

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania  
† March/April, 2020 †

Vol. 2020, Issue 2

## PASTOR'S CORNER

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

On February 26 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,

### PASTOR'S SUMMARY JANUARY 2020

Traveled 1,100 miles for Church Activities and 82 visits.  
Our average attendance was 114.

**IMPORTANT:** The last date for Easter Lily orders has been changed by the nursery. It is now March 22. White Easter Lilies will be scarce this year due to adverse weather conditions where the bulbs are produced. We have been advised to order our plants early.

*Ask Wednesday*



**February 26**

**Services at  
Noon and 7 PM**

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

ECCLESIASTES 3:20



**Beginning March 4  
Mid-Week Services  
Wednesdays  
7:00 pm**

*Passion*  
**April 5 SUNDAY**

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



**Maundy Thursday, April 9**  
Fellowship Meal at 6:00 pm  
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

**Good Friday, April 10**  
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

**The 24 hour Prayer Vigil**  
8:00 pm Friday, April 10 until 7:00 pm  
Saturday, April 11

**Easter Sunday, April 12**  
**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  
*(note: there is no 8:00 service)*



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given  
in honor of our daughters Gena and Jennifer's birthdays by Joseph and Sharon Tulio.

This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given  
in loving memory of our family and friends by the Jay H. Gilbert family.

**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**



**Marie C. Herb** entered into eternal rest on December 2, 2019. We commend Marie into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**Barbara Ann Lynch** entered into eternal rest on December 14, 2019. We commend Barbara into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**James R. Stepp** entered into eternal rest on December 20, 2019. We commend James into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

**Gladys E. Reifinger** entered into eternal rest on December 30, 2019. We commend Gladys into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**William "Bill" A. Honescheid** entered into eternal rest on January 25, 2020. We commend William into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family

**Delores Mae Sywensky** entered into eternal rest on January 26, 2020. We commend Delores into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**Dr. Edward J. Haberern** entered into eternal rest on January 27, 2020. We commend Edward 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 Marie C. Herb** from Bill and Elaine Beals, Bev and Adrian Wasko, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Deutsch, Mr. and Mrs. Al Pinchek, Dolores V. Drummer, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Worman, Mary Krupa, Tom, Rose and Tommy Neimeister, Alison and Nick Huffman, Lisa and Nick Queen, James and Peggy Kish, Paul and Carol Balascki, Catherine and Robert Capkovic, Gary and Pat Fabian, June Capkovic, The Baer Family,

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Thomas Loughrey** from Tom and Lorraine Ritter. The Friezo Family Foundation,

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Edward Haberern** from Ralph and Jean Hoffman, Verna and Peter Chandick, Rozelle Higgins

**THANK YOU - - -**

- ◆ . . . to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 26. What a wonderful job.
- ◆ . . . 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 Everybody's Birthday Party.
- ◆ . . . to everyone who participated and attended our Evening of Cabaret. What a great and fun evening!

**We received the following notes:**

To the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills,

Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. It really does help.

Love, Renee Strauss and Dave, too.

I want to thank you all for your continued prayers for me from your church. I do feel like your prayers have helped me both physically and mentally cope with my illness.

Bessie McGrath

May you receive abundant blessings in return for the special way you expressed His Love. Thank you for praying for my niece Kara Diehl.

Carol Kuhns

Dear Pastor Schlegel,

Many thanks to you and members of your congregation who have been praying for Fred. Your care and concern are greatly appreciated. May God be with you and bless you always.

Fred and Pat Walschburger

Each Wednesday night during Lent at 7 PM we will hear from five individuals who were at the foot of the cross.. Through their eyes comes a proclamation of this man named Jesus. We will hear from Judas pondering what he had done to Jesus and spiritually wrestling with himself at the cross before taking his own life. Other individuals include Peter and John, as well as Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. Come and hear their words.

- March 4** Judas,
- March 11** Mary Magdalene
- March 18** Peter
- March 25** Mary the mother of Jesus
- April 1** John



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



Louis Albright, Alice Bauer, Beau Bieber, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, June Brownlee, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Marie Dean, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Karen Diehl, Shannon Delp, Nancy Dietz, Brian, Dilcher, Lillian Dotter, Clinton Easton, Michael Ehst, Mary Bethy Fatzinger, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Ernesto Figueroa, Patrick Flower, Donald Fister, Kay Fronheiser, Jeff Gilbert, Barbara Greenzweis, Evelyn Groller, Edward Haberern, Phyllis Handwork, Ethel Harakal, Mae Hart, Richard Hartzell, Joseph Herman, Jo-Ellen Hoffman, Betty Hontz, Robin and Marie Hood, Ann Hricinak, Stephen Hunara, John Huyter, Dorothy Karpyn, Denise Keim, Kelly Koons, Janice Kosciolk, Marge Kunkle, Baby Lyncoln Kramer, Marilyn Kern, Gloria Krause, Carolyn Lato, Scott Lazarus, Bessie McGrath, Judy Makovsky, Erin Melissen, Ethel Mertz, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michner, Doris Miller, Linda Misonet, Christopher Moakley, Cathy Nelcoski, Gus Ortega, Gabrielle Ott, Millie Parker, LeRoy Rabenold, Doris and Mark Reitz, Dee Renner, Lucille Ring, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Carla Santee, Michael Saraceno, Donald Saylor, Fran Schimeneck, Cindy Schlegel, Eric Schock, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Marc Snyder, Joan Stark, Renee Strauss, Yolanda Sunderer, Dolores Sywensky, Ray Tremba, Mary Tucker, Edna Warmkesse, Ruth Weidner, Jennifer Wentling, The families of Gladys Reifinger, Jim Stepp, David Kuchinski, Dr. Edward Haberern, William Hoenscheid, Dolores Sywensky

**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 of worship services Sunday morning.” The person’s name will be kept in 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 8.**



**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 **March 29 and April 5** during Sunday School.

**First Communion will be celebrated on April 9th 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.*

A note of apology for spelling Jean Newhart’s name incorrectly in our last issue.





# 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

### November

Grace Smith  
Steven Hanson  
Kyleigh Greiss  
Ian Bordenick  
Megan Ferenchak  
Andrew Baer  
Robert Bordenick

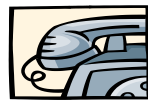


### December

Ian Bordenick  
Grace Smith  
Robert Bordenick  
Paige Tacker  
Megan Ferenchak

## 2020 Congregation Council

Joel Zimmerman., President  
Karen Haberern, Vice President  
Cheryl Reisinger, Secretary  
Colleen Ehst, Treasurer  
Todd Sassaman, Financial Secretary  
Scarlet Randolph, Witness  
Michael Saraceno, Support  
Randy Marushak, Service  
Drew Null, Youth  
Denise Smith, Worship  
Lisa Kroboth, Learning  
Aidan Ehst, 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, 2020)**

<b>Monthly Stewardship Income:</b> \$16,321	<b>YTD:</b> \$16,321
<b>Monthly Operating Expenses:</b> \$18,297	<b>YTD:</b> \$18,297
<b>Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:</b>	
<b>January \$ 384</b>	<b>YTD: \$ 384 (Budget for 2020—\$13,571)</b>
<b>January Electric \$963</b>	<b>YTD: \$ 963</b>
<b>December Snow Removal: \$1,070</b>	<b>YTD: \$1,070</b>

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:**

July 6-10, 6-8:30, Rocky Railway.  
Registration forms will be mailed after Easter and will be in the next newsletter .



**The March Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press** is donated in honor of Kylee Mann’s 3rd birthday. Love Poppy, Gigi & Titi.



The **April Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press** is Donated in loving memory of our family and friends by the Jay H. Gilbert family

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

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**



On January 26, the youth group led both services as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service.

The youth group went to Freefall Trampoline Park on February 9. Nine youth members jumped and flipped and had a great time!

**Nut rolls go on sale March 1.** The sale will run through March 15, with a delivery of March 29. Cost will be \$16 and the flavors are nut, poppy, lekvar, apricot, raspberry and coconut cream.

**We will have a Penny Party on April 26.** 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.

**Our car wash fundraiser runs through April.** Take your car to Egypt Shine Car Wash at 4755 Main St, Whitehall. Enter the code 43310, the \$12 ultimate wash will be automatically selected, pay with credit card or cash and within 5 minutes, you’ll be on your way!!

For those of you starting your spring cleaning, we have good news! **The youth group is having a clothing drive!** 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 and brought to the church **before May 2, 2021.** The bags will be stored in the Sunday School room next to the garage.

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.