

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† March/April, 2022 †

Vol. 2022, Issue 2

P ASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On March 2, we will begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is a time to reflect upon how we live our lives. Lent is a time to turn away from our foolish ways and ask God for forgiveness. It is a time to look in the mirror and realize that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

During the season of Lent we have many Worship services to reestablish our relationship with our Loving and Forgiving Lord. We will have in person services each Sunday morning at 8 AM and 10:15 AM as well as each Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Come and join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this season of reflection and forgiveness.

In Christ's love,



**April
10**

Passion
SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 8:50 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, April 14
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 15
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

Prayer Vigil
8 PM Friday until 7 PM Saturday

Easter Sunday, April 17
Holy Communion
at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 9:00 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am

This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in appreciation of
The arrival of the Spring Season by the Deemer Family.

This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in memory of our parents
By Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor.



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



Randall Lewis entered into eternal rest on December 28, 2021. We commend Randall into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Joseph Fischl** from Bonnie Stubblefield, Eugene and Jeanne Stremmel, Debbie Paruel, Charlotte M. Broderick, Joe Zowada and family, Jay and Tammy Hill family,

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Randall Lewis** from Jean Reinert, Dennis and Judy Miller, Donald and Carolyn Heist,

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Robert Tully** from Thomas and Corinna Heckman,

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Luther Schweitzer** from Paul and Carol Balascki,

THANK YOU - - -

- ◆ . . . to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 30. What a wonderful job.
- ◆ . . . to Norma Hrozencik for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLIC in February.
- ◆ . . . From Community Services for Children for the 45 gift cards (\$945 value) and the 47 books (\$95 value) that we donated
- ◆ . . . From the Lehigh County Conference of Churches for our \$150 contribution. It will be used to help provide Housing, hope and healing to more than 14,000 individuals and families in the Lehigh Valley living in poverty.

We received thank you notes from:

Paul Balascki:

Pastor Schlegel and Prayer Shawl Committee, your thoughtfulness and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! God Bless All.

Cheryl Tully:

Thank you for all your expressions of sympathy at Bob’s passing. The thoughts, prayers and cards were greatly appreciated. There is comfort in knowing others care.

The Ingathering Committee: Please know that the Ingathering Committee recently sent \$100 to the Ripple Community in Allentown to help those in need of food and shelter during this frigid winter. Your support is a blessing to those in need of hope and compassion.

The Ripple Community: We would like to thank you for your support of Ripple Community, Inc. (RCI) as demonstrated by your donation of supplies from our website. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to further our mission to provide community for unhoused and socially isolated individuals. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Words to think about:

A few years ago Richard Cardinal Cushing wrote about the church's need for courage. He said: If all the sleeping folks will wake up, and all the lukewarm folks will fire up, and all the disgruntled folks will sweeten up, and all the discouraged folks will cheer up, and all the depressed folks will look up, and all the estranged folks will make up, and all the gossiping folks will shut up, and all the dry bones will shake up, and all the true soldiers will stand up, and all the church members will pray up, and if the Savior of all will be lifted up . . . then we can have the greatest renewal this world has ever known.

The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers to make prayer shawls. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact coordinators Joyce Steigerwalt at 484-350-1679 or Brenda Benner at 610-844-5859. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet to help with this ministry, we will teach you. Meetings will be the first and third Mondays each month beginning March 1 at 9:00 AM.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

REMEMBER— When giving a name for the

PRAYER CHAIN

please also give the address of the person. The church sends cards to inform people they were “remembered in our prayers during our worship services Sunday morning.” The person’s name will be kept on the Sunday prayer concerns for two weeks unless the person who submitted the name requests otherwise.

Call Scarlet Randolph at 610-262-7678 or the church office with any prayer concerns.



Remember Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13.



DIRTY CAR?

Take it to **Egypt Shine Car Wash** and support the youth group as you clean your car.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

BEFORE you choose your wash, enter the code:
43310

The \$12 Ultimate wash will be selected automatically.

Pay with credit card or cash.

It's that easy!!

In less than 5 minutes, you will have a clean car and will have donated to the youth group!

Code expires on April 30, 2022.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:

We will be celebrating God’s Greatness
July 11 through 15, 6-8:30 PM
Registration forms will be mailed after
Easter and will be in the next newsletter



Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:



Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask You to have compassion on those who are named below. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Isiah Azar, Louis Albright, Bonnie and Donald Batz, Kim Beidleman, Brianna Bordner, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Karen Culver, Donna Delucia, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Jeffrey Deutsch, Brenda Early, Kelly Earley, May-Beth Fatzinger, Frank Fenstermaker, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Bonnie Flores, Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Connell Gallagher, Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Barbara Greenzweig, Evelyn Groller, Diane Gross, Ronald Hacker, John Hadid, Pat Hall, Phyllis Handwerk, Helen Harbowy, Ethel Harakal, Bradon Heichel, Aiden Henry, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Harry Huber, Sr., Diane Jackson, Jane Jezick, Alex Katana, Ken Kemmerer, Sandra Kimmel, Carolyn Kramer, Grant Lazarus, Scott Lazarus, Greg Lewis, Cartol Makovsky, Judy Makovsky, Ethel Mertz, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Christopher Moakley, Tiffany Mosser, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Jan Reinik, Hank Reinisch, Ronald Reynard, Betty Remaley, Hank Reinisch, Dee Renner, Lorraine Ritter, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Todd Sassaman, Irene Scherr, Bill Sell, June Sell, Wayne Sefass, Jim Shoemaker, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Ron Spier, Donna Strawbridge, Timothy Tacker, Ruth Weidner, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Daniel Yakubecek, Kaytianne Yozam and Baby Philip, Mary Zader, Brad Zellner, *and the families of Rev. Roy Koehler, Edwin Deily, and Nancy Penney*

COMMITTEE PAGE

SERVICE TEAM Support the Food Pantry During Lent

We will be collecting canned goods for the local Food Bank during the Lenten season. 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 throughout the Lenten season.



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE Morning Prayer: Each Thursday morning at 9:30 A.M. 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.

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.



On January 23, Daniel Dieter was welcomed into our family at Shepherd of the Hills. Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.

2022 Congregation Council

- Keith Moyer, President
 - Tracy Tacker, Vice President
 - Shelley Hanson, Secretary
 - Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
 - Carl France, Financial Secretary
 - Scarlet Randolph, Witness
 - Gary Easton, Support
 - Karen Haberern, Service
 - Drew Null, Youth
 - Denise Smith, Worship
 - Lisa Kroboth, Learning
 - Steven Hanson, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor



Best wishes to LeRoy and Sherry Smith! They renewed their wedding vows on January 30th. May God continue to bless their marriage.



What is prayer?

If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
End of Prior Month (as of January 31, 2022)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$14,314

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$18,638

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

January \$ 489 (Budget for 2021—\$17,534)

December Electric \$1,104

**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, Radio WAEB 790 AM., also on SOTHLC's Facebook page and by calling the church.

CARE TABLE

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 March Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated in thanksgiving for all God's Blessings by Carol and Paul Balascki.

The April Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated to the Glory of God.

There are still some months available for sponsorship, August through November. Check the envelopes in the narthex to sign up. Sponsorship is \$25 per month.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On January 30, the youth group led both services as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service.

Thank you to everyone who ordered hoagies. We made a profit of \$411.75.

Nut rolls go on sale March 6. The sale will run through March 20, with a delivery of April 3. Cost will be \$17 and the flavors are nut, poppy, lekvar, apricot, raspberry, pumpkin, coconut and apple.



Our car wash fundraiser runs through April. 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 be on your way!!

We are planning to have a Roast Beef Lunch on May 1, 11:30-1. We will offer both in person sit down meals and to go meals, so you can enjoy this amazing lunch wherever you feel most comfortable. Tickets will go on sale in April. With beef costs so high right now, we are uncertain of our final price, but we plan to charge between \$10 and \$12.

Our clothing drive will continue through June 18. Please bring any bags of clothing and put them downstairs in the last Sunday School room on the right. Make sure that all shoes are bagged separately. We are collecting new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens, and stuffed animals. The clothing that is collected is distributed to local thrift shops and in areas in need of clothing. The clothing will NOT be shredded!!! All clean wearable clothing and shoes are reused by less fortunate people and families. The clothing does not end up in landfills which helps to keep America green and clean.

On February 1, the youth group learned that the ELCA Youth Gathering was cancelled. The youth group had been looking forward to going to Minneapolis for 4 years and they are deeply saddened. Please keep the Gathering planning team who had to make this very difficult decision in your prayers as well as all the youth that are affected by this cancellation.

Call the church office at 610-262-1600 or Lisa at 610-262-4053 to place a nut roll order or to order tickets for the Roast Beef Lunch.

Thank you for your support of the youth group. May God watch over you during this Lenten season and may you have a Happy and Joyous Easter.



Altar Flower Cost Increase

Effective April 24, the cost of the Altar Flowers will increase to \$25.00 for one vase and \$50.00 for two vases. Our Florist, Precious Petals, has made this increase.

New Position

Pastor Schlegel has been assigned as the Designated Pastor at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Kutztown by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. This will not interfere with his Ministry at Shepherd of the Hills.

The Worship Services on Easter will be at 8 AM and 10:15 AM. Come and celebrate with us as we rejoice that Jesus rose from the Dead. Because He lives, we shall live also.

Shepherds Club will begin again.

On April 22 at 9 AM, the Shepherds Club will begin again at Coplay Eatery. This is open to any youthful Seniors. Come and join us for breakfast and a great time being together.

THE CHOSEN

“See Jesus through the eyes of those that met Him.” The Chosen is a multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. Come and join us as we begin to watch the show and discuss it during the Sunday school hour. We will begin on March 13 and continue through Easter. Come and join us as we watch and discuss the life of Jesus in THE CHOSEN.

CHANGED LIVES

Come and join us each Wednesday night during Lent as we hear from five individuals whose lives were changed by the Cross of Jesus Christ. We will Worship at 7 PM in the Church Sanctuary as we reflect upon the Cross of Jesus and our own life. Come and hear the words of the following individuals:

- Simon of Cyrene
- Tamar of Jerusalem
- Zimri the Pharisee
- Thomas
- The Centurion

THE SYMBOLISM OF ASHES

On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes. God’s people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. **On Ash Wednesday, March 2,** Christians are pained because our sins—private and public—led to Jesus’ death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday. *Services are at noon and 7 PM.*