

# † 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

## P ASTOR'S CORNER

### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is upon us and we can see God's wonderful creation and blessings around us each day. We have been richly blessed. Our Church has been richly blessed. We began Worshipping in person in June of 2020. We have faithfully followed guidelines and have come together in Christ's name. We began singing again in June of 2021, and you are now invited to Worship without a mask if you have received the vaccine. We are trying to be careful and safe. Our plans are to continue to come back to our normal Wrship experiences, which occurred before the pandemic.

Come and join us. Our last Sunday service on Facebook will be on June 27th. Come, Worship our Lord, and celebrate in His Presence. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel  
Pastor



Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation from August 18 through August 31. If you need pastoral assistance during this time, please call the church office.



Send your kids on a mountaintop 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! Scieny-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 6<sup>th</sup> grade (entering 7<sup>th</sup> 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> 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.

Any questions, please email [sothvacationbileschool@gmail.com](mailto:sothvacationbileschool@gmail.com).

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Grandson Benjamin's birthday by Rozelle Higgins.*

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our children and grandchildren by Pastor Schlegel and Cindy.*





The Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative will be offering a Children's Summer Feeding Program for the students of the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There are 2,459 students in the district. 55.6% receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch. During the 10 weeks of summer vacation these children are not a high risk for food insecurity. Volunteers are needed to make this program a success. If you have an interest in helping, please reach out to Karen Haberern (610-730-314) or Judy Ott (610-428-1684) for more information. Some volunteer clearances will be required.

### The Devil's Beatitudes

*If the devil were to write beatitudes, they would probably go something like this:*

**Blessed** are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians—they are my best workers.

**Blessed** are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked—I can use them.

**Blessed** are the touchy who stop going to church—they are my missionaries.

**Blessed** are the trouble makers—they shall be called my children.

**Blessed** are the complainers—I'm all ears to them.

**Blessed** are those who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes—for they get nothing out of his sermons.

**Blessed** is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church—for he is part of the problem instead of the solution.

**Blessed** are those who gossip—for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.

**Blessed** are those who do not give their offering to carry on God's work—for they are my helpers.

**Blessed** is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister—for he shall be with me forever.

**Blessed** are you, who, when you read this, think it is about other people and not yourself—I've got you!

### Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Louis Albright, Cathy Bachman, Colleen Baily, Cheryl and James Balla, Alice Bauer, Stefany Bauer, Brandon Beichel, Kim Beidleman, William Beidleman, Phyllis Beitler, Shirley Bilheimer, Bonnie Brown, Joan Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Adolfo and Julia Cepedo, Verna Chandick, John Clark, John Coppola, Karen Culver, Shannon Delp, Jeffrey Deutsch, Sylvia Diaz, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Lillian Dotter, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Joe and Gloia Fischl, Donald Fister, Bonnie Folk, William Fonzone, Sr., Carl France, Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Barbara Gaylord, Jeff Gilbert, Glen and Elinor Gold, Barbara Greenzweig, Evelyn Groller, April Gross, Ronald Hacker, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Raymond Harrigle, Archie Hartzell, Brandon Heichel, Mary Helfrich, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Keith Hontz, Ann Hricinak, John Huyter, Alex Katana, Rita Keeler, Ann Kern, Doris Koenig, Marge Kunkle, Jackie Laabs, Emma Laigate, Scott Lazarus, Marykay Lewis, Randall Lewis, Wally Loewer, Ethel Mertz, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michner, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Feryl Miller, Nichole Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Lana Mowry, Keith Moyer, Chris Murray, Carla Myers, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Norma Ortega, Joanne Pammer, Vinnie and Jeanette Pondal, Gary and Jan Reinik, Doris and Mark, Reitz, Dee Renner, Ron Reynard, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Susan Saliva, Ben Santaliz, Suzanne Sadusky, Michael Saraceno, Paul Schmidt, Luther Schweitzer, Wayne Serfass, June Sell, Joan Shook, Sean Skelonis, Thomas Smicker, Sherry Smith, Tim Sorady, Joan Shook, Joan Stark, Carla Stroh, Donna Strawbridge, John Strawbridge, Charles Volkert, Fred and Pat Walschberger, Jennifer Wentling, Carol Wessner, Ruth Weidner, Daniel Yakubecek, *The family of Rev. George Speaker, Keith Hontz, Rev. Andrew Stauffer, Harry Herman, Gerald Nero, Carol Wessner, Robert Desch, Jr., Florence Schappell, James and Cheryl Balla, James McFetridge, Eagle Victoria, Clifford Roth, William Sill, Yolanda Mikovitz,*



### Prayer

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

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS:**

Our fundraiser at the **Egypt Shine Car Wash** ended in April. We had 97 washes and made a profit of \$194. Thank you to everyone who got their car washed!

We went to the **Salvation Army** on April 25 to serve lunch. Because of the pandemic, we were not allowed to make and serve a hot meal to those in need. Instead, we made 80 bagged lunches that we handed out to those that showed up. While we made far more bags than there were people in attendance, we were told that the leftover food would be handed out during the week.

On May 8, three youth members went to **Parkland Cares Food Pantry** to help with their monthly distribution. We helped set up, packed bags of canned goods and other foods, unloaded cars filled with bags of food and frozen turkeys and spent some time with the Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs. Thank you to everyone who donated peanut butter and jelly! The Food Pantry was very grateful for the large donation we gave them.

On May 16, we were finally able to have our **Penny Party**. We had almost 60 people in attendance and made a profit of \$1,930! Thank you to everyone who donated food, money or items for the game. And a special thank you to those who came to play! We hope you had a great time!

We are resuming the **youth group's 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 or boxed and brought to the church. Please put any shoes in separate bags! The bags and boxes will be stored in the Sunday School room next to the garage.

**SAVE THE DATE!!** We will be having a Designer Purse Bingo and Basket Auction on October 17, 2021. Tickets will go on sale at the end of September. More information will be in the next newsletter.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Barry Sottolano** on May 13, 2021

**Paul and Annie Frack** on May 16, 2021

**Richard Skulteti** on May 16, 2021.

**EXPLORE GOD'S WORD WITH US**

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

**On Monday, September 20th at 10 AM**  
**On Wednesday, September 8th at 10 AM**

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



Congratulations and best wishes

On June 23, 2021

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 ends in prayer. Join us each day. Daily Devotions are available as an email. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this mailing.



**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 TO:**

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Superintendent:                 | Lisa Kroboth                  |
| Pre-School                      | Brianna Baer                  |
| First and Second                | Bonnie Fogle                  |
| Third, Fourth and Fifth         | Fran Worman                   |
| 1st Year Confirmation           | Tracy Tacker                  |
| 2nd and Third Year Confirmation | Pastor James Schlegel         |
| Substitute:                     | Lisa Kroboth and Sherry Smith |



From the Lehigh Conference of Churches for \$150 contribution. It will be used to continue their work with more than 14,000 individuals and families living in poverty.

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

Thank you to Shepherd of the Hills Angels” for all the cards and prayers and sunshine sent to Joanne Pammer.

We received a thank you card for the prayer shawls given to Verna Chandick and Carole Mickley.

Art and Peggy Frye sent their thanks for the prayer shawl. They said it assures them of God’s care and comfort.

**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 honor of my granddaughter, Abigail’s birthday by Rozelle Higgins.

**The August Times News Advertising** is sponsored in honor of our 30th Wedding Anniversary by Mike and Joy Schwentner.

**The August Times News Advertising** is in honor of Doris Weaver’s birthday. Love ya, Mom!

**September 11** We will have a **Fall Cleanup day** to take of windows, and various other areas that need attention. Come and join us. More details will follow.

**September 19** We will celebrate **Harvest Home** and thank God for all His many blessings.

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**

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

**End of Prior Month (as of May 31, 2021)**

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$16,514	YTD: \$ 87,885
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$17,161	YTD: \$ 91,494
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
May \$ 627	YTD: \$2,213 (Budget for 2021—\$14,232)
April Electric \$ 563	YTD: \$4,368

**2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

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



On May 23, 2021 we joined in celebration with the following young people who affirmed their baptism:



**Robert Joseph Bordenick,  
Alivia Paige Deemer,  
Evan Dean Easton,  
Megan Elizabeth Ferenchak,  
Jackson Walter Lesinski,  
Paige Mackenzie Tacker**



We wish God’s blessing on each of these young people.



# 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.

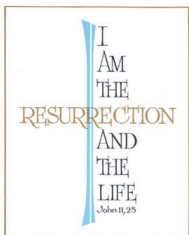
**Reach out to those in need**—We are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups*, large containers of juice and *small* boxes of cereal for the Whitehall Food Bank. *The pantry is having trouble packing large boxes of cereal. They would appreciate the small boxes.* We are also collecting soap and shampoo for the ministries of Pathways and Day-break. 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](mailto: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: Every Thursday 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 Keith Hontz** from Aunt Jane Harvey



**Gerald M. Nero, Sr.** entered into eternal rest on May 3, 2021. We commend Gerald into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family..

**Carol A. Wessner** entered into eternal rest on May 6, 2021. We commend Carol into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**Florence A. Schappell** entered into eternal rest on May 13, 2021. We commend Florence into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**Clifford B. Roth** entered into eternal rest on May 24, 2021. We commend Clifford into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Our church picnic will be held at Egypt Community Park on July 25th. Due to Covid, we ask that you **NOT BRING** casseroles or covered dish items. The church will provide hot dogs and chips. You may bring whatever you like for your family as well as desserts. Don’t forget your chairs. Our service will begin at 10:15 AM (only one service that day). The picnic will begin at noon. Games will be played after the picnic. A sign up sheets is outside the Church office.



For the 2021-2022 school year. No experience necessary, just a willingness to share God’s Word with the children of our church. Lesson plans and supplies will be provided. For more Information, please speak with Pastor Schlegel or Lisa Kroboth.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
2021  
GRADUATES**

**High School**

**Brianna Baer**, Parkland High School  
going to West Chester

**Aidan Ehst**, Whitehall High School;  
enlisted in the Marines

**Ryan Ferenchak**, Northampton High  
School

**Meghan Hutter**, Whitehall High School

**Tim Ritter**, Whitehall High School  
going to West Chester

**Jennifer Ritter**, Whitehall High School  
going to St. Josephs

**Brianna Uhnax**, Whitehall High School

**Hunter Rose Weis**, Parkland High  
School, heading to Moravian College for  
pre-vet

**College**

**Jessica Deemer**, Muhlenberg College

**Josh Hill**, University of Pittsburgh,  
Johnstown, with a Degree in Marketing

**Karli Hutter**, Temple University

**Kelly Kiefer**, Cedar Crest College

**Nicole Lewis**, Marywood University with a Master's  
Degree in Social Work

**Savannah Weiss**, Bloomsburg University with a  
Master's Degree in Special Education

*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. 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 Keith Moyer, 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)



