

# † The Rod and the Staff †

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

† September/October, 2022 †

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## **ASTOR'S CORNER** **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

September is a month where we begin again some of the learning opportunities at Shepherd of the Hills. The Sunday School year for 2022–2023 will begin on September 11th. We will also begin our Confirmation classes and begin a brand new year of Bible Study sessions. The Word of our Lord is alive and available for all at Shepherd of the Hills. We also have other opportunities to experience the Word of our Lord—each week there is a daily devotion distributed to many members by e-mail and Daily Reflections on God's Word can be found everyday at 7PM on Facebook and on our website. The Bible or the Word of our Lord is important to each one of us as children of God.

Shepherd of the Hills provides many opportunities to experience the Word of the Lord. Come and Hear His Word on a Sunday morning, and on Thursday morning at our Morning Prayer Service, come and read and discuss His Word in Sunday School and Bible Study. May the Word, the Bible be your favorite book in your life.

In Christ's Love,

## **Sunday School**

**resumes on Sunday**

**September 11th 8:50 am!**



All individuals are invited to come and learn of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have Sunday School classes for all individuals from 3 years old through adults.

Our theme this year will be to "Dig In" and learn all about the Life of Jesus.

Please come and join us as we learn together.

## **YOUTH MONTH**

We are celebrating Youth Month in the month of September. We are rejoicing in our Lord for all the many young people who are a part of our family at Shepherd of the Hills. During the month of September there will be envelopes on the table in the Narthex for our Youth Memorial Fund. This fund sponsors our youth to the National Youth Assembly. Please support our youth at Shepherd of the Hills.



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given to the Glory of God.*

*This issue of the Rod and The Staff is sponsored in honor of our youth and children here at SOTHL.*



**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

*Charles Volkert* entered into eternal rest on July 26, 2022. We commend Charles into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family

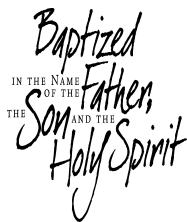


Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Tom Ritter** from Rosemarie Steiger, Carol Ann Deutsch, Diane Ivankovits, Kenneth and Judith Baatz, Josef Fragnito.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Andy Sommers** from the David Borrego Family (David, Jane, Rudy and Debbie) and Kim Newhart and David Borrego.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **John and Margaret Price** from Helene Steiner.

On August 7, **Colt Eric Wescoe** the son of Colin and Chelsea Wescoe was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome Colt. We wish you, your parents and your sponsors Justin and Nicole Ferson God's Blessings.



**Thank you to our sponsors of the Times News SOTHLC ad**

September— In honor of our anniversary by Charlie and Norma  
 October- To the Glory of God by Paul and Carol Balascki

**HAVE YOU NOTICED THE ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX FOR SPONSORING:**

- ◆ ALTAR FLOWERS, COMMUNION WINE, BULLETINS
- ◆ TIMES NEWS SPONSORSHIP and NEWSLETTER
- ◆ MEMORIAL DONATIONS?

The envelopes help to provide the church office with the information necessary to properly credit your giving statement We hope having them available will be a convenience for you as well.

Please be aware that when you sponsor altar flowers you should arrange to pick them up after the 10:15 service. They will be distributed to the sick or shut-ins if left until Monday at noon.

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

**A** Louis Albright, **B** Carson Baer, Bill Beidleman, Kim Beidleman, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Lisa Butkus, **C** Janis Campbell, James Caulder, Alex Cantana, Verna Chandick, John Clark, Joey and Jennifer Conway and children, Donna Cordier, Carrie Ann Cramsey, Karen Culver, **D** Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Brian Dilcher, **F** Mary Beth Fatzinger, Chris Filchner, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Art Frye, Kay Fronheiser, **G** Dawson Genovese, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold, **H** Ronald Hacker, Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Anna Honka, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, **J** Leann Jones, **K** Sandra Kimmel, Roberta Kline, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Carolyn Kuhns, **L** Scott Lazarus, Martin Luckenbill, **M** Diane Masonheimer, Robert McFetridge, Judy Makovsky, Carol Merkel, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Krissy Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, **N** Mary Nehme and baby Elizabeth, Danielle Newan and baby Steven, Cathy Nelcoski, Danielle Newan and Baby Steven, **O** Dale Ott, **R** Jacob Ramos, Reynold Reifinger, Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Dale Rex, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, **S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Christine Scherr, Irene Scherr, Linda Schock, Mike Schwentner, Paige Sechler, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Irene Scherr, Veena Sinha, Joan Shook, Grace Siegel, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, **T** Timothy Tacker **U** Matthew Urban **W** Pat Walschburger, Doris Weaver, Ruth Weidner, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Barry Wexler, **Y** Daniel Yakubecek, **Z** Mary Zader, Lance Zigenfus, *The families of Charles Volkert, Mia Due, Tom Ritter, Isaiah Bodoc, and Andy Sommers*





## Youth Group News!



On July 24, 6 youth group members, Aiden, Olivia, Luke, Steven, Jackson and Paige, and 2 adults, Lisa and Drew, boarded a plane and headed to St Louis. While we were there, we saw the zoo and Forest Park, the history museum and art museum, explored Union Station and City Museum and went to the top of the Gateway Arch.

We also helped out at 3 different organizations: Great Circle, where we built shelving and helped to empty an office which will be changed into a Celebration room; St. Patrick's Center, where we sorted clothing and put it out for those in need to be able to choose and the YMCA, where we helped to clean equipment, organize closets and play with the children. We had a great experience in St Louis and we are so glad that we were able to represent Shepherd of the Hills. Thank you for your support.

There will be a **youth group meeting** on September 11 at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Any youth in their second year of confirmation or older should attend. Parents should plan to attend for the first hour.



**Hoagies will go on sale** on September 18. We expect the cost to be \$5.50 for a hoagie and \$4 for a sandwich, but we are waiting for confirmation from Island Expressions. Delivery will be October 9 after each service.

**Our gift card sale** will begin October 2. Order forms will be available on the table by the stairs. They should be filled out and turned in with a check by November 27. Or you may go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com), log in and use the code **L9A248FA33862** to order online. All orders must be received by November 27 and they will be ready for pickup by Dec 4.



Our **nut roll sale** will tentatively begin on October 16 with a delivery date of November 13. We are waiting for confirmation from Country Cottage about prices and flavors which will be determined in September.

The youth group will be helping at **Parkland CARES Food Pantry** on November 12. They have asked us to donate Chef Boyardee Meal in a Can, Mac and Cheese and Oatmeal packets. We will collect these items through the month of October.

To order hoagies and/or nut rolls or to have a gift card order form mailed to you, call Lisa at 610-262-4053. We are now on Instagram!! Follow us at sothlclyouthgroup.



**Harvest Home  
September 11th**



Our Harvest Home service is September 11<sup>th</sup>. This year the need is great for canned goods & rice, we are looking for mostly non-perishables. (These can be brought to the church any time before the 10<sup>th</sup>) We will be putting a list on the Kiosk for fresh items that we are looking to use to beautify the sanctuary. There will be someone available to receive perishables Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM, and Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> in the morning 8 to 10 AM. Please mark (name or initials or put a note in if they are bagged) any fresh items you would like to take back home with you. These fresh/perishable items will be available to pick up after the 10:15 service on the 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in helping to set

**A PRAYER FOR EACH DAY:**

Many of you are familiar with the childhood prayer "Now I lay me down to sleep, " but I was little surprised to learn that it is a shortened version of an Old English prayer, which goes like this:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,  
bless the bed that I lie on.  
Before I lay me down to sleep,  
I give my soul to Christ to keep.

Four corners to my bed,  
four angels there aspread,  
two to foot, and two to head,  
and two to carry me when I'm dead.

I go by sea, I go by land,  
the Lord made me by his right hand.  
If any danger comes to me,  
Sweet Jesus Christ, deliver me.

He's the branch, and I'm the flower,  
pray God send me a happy hour.  
And if I die before I wake,  
I pray that Christ my soul will take.

The prayer has an important refrain, that Christ is the keeper, the caretaker of our soul. And, when we slip into the unconsciousness of the night I suppose, on a daily bases, we are never nearer death. It was out of this fear of sleep that this prayer was written. At night, when we are vulnerable, we want someone watching over us. So, we prepare ourselves with a prayer: If I should die before I wake... We are to keep our lamps burning for we do not know when our Lord returns.



- ◆ . . . to everyone who helped keep the church grounds, flower beds, walkways and perimeters free from weeds this summer. We so appreciate your efforts. The grounds have looked beautiful.
- ◆ . . . to Jason and Michelle Lesinski for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in July.
- ◆ . . . Don and Maxine Gantz and Robert Klock for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in August.

**We received notes . . .**

From Dennis J. Harbowy thanking us for remembering his Mother Helen Harbowy in prayer during Sunday services for so many weeks.

From Gloria Fischl thanks the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful prayer shawl. The vivid colors brighten her room. She thanks the Pastor for his visits and the congregation for all the kind words.

From William Beidleman thanking the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful gift of a shawl he received.

**We received calls. . .**

Sharon McFetridge called to thank the congregation for all the prayers that were offered for her husband, Robert, and to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the Prayer Shawl. She said he is doing much better.

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"*  
**End of Prior Month (as of June 30, 2022)**

Monthly Stewardship Income:	\$16,235	YTD: \$ 96,354
Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$15,892	YTD: \$107,470
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:		
June	\$ 761	YTD: \$ 2,747 (Budget for 2022 -\$17,534)
May Electric	\$ 411	YTD: \$ 6,610



**BLESSING OF THE  
BACKPACKS  
SEPTEMBER 11, 10:15 AM SERVICE.**

# COMMITTEE PAGE



## THE SERVICE TEAM - New list of needs

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. . Please place your donations on the table in the narthex.



## THE WITNESS COMMITTEE Take A Look At Our Revamped Web Page.

We have our own web page. You can find out information about our church at [www.sothlc-egypt.org](http://www.sothlc-egypt.org).

We also have e-mail. Our address is [pastor@sothlc-egypt.org](mailto:pastor@sothlc-egypt.org). We still have daily 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. Also each day at 7 PM you will find a Daily Reflection on the church's Facebook page. It includes God's Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer.

## THE FINANCE COMMITTEE Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. There are envelopes in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family. As we end the Summer and begin the Fall and Winter, the need is more prevalent. Please give so those in need in our Church Family may not go hungry or cold.

**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.

# 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

## THRIVENT GRANTS

Each month Shepherd of the Hills receives a deposit into its Operating Account on behalf of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Thrivent Choice program. By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.



On August 14, 2022 we welcomed Ronald and Karen Gerlach and Helene Sterner to our family at Shepherd of the Hills. We wish God's many blessings on these new members.



**COME AND JOIN US!  
LEARN THE WORD OF THE LORD**

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

**Monday, September 19 at 10:00 AM**


**Wednesday, September 14 at 10:00 AM**

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

**Several Ways to God's Word**

We are offering several ways to God's Word. Each day at 7 PM there is a Daily Reflection on the Church's Facebook page which includes God's Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer. We also have a Daily devotion via email, which is sent out almost every day. If you would like to receive the email, please contact the church office.

Knowing the important role pets play in the life of people, **September 18 at our 10:15 AM service we will have a special service to bless these important animals.** This will take place on our front lawn. (Remember to bring your chair.) All animals are welcome, provided they are friendly and under physical control (leash, harness, bridle or crate.)



*Blessing of  
Pets*



Beginning September 1 the cost of sponsoring Altar Flowers will be \$30 for 1 vase, \$60 for 2 vases. This is due to an increase from our florist.



