

† The Rod and the Staff †

A monthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† November/December, 2021 †

Vol. 2020, Issue 6

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a year this has been! We conclude an interesting two years. It has certainly been a time of anxiety and dismay. It has been a time of isolation and social distancing. But through it all, God has been with us. Even at those moments of doubt, we know as a Child of God that God guides the way. Sometimes the way appears unclear but God is present with us each step of the way.

We will give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Eve at 7 PM. We will come together to Worship Him and give thanks to His Holy Name for all our many blessings.

Our Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM. The 4 PM and 7 PM services will be held in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of the Baby in the manger. The 10 PM service will be available on Facebook as well as our website. The 10 PM service will be a video of our 4 PM service.

What a year this has been! We will continue to Worship each Sunday at 8 AM and 10:15 AM. Sunday school is held at 8:50 AM. Monday morning and Wednesday morning Bible Studies are still meeting each week at 10 AM. We also have Morning Prayer each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM. Our Ministries continue on Facebook and our website with a Daily Reflection each day (Monday through Saturday) at 7 PM and the Worship service once a month. Our Ministries are going strong as we continue to share God's Word.

What a year this has been! May God be with you as we begin a New Year.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel
Pastor

November 7, 2021



Thanksgiving



WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 24, 7:00 PM



DECEMBER 12th

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 13 after the 10:15 service. Come and join us as we prepare for the Savior's Birth.

DECEMBER 19th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following the 10:15 service for the election of council members and adoption of a budget. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

DECEMBER 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

We will celebrate in the Sanctuary.

10:00 P.M.

Our service will be on Facebook as well as our website. This will be a video of our 4 PM service.

Whichever service you and your family choose to attend, come, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ the child was born for you!



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given to the Glory of God
By Carol and Paul Balascki*

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our children
and grandchildren, Kayl, Isaac and Milo By Gary and Judy Lentz.*



ALTAR FLOWER POLICY

Each Sunday after the service the Altar flowers will be placed in the back porch or foyer. If you sponsor the flowers, you should pick them up by noon on Monday. Any flowers that remain after noon on Monday will be taken to a sick or shut-in member.

**PRICE FOR 2022 1 Vase - \$20.00
2 Vases - \$40.00**

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

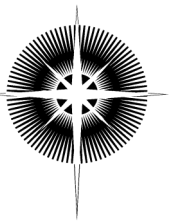


Walter J. "Sonny" Lesinski entered into eternal rest on July 17, 2021, We commend Walter into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Michael F. Cataldi entered into eternal rest on September 1, 2021, We commend Michael into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Joan M. Brownell entered into eternal rest on October 10, 2021, We commend Joan into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family

Doris J. Reitz entered into eternal rest on October 121, 2021, We commend Michael into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family



The church office will be closed during the Christmas Holiday from December 24th through January 1st.

Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is Given with thankfulness for all of God's Blessings by Carol and Paul Balascki.

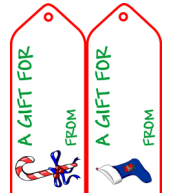
Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is given in honor of our 55th Wedding Anniversary by Beverly and Glenn Hacker.

The *Times News* December advertising is given in loving remembrance of our son, Brian by Gary and Judy Lentz.



**Ingathering
2021**

Due to the Delta variant of Covid-19, participating churches have decided to collect for only one organization. Shepherd of the Hills will once again collect for the Ripple Community in Allentown. This is the organization that serves homelessness, those with mental illness or significant trauma. Below is a list of items to bring by Sunday, November 21.



- Small packages of cookies, pretzels, chips, crackers, applesauce, fruit cups
- Ramen noodle cups, Mac N Cheese, juice boxes,
- Coffee, tea, creamer, sugar, hot chocolate packets
- Small/travel size toiletries: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash and Shaving Cream, razors, deodorant, powder, small packs of tissues, chapstick
- New men and women's underwear (any size), hats, scarves, gloves, heavy long socks, rain ponchos
- Batteries—AA, AAA, D
- Blankets
- Tarps
- Hot hand warmers for hands, feet and body
- Flashlights
- Candles
- Tampons/pads, Depends
- Bottled water
- \$5 Gift cards for Wawa, Dunkin Do0nuts, McDonald's, Weis, Giant, Target or Walmart Gift Cards any amount.

November 7th

We will celebrate All Saints' Sunday and we will remember all who were members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and entered into eternal rest this past year:

- Nellie R. Ruch
- Kenneth James Cressman
- Gladys Elaine Cressman
- Ray Emil Tremba
- Pamela S. Schussler
- Dorothy R. Karpyn
- Marie Dean
- Keith R. Hontz
- Gerald M. Nero
- Mark T. Reitz
- Joan Brownell
- Doris Reitz



Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Bill Ackerman, Louis Albright, Jim Anderson, Lars Matthew Bauer, Andrea Batz, Kim Beidleman, William Beidleman, Phyllis Beitler, Marianne Blocker, Bonnie Brown, Richard Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Elena McCaskill, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Donald Cordier, Karen Culver, Max Dabney, Donna Delucia, Jeffrey Deutsch, Nancy Dietz, Ed Didra, Brian Dilcher, Kathleen Dougherty, Jimmy Early, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Donald Fister, Richard Fletcher, Bonnie Folk, Joseph and Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Richard Fletcher, Ksy Fronheiser, Art Frye, Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Evelyn Groller, April Gross, Ronald Hacker, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Helen Harbovy, Raymond Harrige, Archie Hartzell, Bradon Heichel, Aiden Henry, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Nancy Horning, Ann Hricinak, Quinn Hughes, John Huyter, Alex Katana, Rita Keeler, Megan Kefauver, Robert Kincaid, Danyelle Klinger, Robert Klinger, and Baby, Roy Koehoer, Carolyn Kramer, Barbara Kuhns, Marge Kunkle, Grant Lazarus, Scott Lazarus, Lane Lazor, Madeline Leibenguth, Randall Lewis, Bill Marx, Kim Marx, Elena McCaskill, Agnes Marsh, Hilda Mentz, Ethel Mertz, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Matthew Miller, Sharon Minnich, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Christopher Moakley, Tara Henry Morrow, Lana Mowry, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Megan Ott, Mildred Parker, Gary and Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Marissa Reppert, Oliver Reppert, Spencer Reppert, Ron Reynard, Lorraine Ritter, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Anne Sassaman, Don Sassaman, Tom Sassaman, Barbara Schneck, Luther Schweitzer, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Irene Shoemaker, Sean Skelonis, Richard Skulteti, Deb Smith, Della Smith, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Timothy Tacker, Jaycion Tejada, Robert Tully III, Ellen Watson, Ruth Weidner, Jennifer Wentling, Robert Werley, Daniel Yakubecek, *The families of Ronald Golley, Waltger Lesinski, Jr., Michael Catald, Michael Cataldi, Gary and Judy Lentz, Richard Sassaman, Marianne Wellen, Joan Brownell, Doris Reitz, Nancy Edward Bear, Cynthia Smith, Andrea Batz*

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
2021 Christmas Tributes**

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is making available several options for members to either honor or memorialize a loved one at this time of year.

Please complete **ONE SHEET PER TRIBUTE.**

Additional forms are available on the table in the foyer. Return your completed form along with your check to the Church Office or place in the offering plate.

CHECK ONE:

- _____ Christmas Poinsettia - \$11.00 per plant
- _____ Hunger Fund Donation - \$_____
- _____ Memorial Fund - \$_____

IN HONOR OF:

_____ (living)

IN MEMORY OF:

_____ (deceased)

BY:

YOUR NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

ENVELOPE #

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - DECEMBER 5, 2021

The above tributes will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins.

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
End of Prior Month (as of September 30, 2021)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Monthly Stewardship Income: \$13,421 | YTD: \$142,673 |
| Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,625 | YTD: \$155,987 |

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:
September \$ 459 YTD: \$ 3,981 (Budget for 2020—\$13,571) Sent \$3,393
August Electric \$764 YTD: \$ 6,351

Youth Group News

The youth group is selling **gift cards**. The order forms are available for pick up on the table at the top of the stairs. Or go to www.shopwithscrip.com. Set up a user name, password and security questions. The enrollment code is **L9A248FA33862**. All checks and orders must be turned in by November 28. Delivery will be December 5.

The next **youth group activity** will be on November 7, 6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

On November 13, the youth group will volunteer at **Parkland Cares Food Pantry** where we will be packing bags of food for their Thanksgiving distributions.

Thank you for your donations in support of these two community service activities!

Join the youth group on **December 12** as we help to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

The youth group will be participating in **Wreaths Across America** on December 18.

Thank you to everyone who bought hoagies. We made a profit of \$532.

Thank you to everyone came to our bingo and basket raffle. We hope you enjoyed yourself. We made a profit of \$5,174!! Thank you to everyone who sponsored a purse, donated food, money or items for the basket raffle and to all the youth group members and families for their donations and help to make this day a success!!

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our youth!!

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas!! Happy New Year!!!

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Joseph and Gloria Fischl Phoebe Home 1925 W. Turner St. Allentown, PA 18104 | Ethel Harakal 4129 Scheidys Rd Whitehall, PA 18052 | Randall Lewis 1259 Pennsylvania Av. Emmaus, PA 18049 | Luther Schweitzer 205 Molly Dr Palmerton, PA |
| Jean Roth Fellowship Manor 3000 Fellowship Dr. Whitehall, PA 18052 | Alice Nero 5250 Second St. Whitehall, PA 18052 | Lamont and Betty Hontz 6043 Lower Macungie Rd. Apt. A103 Macungie, PA 18062 | Verna Chandick 2107 Dewey Northampton, PA 18067 |
| Ethel Mertz Whitehall Manor 1177 Sixth St. Whitehall, PA 18052 | Phyllis Handwerk Fellowship Manor 3000 Fellowship Dr Whitehall, PA 18052 | Evelyn Groller Bethlehem Manor 2 316 E. Market St. Bethlehem, PA 18018 | Ruth Weidner Fellowship Manor 3000 Fellowship Dr. Whitehall, PA 18052 |
| Ann Hricinak PO Box 76 Taneyville, MO 65759 | John Clark 918 Oak St. Coplay, PA 18037 | Irene Scherr 800 Hausman Rd. Apt. 379 Allentown PA 18104 | |

DON'T FORGET OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS. SEND A CHRISTMASGREETING.





COMMITTEE PAGE

The Worship Committee: **MORNING PRAYER:** Each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM we are meeting in our church sanctuary to pray to the Lord. Come and join us as we gather together in the House of our Lord.

The Service Committee: We are presently collecting cereal, coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups* for the Whitehall Food Bank as well as pasta (no spaghetti). 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.*

The Witness Committee: We have an e-mail address? Our address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org. We still have weekly 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.

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
FACEBOOK: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church-Egypt
CALL THE CHURCH
610-262-1600



Attention Deacons

Your Report will be needed in the church office by the end of 2021. The office will be mailing out copies of last year's reports to chairs and deacons (check your bins in the office). Please help us by completing your report ASAP.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

received by the church **on Sunday, December 26, 2021 will be posted in the year 2021.** Offering Statements for 2020 will be available in January 2022. If you would like to receive your offering statement, please contact the Church office.

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



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Keith Hontz** by Sharon and Blair Stuart.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Gerald Nero** by Jacob Molchany.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Mark Reitz** by Doris Reitz.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Mark Reitz** by Richard and Joan Brownell.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Doris Reitz** by Greg and Ruth Scheirer, David and Denise Christman, Barbara Scheirer, Irene Scherr, Paul and Monica Heffner, Frank and Reyanne Nickles, Robert Tacker and Kyle Kern.



On **Wednesday mornings** at **10:00 AM** we will continue to study the Gospel of John.

Do you ever wonder what the Scripture meant on a Sunday morning and the Pastor didn't explain it? This Bible Study is for YOU! We will continue a Bible Study on **Monday mornings** at **10:00AM**. We will discuss the Scripture lessons from the previous day.

Come and share the Word of our Lord.



On September 19, 2021, CJ Murray and Taylor Hill were united together as one. May God be with you, CJ and Taylor, as you begin your life together as husband and wife.

Cookie Ministry - seeking new participants

An important part of our efforts as a Congregation is the work of reaching out to visitors and others interested in possibly joining the family of Shepherd of the Hills. Part of this effort is the activity of the **Cookie Ministry**. Each Sunday, a member of the **Cookie Ministry** collects the pages from the Friendship Registers in each pew and checks them for visitors or individuals expressing an interest in joining our Congregation. For those who express an interest in joining, the **Cookie Ministry** member collects a packet of information on the church, purchases a small pack of cookies, and delivers the cookies and information to the home of the interested individual while expressing a welcome, answering any questions which they might have, and telling them that the Pastor will be getting in touch with them. If you think you might be interested in joining the **Cookie Ministry** for 2020, contact Toni Minford at 610-262-1419 or contact the Church Office at 610-262-1600.

THANK YOU

- **From** the Coplay Food Pantry for the “generous gifts of food” that SOTHLC donated.
- **To** Norma Hrozencik for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in August.
- **To** Wayne Fogle and Barbara Scheirer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in September.
- **From** Tom Ritter for his prayer shawl. He loves the colors (Eagle Colors) and uses it everyday.
- Many thanks to all our Yard Care Volunteers: Melissa Sassaman, Sharon Bodor, LeRoy and Sherry Smith, Judy Lentz, Linda Forand, Karen Haberer, Colleen Ehst, and Annie Ritter.
- Helene Sterner sent a note of thanks for the beautiful prayer shawl.
- A donation was received from Dennis Harbovy for all the prayers said for Helen.
- Janis Beidleman sent a thank you for the “beautiful shawl.” She said her arms are always cold so this will help keep them warm when she is watching TV at night.



Do you have empty pill bottles at home that you would like to donate? A new Ministry at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is to reach out to those in need through the “Matthew 25: Ministries”. The work of Matthew 25: Ministries helps the poorest of the poor and disaster victims throughout the United States and around the world. Please bring the following to aid in this wonderful Ministry.
Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles

- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)
Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.

The mission of Matthew 25: Ministries is to fulfill Matthew 25:34-40 of the New Testament by providing nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill, and humanitarian supplies to those in need. Additionally, Matthew 25: Ministries is committed to fulfilling Matthew 25:40 by educating the public on the conditions and needs of the “least of these” and by providing resources for action.

Matthew 25: Ministries is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping the poorest of the poor and disaster victims locally, regionally, nationally and internationally regardless of race, creed or political persuasion. By rescuing and reusing products from major corporations and manufacturers, Matthew 25: Ministries provides basic necessities, nutritional supplements, educational materials, micro-enterprise supplies and disaster relief across the US and worldwide. The people we help are not receiving a handout, but a helping hand. It is only when a person’s most basic needs are met that one can become self-reliant. Because of this belief, Matthew 25: Ministries has always placed an emphasis on education, job creation and providing aid to children. Matthew 25: Ministries is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

A Christmas blessing

May you have the Spirit of Christmas,
 which is Peace,
The Gladness of Christmas,
 which is Hope,
The Heart of Christmas,
 which is Love,
The Gift of Christmas,
 which is Christ.