

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† March/April, 2023 †

Vol. 2023, Issue 2

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On February 22, we will begin our Lenten Journey. Lent is a time to reflect upon how we live our lives. Lent is a time to turn away from our foolish ways and ask God for forgiveness. It is a time to look in the mirror and realize that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

During the season of Lent we have many Worship services to reestablish our relationship with our Loving and Forgiving Lord. We will have in person services each Sunday morning at 8 AM and 10:15 AM as well as each Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Come and join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this season of reflection and forgiveness.

In Christ's love,

If you would like Pastor Schlegel to visit you, please contact the Church Office, 610-262-1600.



April
2

Passion
SUNDAY

Holy Communion at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 8:50 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, April 7
Covered Dish Meal at 6:00 pm
Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 8
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

Prayer Vigil
April 8
8 PM Friday until 7 PM Saturday

Easter Sunday, April 9
Holy Communion at 8:00 am
Sunday School at 9:00 am
Holy Communion at 10:15 am



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in memory of our parents by Joe Ebner and Sharon Boder.



This issue of *the Rod and The Staff* is given in honor of my son, Casey's birthday, by Rozelle Higgins.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



Ruth Weidner entered into eternal rest on December 18, 2022. We commend Ruth into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

THANK YOU - - -

- ◆ . . . to the Youth Group for leading us in Worship on January 29. What a wonderful job.
- ◆ . . . to Wayne Fogle, Donald and Maxine Gantz, Allen Handwerk, Robert Klock, Lisa Kroboth, Michelle Lesinski and Diane and Jan Masonheimer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in February.
- ◆ . . . To Ronald Jay Kocher for a Thrivent grant payment from Thrivent Charitable.
- ◆ . . . From Community Services for Children for the 46 gift cards (\$1070 value) and assorted books that we donated
- ◆ . . . From the Lehigh County Conference of Churches for our \$150 contribution. It will be used to help provide Housing, hope and healing to more than 14,000 individuals and families in the Lehigh Valley living in poverty.



After years of Covid we are going to start a choir to sing for Easter. Rehearsals will be on March 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7 to 7:45. We will meet in the choir room and prepare to sing for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. No previous choir experience is necessary; all are welcome.

Words to think about:

A few years ago Richard Cardinal Cushing wrote about the church's need for courage. He said: If all the sleeping folks will wake up, and all the lukewarm folks will fire up, and all the disgruntled folks will sweeten up, and all the discouraged folks will cheer up, and all the depressed folks will look up, and all the estranged folks will make up, and all the gossiping folks will shut up, and all the dry bones will shake up, and all the true soldiers will stand up, and all the church members will pray up, and if the Savior of all will be lifted up . . . then we can have the greatest renewal this world has ever known.

COMMITTEE PAGE

SERVICE TEAM Support the Food Pantry During Lent

Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative

New to the list, any kind of pasta except wheat. We are also collecting 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 throughout the Lenten season.



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE Morning Prayer: Each Thursday morning at 9:30 A.M. 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.

2023 Congregation Council

- Keith Moyer, President
- Tracy Tacker, Vice President
- Norma Hrozencik, Secretary
- Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
- Carl France, Financial Secretary
- Scarlet Randolph, Witness
- Gary Easton, Support
- Tara Henry-Morrow, Service
- Drew Null, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Paige Tacker, Youth Representative

Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor

You can find Pastor Schlegel's **Daily Reflection** on God's Word everyday at 7 PM on our Facebook page and on our website. If you would like Daily Devotions emailed to you, please contact the church office.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 2023 Easter 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. Place your completed form along with your check in the offering plate or return it to the Church Office.

CHECK ONE:

- Easter Lilly - \$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 - March 19

The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers 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 beginning March 1 at 9:00 AM.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

REMEMBER— When giving a name for the

PRAYER CHAIN

please also give the address of the person. The church sends cards to inform people they were “remembered in our prayers during our worship services Sunday morning.” The person’s name will be kept on the Sunday prayer concerns for two weeks unless the person who submitted the name requests otherwise.

Call Beverly Hacker 610-262-3207 or the church office with any prayer concerns.

Remember Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12.

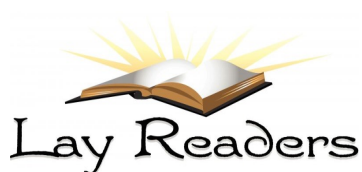


SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS:



July 10 through 14, 6-8:30 PM

Registration forms will be mailed after Easter and will be in the next newsletter



Please pick up a pronunciation guide from the table outside the office.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:



Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You lay your healing hands upon all those who are sick. We ask You to have compassion on those who are who are named below. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Don and Pat Afflerbach, Louis Albright, Bill Beidleman, Lee Boehning, David Bordner, Ann Borell, Jacob Braido, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, John Clark, John Coppola, Donna Cordier, Karen Culver, Bishop Christopher DeForest, Jeffrey Deutsch, Marilyn Devlin, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz, Lillian Dotter, Jimmy Earley, Patty Engler, Desiree Erie and unborn child, Mary Beth Fatzinger, Beverly Fekula, Judy Fenstermaker, Thomas Ferenchak, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Annie Frank, Kay Fronheiser, Carmen, Terry Gerney, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Beverly Hacker, Ethel Harakal, Cyndee Hart, Bradon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Becky and Kyle Jones and Baby Adam, Alex Katana, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Tina Kremener, Scott Lazarus, Aubree Leiner, Martin Luckenbill, Diane Masonheimer, Robert McFetridge, Denise Mensinger, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Nancy Michener, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Russell Myers, Mary Nehme and Baby Elizabeth, Cathy Nelcoski, Dolores Neupauer, Lorraine Randolph, Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Baby Brecken Reichard, Ken Ritter, Ken Ritter, Lorraine Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, The Ruhf family Jackie, Randy and Corbin, Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Todd Sassaman, Irene Scherr, Wayne Serfass, June and Bill Sell, Gloria Schmidinger, Linda Singletery, Sean Skelonia, Denise Smith, Sherry Smith, Doris Weaver, Bill and Ann Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Daniel Yakubecek, Mary Zader, Lance Ziegenfus, *The Family of Bobbie Miller, Margaret Bentz, Joyce Anderson, Diane Jackson, Edith Richter, Dorothy Schoch, Lisa Butkus*

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness
"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
End of Prior Month (as of January 31, 2023)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$16,183

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,742

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:

January \$ 430 (Budget for 2023—\$18,171)

December Electric \$1,584

**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, Radio WAEB 790 AM., also on SOTHLC's Facebook page and by calling the church.

CARE TABLE

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 March Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press is donated with gratitude for the miracle of Spring by Todd and Melissa Sassaman.

The **April Advertising in the Whitehall/Coplay Press** is donated in loving memory of Carlton Weaver.

There are still some months available. Check the sign up sheets in the narthex. Sponsorship is \$25 per month.



Youth Group News

On January 29, the youth group led both services as we celebrated Youth Sunday. We hope you enjoyed the service.

Thank you to everyone who ordered hoagies. We made a profit of \$446.50.



Nut rolls go on sale February 26. The sale will run through March 12, with a delivery of March 26. Cost will be \$17 and the flavors are nut, poppy, lekvar, apricot, raspberry, and pumpkin. Call the church office at 610-262-1600 or Lisa at 610-262-4053 to place a nut roll order.

We are planning to have a Penny Party on April 16. Doors open at 12 and games begin at 12:30. It only costs \$1 to buy an envelope of numbers. Trays will be passed around the tables and you will be able to bid on the item(s) on the tray. Cost for a bid range between 1 cent and 1 dollar. Food and beverages will be available at an additional cost, as well as a raffle for some fun prizes! This is a fun and relatively inexpensive way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Please join us as we continue to raise money for our trip to the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans and to share some time of friendship and fun.

Our clothing drive will continue through June 2024. 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.

Thank you for your support of the youth group. May God watch over you during this Lenten season and may you have a Happy and Joyous Easter.



The Worship Services on Easter will be at 7 AM and 10:15 AM. Come and celebrate with us as we rejoice that Jesus rose from the Dead. Because He lives, we shall live also. There will not be an Easter Breakfast due to the high costs of eggs and bacon.

Shepherds Club

The Shepherds Club meets at the Coplay Eatery. This is open to any youthful Seniors. Come and join us for breakfast and a great time being together. We get together the 4th Tuesday of the month at 9 AM.

First Communion Classes will be held March 19, 26 and April 2 for those in third grade or older. We will celebrate First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.

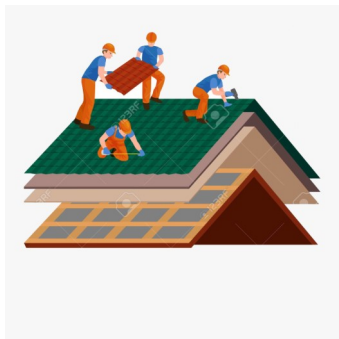
MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

This year for our Lenten services we will hear from Bible People that had a unique encounter with Jesus. In many cases, Jesus heals them. In fact, Lazarus is literally raised from the dead. Come and hear how Jesus changed their lives.

- March 1** The Paralytic
- March 8** Peter's Mother-In-Law
- March 15** Mary Magdalene
- March 22** Martha
- March 29** Lazarus



On January 23, Adele Kunkle was welcomed into our family at Shepherd of the Hills. Welcome and may God bless you as we serve the Lord together.



Roof Project Summary

The entire roof was reshingled by Holencik Exteriors and completed on February 1, 2023. The total cost of roof was \$68,836. An additional cost of \$1,950 was due to 15 pieces of plywood to be replaced because of water damage and degradation. The total monies for the roof came to \$70,786. This roof project includes a 15 year leak free guarantee and a 15- year workmanship guarantee. Yearly inspection is included for the first two years. The shingles are 50- year shingles.

The next step of the process is to remediate the mold situation in the sanctuary. We are currently looking at obtaining quotes to address the mold situation in our sanctuary.

Gary Easton
Support Deacon

Shepherd of the Hills Youth Group

Clothing Drive



Fundraiser

HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP!

We will be collecting new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts, bed and bath linens and stuffed animals. Every piece helps! We can also accept bicycles that are in good working condition.

NO Pillows, Books, Toys, Furniture, Appliances, or Household items. Thank you for your support!

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 thus helping to keep America green and clean.

PLEASE PLACE SHOES IN A SEPARATE BAG/BOX!!

Please put all items in bags and place them in the last room on the right side before...

June 2024

Questions? Call Lisa Kroboth 610-262-4053