



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
**LEARN THE WORD OF THE LORD**

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

**Monday, September 21 at 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, September 9 at 10:00 AM**

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

**Several Ways to God's Word**

We are offering several ways to God's Word. Each day at 7 PM there is a Daily Reflection on the Church's Facebook page which includes God's Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer. We also have a Daily devotion via email, which is sent out almost every day. If you would like to receive the email, please contact the church office.

# † The Rod and the Staff †

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

† September/October, 2021 †

Vol. 2020, Issue 5

**P**

## **PASTOR'S CORNER** **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

September is a month where we begin again some of the learning opportunities at Shepherd of the Hills. The Sunday School year for 2021–2022 will begin on September 8th, we will also begin our Confirmation classes and begin a brand new year of Bible Study sessions. The Word of our Lord is alive and available for all at Shepherd of the Hills. We also have other opportunities to experience the Word of our Lord—each week there is a daily devotion distributed to many members by e-mail and Daily Reflections on God's Word can be found everyday at 7PM on Facebook and on our website. The Bible or the Word of our Lord is important to each one of us as children of God.

Shepherd of the Hills provides many opportunities to experience the Word of the Lord. Come and Hear His Word on a Sunday morning, and on Thursday morning at our Morning Prayer Service, come and read and discuss His Word in Sunday School and Bible Study. May the Word, the Bible be your favorite book in your life.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation October 8-15. Please call the church office if you need Pastoral Care.*

## **Sunday School** **resumes on Sunday** **September 12th 8:50 am!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

All individuals are invited to come and learn of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have Sunday School classes for all individuals from 3 years old through adults.

Our theme this year will be to "Dig In" and learn all about the Life of Jesus.

Please come and join us as we learn together.

## **YOUTH MONTH**

We are celebrating Youth Month in the month of September. We are rejoicing in our Lord for all the many young people who are a part of our family at Shepherd of the Hills. During the month of September there will be envelopes on the table in the Narthex for our Youth Memorial Fund. This fund sponsors our youth to the National Youth Assembly. Please support our youth at Shepherd of the Hills.



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is sponsored in honor of our Fourth Anniversary of by Charles Church and Norma Hrozencik.*



*This issue of the Rod and The Staff is sponsored by Carol and Paul Balascki to the Glory of God.*



**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

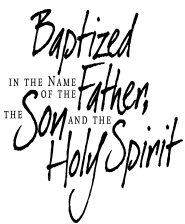
**Mark T. Reitz** entered into eternal rest on June 26, 2021, We commend Mark into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

**Marion V. Kidd** entered into eternal rest on June 22, 2021, We commend Marion into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Mark Reitz** from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fischl, Robert Tacker, Kyle Kern, Doris Weaver and Glenn and Beverly Hacker.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Keith Hontz** by Doris Weaver.



On July 11, **Dylan Jade Labbs** the daughter of Damon and Jacqueline was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome Dylan. We wish you, your parents and your sponsors Jeffrey and Catherine Laabs God's Blessing.

On August 1, **Jameson John McDonald** the son of Jason and Morgan McDonald was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome Jameson. We wish you, your parents and your sponsors Nicollette Fragnito, Gabrielle Fragnito and Joshua Presgraves God's Blessing.

**Thank you to our sponsors of the Times News SOTHLC ad**

September— In honor of my parents Stanley and Nellie Ruch by Carolyn Ruch.

October— In honor of Norma Hrozencik on her birthday by Charles Church.

**HAVE YOU NOTICED THE ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX FOR SPONSORING:**

- ◆ ALTAR FLOWERS, COMMUNION WINE, BULLETINS
- ◆ TIMES NEWS SPONSORSHIP and NEWSLETTER
- ◆ MEMORIAL DONATIONS?

The envelopes help to provide the church office with the information necessary to properly credit your giving statement We hope having them available will be a convenience for you as well.

Please be aware that when you sponsor altar flowers you should arrange to pick them up after the 10:15 service. They will be distributed to the sick or shut-ins if left until Monday at noon.

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

Bill Ackerman, Louis Albright, Colleen Baily, Stefany Bauer, Carol Baus, Kim Beidleman, Phyllis Beitler, Shirley Bilheimer, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, Joan Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Vera Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Karen Culver, Shannon Delp, Donna Delucia, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Kathleen Dougherty, Earl Dreas, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Gloria Fischl, Joe Fischl, Donald Fister, Bonnie Folk, William Fonzone, Sr., Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Barbara Gaylord, Nancy Geiger, Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Jim Greenzweig, Evelyn Groller, April Gross, Ronald Hacker, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Raymond Harrigle, Archie Hartzell, Brandon Heischl, Mary Helfrich, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Nancy Horning, Ann Hricinak, John Huyter, Alex Katana, Rita Keeler, Megan Kefauver, Danyelle Klinger and Baby Klinger, Barbara Kuhns, Marge Kunkle, Grant Lazarus, Scott Lazarus, Marykay Lewis, Randall Lewis, Madeline Leibenguth, Elena McCaskill, Agnes Marsh, Ethel Mertz, Hilda Mertz, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michener, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Matthew Miller, Nichole Miller, Sharon Minnick, Christopher Moakley, Lana Mowry, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Megan Ott, Joanne Pammer, Mildred Parker, Vinnie and Jeanette Pondal, Gary and Jan Reinik, Doris Reitz, Dee Renner, Ron Reynard, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Barbara Schneck, Paul Schmidt, Luther Schweitzer, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Irene Shoemaker, William Sibley III, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Joan Stark, Dale Steventon, Donna Strawbridge, Timothy Tacker, Charles Volkert, Ellen Watson, Ruth Weidner, Jennifer Wentling, Daniel Yakubeczek, *The Families of Marian Scheirer, Marian Kidd, Mark Reitz, Sylvia Diaz, Glenn Gold, Alice Bauer, Peter Xavious, Walter Lesinski, and Jack Fels*





### Youth Group News

**Hoagies will go on sale** on September 12. Cost is \$5 for a hoagie and \$3.50 for a sandwich. Delivery will be October 3 after each service.

There will be a **youth group meeting** on September 12 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Any youth in their second year of confirmation or older should attend. Parents should plan to attend for the first hour. Lunch will be served.

We will be having a **Designer Purse Bingo and Basket Auction** on October 17, 2021. Tickets will go on sale September 26. Tickets will cost \$20 if purchased prior to the bingo and \$25 at the door. If you would like to support the youth group, we will be looking for purse sponsors, basket and gift card donations for the auction and food donations.

**Our gift card sale** will begin October 3. Order forms will be available on the table by the stairs. They should be filled out and turned in with a check by November 28. Or you may go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), log in and use the code **L9A248FA33862** to order online. All orders must be received by November 28 and they will be ready for pickup by Dec 5.

**Nut rolls will go on sale** October 17 with a delivery date of November 14. Cost is \$16/roll. Flavors are nut, poppy seed, lekvar, apricot, seedless raspberry, pumpkin and apple!

We are in need of empty shoeboxes. If you have any, please bring them in by October 31 and put them downstairs in the first room on the right.

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, and stuffed animals. 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.

To order hoagies, nut rolls, and/or tickets for the Designer Purse Bingo or to have a gift card order form mailed to you, call Lisa at 610-262-4053.

### Please help the Youth Group help others!

**Parkland Cares Food Pantry** has asked the youth group and the congregation to donate food by November 7 for their special holiday food bags that will be distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Items needed are:

Boxed Stuffing	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Cranberries	Turkey Gravy
Canned Green Beans	Canned Corn
Corn Bread Mix	Boxed Mac and Cheese
Vanilla or Chocolate Boxed Cake Mix	



Every year, the youth group fills shoeboxes to send to **Operation Christmas Child**. All donations should be dropped off by November 1. Items needed are:

**Personal care** items such as toothbrushes, bar soap and children's bandages, flashlights and batteries,

**School supplies** such as pens, markers, crayons, notebooks, tape, erasers and glue sticks,

**Craft supplies** such as coloring books, make it yourself crafts, playdough, puzzles, chalk, and stickers,

**Clothing and accessories** such as socks, flip flops, hats and gloves, and hair accessories, child underwear,

**Small toys** such as stuffed animals, small balls, toy cars, plastic dinosaurs, frisbees, and yo-yos.

NO liquids, war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures or breakable items.

*Please make sure everything is new or like new and will fit in a shoebox.*

Check out <https://www.samaritanspur.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/> for more ideas.



**Harvest Home  
September 19th**



We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, September 19th. Again this year you are asked to bring an offering of non-perishable food stuffs and canned goods. *Fresh produce* can be dropped off on September 16 from 6-8 p.m. or September 18 at 9 a.m. Take a look at the kiosk for suggested items. Your gifts will be forwarded to the Whitehall Food Pantry located at

**St. Stephens Episcopal Church  
Mechanicsville Road.**

It is a day to celebrate God's gifts, share from our bounty, and learn from our tradition.



♦ . . . to everyone who helped keep the church grounds, flower beds, walkways and perimeters free from weeds this summer. We so appreciate your efforts. The grounds have looked beautiful.

**We received notes . . .**

I would like to thank you for the beautiful Blue and white Prayer Shawl you gave me. I will use it often and think of you and God.

It's so nice to have wonderful and caring people around.  
Sandy Phillips

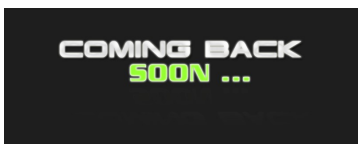
To the ladies who made the afghan for me, Thank you.  
John Clark

From Nanci and Dawson Genovese  
We just wanted you to know we appreciate all of the prayers and the afghan (prayer shawl) and gift cards as Dawson continues his road to recovery. We are grateful to all who are following his journey and we know that prayers are still needed. Thank you so very much!

We received a thank you and monetary gift from Steve Roman. "There are people in our lives who are so genuinely kindhearted . . . Appreciating them just comes naturally. Thank you.

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**  
*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*  
**End of Prior Month (as of July 31, 2021)**

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$13,226	YTD: \$114,184
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,477	YTD: \$124,214
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
July \$ 379	YTD: \$3,044 (Budget for 2021—\$14,232)
June Electric \$ 378	YTD: \$5,183



They're coming back! Harold and Sue will be joining us again in the near future. Can't wait to see them!



Download from Dreamstime.com

**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
September 12 at both the 8 am and 10:15 service.

**Prayer for Autumn Months**

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- Author Unknown





# COMMITTEE PAGE

## THE SERVICE TEAM

**Reach out to those in need . . .** We are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups. We are also collecting pancake mix and pasta—no spaghetti* and cereal for the Whitehall Food Bank as well as large bottles of juice. *The Food Pantry is having difficulty packing large boxes of cereal. They would appreciate smaller boxes.* 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 Take A Look At Our Revamped Web Page.

We have our own web page. You can find out information about our church at [www.sothlc-egypt.org](http://www.sothlc-egypt.org).

We also have e-mail. Our address is [pastor@sothlc-egypt.org](mailto:pastor@sothlc-egypt.org). We still have daily devotions which are sent out by e-mail. If you would like to receive the devotions, please e-mail us and we will add you to the list. Also each day at 7 PM you will find a Daily Reflection on the church’s Facebook page. It includes God’s Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer.

## THE FINANCE COMMITTEE **Assistance Fund**

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. There are envelopes in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family. As we end the Summer and begin the Fall and Winter, the need is more prevalent. Please give so those in need in our Church Family may not go hungry or cold.

## 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.

### THRIVENT GRANTS

Each month Shepherd of the Hills receives a deposit into its Operating Account on behalf of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Thrivent Choice program. By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.

# 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 Haberern, Service
- Drew Null, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Aidan Tacker, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor

### Many thanks to all the volunteers we had for VBS.

- Director:** Lisa Kroboth
- Counters:** Deneen Kiefer  
Denise Smith  
Sherry Smith
- Teachers:** Norma Hrozencik  
Sara Kroboth  
Justin Lineman  
Carla Myers  
Drew Null  
Donna Strawbridge  
Tracy Tacker  
Pastor Schlegel

- Youth Helpers:**  
Brianna Baer-Preschool  
Aidan Ehst-crew leader, helper, actor  
Aiden Tacker-actor, helper  
Olivia Lesinski-crew leader, actor  
Steven Hanson-preschool  
Paige Tacker-preschool, crew leader  
Hunter Weiss-crew leader

**Photographer:** Jessica Kroboth

# THANK YOU

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



**"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."**

*from The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Christian CAMP PRO

**Who was the  
smartest man in  
the Bible?**

**ABRAHAM,  
HE KNEW A LOT.**

[www.ChristianCampPro.com](http://www.ChristianCampPro.com)

