you for your support of the youth group. May God watch over you during this Lenten season and may you have a Happy and Joyous Easter.