

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† July/ August, 2020 †

Vol. 2020 Issue 4

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"It is good to be back in our beautiful Sanctuary to Worship God." I have heard this expression from quite a few people the last two Sundays. It is good to be back together as the family of God worshipping together in a different way. We have tried to make this as safe as possible for all in attendance. We are practicing social distancing as well as wearing masks to speak God's praise. We do not sing or kneel but we stand together as one in Christ to Worship our Lord and Savior. We also are celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a safe way and an individual way. The lay readers are keeping their masks on to prevent any spread of germs as well as keeping themselves safe. We are also sharing the service on Facebook each week for those not feeling comfortable in attending. The service is usually available on Facebook on a Sunday evening. It is good to be back in God's House and it is good to see so many coming together to Worship our Lord.

Because of the pandemic our annual park service and picnic in July has been cancelled. We will worship that Sunday in our Sanctuary. We look forward to having the park service and picnic in July 2021. The pandemic has also caused our Vacation Bible School for 2020 to be cancelled. We will have Vacation Bible School in July 2021. Our celebration of Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation was also cancelled because of the pandemic. Three young men will affirm their Baptismal vows and be Confirmed on Reformation Sunday – October 25th at the 10:15 service.

This has certainly been a time of change and a time to adjust to the situation we find ourselves living through. Please continue to pray for our Church and, when you feel comfortable, please come and Worship with us. May God bless you during this difficult time.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel
Pastor

Vacation Bible School Will not be held This year due to the Corona Virus

To our families, students and volunteers:

After much thought and prayer, we have decided that it is in the best interest of our students, teachers and congregation to cancel this summer's Vacation Bible School program.

Our initial response was to postpone the program until August. We felt that this year's program would have been very helpful for the children as their world has been turned upside down by the restrictions of the pandemic. While we hope that the state and more specifically the Lehigh Valley will be in a better place by August, we feel that we will be unable to successfully implement the proper precautions to keep our students and volunteers safe while maintaining the atmosphere of togetherness that is Vacation Bible School.

We will resume the program in July 2021. We hope that you will plan to join us again. We will truly miss each and every one of you. Please stay safe. And remember, 'Jesus' Power will Pull Us Through'.

Lisa Kroboth
VBS director

sothvacationbibleschool@gmail.com

*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 to the Glory of God
By Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor.*



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.



Things to give up if you want to be happy

1. Give up your need to always be right.
 2. Give up you need for control.
 3. Give up on blaming others.
 4. Give up your self-defeating self-talk.
 5. Give up your limiting beliefs.
 6. Give up complaining.
 7. Give up the luxury of criticism.
 8. Give up your need to impress others.
 9. Give up your resistance to change.
 10. Give up labels.
 11. Give up on your fears.
 12. Give up your excuses.
 13. Give up the past.
 14. Give up attachment.
- Give up living your life to other people's expectations

Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Louis Albright, Donald Baer, Paul Balascki, Colleen Bailey, William Beidleman, Shirley Bilheimer, Bonnie Brown, June Brownlee, Joan Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, John Clark, Gladys Cressman, Karen Culver, Marie Dean, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Austin Evans, Mary Beth Fatzinger, Meghan Ferenchak, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Glenna Fonzone, Kay Fronheiser, Jeff Gilbert, Barbara Greensweig, Evelyn Groller, Mike Haberern, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Mae Hart, Dot Hartman, Joseph Herman, Deanna Heydt, Ann Hricinak, John Huyter, Dorothy Karpyn, Audrey Keeney, Marjory Keeney, Dwayne Kern, Carol Kuhns, Marge Kunkle, Earl Kuhnsman, IV, Scott Lazarus, David Lewis, Pat Lussy, Leatrice Masonheimer, Ethel Mertz, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Lucy Miller, Rhyner Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Russell Myers, Cathy Nelcosky, Jason Plotsko, Leroy Rabenold, Jacob Ramos, Robin Reinisch, Dee Renner, Mark and Doris Reitz, Tom Ritter, Susan Robinson, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Michael Saraceno, Fran Schimenick, Pamela Schussler, Luther Schweitzer, Judy Schwentner, Helen Sefcik, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Alan Steckel, Bruce Steigerwalt, Robert Sterling, Gerald Stewart, Renee Strauss, Yolanda Sunderer, Ray Tremba, Lois Von Funk, Edna Warmkessel, Doris Weaver, Mary Weida, Ruth Weidner, Jennifer Wentling, John Woodling, *The families of* Louise Kellerher, Ronald Reimert, Barbara Lewis, Charlie Herman, John Zolomij and Donna Schneider.



Prayer

How to do nothing and still think you're helping

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

Our **car wash will take place at the church on August 15**, with a rain date of August 22. Cost will be \$5 for a car and \$10 for a larger vehicle. We will begin washing at 10 am and finish at 2 pm. There will be food to purchase for lunch!

While you are doing your spring cleaning, 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 May 2, 2021**. The bags and boxes will be stored in the Sunday School room next to the garage.

The youth group sold over 220 hoagies and sandwiches in February and made a profit of \$482. Thank you to everyone who purchased a hoagie.

On March 7, nine youth members went to **Parkland Cares Food Pantry**. After a brief presentation about the food pantry and a quick tour, they spent time stocking shelves, filling specialized bags with items such as detergents, diapers and feminine products and building snack packs. The food pantry was very grateful for your donations and we look forward to going back to help them again in the fall. The youth group sold over 130 nut rolls and made a profit of \$538. Thank you to everyone who bought a nut roll!

We were supposed to visit the **Salvation Army** on March 29 to serve lunch, but no one was allowed in the building because of COVID-19. Instead, 5 adults made 80 bagged lunches that were handed out to the people in need.

Our fundraiser at the Egypt Shine Car Wash ended in May. We had 60 washes and made a profit of \$120. Considering we had stay at home orders for 2 and a half months, we are very happy with that outcome. Thank you to everyone who got their car washed.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Conscience is e-mail your head gets from God."
from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD WITH US

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

On Monday, September 9th at 9:30 AM
On Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 AM

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



Congratulations and best wishes

On June 20, 2020

*LeRoy John Smith and Emily Elizabeth Marley
Were united together as one. May God be with
you LeRoy and Emily as you begin your life
together as husband wife.*



Daily Reflection

Each day - Monday through Saturday there is a Daily Reflection on Shepherd of the Hills Facebook page as well as our website. Each day at 7 PM there is a presentation of God's Word as well as a reflection on the Scriptural passage and end in prayer. Join us each day.



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 |
| First and Second | Bonnie Fogle |
| Third, Fourth and Fifth | Fran Worman |
| 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
and Sherry Smith |

- From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for our donation to ELCA Hunger in the amount of \$2,957.
- From the Whitehall Food Pantry for supporting the food bank.
- From the Chemo Bag for our donation of \$184.00.
- To Donald and Maxine Gantz, Robert G. Klock and Diane Masonheimer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in May; Barbara R. Scheirer in June.
- To all the members of the reopening committee. Thank you for your time and aiding in reopening on June 14: Karen Haberern, Randy Marushak, Marjory Nelcoski, Eric Minford, Todd Sassaman, Denise Smith, Frances Worman.



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.

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 memory of our grandson Christopher. With love, Pop and Grandma.
- **The August Times News Advertising** is sponsored in loving memory of our family by J. H. Gilbert Family.

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

End of Prior Month (as of May 31, 2020)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$13,385	YTD: \$76,927
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$17,112	YTD: \$79,818
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
May \$ 345	YTD: \$ 864 (Budget for 2020—\$13,571)
April Electric \$518	YTD: \$ 4,079

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- President: Joel Zimmerman
- Vice President: Karen Haberern
- Secretary: Cheryl Reisinger
- Treasurer: Colleen Ehst
- Financial Secretary: Todd Sassaman
- Learning Deacon: Lisa Kroboth
- Service Deacon: Michael Saraceno
- Support Deacon: Randy Marushak
- Youth Deacon: Drew Null
- Worship Deacon: Denise Smith
- Witness Deacon: Scarlet Randolph
- Youth Representative: Aidan Ehst
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



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 are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups*, large containers of juice 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: Will begin again August 6 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.



- ◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Edward Haberern** from Doris Weaver,
- ◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Marilyn Kern** by Doris Weaver, Cheryl and Dennis Sommer, the Tacker Family, Vincent and Anita Lang, Theresa, Joe and Donna Sinkovits, Robert and Joan Kern, Cindy and Charlie Walsh, Fran Worman, Charles and Barbara Stepp, Greg and Dolores Reenock, Virginia Haldeman, Robert Tacker, Irene Scherr, Jean Laub, David and Denise Christman, William and Yvonne “Wagner, John Bahnick and Harriet Meckes, Mary Ann Liskanick, Mary– Beth and Jimmy Danko., Gilbert Funeral Home, Inc. (Jay Gilbert) donation given to Kitchen helpers—gave to church., Selena O’Neill, Mary Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hacker, Paul Yurasits and family, Julia Horn, and Dale and Judy Ott.
- ◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Lorene Lazarus** by Donna Strawbridge, Fellowship Community, Bob and Mary Hoppes, Jr. and Brian and Karen Selig and Family.

Marilyn E. (Weaver) Kern entered into eternal rest on February 20, 2020. We commend Marilyn into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

Lorene J. Lazarus entered into eternal rest on February 18, 2020. We commend Lorene into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

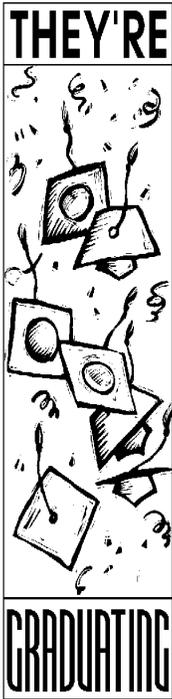
Ronald K. Reimert entered into eternal rest on June 1, 2020. We commend Ronald into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Donna M. Schneider entered into eternal rest on June 15, 2020. We commend Donna into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

High School--



Kayleigh Moyer--Whitehall High School--Going to University of Pittsburgh

James Reinhard--Whitehall High School--Going to LCCC

Jonathan Stroh--Northampton High School--Going to LCCC

College--

Troy Belzecky--Penn State University

Katie Haberern--York College

Taylor Hill--Doctorate in Audiology from University of Pittsburgh

Noah Ritter--Penn State Harrisburg

Nathan Myers--Graduated from Penn State University in December

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



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.

HOW DO I:



Volunteer to read?

Contact Karen Haberern at (610) 767-7657

Join the Choir?

Contact the choir director, Marjory Nelcoski

Donate Flowers?

Take the envelope located on the table in the Narthex designated for the week you want, fill in the information on the front of the envelope and fill in "in memory of", "in honor of" etc. on the card included in the envelope. Place your envelope and card in the offering plate.

(\$40.00 for 2 vases)

Donate Altar candles?

Take the envelope located on the table in the Nartex designated for the week you want, fill in the information on the front of the envelope and fill in "in memory of", "in honor of" etc. on the card included in the envelope. Place your envelope and card in the offering plate.

(\$8)

Donate the Newsletter?

Take the envelope located on the table in the Narthex designated for the month you want, fill in the information on the front of the envelope and fill in "in memory of", "in honor of" etc. on the card included in the envelope. Place your envelope and card in the offering plate.

(\$25)

Donate Bulletins?

Take the envelope located on the table in the Nathex designated for the week you want, fill in the information on the front of the envelope and fill in "in memory of", "in honor of" etc. on the card included in the envelope. Place your envelope and card in the offering plate.

(\$20)

Sponsor Advertising?

Take the envelope located on the table in the Narthex designated for the month you want, fill in the information on the front of the envelope and fill in "in memory of", "in honor of" etc. on the card included in the envelope. Place your envelope and card in the offering plate.

(\$25)



