

† The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† January, February 2022 †

Vol. 2022, Issue 1

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you ever sat in the dark either by choice or maybe the electricity went off. What was your first reaction? We live in a world that is filled with light. From the fluorescent lights that light up rooms to the small flashlights we can use when we walk in the dark. We even have night lights to shine in the darkness so we can find our way. We need light!

Why do we need light? Psychologists say that we are affected by the early darkness and the dreary days during this time of the year. We become more depressed and we become more anxious as the darkness of the day lingers on.

As children of God, though, we can find peace even in the midst of the darkness. The True Light, Jesus Christ, brought light into a dark world when he was born as a baby in the manger. He brings peace and tranquility in a world that is often chaotic and troublesome. Even when we sit alone in the darkness of this world, we know that Jesus Christ shines for each one of us who calls Him our own personal Lord and Savior. We start now a new year—a year of uncertainties. We know there will be times of joy as well as sorrow during 2022. We know there will be moments of gloom as well as contentment. There will be moments of darkness as well as light. Throughout the whole year we need to remember that the Light of the World is with us each step of the way. May we all have a blessed and Light filled New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation from January 9—January 22.
If you need Pastoral Care, please contact the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 pm - Holy Communion
7:00 pm Holy Communion
10:00 pm The 4 pm Service will
be streamed on
Facebook

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

At 9:00 - ONLY ONE SERVICE
Service of Holy Communion

EPIPHANY SERVICES

January 6, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

Come and celebrate the day the Magi
visited Baby Jesus, the Light that entered
the world.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

will be held on **Sunday, January 23, 2022**
immediately following the second
service. All members are invited and
encouraged to attend.

YOUTH SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

Our youth will lead our 8 and 10:15 a.m.
service. Come and support our young
people.

On **February 13** we will be
collecting for those less
fortunate than ourselves so
they will have food to eat.
Please give to this great
cause. The proceeds will be sent to the
local food bank.



Ash ✝
Wednesday

March 2, services at noon and 7 pm.



This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored in appreciation of all God's Blessings by Carol and Paul Balascki.

This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored in honor of our children and grandchildren by Pastor and Cindy Schlegel.



On **January 30th**, at both services, the Youth will lead us in worship.

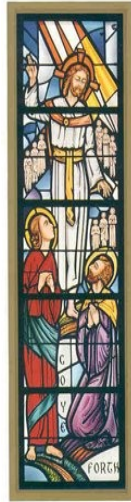
**WINTER WEATHER
CANCELLATION POLICY**

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 and also RadioWAEB 790 AM. The Resolution is on display on the bulletin board.

**ANNUAL
REPORTS**



Deacons please submit your reports to the office by January 9, 2022.



*In
Loving
Memory*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations 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 Roxanne Nickles, Robert Tacker, Kyle Kern, Beverly and Glenn Hacker, Barbara Silfies, Roger Cressman, Dennis and Ellen Knauss, Corrine Durdock, Marilyn E. Soiuden. Marcia and Glen Smicker, Linda Schock, Frances Worman, Judy and Dale Ott, Gary and Lynn Handwerk, Patricia Gregory Lawrence, Jean G. Weida, Sonia and David Derkits, H. Scott and Wendy Everett, Patricia Stasak,*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Joan Brownell** by Joseph and Elizabeth Bechtel. Richard Brownell, Richard and Shannon Delp, Ben and Tonya Delp, Johanna, Jeff, Ava, and Harry Balfour,*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Nellie Ruch** by Carolyn Ruch (from her family),*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Ray Tremba** by Lucy Messinger,*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Joseph Fischl** by Mary J. Snyder. Fran Worman, Paul and Carol Balascki, Beverly and Glenn Hacker, Michael and Karen Haberern, Gloria Fischl, Daughter Susan. Son-in-law Brad, Grandchildren Bethany Boehning, Josh Gaspar and their families, Judith Evans, Lucy Messinger, Gary and Judy,*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Robert Tully, Sr.** by Anonymous, Fran Worman, Jo Ann Koeher, Paul and Carol Balascki, Michelle Pelizoto (Mickey), Dana Rivas, Leonard and Judy Makovsky, Steven and Patricia Faustner, Melissa Anne Meltsch, Robert H. Fehnel, Paul and Barbara Rapchak, Richard and Barbara Christman, Karen and Scott Heckman, Donald and Maxine Gantz*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Robert Skulteti.** by Betty Sylva. Chip and Lorie Schwarzbach and family, Kenneth and Kathleen Remaly, Ronald and Rosemary Leposa, Frank Podleiszek,*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Pamela Schussler.** by Barbara Schussler.*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Marie Dean** by Ted and Linda Dean.*

*Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Luther Schweitzer** by Rozelle Higgins..*

✝ **Donald Sassaman** entered into eternal rest on October 28, 2021. We commend Donald into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

✝ **Carissa M. Balthaser** entered into eternal rest on November 4, 2021. We commend Carissa into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

✝ **Richard Skulteti** entered into eternal rest on November 14, 2021. We commend Richard into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

✝ **Robert Tully, Sr.** entered into eternal rest on November 21, 2021 We commend Robert into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

✝ **Joseph C. Fischl** entered into eternal rest on November 25, 2021. We commend Joseph into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

✝ **Luther Schweitzer** entered into eternal rest on December 2, 2021. We commend Luther into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Youth Group News

We sold 233 nut rolls and made a profit of \$966. **Thank you** to everyone who purchased from us!!

On November 7, the youth group filled **60 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child**. The boxes were filled with items that were donated by the congregation. The boxes were sent to Honduras to children who would not have received a gift for Christmas. **Thank you** so much for your generosity!

On November 13, 4 youth members went to **Parkland CARES Food Pantry**. We helped unload cars and trucks of food donations, helped set up the tables for the drive thru distribution, and filled bags of food to be handed out. While the threat of rain kept us from doing some of the things we had hoped, it was an amazing experience and we were so glad to be able to help. **Thank you** for all of the food donations!

Our gift card program was a huge success. We made a profit of \$1,611.82. **Thank you** to everyone who ordered gift cards from us!! Come and join us on **January 30 as the youth group leads both services for Youth Sunday**.

The youth group will be having a **car wash fundraiser at Egypt Shine Car Wash, beginning on January 1**. Take your car to Egypt Shine Car Wash at 4755 Main St, Whitehall. Enter the code 43310, the \$12 ultimate wash will be automatically selected, pay with credit card or cash and within 5 minutes, you'll have a clean car!!

Our hoagie sale begins on January 23 and delivery will be on February 13, which is Super Bowl Sunday. Call the church office at 610-262-1600 or Lisa at 610-262-4053 to place an order.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!!




Please accept our apology. Luther Schweitzer and Joseph Fischl as listed on the cover, of our special friends, have both entered into eternal rest. The address for Mary Zader is incorrect. It should be: Mary Zader

*c/o Donna Leach
6376 Timberlakes Way
Delray Beach, FL 33484*

A winning pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all.”



Holy Baptism


On November 12, 2021 **Battle Moto Klinger** was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Welcome Battle. We wish you, your sponsors and your parents God's Blessings.

On December 26, 2021 **Sophie Gabrielle Lahue** will be baptized.


We will welcome Sophie into the Family of God and wish her parents and sponsors all of God's Blessings.

...On This Day



...Two Become One

November 12, 2021
Anthony Minotti and Katherine Habern were united together as one. May God be with you, Anthony and Katherine, as you begin your life together as husband and wife.



November 27, 2021 Michael Kenneth Thomas and Stephanie Lauren Jandris were united together as one. May God be with you Michael and Stephanie as you begin your life together as husband wife.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Come and join us for weekly Bible Study.

- ◆ Mondays at 10:00 am as we discuss the scripture lessons from the previous day.
- ◆ Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We will continue to discuss the book of John.



Please put the dates in your calendar and come and join us.

Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers:



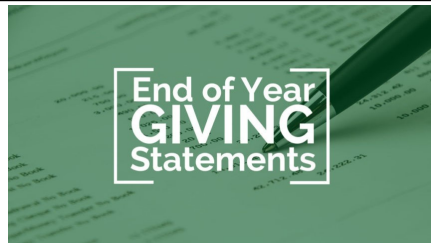
Louis Albright, Jim Anderson, Lars Matthew Bauer, Kim Beidleman, Bonnie Brown, Richard Brownell, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, John Clark, Karen Culver, Donna DeLucia, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Gloria Diehl, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Austin Evans, Kelly Evans, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Margaret Fenstermaker, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Connell Gallagher, Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Matthew Grim, Evelyn Groller, Katie Habernern-Minotti, Ronald Hacker, Pat Hall, Helen Harbovy, Ronald Hacker, Pat Hall, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, George Harakal, Helen Harbowy, Archie Hartzell, Brandon Heichel, Aidan Henry, Lowetta "Sue" Herring, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Nancy Horning, Ann Hricinak, Quinn Hughes, Alex Katana, Ken Kemmerer, Bill Kiefer, Ed Deily, Deneen Kiefer, Rasy Koehoer, Carolyn Kramer, Scott Lazarus, Madeline Leibenguth, Greg Lewis, Randall Lewis, Bill Marx, Kim Marx, Ethel Mertz, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michener, Carole Mickley, Doris Miller, Christopher Moakley, Tara Henry Morrow, Ron Mowry, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Sergio Ramos, Gary and Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Ron Reynard, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Tom Sassaman, Barbara Schneck, Luther Schweitzer, Joe Scott, Noah Scott, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Jim Shoemaker, Sean Skelonis, Richard Skulteti, Deb Smith, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, John Strawbridge, Aiden Tacker, Timothy Tacker, Jaycion Tejada, Robert Tully III, Doris Weaver, Jennifer Wentling, Robert Werley, Ruth Weidner, Daniel Yakubecek, Mary Zader, *Family of Don Sassaman, Richard Skulteti, Carissa Balthaser, Robert Tully, Sr., Marge Kunkle, Dennis Knopf, Joseph Fischl, Luther Schweitzer, John Huyter*

ALTAR FLOWER POLICY



The Altar flowers each Sunday will be placed in the back porch. 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. This was approved by the church council.

If you need a copy of your Annual Statement of giving, for 2021, please call the office and one will be mailed to you.



The Mutual Ministry Committee: If you have any concerns regarding the Church Staff, you may speak to any member of the Mutual Ministry Committee about praise or concerns you are feeling. This committee meets on a regular basis with Pastor Schlegel.

Members are: **Keith Moyer, Jan Masonheimer, Linda Schock, Joe Kroboth and Karen Zimmerman.**

Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. During the months of January and February envelopes will be available in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family.





COMMITTEE NEWS

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: Reach out to those in need! 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.*

You can find Pastor Schlegel's **Daily Reflection** on God's Word everyday at 7 PM on our Facebook page and on our website. If you would like Daily Devotions emailed to you, please contact the church office.



The Church Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 except in July and August when it holds a single, summer meeting. Special meetings are held on rare occasions when it is determined that an issue requires immediate consideration.

All meetings are open to members of the congregation. Much of the council's agenda is generated from the six ministry teams which administer most of our congregational programs.

If you have an item to be considered by our Congregation Council, contact President Keith Moyer at least ten days in advance of the meeting so that your concern can be placed on the Council agenda (some concerns will be referred to a ministry team for study and a recommendation before they are considered by the full Council).

The 2022 Congregation Council

President:	Keith Moyer
Vice President:	Tracy Tacker
Secretary:	Shelley Hanson
Treasurer:	Colleen Ehst
Financial Secretary:	Carl France
Learning Team Deacon:	Michelle Ferenchak
Witness Team Deacon:	Scarlet Randolph
Worship Team Deacon:	Denise Smith
Service Team Deacon:	Karen Haberern
Support Team Deacon:	Gary Easton
Youth Deacon:	Drew Null
Youth Representative:	Steven Hanson
Pastor:	The Rev. James W. Schlegel



Thank you to Cheryl Reisinger, Todd Sassaman, Randy Marushak, and Aiden Tacker for serving on Church Council. Thank you to Drew Null for agreeing to serve his coming second term.

THANK YOU

- ... **Pastor and Cindy Schlegel** would like to THANK everyone for the gifts, cards, and well wishes during this joyous season.
- ... **To all the people who decked the halls.** What a wonderful response and time. Thank you to the 12 strong men who put up the tree.
- ... **To** those who served on Church Council. Thank you for serving our church and our Lord.
- ... **To the five families** who provided food for Thanksgiving and gifts and food for Christmas to people who are in need in our congregation. Thank you for sharing Christ's love.
- ... **To everyone** who helps with the Newsletter.
- ... **To Norma A. Hrozenick** for her Thrivent Choice Dollars contribution to Shepherd of the Hills church in November.
- ... **To James C. Shope** for his Thrivent Choice Dollars contribution to 'Shepherd of the Hills church in December

INGATHERING SUCCESS

Our ingathering contributions over several weeks of giving to support the Ripple Community Center in the Lehigh Valley has been an outstanding accomplishment. Your generosity and compassion will be welcomed by those who need our help. Boxes upon boxes of food, coffee, hot chocolate, bottled water, toiletries, warm clothing, blankets, tarps, rain ponchos, flashlights and other necessities will be given to the homeless and those folks struggling with mental health conditions.



We also received eleven gift cards to McDonald's, Wawa and Dunkin which will be given to the Center to assist with their needs,

Proudly, our Sunday School students and staff donated 25 packs of washable markers, 15 boxes of crayons and 20 packs of colored pencils for children and youth at Kids Peace. These items along with decks of playing cards and M&M candy purchased with our "Joyful Noise" collections helped to fill 200 goodie bags for children at Kids Peace.

In addition, the committee purchased designated gifts for two young teenagers at Kids Peace and donated \$100 to help buy any additional gifts needed for children there.

Your acts of kindness and benevolence will be a blessing to many individuals and families during the Christmas season.

With peace and love,

The Ingathering Committee

THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY!

Shepherd of the Hills Church Family,

We just wanted to reach out and say thank you to everyone for the continued thoughts and prayers for our family during this time. Also, thank you all for the kind donations and cards as well as the food! We appreciate you all so much and are so grateful for all of you.

With Love,

The Tully Family (Robert Tully III and family)

Thank you for your prayers, they helped me through my most difficult days.



4:00 PM - Holy Communion

7:00 PM - Holy Communion

10:00 PM - This service will be live on Facebook.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at all Services

Sunday, December 26 —There will be one service—Service of Communion at 9:00 AM



Remember our special friends. Send them a Christmas greeting.

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

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

Tom Ritter
3315 E. Columbia St.
Whitehall, PA 18052

Mary Zader
c/o Donna Leech
6376 Timberlakes Way
6326 Delray Beach, FL
33484

Daniel Yakubeczek
Sterling Heights Gracious Retirement Living
3500 Fairview St
Bethlehem, PA 18017



Place your Christmas cards in a basket in a prominent place after the holidays and pick a card each Sunday and pray all week for the one(s) who sent it. Make it a family event at mealtime and perhaps you could send a short note at week's end letting them know you're praying for them. What a wonderful way to keep the love of Jesus burning in our hearts all year.