

† The Rod and the Staff †

A monthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† July/ August, 2022 †

Vol. 2022 Issue 4

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is upon us and we can see God's wonderful creation and blessings around us each day. We have been richly blessed. Our Church has been richly blessed. We began Worshipping in person in June of 2020. We have faithfully followed guidelines and have come together in Christ's name. We began singing again in June of 2021, and you are now invited to Worship without a mask if you have received the vaccine. We are trying to be careful and safe. Our plans are to continue to come back to our normal Worship experiences, which occurred before the pandemic.

Come and join us. Come, Worship our Lord, and celebrate in His Presence. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel
Pastor



The Church Council has decided that for June, July, and August there will be one service each Sunday at 9 AM.



Send your kids on a DESERT adventure!

AT 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.

MONUMENTAL VBS is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6th grade (entering 7th 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.



This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Granddaughter Abby's birthday by Rozelle Higgins.

This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in memory of Loved Ones by Rozelle Higgins.





The Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative will be offering a Children’s Summer Feeding Program for the students of the Whitehall-Coplay School District. There are 2,459 students in the district. 55.6% receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch. During the 10 weeks of summer vacation these children are not a high risk for food insecurity. Volunteers are needed to make this program a success. If you have an interest in helping, please reach out to Karen Haberern (610-730-314) or Judy Ott (610-428-1684) for more information. Some volunteer clearances will be required.

Report of the 2022 NEPA Synod Assembly

This report will be used to highlight key items.

At the Synod Website www.godslove.org, under the tab *Assembly 2022*, there is a Bulletin of Reports showing the discussed topics and reports. There are also videos regarding specific reports as well as additional church wide information and involvement. Please be encouraged to watch some of the videos to see the greater church at work.

Bishop Christopher deForest (Bishop of the NEPA Synod) led the assembly, presented his report for the past year, and highlighted forward looking plans & ideas.

This year’s theme & focus was “Stronger Together”. This theme began by discussion of the gap between retiring clergy, deacons and other ministers and the low number of seminary students, available pastors and other people serving in ministry. One of the options for some churches it is having one pastor for two churches.

This theme also discusses options that are being focused on, where congregations pool their resources and partner to minister to a community. In these instances, there could be, for example, an Episcopal parish & a Lutheran congregation that worked together to satisfy the needs of the community. Other examples of “Stronger Together” included outreach beyond a physical structure, to spread the love and caring of our Lord with a variety of community members, whether directly connected to church or not.

The Synod offers training for congregations that wish to coordinate with other churches in their area.

Another focus was *Growing Young*, which is the efforts to retain our younger members. There are also several videos on the website above, highlighting some of the works in progress.

The normal business of Synod Assembly was conducted. Such as:

- Nominating Committee reports & nomination balloting
- Treasurers Report
- Acknowledgments: New to Roster, Retirements, Anniversaries
- Mission Interpreter Stories
- 2023 Compensation Guidelines

Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

A Louis Albright, **B** Kim Beidleman, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Lisa Butkus, **C** James Caulder, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Karen Culver, **D** Karen Davidson, Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Linda Dietrich, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, Rocky Dotter, **F** Mary-Beth Fatzinger, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Hilda Frish, William Fonzone, Kay Fronheiser, Sr, Art Frye, Gene Fulmer, **G** Dawson Genese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, **H** Glenn Hacker, Ronald Hacker, Phyliss Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Brad Heintzelman, Brandon Heichel, Anna Honka, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, **J** Leann Jones, **K** Alex Katana, Deborah Kern, Bill Kiefer, Ken Kemmerer, Sandra Kimmel, John Kotze, Carol Kuhns, Chuck Kurrasch, Carolyn Kramer, **L** Dylan Laabs, Scott Lazarus, Lorraine Lazarus, Martin Luckenbill, **M** Agnes Marsh, Diane Masonheimer, Robert McFetridge, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Krissy Miller, Richard Miller, Nancy Michner, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, **N** Mary Nehme and baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Danielle Newman and baby Steven, **R** Jan Reinek, Dee Renner, Lorraine Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, **S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Christine Scherr, Irene Scherr, Stella Schlitter, Pastor Schlegel, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Joan Shook, Grace Siegel, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, **T** Timothy Tacker, **W** Pat Walschburger, Doris Weaver, Ruth Weidner, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Barry Wexler, **Y** Daniel Yakubeczek, Kaytianne Yozamp and baby Philip, **Z** Mary Zader
The families of Mildred Parker, Gino Nolasco, Helen Harbowy, Lynn Lazarus, Eileen Wojcik, Tom Ritter, Ruth Ann Schwartz

Synod Report contd.

- Reports from the ELCA Council
- Report of Bear Creek Camp
- Report of United Lutheran Seminary

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Hrozencik (Delegate)
 Charles Church (Delegate)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

Our fundraiser at the **Egypt Shine Car Wash** ended in April. We had 69 washes and made a profit of \$138. Thank you to everyone who got their car washed!

On May 1, we had our **Roast Beef Lunch**. We served 110 people and made a profit of \$1,146. Thank you to everyone who either ate in Fellowship or took their meal home to share with family and friends. And a special thank you to Mike Haberern for cooking, the fantastic kitchen crew, the wonderful bakers and all the youth group parents! We couldn't have had such a successful event without you!!!

We had a meeting with Pastor the end of April via Facetime. Technology is amazing!!

Six youth members and two adults went to **Rolling Hills Mini Golf and the Schnecksville Diner** on June 5. We had a beautiful day to play outside and we had a lot of fun golfing. And the ice cream afterwards was really good!!

We are heading to St. Louis from July 24-July 29. While we are there, we hope to see many of the sights of the city, including the Gateway Arch, Union Station, Forest Park and the City Museum. We also plan to spend 2 days doing an assortment of community service activities. Please pray for us while we are gone. We hope to have a presentation for you at the park service on July 31.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth group!

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD WITH US

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

On Monday, September 12th at 10 AM
On Wednesday, September 14th at 10 AM

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



THE WORD OF THE LORD...

Summer— a time to relax, a time to rest, and a time to renew our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, a time to secure our relationship with Jesus. As we slow down our daily pace and as we reflect upon all our many blessings, may we take the time to strengthen our relationship with Jesus by worshiping Him and praising Him for all His many gifts.



Daily Reflection

Each day - Monday through Saturday there is a Daily Reflection on Shepherd of the Hills Facebook page as well as our website. Each day at 7 PM there is a presentation of God's Word as well as a reflection on the Scriptural passage and ends in prayer. Join us each day. Daily Devotions are available as an email. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this mailing.



The SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church are recognized for their year of faithful dedication to the youth of our church. The efforts of these individuals helps to insure the future of our church.

THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS:

- Lisa Kroboth
- Tara Henry-Morrow
- Carla Myers
- Donna Strawbridge
- Nadine Bordner
- Tracy Tacker
- Sherry Smith
- Norma Hrozencik
- Charles Church



On June 11, 2022, **Presley Mae Ehling** was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

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



May 2, 2022, Joseph Allen Schrumpp and Rebecca Kate Koenig were united together as one. May God be with you, Joseph and Rebecca, as you begin your life together as husband and wife.



From the Lehigh Conference of Churches for \$150 contribution. It will be used to continue their work with more than 14,000 individuals and families living in poverty.

Thank you to Shepherd of the Hills “Angels” for all the cards and prayers and sunshine sent to Joanne Pammer.

We received a telephone call from Elinor Gold thanking us for all our prayers over the last year.

Thank you from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for our gift of \$682.81 to the Lutheran Disaster Response. These gifts are enabling people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you to Wayne Fogle for directing his Thrivent Choice dollars for May to SOTHLC.

A special thank you to the volunteers who planted the geraniums. Thank you to all who purchased geraniums. Our church grounds look great!



YARD CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Doesn't it feel good when you come to church on a Sunday and the church grounds look beautiful. Your help is needed. Sign for a two-week period to keep the church flowers beds, walkways and perimeter free from weeds as well as deadhead the geraniums. You choose the day and time you work during the two-week period you volunteer. Please sign up outside the church office or contact Gary Easton at 484-988-0520.



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 July Times News Advertising is sponsored in honor of Jacqueline and Dawson Laabs fifth wedding anniversary by Mom and Dad Schwentner.

The August Times News Advertising is sponsored in honor of Doris Weaver's birthday. With love, your family.

September 11 We will celebrate **Harvest Home** and thank God for all His many blessings.

2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- President: Keith Moyer
- Vice President: Tracy Tacker
- Secretary: Shelley Hanson
- Treasurer: Colleen Ehst
- Financial Secretary: Carl France
- Learning Deacon: Lisa Kroboth
- Service Deacon: Karen Haberern
- Support Deacon: Gary Easton
- Youth Deacon: Drew Null
- Worship Deacon: Denise Smith
- Witness Deacon: Scarlet Randolph
- Youth Representative: Steven Hanson
- 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 May 30, 2022)

Monthly Stewardship Income:	\$14,811	YTD: \$ 80,118
Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$21,261	YTD: \$ 91,578
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:		
May	\$ 383	YTD: \$ 1,985 (Budget for 2022 -\$17,534)
April Electric	\$ 794	YTD: \$ 6,190





COMMITTEE PAGE COMMITTEE Update

THE SERVICE TEAM We are collecting funds to help our own members of Shepherd of the Hills who may temporarily find themselves in need of assistance. **“Assistance Fund”** envelopes are in the narthex for your contributions to this worthwhile fund.

Reach out to those in need—We are now collecting cereal, (*The Food Pantry is having difficulty packing large boxes of cereal. They would appreciate smaller boxes.*) and toiletries for the *Whitehall Food Bank*. They are in need of toilet paper, tissues, shampoo, toothpaste, bars of soap and deodorant. Second Harvest supplies the Food Pantry with the many food needs, but does not include toiletries.

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.

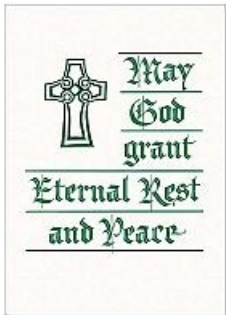
THE WITNESS COMMITTEE The church has an e-mail. Our e-mail address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org Each day there will be a devotion of scripture and prayer sent from the church via e-mail. If you have access to e-mail and would like to receive the weekly devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address.



◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Ethel Mertz** from Fran Worman, Kyle Kern, Gregory and Ruth Scheirer, James and Dorothy Delberts, and Patrick Yadusa

◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Evelyn Groller** from Gregory and Ruth Scheirer, Leonard and Judy Makovsky, William and Charmaine Wallitsch.

◆ Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Thomas Ritter** from Leonard and Judy Makovsky, Paul and Carol Balascki, Kimberly Newhart, Fran Worman



Edwin J. Deily entered into eternal rest on January 14, 2022. We commend Jay into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family

Jay C. Druckenmiller entered into eternal rest on March 3, 2022. We commend Jay into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

Ronald L. Reynard entered into eternal rest on April 8, 2022. We commend Jay into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 GRADUATES

High School

Olivia Lesinski, graduated from Quakertown High School District and will attend Ursinus College majoring in Dance and Finance.

Aiden Tacker graduated from Whitehall High School and will attend Bucknell University.

Ty Tremba, Parkland High School and will attend Franklin and Marshall.

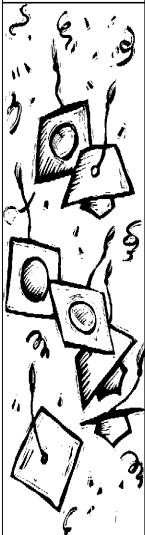
Troy Tully, Whitehall High School and will attend Universal Technical Institute for Automotive Technology

College

Jessica Kroboth has graduated summa cum laude from Lebanon Valley College with a degree in exercise science. She will continue her studies at LVC to pursue her doctorate in physical therapy.

Sarah Reinhard graduated from Millersville University and is going to graduate school for her master's in social work.

THEY'RE



GRADUATING

*YOU HAVE LEARNED MUCH AND GROWN GREATLY.
MAY GOD GUIDE AND DIRECT YOU TO A BRIGHT
AND BLESSED FUTURE.*

As many of you know, the church has a website that was updated in the fall and also a Facebook page. Recently, we have been taking pictures and putting them on these social media sites, including pictures of the Blessing of the Animals service. We wanted everyone to be aware that we are posting pictures, not only of the building and sanctuary, but of the most important part of the church, you! If you have any concerns or questions about our social media presence, please speak to Council President Keith Moyer, Lisa Kroboth, or Pastor Schlegel.

HOW DO I:



Volunteer to read?

Contact Karen Haberern at (610) 767-7657

Join the Choir?

Contact the choir director, Marjory Nelcoski

Donate Flowers?

Sign the book located on the table in the Narthex. Place your envelope in the offering plate.

(\$50.00 for 2 vases)

Donate Altar candles?

Sign the book located on the table in the Narthex. Place your envelope in the offering plate

(\$8)

Donate the Newsletter?

Sign the book located on the table in the Narthex. Place your envelope in the offering plate

(\$25)

Donate Bulletins?

Sign the book located on the table in the Narthex. Place your envelope in the offering plate.

(\$20)

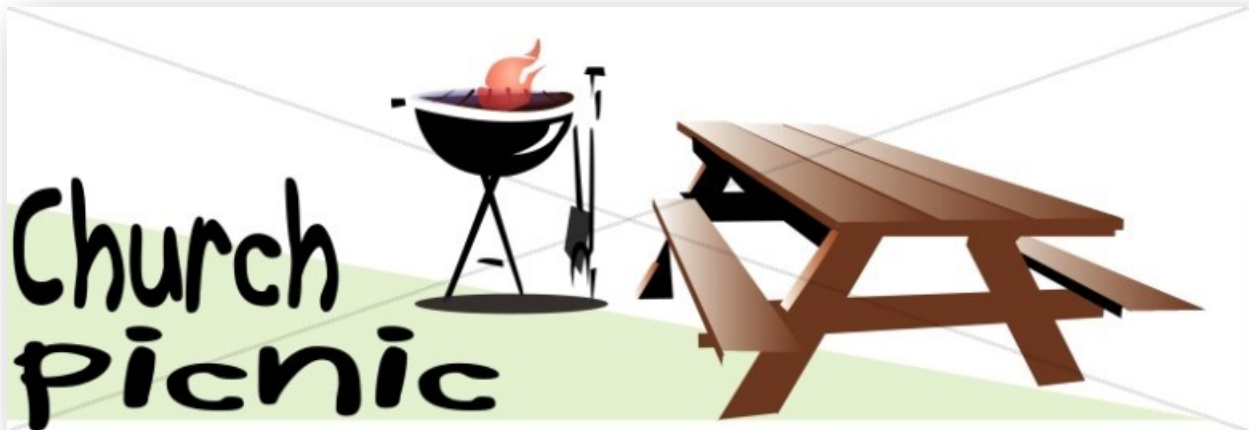
Sponsor Advertising?

Sign the book located on the table in the Narthex. Place your envelope in the offering plate

(\$25)



For the 2022-2023 school year. No experience necessary, just a willingness to share God's Word with the children of our church. Lesson plans and supplies will be provided. For more Information, please speak with Pastor Schlegel or Lisa Kroboth.



July 31—1 service only. 10:15 AM under the pavilion at Egypt Community Park.

The service will be followed by our picnic at noon.

The church will provide the hot dogs. Please bring a salad, dessert or casserole to share. REMEMBER to bring chairs and something to drink.

