

† The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† January, February 2023 †

Vol. 2023, Issue 1

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you ever sat in the dark either by choice or maybe the electricity went off. What was your first reaction? We live in a world that is filled with light. From the LED and fluorescent lights that light up rooms to the flashlights on our phone that we use when we walk in the dark. We even have night lights to shine in the darkness so we can find our way. We need light!

Why do we need light? Psychologists say that we are affected by the early darkness and the dreary days during this time of the year. We become more depressed and we become more anxious as the darkness of the day lingers on.

As children of God, though, we can find peace even in the midst of the darkness. The True Light, Jesus Christ, brought light into a dark world when he was born as a baby in the manger. He brings peace and tranquility in a world that is often chaotic and troublesome. Even when we sit alone in the darkness of this world, we know that Jesus Christ shines for each one of us who calls Him our own personal Lord and Savior. We start now a new year—a year of uncertainties. We know there will be times of joy as well as sorrow during 2023. We know there will be moments of gloom as well as contentment. There will be moments of darkness as well as light. Throughout the whole year we need to remember that the Light of the World is with us each step of the way. May we all have a blessed and Light filled New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation from January 1 to January 7. If you need Pastoral Assistance during this time, please call the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 pm - Holy Communion
7:00 pm Holy Communion
10:00 pm The 4 pm Service will be streamed on Facebook and our website

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

At 9:00 - ONLY ONE SERVICE
Service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving for Baptism

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 AM ONLY ONE SERVICE
LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE ANNUAL MEETING of SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2022** immediately following the second service. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

YOUTH SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Our youth will lead our 8 and 10:15 a.m. service. Come and support our young people.



On **February 12** we will be collecting for those less fortunate than ourselves so they will have food to eat. Please give to this great cause. The proceeds will be sent to the local food bank.

Ash ✕
Wednesday

February 22, services at noon and 7 pm.



This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored wishing a happy, healthy New Year to all by Rozelle Higgins

This issue of the Rod and the Staff is sponsored giving thanks for all of God's Blessings by Paul and Carol Balascki



On **January 29th**, at both services, the Youth will lead us in worship.

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 and also Radio WAEB 790 AM. The Resolution is on display on the bulletin board.

ANNUAL REPORTS



Deacons please submit your reports to the office by January 8, 2023.

The Times News for January 2023 is sponsored by Todd and Melissa Sassaman with gratitude for God's many blessings.

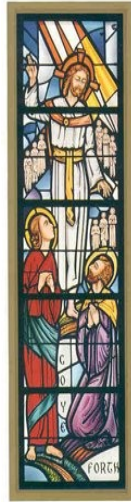
The Times News for February 2023 is sponsored to the Glory of God by Paul and Carol Balaschi.



A winning pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all.”



In Loving Memory

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Brian Dilcher** by Sandy Phillips and Austin and Kathy Roth.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Art Frye** by Peggy Frye and Family, John Bankas

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Randall Lewis** by the David Lewis family.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Phyllis Handwerk** by Mary Van-ya, sister and brother-in-law Carol and Ron Oberdoester, Michael and Karen Haberern,

Fran Worman, and the Tully Family (Cheryl Tully), Judith Piper, Carol Klement, Scott and Rebecca Brodt, Irene Shoemaker and David and Cindy Kish, Margaret Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Christensen.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in memory of **Thomas Ritter** by Lorraine Ritter.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully received the following two memorial gifts in 2022:

\$ 5,000 from the Estate of Luther Schweitzer
\$ 91,058.11 from the Estate of Edna Warmkessel

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

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

End of Prior Month (as of October 31, 2022)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$15,322 YTD: \$ 150,428

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$19,999 YTD: \$ 179,351

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

October \$ 532 YTD: \$ 5,252 (Budget for 2022 - \$17,534)

September Elec. \$ 389 YTD: \$ 8,391

Free Community Dinner



The Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative and Shepherd of the Hills Church will be serving a Free Community Meal on Sunday, March 5, 2023. If you are interested in helping with this meal, please contact Karen Haberern at 610-730-3184.

Thank you for your continued support of the WCHI Food Pantry and Free Community Meals.

We sold 178 nut rolls and made a profit of \$726. **Thank you** to everyone who purchased from us!!

On November 6, the youth group filled **53 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child**. The boxes were filled with items that were donated by the VBS children and families. The boxes were sent to the Dominican Republic to children who would not have received a gift for Christmas. **Thank you** so much for your generosity!



On November 12, 4 youth members went to **Parkland CARES Food Pantry**. We helped load frozen food items and boxes and bags of assorted food to be taken to the school for the monthly distribution. We also helped to bagged cleaning detergents that will be handed out in the future. **Thank you** for all of the food donations!

Our gift card program was a huge success. We made a profit of \$1,353.06. **Thank you** to everyone who ordered gift cards from us!!
Come and join us on **January 29 as the youth group leads both services for Youth Sunday**.

We are starting a new **clothing drive!** We are collecting new or gently used men, women and children’s clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens, and stuffed animals. All items should be bagged or boxed and brought to the church. Please put any shoes in separate bags! The bags and boxes will be stored downstairs in the last Sunday School room on the right. 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. The pick-up date will be in June 2024.

Our hoagie sale begins on January 22 and delivery will be on February 12, which is Super Bowl Sunday. Call the church office at 610-262-1600 or Lisa at 610-262-4053 to place an order.

Save the date! Our Penny Party will be on April 16, the week after Easter!

Do you have empty pill bottles at home that you would like to donate? A new Ministry at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is to reach out to those in need through the “Matthew 25: Ministries”. The work of Matthew 25: Ministries helps the poorest of the poor and disaster victims throughout the United States and around the world. Please bring the following to aid in this wonderful Ministry.

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
 - Large and small pill bottles
- Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child-resistant)
Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.



The mission of Matthew 25: Ministries is to fulfill Matthew 25:34-40 of the New Testament by providing nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill, and humanitarian supplies to those in need. Additionally, Matthew 25: Ministries is committed to fulfilling Matthew 25:40 by educating the public on the conditions and needs of the “least of these” and by providing resources for action.

Matthew 25: Ministries is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping the poorest of the poor and disaster victims locally, regionally, nationally and internationally regardless of race, creed or political persuasion. By rescuing and reusing products from major corporations and manufacturers, Matthew 25: Ministries provides basic necessities, nutritional supplements, educational materials, micro-enterprise supplies and disaster relief across the US and worldwide.

The people we help are not receiving a handout, but a helping hand. It is only when a person’s most basic needs are met that one can become self-reliant. Because of this belief, Matthew 25: Ministries has always placed an emphasis on education, job creation and providing aid to children. Matthew 25: Ministries is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



On October 23, 2022 was welcomed **Jordan Saloum Hadeed** 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 November 20, 2022 was welcomed **Hadley Faye Stefanyak** into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Welcome Hadley. We wish you, your sponsors and your parents God’s Blessings.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Come and join us for weekly Bible Study.

- ◆ Mondays at 10:00 am as we discuss the scripture lessons from the previous day.
- ◆ Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We will continue to discuss the book of Acts.



Please put the dates in your calendar and come and join us.

Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers:



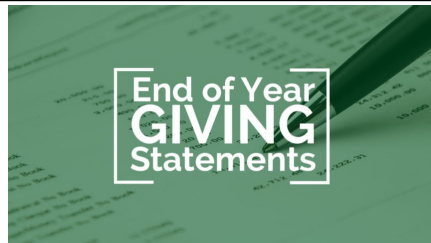
- A. Don and Pat Afflerbach, Seith Ahmed, Louis Albright, Joyce Anderson,
 - B. William Beidleman, Lee Bohning, Ann Borell, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Lisa Butkus,
 - C. Janis Campbell, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Karen Culver
 - D. Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Bishop Christopher DeForest
 - E. Patty Engler
 - F. Mary Beth Fatzinger, Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Kay Fronheiser,
 - G. Josh Gaspar, Ronald Gerlach, Terri Gerni, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Jeff Gilbert, Elinor Gold,
 - H. Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichl, Brad Heintzelman, Al Herman, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak
 - J. Diane Jackson, Becky and Kyle Jones and Baby Adam,
 - K. Alex Katana, Bill Kiefer, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Agnes Kroboth
 - L. Scott Lazarus, Martin Luckenbill,
 - M. Diane Masonheimer, Denise Mensinger, Debbie Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Russell Myers,
 - N. Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski,
 - P. Cathlene Paules, Sandra Phillips,
 - R. Jan Reinik, Raymond Reifinger, Dee Renner, Lorraine Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer,
 - S. Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Kathy Schaffer, June and Bill Sell, Irene Scherr, Gloria Schmidinger, Larry and Barbara Schneck, Wayne Serfass, Kathy Schaffer, Sean Skelonis, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith,
 - W. Chloe Weaver, Deanna Weaver, Kimberly Weaver, Doris Weaver, Barry Wexler, Ruth Weider, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Barry Wexler,
 - Y. Daniel Yakubecek
 - Z. Mary Zader
- The families of Donald Krause, Leslie Schock Carol Merkel, Baby Philip Yozamp*



ALTAR FLOWER POLICY

The Altar flowers each Sunday will be placed in the back porch. 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. This was approved by the church council.

If you need a copy of your Annual Statement of giving, for 2022, please call the office and one will be mailed to you.



The Mutual Ministry Committee: If you have any concerns regarding the Church Staff, you may speak to any member of the Mutual Ministry Committee about praise or concerns you are feeling. This committee meets on a regular basis with Pastor Schlegel.

Members are: **Jan Masonheimer, Linda Schock, Joe Kroboth and Karen Zimmerman.**

Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. During the months of January and February envelopes will be available in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family.





COMMITTEE NEWS

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: **Reach out to those in need!** We are collecting 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. *God's Work, Our Hands.*

You can find Pastor Schlegel's **Daily Reflection** on God's Word everyday at 7 PM on our Facebook page and on our website.



The Church Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 except in July and August when it holds a single, summer meeting. Special meetings are held on rare occasions when it is determined that an issue requires immediate consideration.

All meetings are open to members of the congregation. Much of the council's agenda is generated from the six ministry teams which administer most of our congregational programs.

If you have an item to be considered by our Congregation Council, contact President Keith Moyer at least ten days in advance of the meeting so that your concern can be placed on the Council agenda (some concerns will be referred to a ministry team for study and a recommendation before they are considered by the full Council).

The 2023 Congregation Council

President:	Keith Moyer
Vice President:	Tracy Tacker
Secretary:	Shelley Hanson
Treasurer:	Colleen Ehst
Financial Secretary:	Carl France
Learning Team Deacon:	Lisa Kroboth
Witness Team Deacon:	Scarlet Randolph
Worship Team Deacon:	Denise Smith
Service Team Deacon:	Tara Henry-Morrow
Support Team Deacon:	Gary Easton
Youth Deacon:	Drew Null
Youth Representative:	Paige Tacker
Pastor:	The Rev. James W. Schlegel



Thank you to Karen Haberern, Steven Hanson for serving on Church Council. Thank you to Keith Moyer, Tracy Tacker, Colleen Ehst and Lisa Kroboth for agreeing to serve their coming term.

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- ... **Pastor and Cindy Schlegel** would like to THANK everyone for the gifts, cards, and well wishes during this joyous season.
- ... **To all the people who decked the halls.** What a wonderful response and time. Thank you to the 10 strong people who put up the tree.
- ... **To** those who served on Church Council. Thank you for serving our church and our Lord.
- ... **To the three families** who provided food for Thanksgiving and gifts and food for Christmas to people who are in need in our congregation. Thank you for sharing Christ’s love.
- ... **To everyone** who helps with the Newsletter.
- ... **From Joan Shook** thanking us for the flowers. “They were very pretty.”
- ... **To Robert G. Klock** for directing his Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in November.
- ... **To John Bankos** for the gift cards given in memory of Art Frye.
- ... **To everyone** who donated to “The Giving Tree.”

A note:

Dear Pastor and Friends at Shepherd of the Hills.

Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer shawl and the visits from the Pastor. I appreciate being a part of this wonderful church. Thank you for remembering me in your prayers.

Love,
Denise Mensinger

Northern Valley Ingathering

Thank you during this time of Advent when you have shared your kindness, compassion, and love for the coming of our Christ Child.

All of the needed items collected for the Allentown Rescue Mission, Cay Galgon Life House, Kids Peace, and Sayre Center have been distributed to these organizations. This truly is sharing the spirit of Christmas.



Shepherd of the Hills members are always very generous in helping to create the light of Christ shine in the lives of those who receive these gifts. You make a difference in their lives.

With Many Thanks,
The Ingathering Committee

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.

Our **Prayer Ministry** is a very important Ministry at our Church. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please speak to the Pastor.



4:00 PM - Holy Communion

7:00 PM - Holy Communion

10:00 PM - This service will be live on Facebook.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at all Services

Sunday, December 25 —There will be one service—Service of Carols and Communion at 9:00 AM



Remember our special friends. Send them a Christmas greeting.

Gloria Fischl
 Phoebe Home
 1925 W. Turner St.
 Allentown, PA 18104

Ethel Harakal
 Alexandria Manor
 313 S. Walnut St.
 Bath, PA 18014

Lamont and Betty Hontz
 Legend Assisted Living
 6043 Lower Macungie Rd.
 Apt. A103
 Macungie, PA 18062

Jean Roth
 Fellowship Manor
 3000 Fellowship Dr.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Alice Nero
 5250 Second St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Vera Chandick
 2107 Dewey St.
 Northampton, PA 18067

Ruth Weidner
 Fellowship Manor
 3000 Fellowship Dr
 Whitehall, PA 18052

Irene Scherr
 800 Hausman Rd.
 Apt 379
 Allentown, PA 18104

Ann Hricinak
 PO Box 76
 Taneyville, MO 65759

John Clark
 Country Meadows
 Room 308
 410 N. Krocks Rd.
 Allentown, PA 18104

Mary Zader
 c/o Donna Leech
 6376 Timberlakes Way
 6326 Delray Beach, FL
 33484

Daniel Yakubecek
 Sterling Heights Gracious Retirement Living
 3500 Fairview St
 Bethlehem, PA 18017



Place your Christmas cards in a basket in a prominent place after the holidays and pick a card each Sunday and pray all week for the one(s) who sent it. Make it a family event at mealtime and perhaps you could send a short note at week's end letting them know you're praying for them. What a wonderful way to keep the love of Jesus burning in our hearts all year.