

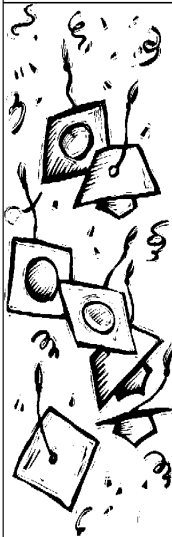
† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† July/ August, 2019 †

Vol. 2019 Issue 4

THEY'RE



GRADUATING

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 GRADUATES

Christian Bauer graduated from Hamburg Area High School.

Bee Ehst graduated from California Institute of the Arts.

Ryan Gaspar graduated from Parkland High School.

Sarah Kroboth graduated from Elizabethtown College with degrees in International Business and German.

Taylor Moyer graduated from Kutztown Area High School.

Abby Nguyen graduated from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

Bryana Poirier graduated from Whitehall High School. She will attend Metro Beauty Academy majoring in Esthetics.

Kyle Rapchak graduated from Pitt with a degree in Biological Science

Tristan Thomas Reinert graduated from Liberty High School and will enter E. Stroudsburg University. His goal is teaching and to be a football coach.

Rev. James Schlegel graduated from Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in New Testament. He graduated "With High Distinction" with a 4.0 GPA.

YOU HAVE LEARNED MUCH AND GROWN GREATLY. MAY GOD GUIDE AND DIRECT YOU TO A BRIGHT AND BLESSED FUTURE.

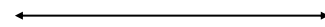
Vacation Bible School *July 8 — 12* *6:00 pm-8:30 pm*

Vacation Bible School is getting ready for an exciting adventure each evening **July 8 to July 12, from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM. All children, ages 3 through 9th grade** are invited to attend.

ROAR VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch and even taste! [Sciency-Fun Gizmos](#), [team-building games](#), cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life— something we call God Sightings.

The kids will also participate in a hands-on-mission project through a program called [Operation Kid-to-Kid](#) that will provide nutrition and good health opportunities to moms and babies in Zambia, Africa.

To register, fill a registration form or go to: www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/sothlc.



JULY 28 at 10:15 AM
ANNUAL PARK SERVICE
and CHURCH PICNIC at NOON

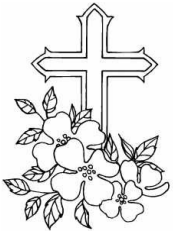
Remember to bring lawn chairs.

A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Granddaughter Abigail's birthday by Rozelle Higgins

This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our youth and their leaders.





Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given **in memory** of Christine Kocher by Lillian Dotter, Jean H. Laub, David and Patricia Kovacs, Ron and Dorothy Kocher, Anne-Marie Kern, Doris Weaver, William and Stacy Scheirer,

Robert and Cecilia Wechsler and Fran Worman.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given **in memory** of Minnie Lauf Thomas by Richard and Shannon Delp.



St. Theresa's Prayer

- May today there be peace within.
- May you trust your God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
- May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
- May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
- May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
- Let His Presence settle into your bones,
- And allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and be happy.
- It is there for each and every one of you.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Louis Albright, Donald Baer, Paul Balascki, Jacob Busch, Rev. Michael Bodynk, Bonnie Brown, Joan Brownlee, Janice Buckwalter, Jacob Busch, Janis Campbell, Verna Chandick, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Shannon Delp, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Brian Dilcher, Joseph Ebner, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Elizabeth Fegley, Ruth Fennelly, Gloria Fischl, Joe Fischl, Kay Fronheiser, Jeff Gilbert, Evelyn Groller, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Carole Henry, Chris Henry, Jinny Hess, Thelma Holland, Ann Hricinak, John Huyter, Joceneyn Kaligis, Dorothy Karpyn, Rita Keeler, Marilyn Kern, Vicki Klapper, Cheryl Klock, Marge Kunkle, Lorene Lazarus, Scott Lazarus, Bill McGarrity, Ethel Mertz, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michner, Doris Miller, Matthew Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Cathy Nelcoski, Ian Noll, Ryan Ott, Gloria Oxenreider, Mildred Parker, Jacob Ramos, Denise Reifinger, Doris and Mark Reitz, Dee Renner, Edward Renninger, Sr., Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Michael Saraceno, Todd Sassaman, Bonnie Schneck, Fran Schimemeck, Bonnie Schneck, Leslie Schock, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Patricia Sibley, Sean Skelonis, Tom Smicker, Jim Stepp, Joe Steiner, Dale Steventon, Renee Strauss, Yolanda Sunderer, Dolores Sywensky, Ray Tremba, Fred Walschburger, Edna Warmkessel, Jennifer Wentling, Mary Ann Williamson, Dorothy Villa, The families of Tina Kocher, Joceneyn Kaligis, Jacob Campbell, John Evans, Gene Frassetto, "Skip" Greenamoyer, Lisa Haas,



Prayer

*How to do nothing
and still think you're helping*

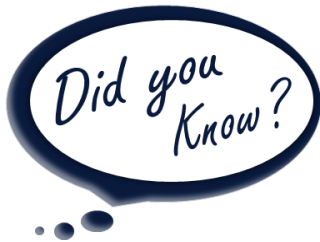
Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation from August 18-24. If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact the church office, 610-262-1600.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

We had a meeting in May and one in June. We also went mini golfing. It was a beautiful day and we had a fun time at Spring Hills.

Many of the youth group will be volunteering at Vacation Bible School which runs from July 8-12. They will also help build trees and decorate the church.

As always, thank you for the support you give to the youth group!



As many of you know, the church has a website that was updated in the fall and also a Facebook page. Recently, we have been taking pictures and putting them on these social media sites, including pictures of the Blessing of the Animals service and the Cabaret. We wanted everyone to be aware that we are posting pictures, not only of the building and sanctuary, but of the most important part of the church, you! If you have any concerns or questions about our social media presence, please speak to Council President Joel Zimmerman, Lisa Kroboth, or Pastor Schlegel.

CONFIRMATION

June 9, 2019

At the 10:15 service the following young people affirmed their Baptismal Vows by the Rite of Confirmation:

- Aiden Tacker
- Meghan Hutter
- Olivia Lesinski



EXPLORE GOD'S WORD WITH US

Come and join us in September as we restart our Bible Study programs.

On Monday, September 16th at 9:30 AM
On Wednesday, September 4th at 10:00 AM

Place the dates in your calendar and come and join us.



Sunday School News
Perfect Attendance

March

Evan Easton

April

Graycie Bordner
Madissyn Bordner

MAY

Steven Hanson
Olivia Lesinski
Jackson Lesinski

Cortney Bordner
Grace Smith
Robert Bordenick
Jackson Lesinski

Two children are being recognized for having the best attendance in Sunday school this year. Congratulations to Kyleigh Greiss and Grace Smith.



The SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church are recognized for their year of faithful dedication to the youth of our church. The efforts of these individuals helps to insure the future of our church.

THANK YOU

- Superintendent: Carla Myers
- Kindergarten and First: Joy Schwentner/Colleen Ehst
- Second and Third: Bonnie Fogle
- Fourth and Fifth: Fran Worman
- 1st Year Confirmation: Tracy Tacker
- 2nd and Third Year Confirmation: Pastor James Schlegel
- Adult: Toni and Eric Minford
- Substitute: Karen Haberern, Lisa Kroboth
- Party Coordinator: Michelle Ferenchak

.. From Fred and Pat Walschburger for all the healing prayers..
 ... From Pastor Bodnyk for all of the prayers for his health. He is continuing with chemo treatments and will have a PET Scan within a few weeks.
 ... to all who donated in any way to the Fellowship Hour; through being hostesses, donations of all sorts (monetary, paper goods, baked goods). It was all greatly appreciated.
 ... to Jay B. Hill for directing Thrivent Choice dollars to SOTHLC in May.



A special thank you to the volunteers who planted the geraniums. Thank you to all who purchased geraniums. Our church grounds look great!

YARD CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Doesn't it feel good when you come to church on a Sunday and the church grounds look beautiful. Your help is needed. Sign for a two-week period to keep the church flowers beds, walkways and perimeter free from weeds as well as deadhead the geraniums. You choose the day and time you work during the two-week period you volunteer. Please sign up outside the church office or contact Dale Ott at 610-262-7598.



Summer is here and the choirs are taking a much-needed vacation. So, this is your opportunity to share your musical talents with the congregation. If you are able to sing or to play an instrument during worship, please contact Marjorie Nelcoski.

• 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 July Times News Advertising is sponsored in loving memory of our grandson Christopher Loyko. We miss your smile and hugs every day. Pop and Grandma.

The August Times News Advertising is sponsored by Carol and Paul Balascki to the Glory of God.



We welcome new members, Matthew and Tara Morrow and their children Brianna Uhnak, Aidan Henry and Clair Morrow. We wish God's Blessings on the Morrow family.

We welcome new members, Carl and Lorraine Schrader. We wish God's Blessings on Carl and Lorraine.

2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
End of Prior Month (as of May 31, 2019)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$11,268 YTD: \$79,216
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$9,551 YTD: \$91,250
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:
May: \$310 YTD: \$1,866 Budget for 2019—\$14,455 (Paid \$3,614)
April Electric : \$734 YTD: \$6,162
Lawn Care: \$279 YTD: \$279



COMMITTEE PAGE COMMITTEE Update

THE SERVICE TEAM

We are collecting funds to help our own members of Shepherd of the Hills who may temporarily find themselves in need of assistance. “Assistance Fund” envelopes are in the narthex for your contributions to this worthwhile fund.

Reach out to those in need—We will continue collecting canned goods for the local Food Bank. 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..

THE WITNESS COMMITTEE

The church has an e-mail. Our e-mail address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org Each day there will be a devotion of scripture and prayer sent from the church via e-mail. If you have access to e-mail and would like to receive the weekly devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Morning Prayer: Each **Thursday morning at 9:30 AM** 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

Reminder . . . Our church picnic will be July 28. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the “Cake Walk.”



THE WORD OF THE LORD. . .

Summer— a time to relax, a time to rest, and a time to renew our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, a time to secure our relationship with Jesus. As we slow down our daily pace and as we reflect upon all our many blessings, may we take the time to strengthen our relationship with Jesus by worshiping Him and praising Him for all His many gifts.

Jesus states it best in Matthew 25:1-13

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. 2 Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. 4 The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps. 5 The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, “Here’s the groom! Come to meet him!” 7 When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, 8 the foolish ones said to the others, “Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.” 9 The girls who were wise answered, “There’s not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves.” 10 While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. 11 Later the other girls returned and shouted, “Sir, sir! Open the door for us!” 12 But the groom replied, “I don’t even know you!” 13 So, my disciples, always be ready! You don’t know the day or the time when all this will happen.



May we as children of God be prepared and not procrastinate! May we come and Worship Jesus our Lord. May we be prepared. May we be saved. (2 Corinthians 6:2) In the Scriptures God says, *“When the time came, I listened to you, and when you needed help, I came to save you.”* That time has come. This is the day for you to be saved. Come and Worship Him, Jesus Christ our Lord.

***JULY 28—10:15 Park Service
12:00 Church Picnic***



REMINDER: BRING LAWN CHAIRS

Our day at the park will begin with worship at 10:15. All are invited to remain at the park after worship for our annual congregational picnic. Those who plan to remain for the picnic portion of the morning should bring a covered dish as well as your own plates, utensils and cold drinks. The church will provide hot dogs and coffee. It is helpful for our planning for you to let us know if you will attend the picnic — either sign the sheet in the foyer or call the church office (610-262-1600).

This is a particularly good opportunity to invite your unchurched or inactive friends, relatives and neighbors to join you in a great church activity — a relaxed, outdoor worship experience at 10:15 and a picnic after the service.

See you at Egypt Park!

Cakes will be needed for the church picnic's cake walk. Desserts will be needed for the covered dish picnic lunch.

Games are planned for this event.
