

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania  
† May/June, 2022 †

Vol. 2022 Issue 3

## **P**ASTOR'S CORNER

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

It happened so fast! On March 12 I was shoveling the snow on my neighbors driveway and next thing I knew I slid on the ice and broke my ankle. I spent 5 days in the hospital and came home hopping on my left foot and being told I cannot put any weight on my right foot. These orders are still true a month later.

I am slowly recuperating and am looking forward to coming back as your Pastor. The Daily Reflection on Facebook and the Daily Devotional will start again in the future. I need to thank everyone who has led the Worship services, preached the sermons, and filled in during my absence. I am praying that my ankle will heal and I'll be back real soon. Thank you to Keith Moyer, our Council President, and all the members of Council for their leadership, and the Church Staff.

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and the delicious goodie box I received from the Church Council. Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. Thank you to the Sunday School children and the beautiful get well cards they made. Thank you for all the love and support.

As we see the earth come back to life in the Spring and as we celebrate that Jesus lives and He is Risen from the dead, I wish you God's Peace and Blessings. He is Risen! Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

In the Name of the Risen Lord,

Rev. James Schlegel  
Pastor

## **ATA GLANCE:**

**May 5**

National Day of Prayer. Please join Christians throughout the world as they join together in prayer.

**June 5 Pentecost (wear red)**

**June 12 "Blessing of the Animals"**

We will honor all the Sunday School teachers for the 2021-2022 Sunday School Year.

*Thank You and May God Bless You for taking time to Serve Our Lord and our children.*

**June 19** we will honor all of the graduates in our congregation. We will celebrate with them on their accomplishments.



*This May Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Grandson Ben's birthday  
By Rozelle Higgins.*

*The June Issue of the Rod and Staff is given in honor of my Granddaughter Olivia Lesinski's  
High School Graduation by Don and Maxine Gantz.*

**THE "M" WORD**

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

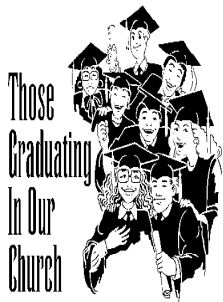
Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

**A Blessing of the Animals  
June 12**

Realizing the important role pets play in the life of people, we will have a special service to bless these important animals. On **June 12 at 10:15 AM** we will worship in the front yard of the church as we celebrate these gifts. All animals are welcomed, provided they are under physical control (leash, harness, bridle, or crate) and are safe to be around others. If your animal is unable to be present, an article representing them (picture, collar, toy, halter, etc.) will be blessed on their behalf. Please bring a chair.

**Attention Graduates**



We would like to recognize *you* in our July/August Newsletter!

If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, nursing school, or any other school, please notify the church office (610-262-1600) to include *your name* in the next Newsletter.



**Jesus Christ—  
He made each star and galaxy.  
His life fulfilled each prophecy.  
His power made the blind to see.  
His sacrifice set people free.  
His resurrection proved to be  
The turning point of history.**



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

Lou Albright, Isaiah Azar, Bonnie and Donald Batz, Russell Bennicoff, Marshall Bowman, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Lisa Butkus, James Caulder, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Karen Culver, Karen Davidson, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Linda Dietrich, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Rocky Dotter, Kelly Earley, Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, William Fonzone, Sr, Hilda Frish, Kay Fronheiser, Art Frye, Gene Fullmer, Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Glenn Hacker, Ronald Hacker, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Aiden Henry, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Norma Hrozencik, Henry Huber, Sr., Diane Jackson, Jane Jezick, Alex Katana, Ken Kemmerer, Sandra Kimmel, Nicole Koch, Carolyn Kramer, Grant Lazarus, Scott Lazarus, Carol Makovsky, Judy Makovsky, Agnes Marsh, Diane Masonheimer, Bette Meeker, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michener, Chrissy Shields Miller, Doris Miller, Lucas Miller, Richard Miller, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Jan Reinik, Betty Remaley, Hank Reinisch, Dee Renner, Lorraine Ritter, Tom Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruth Saadi, Pastor Schlegel, Stella Schlittler, Mike Saraceno, Todd Sassaman, Bill Sell, June Sell, Irene Scherr, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, Ron Spier, Donna Strawbridge, Timothy Tacker, Pat Walshberger, Bruce Weaver, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Ruth Weidner, Jennifer Wentling, Eva Wentz, Daniel Yakubecek, Katianne Yozamp and Baby Phillip, Mary Zader, Brad Zellner, *The families of Carlos Santos, Arlene Knerr, Nancy Horning, Arlene Knerr, Evelyn Groller, Ethel Mertz, Ron Reynard, Fred Walshberger, Donna DeLucia*





- ◆ ... to Jay and Tammy Hill, Robert G. Klock and Barbara Scheirer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in March and to Donald and Maxine Gantz, Diane and Jan Masonheimer and Michael Saraceno for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC during April.
- ◆ ... to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. May God Bless you. Judy Makovsky.
- ◆ ... To the congregation for all your prayers, cards and concern during my surgery and recovery. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry group for the beautiful prayer shawl. Glenn Hacker.
- ◆ ... **Thank you notes:**

**From Elsie and Harry Huber**

We thank you for your prayers and support for my husband's health issues and surgery. We are thankful that all has turned out well!

**From Ron and Ruth Reynard**

We would like to thank all the ladies who make those beautiful shawls. God bless all and again thanks. Ron is always cold!

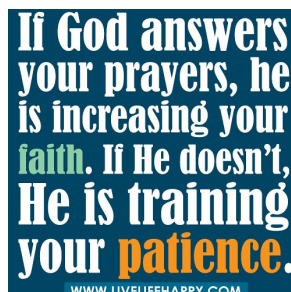
**From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Thank you for your gift of \$1,792 received by ELCA World Hunger. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing God's amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education and peace and justice. You are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed..

**From Lutheran Congregational Services**

Thank you for your gift of \$875.00. Your gift strengthens relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.



# COMMITTEE Update

**Reach out to those in need**—We will continue collecting canned goods for the local Food Bank. 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.

**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 daily devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address. Both the daily devotional and daily reflection will begin again in the near future.

You can find Pastor Schlegel’s **Daily Reflections** on our web page as well as on Facebook.

**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. Morning Prayer will begin again in June.

**THE REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE** *Early Reminder . . .* Our church picnic will be July 31. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the “Cake Walk.”

*The Times News Advertising for May is sponsored by the Deemer family in thanks for all of God’s blessings.*

*The Times News Advertising for June is sponsored*

## 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

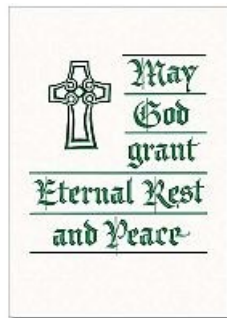
- Keith Moyer, President
- Tracy Tacker, Vice President
- Shelley Hanson, Secretary
- Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
- Carl France, Financial Secretary
- Scarlet Randolph, Witness
- Gary Easton, Support
- Karen Haberern, Service
- Drew Null, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Steven Hanson,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

### SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

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

**End of Prior Month (as of February 28, 2022)**

Monthly Stewardship Income:	\$18,926	YTD:	\$ 33,240
Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$16,393	YTD:	\$ 35,031
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:			
February	\$ 268	YTD:	\$ 1060 (Budget for 2022—\$17,534)
January Electric	\$ 1,521	YTD:	\$ 2,626
Snow Removal	\$ 870	YTD:	\$ 1,190



*Evelyn M. Groller. entered into eternal rest on March 2, 2022. We commend Evelyn into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.*

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given **in memory of Evelyn Groller** from Paul and Carol Balascki and Frances Worman.

*Ethel J. Mertz. entered into eternal rest on April 4, 2022. We commend Ethel into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.*



Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who

conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration. The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances.

On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence.

**We will be planting geraniums on Monday, June 6, 2022 At 6:00 pm.**  
Volunteers will be needed. Bring your **shovels, trowels and watering cans.**  
**RAIN DATE: The next sunny day at 6:00 pm!**



*June 19, 2022*

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." *Billy Graham*



The youth group sold over 150 nut rolls and made a profit of \$608. Thank you to everyone who bought a nut roll!

On February 20, all of the boys went to Dave and Busters. They had a great time eating lunch and playing video games!

It took us two weekends, but we repainted the youth room. We are very happy with the new blue color.

On April 2, 4 youth members went to Parkland CARES. We worked in the pantry, checked dates on products, made snack bags, helped to move bags from the pantry to the school and packed up a lot of frozen chicken! Thank you for the donations of syrup and jelly.

**We are having a Roast Beef Lunch on May 1, 11:30-1.** We will offer both in person and to go meals, so you can enjoy this amazing lunch wherever you feel most comfortable. Tickets will go on sale April 3. Cost will be \$12 and the lunch will include beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, roll, dessert and beverage.

Spring is here and with it comes spring cleaning. Don't forget **the 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.

We are excited to announce that we are taking a trip to St. Louis in July. This trip will replace our cancelled Gathering trip. We plan to see the sights in the city, do community service around the area and have Bible Studies every night.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!



**Geraniums**  
**For**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**June 5, 2022**

Please check the category below and fill in the necessary information. Please use a separate form for each plant ordered. No orders will be taken without payment. Return the form along with \$10.00 for each plant in the offering plate or give to the Church Office.

**Deadline for orders is May 22, 2022**

All geraniums will be planted around the outside of the church as living memorials.

\_\_\_ In Memory of Loved Ones

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Plant given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

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# Send your kids on a **DESERT** adventure!

**MONUMENTAL VBS**, kids discover God's greatness!

**MONUMENTAL VBS** is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even 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 school supplies for kids living on reservations.

**MONUMEMNTAL 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 11-15, 2022**. The fun starts at **6:00** and ends at **8:30**.

To register, go to <https://vbspro.events/p/sothlc> 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 by June 5.

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





**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**One per Child**

**REGISTER BY JUNE 6**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Parent's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Grade of School Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Would your child like a **MONUMENTAL** T-Shirt: Y / N?

Choose size: XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), Adult S (34-36),  
Adult M (38-40), Adult L (42-44)

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Anyone signing up after the deadline of June 6 will NOT be guaranteed a shirt.

\*Please return to church office. Address is 4331 Main St, Whitehall, 18052\*