

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

Vol. 2022, Issue 6

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a year this has been! We conclude an interesting few years. It has certainly been a time of anxiety and dismay. It has been a time of isolation and social distancing. But through it all, God has been with us. Even at those moments of doubt, we know as a Child of God that God guides the way. Sometimes the way appears unclear but God is present with us each step of the way.

We will give thanks to God on Thanksgiving Eve at 7 PM. We will come together to Worship Him and give thanks to His Holy Name for all our many blessings.

Our Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM. The 4 PM and 7 PM services will be held in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of the Baby in the manger. The 10 PM service will be available on Facebook as well as our website. The 10 PM service will be a video of our 4 PM service.

What a year this has been! We will continue to Worship each Sunday at 8 AM and 10:15 AM. Sunday school is held at 8:50 AM. Monday morning and Wednesday morning Bible Studies are still meeting each week at 10 AM. We also have Morning Prayer each Thursday morning at 9:30 AM. Our Ministries continue on Facebook and our website with a Daily Reflection each day (Monday through Saturday) at 7 PM. Our Ministries are going strong as we continue to share God's Word.

What a year this has been! May God be with you as we begin a New Year.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel
Pastor

November 5, 2022



Turn your
clocks back 1 hour.



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given
for all of God's Blessings by Paul and Carol Balascki*

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in memory of
Allen and Helen Stewart by Lucy and Gloria*



Thanksgiving
Eve
Service

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 7 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 we are looking for volunteers to set up the Christmas tree. Contact Gary Easton if you can help.

Deck
the
Halls

DECEMBER 11th

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 11 after the 10:15 service. Come and join us as we prepare for the Savior's Birth.

DECEMBER 18th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING immediately following the 10:15 service for the election of council members and adoption of a budget. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

DECEMBER 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

We will celebrate in the Sanctuary.

10:00 P.M.

Our service will be on Facebook as well as our website. This will be a video of our 4 PM service.



Whichever service you and your family choose to attend, come, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ the child was born for you!

ALTAR FLOWER POLICY

Each Sunday after the service the Altar flowers will be placed in the back porch or foyer. 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.

PRICE FOR 2022 1 Vase - \$30.00
2 Vases - \$60.00

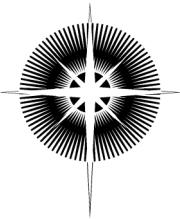


I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Brian Dilcher entered into eternal rest on September 9, 2022. We commend Brian into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Phyllis Handwerk entered into eternal rest on September 20, 2022. We commend Phyllis into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

Arthur Frye entered into eternal rest on September 23, 2022. We commend Arthur into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.



The church office will be closed during the Christmas Holiday from December 24th through January 1st.

Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is Given in honor of our 56th Wedding Anniversary by Beverly and Glenn.

The *Times News* December advertising is given to the Glory of God by Paul and Carol Balaski.



From Irene Scherr: I'm recuperating from my fall and want to thank everyone for the prayers, get well wishes and visits from the Pastor.

To Barbara R. Scheirer for directing her Thrivent Choice dollars to SOTHLC in October.

To the 16 pets who came to the Blessing of the Animals. Thank you also for bringing your human with you.

Thank you to everyone who decorated our Sanctuary for Harvest Home and thank you to all who brought food for the food bank.

We received a thank you note from Ron and Karen Gerlach: Thank you for the visits and prayers. Please thank the ladies who made the shawl as well.

We really appreciate the welcome and kindness shared by the members of Shepherd of the Hills Church.



Shepherd of the Hills will be sponsoring a giving tree to benefit under-privileged children who attend Community Services for Children's day care program.

The children are taught many life skills and social interactions with others. The parents earn gift cards by attending classes and working at Co.S.C.

Gift cards and books may be purchased in any amount to benefit the low-income families. Please turn in your gifts no later than December 11.



On October 23, 2022, **Jordan Saloum Hadid** was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

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



On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM we will continue to study the Gospel of John.

Do you ever wonder what the Scripture meant on a Sunday morning and the Pastor didn't explain it? This Bible Study is for YOU! We will continue a Bible Study on **Monday mornings at 10:00AM**. We will discuss the Scripture lessons from the previous day.

Come and share the Word of our Lord.

November 6th

We will celebrate All Saints' Sunday and we will remember all who were members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and entered into eternal rest this past year:

- Richard Skultete
- Robert Tully, Sr.
- Joseph Fischl
- Luther Schweitzer
- Randall Lewis
- Evelyn Groller
- Ethel Mertz
- Thomas Ritter
- Brian Dilcher
- Phyllis Handwerk
- Arthur Frye



Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers

A Louis Albright, Joyce Anderson, **B** Paul Balascki, Steven Beck, William Beidleman, Ann Borell, Bonnie Brown, Lisa Butkus, **C** Alex Catana, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Karen Culver, **D** Jeffrey Deutsch, **F** Beverly Fakula, Kay Fronheiser, **G** Ronald Gerlach, Jeff Gilbert. Elinor Gold, Tina Grim, **H** Ronald Hacker, Pat Hall, Ethel Hara-kal, Brandon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Ann Hricinak, J Diane Jackson, **K** Alex Katana, Roberta Kline, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, **L** Scott Lazarus, Martin Luckenbill, **M** Diane Masonheimer, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Tiffany Mosser, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers, **N** Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, **O** Dale Ott, **R** Jan Reinik, Reynold Reifinger, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Austin Roth, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, **S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Linda Schock, Mike Schwentner, June and Bill Sell, Wayne, Serfass, Irene Scherr, Grace Siegel, Verna Sinha, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, **T** Aaron Tully, Cheryl Tully **U** Matthew Urban, **W** Doris Weaver, Ruth Weidner, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Teddy Weiner, Jennifer Wentling, Barry Wexler, **Z** Mary Zader, Lance Ziegenfus, *the families of Brian Dilcher, Timothy Tacker, Art Frye, Sr., Phyllis Handwerk, Megan Hutt, Mary Martin, Carson Baer*



Prayer

How to do nothing and still think you're helping

Special Events cont'd

Sunday, January 22, immediately following the 10:15 service: Congregational meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
Sunday January 29: Youth Sunday. Come out and support these talented young people as they lead us in song, sermon and prayers.

Sunday, January 8, at both services:

Installation of Church Council members for 2023.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, October 30 at both services: Reformation Sunday and Presentation of Bibles. **Wear red.** Join us for the presentation of Bibles to a few of our Sunday School children.

Sunday, November 6 at both services: All Saint's Sunday. Join us as we remember those of our congregation who entered into eternal rest this past year.

Wednesday, November 23: Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm. Please join us as we give thanks for all the many blessings that God has given us.

Sunday, December 11 after the 10:15 service:

Sanctuary Decorating. After the decorating is finished, we will share a pot luck lunch and then go caroling to our home bound congregation members. Please join us for a fun afternoon filled with Christmas cheer!!

Sunday, December 18 after the 10:15 service:

Congregational meeting.

Saturday, December 24: Our Christmas Eve services will be at 4 pm and 7 pm. At 10 pm, the service will be virtual and will be posted on Facebook and on our website.

Sunday, December 25: On Christmas Day, we will only have one service at 9 am. Affirmation of Baptism and Sacrament of Holy Communion. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

Sunday, January 1: On New Year's Day, we will have only one service at 9 am. A service of Lessons and Carols. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
End of Prior Month (as of September 30, 2022)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$11,631 YTD: \$ 135,101
 Monthly Operating Expenses: \$15,862 YTD: \$ 159,352
 Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:
 September \$ 640 YTD: \$ 4,720 (Budget for 2022 -
 \$17,534)
 August Elec. \$ 463 YTD: \$ 8,001

Youth Group News

On October 2, five youth group members went to Captured LV Escape Room. While we didn't escape, we had a lot of fun. We finished the day with lunch at Red Robin.

The youth group is selling **gift cards**. The order forms are available for pick up on the table at the top of the stairs. Or go to www.shopwithscrip.com. Set up a user name, password and security questions. The enrollment code is **L9A248FA33862**. All checks and orders must be turned in by November 27. Delivery will be December 4.

The next **youth group activity** will be on November 6, 6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

On November 12, the youth group will volunteer at **Parkland CARES Food Pantry** where we will be packing bags of food for their Thanksgiving distributions. **Thank you** for your donations in support of the Food Pantry!

Join the youth group on **December 11** as we help to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and go caroling to our homebound congregation members.

The youth group will be participating in **Wreaths Across America** on December 17.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our youth!!

DON'T FORGET OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS. SEND A CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Gloria Fischl Phoebe Home 1925 W. Turner St. Allentown, PA 18104	Ethel Harakal Alexandria Manor, Room 12 313 S. Walnut St. Bath, PA 18014	Lamont and Betty Honz 6043 Lower Macungie Rd. Legend Assisted Living Apt. A103 Macungie, PA 18062	Verna Chandick 2107 Dewey St. Northampton, PA 18068
Jean Roth Fellowship Manor 3000 Fellowship Dr. Whitehall, PA 18052	Alice Nero 5250 Second St. Whitehall, PA 18052	Ann Hricinak PO Box 76 Taneyville, MO 65759	John Clark 918 Oak St Coplay, PA 18037
Mary Zader c/o Donna Leech 6376 Timberlake Way Delray Beach, FL 33484	Ruth Weidner Fellowship Manor 3000 Fellowship Dr. Whitehall, PA 18052		
Irene Scherr 800 Hausman Rd. Allentown PA 18104	Daniel Yakubcek Sterling Heights Gracious Retirement Living 3500 Fairview St Bethlehem, PA 18017		





COMMITTEE PAGE

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: Support the Food Pantry, *Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative*
New to the list, any kind of pasta except wheat and pet food.
Cereal (small sized boxes), pancake mix and syrup, toiletries—toilet paper, tissues, shampoo, toothpaste, bars of soap and deodorant. The Food Pantry gets food needs from Second Harvest, 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.

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
FACEBOOK: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church-Egypt
CALL THE CHURCH
610-262-1600



Attention Deacons

Your Report will be needed in the church office by the end of 2022. The office will be mailing out copies of last year’s reports to chairs and deacons (check your bins in the office). Please help us by completing your report ASAP. **Thank you!**

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

received by the church **on Sunday, December 25, 2022 will be posted in the year 2022.** Offering Statements for 2022 will be available in January 2022. If you would like to receive your offering statement, please contact the Church office.

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



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Brian Dilcher** by Albert and Brenda Reymann.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges a memorial donation given in memory of **Arthur Frye** by Kyle and Michele Kern.

On August 14, 2022 **Ron and Karen Gerlach and Helene Sterner** joined our church family at SOTLC.

On September 11, 2022 **Rev. Gary and Rev. Elizabeth Langensiepen** joined our church family at SOTLC.



**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
2022 Christmas Tributes**

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is making available several options for members to either honor or memorialize a loved one at this time of year.

Please complete **ONE SHEET PER TRIBUTE.**

Additional forms are available on the table in the foyer. Return your completed form along with your check to the Church Office or place in the offering plate.

CHECK ONE: _____ Christmas Poinsettia - \$11.00 per plant
 _____ Hunger Fund Donation - \$ _____
 _____ Memorial Fund - \$ _____

IN HONOR OF: _____
 (Living)

IN MEMORY OF: _____
 (deceased)

BY: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE # _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS - DECEMBER 4, 2022

The above tributes will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins.

The Prayer Shawl Committee is looking for volunteers 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 at 9:00 AM.



INGATHERING 2022

Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville will be the host for the 2022 Northern Lehigh Valley Ingathering on Thursday, December 1. We will collect for four organizations this year. They are Kids Peace, Allentown Rescue Mission, Sayre

Center and a new group called Cay Galgon Life House. This organization is helping women who are navigating the challenges of motherhood by letting them know they are seen, known, and loved. It helps to connect women with affordable housing opportunities and provides training for a wide variety of life skills. The women are supported with counseling and referrals to partner agencies to ensure their overall well-being.

We ask all our church members to look at the following items needed for these organizations. Please select items from the list to help those in need, and return the items by Sunday, November 27. It would be very helpful and appreciated if you identify what organization you are helping with your items. This will insure that your selection will be boxed properly. Please attach (with tape) a small piece of paper with the name of the organization on each item you bring to place on the table in the narthex.

Thank you for supporting this Christmas collection for others in our community. Cheryl Reisinger, Barbara Scheirer, Karen Zimmerman and Linda Forand will be available to answer any questions regarding the Ingathering.

INGATHERING 2022 REQUESTS
