

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† May/June, 2021 †

Vol. 2021 Issue 3

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you noticed? The earth is coming alive with the beauty of the trees budding, the flowers growing, and the grass coming alive. I have found myself spending quite a bit of time working outside of my home working on the lawn and all the work of Spring. It is a glorious time - the earth is alive!

Our church is also alive as we learn the Word of the Lord and celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead and He lives. We are alive as we reach out to those in need within our community through serving dinner at the Salvation Army, providing food for the Whitehall Food Bank, and giving to the Benevolence fund and World Hunger as we share the many blessings we have received.

Come and join us as we celebrate being alive as we worship and learn about our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. For truly He is risen - He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Schlegel

If you would like Pastor Schlegel to visit you, please contact the church office (610) 262-1600.

ATA GLANCE:

May 6 National Day of Prayer

Our church presently offers a special service each Thursday morning at **9:30 AM—Morning Prayer**. Come and join us as we worship God in the beauty and silence of His Sanctuary.

May 23 Pentecost (wear red) Confirmation at 10:15 AM

June 6 "Blessing of the Animals"

June 13 We will honor all the Sunday School teachers for the 2020-2021 Sunday School Year.

Thank You and May God Bless You for taking time to Serve Our Lord and our children.

June 13 we will also honor all of the graduates in our congregation. We will celebrate with them on their accomplishments.



This May Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given to the Glory of God by Paul and Carol Balascki.

The June Issue of the Rod and Staff is given to the Glory of God by Sharon Bodor and Joe Ebner.



We welcome Gerald M. Nero, Sr. to our family here at Shepherd of the Hills. We wish God's blessing on Gerald.

THE "M" WORD

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

**A Blessing of the Animals
June 6**

Realizing the important role pets play in the life of people, we will have a special service to bless these important animals. On **June 6 at 10:15 AM** we will worship in the front yard of the church as we celebrate these gifts. All animals are welcomed, provided they are under physical control (leash, harness, bridle, or crate) and are safe to be around others. If your animal is unable to be present, an article representing them (picture, collar, toy, halter, etc.) will be blessed on their behalf. Please bring a chair.



Attention Graduates

We would like to recognize *you* in our July/August Newsletter!

If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, nursing school, or any other school, please notify the church office (610-262-1600) to include *your name* in the next Newsletter.



**Jesus Christ—
He made each star and galaxy.
His life fulfilled each prophecy.
His power made the blind to see.
His sacrifice set people free.
His resurrection proved to be
The turning point of history.**



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

Louis Albright, Andrew Baer, Cathy Bachman, Alice Bauer, Phyllis Beitel, Pat Blum, Joan Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Adolfo and Julia Cepedo, Verna Chandick, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Lillian Dotter, Mary Beth Fatzinger, Brenda Fergusson, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Carl France, Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Jeff Gilbert, Glen and Elinor Gold, Evelyn Groller, Barbara Greenzweig, Suzanne Hanna, Dennis Harbovy, Mae Hart, Brandon Heichel, Harry Herman, Lamont and Betty Hontz, Keith Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Phil Hublitz, Quinn Hughes, Stephen Hunara, Lorraine Jurado, Alex Katana, Rita Keeler, Ann Kern, Marjory Klock, Brian Koller, Marge Kunkle, Allison Lahue, Scott Lazarus, Keith Leinbach, Michael Loeffelman, Wally Loewer, Ethel Mertz, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michener, Carole Mickley, Mark Miller, Sharon Minnich, Lana Mowry, Carla Myers, Russell Myers, Mary Neame and Baby Elizabeth, Joanne Pammer, Cathy Nelcoski, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Norma Ortega, Joanne Pammer, Gary and Jan Reinik, Doris Reitz, Mark Reitz, Dee Renner, Ronald Reynard, Steve Roman, Mary Royer, Suzanne Sadiusky, Ben Santaliz, Michael Saraceno, Brad Scheirer, Paul Schmidt, Luther Schweitzer, Mike Schwentner, June Sell, Sylvia Seregelyes, William Sell, Wayne Serfass, Joan Shook, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, Tim Sorady, Diane Spangler, Joan Stark, Donna Strawbridge, John Strawbridge, Carla Stroh, Eagle and Messina Victoria, Fred and Pat Walschberger, Jennifer Wentling, Daniel Yakubecek, *the family of Lorraine Jurado, Dorothy Fischl, Mae Hart, Michael Hettler, Bruce Steigerwalt*





- ◆ ... to Donald and Maxine Gantz, Allen and Phyllis Handwerk, Tammy Hill, Lisa Kroboth, Michelle and Jason Lesinski and Diane and Jan Masonheimer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in March.
- ◆ ... Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Ray Tremba** by Gerald T. Gillespie
- ◆ ... Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Marilyn Kern** by her son Kyle Kern.
- ◆ ... **Thank you notes:**
I wish to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the person who knitted me this beautiful, large, warm shawl. It's just the right size and can also be used as a cozy lap blanket reaching from my feet to my shoulders. I was so touched by the gift and the card that it brought tears to my eyes.

Lovingly appreciated,
Joan Brownell

From the Northeastern PA Synod

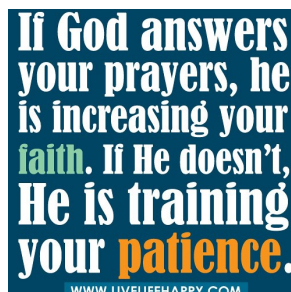
Thank you! Your generosity makes a difference. A little over half of your mission support funds ministries in our synod territory. Some of it comes back to congregations or groups of congregations in the form of grants! The rest is sent to the ELCA church-wide organization to support ministries done in our name across the country and around the world.

Jesus calls his church to look outward to bring his good news to the world. Your faithfulness throughout the year in mission support sharing is one way your congregation answers that call. Thank you!

From the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

Sincere thank you for the generous donation to the Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative Food Pantry. The guests who receive the food at the monthly distributions are most appreciative. 100% of your donation will be utilized to purchase food. In addition to food, everyone involved with the Pantry treats the guests with kindness and understanding. Many of our guests are having major life challenges. Thank you for sharing the light of Christ. God Bless!

Patricia Kair, Secretary,
Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative



COMMITTEE Update

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 daily devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address.

You can find Pastor Schlegel’s **Daily Reflections** on our web page as well as on Facebook.

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 *Early Reminder . . .* Our church picnic will be July 25. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the “Cake Walk.”

The Times News Advertising for May is sponsored in honor of my grandson, Ben’s, birthday by Rozelle Higgins. The Times News Advertising for June is sponsored in loving memory of my brother Dennis Weaver by Denise.

2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

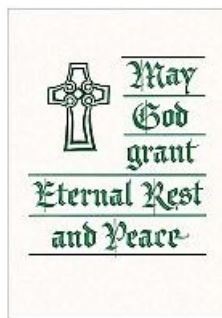
- Keith Moyer, President
- Tracy Tacker, Vice President
- Cheryl Reisinger, Secretary
- Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
- Todd Sassaman, Financial Secretary
- Scarlet Randolph, Witness
- Randy Marushak, Support
- Karen Habernern, Service
- Drew Null, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Aidan Tacker, 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 March 31, 2021)

| | | | |
|--|----------|------|------------------------------------|
| Monthly Stewardship Income: | \$22,300 | YTD: | \$ 54,994 |
| Monthly Operating Expenses: | \$18,285 | YTD: | \$ 52,655 |
| Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes: | | | |
| March | \$ 411 | YTD: | \$ 1060 (Budget for 2021—\$14,232) |
| February Electric | \$1,106 | YTD: | \$2,498 |
| Snow Removal | \$1,285 | | |



William Barkley, Jr. entered into eternal rest on April 2, 2021. We commend William into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.



Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who

conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration. The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances.

On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence.

**We will be planting geraniums on
Monday, May 24, 2021
At 6:00 pm.**

Volunteers will be needed.
Bring your **shovels, trowels
and watering cans.**

**RAIN DATE: The next sunny day at
6:00 pm!**

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 6, 2021

Our church presently offers a special service each Thursday morning at **9:30 AM—Morning Prayer**. Come and join us as we worship God in the beauty and silence of His Sanctuary.



June 20, 2021

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." *Billy Graham*



The youth group sold over 180 nut rolls and made a profit of \$734. Thank you to everyone who bought a nut roll!

On March 21, 9 youth members went to Urban Air in Trexlertown. They had a great time climbing, bouncing and especially racing in the go-karts!

The youth group will be hosting a Penny Party on May 16, beginning at 12:30. We will be selling tickets, beginning on Sunday, April 25, to help us better prepare because of all the covid precautions we need to put in place. Tickets will cost \$1 and will be redeemed for 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 continue to raise money for 2022 Youth Gathering and to share some time of friendship and fun.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!



Geraniums
For
Pentecost Sunday
May 23, 2021

Please check the category below and fill in the necessary information. Please use a separate form for each plant ordered. No orders will be taken without payment. Return the form along with \$10.00 for each plant in the offering plate or give to the Church Office.

Deadline for orders is May 1, 2021

All geraniums will be planted around the outside of the church as living memorials.

___ In Memory of Loved Ones

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Honor of _____

Plant given by _____

Envelope # _____



SEND YOUR KIDS ON A MOUNTAIN-TOP ADVENTURE!

At **ROCKY RAILWAY VBS**, kids discover Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs.

ROCKY RAILWAY 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**.

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called **Operation Kid-to-Kid**, that will provide alpacas to families in need in Ecuador, South America!

ROCKY RAILWAY VBS is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6th grade (entering 7th in the fall).

Mark these dates on your calendar: **July 12-16, 2021**

The fun starts at **6:00** and ends at **8:30**.

We are planning to have an in-person program and will follow CDC guidelines. Please register your student(s) on time. If we need to make any changes, you will be contacted using the information you have given us on the registration form.

To register, go to [https:// vbspro.events/p/soth](https://vbspro.events/p/soth) and register your child today **OR** fill out a registration form and drop it off in the church office **OR** mail it to the church at 4331 Main St, Whitehall, Pa 18052 by June 6.



REGISTRATION FORM
One per Child

REGISTER BY JUNE 6

Child's name: _____

Gender: M / F

Parent's name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Last Grade of School Completed: _____

Would your child like a **ROCKY RAILWAY** T-Shirt: Y / N?

Choose size: XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), Adult S (34-36),
 Adult M (38-40), Adult L (42-44)

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Additional comments: _____

*Note: Anyone signing up after the deadline of June 6 will NOT be guaranteed a shirt.

Please return to church office. Address is 4331 Main St, Whitehall, 18052