

# † The Rod and the Staff †

A bimonthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania  
† May/June, 2023 †

Vol. 2023 Issue 3

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The words above are from a familiar Christmas tune and are presently the music for an allergy medicine commercial. Every time I hear this music it reminds me how blessed we truly are as children of God.

It is a wonderful time of the year for all of us because He is Risen. He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and know that because He lives we can face tomorrow and have hope for each day.

Come and join us in worshipping a Risen Lord. Come and celebrate with us as the earth becomes alive again in Spring. Come and experience the joy we have in a Risen Lord. Martin Luther states, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime".

Truly, for all of us, as children of God, this is the most wonderful time of the year!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel  
Pastor

## AT A GLANCE:

May 4

**National Day of Prayer.** Please join Christians throughout the world as they join together in prayer.

There will be a **Congregational Meeting on May 7 after the 10:15 Worship Service** to discuss the work that needs to be done in the sanctuary regarding the ceiling.

May 14



May 28 Pentecost  
(wear red)



June 11

We will **honor all the Sunday School teachers for the 2021-2022** Sunday School Year.

*Thank You and May God Bless You for taking time to Serve Our Lord and our children.*

**June 18** we will **honor all of the graduates** in our congregation. We will celebrate with them on their accomplishments.



*Summer Worship Services will be held at 9 AM. We will have only one service each Sunday for the months of June, July and August.*

*This May Issue of the Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my Grandson Ben's birthday  
By Rozelle Higgins.*

*The June Issue of the Rod and Staff is given in memory of our parents  
By Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor.*





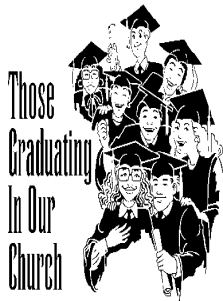
Early Reminder . . . Our church picnic will be July 30. We will need desserts for the covered dish picnic lunch as well as cakes for the "Cake Walk."



### Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Melanie Becker, Ann Borrell, Jacob Braido, Bonnie Brown, Andrew Buchwalter, Janice Buckwalter, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, Nick Cihlylik, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Nancy Dietz, Ed Didra, Lillian Dotter, Jimmy Earley, Desiree Erie and unborn baby, Mary Beth Fatzinger, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Bonnie Flores, Annie Frack, Hilda Frisch, Marie Gallagher, Terri Gerny, Joyce Gorge, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Eleanor Gold, Barbara Greenzweig, Ethel Harakal, Cyndee Hart, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Becky and Kyle Jones and Baby Adam, Alex Katana, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Scott Lazarus, Aubree Leiner, Agnes Marsh, Diane Masonheimer, Robert McFetridge, Debbie Messinger, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Rodney Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Cathy Nelcoski, Chris Ott, Megan Ott, Lorraine Randolph, Bsby Brecken Reichard, Jean Reinert, Dee Renner, Lorraine Ritter, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Ruhf family-Jackie, Irene Scherr, Randy and Corbin, Gloria Schmidinger, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Linda Smith, Sherry Smith, Doris Weaver, Bruce Werley, Bill and Anna Wieghknecht, Bruce Werley, Daniel Yakubecek, Wayne Young, Mary Zader, Lance Ziegenfus, Caroline Zolomij; *the families of Marilyn Devlin, June Lynn, Alice Nero*

### Attention Graduates



We would like to recognize *you* in our July/August Newsletter!

If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, nursing school, or any other school, please notify the church office (610-262-1600) to include *your name* in the next Newsletter.

The Times News Advertising for May was sponsored with thanks for all God's Blessings by Judy and Dale Ott.

The Times News Advertising for June was sponsored with gratitude for God's many blessings by Craig and Jean Marsteller.



### HOLY COMMUNION



The following young people received their first Holy Communion at our Maundy Thursday Service.:

- Anaya Marie Filer
Kyleigh Rae Greiss
Oliver James Shields Reppert



On April 15, 2023 Michael Simmons and Donna Hollinger were united in marriage. We wish Michael and Donna all of God's many blessings.

On March 17, 2023 David Moyer and Amy Sterner were united in marriage. We wish David and Amy all of God's many blessings.



# COMMITTEE Update

**Reach out to those in need**—We will continue collecting canned goods for the local Food Bank. The Food Bank serves all Whitehall and Coplay area residents who are in need of food for their family tables. We are presently collecting coffee (Decaf and Regular) - *no Keurig Cups* and cereal for the Whitehall Food Bank. 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](mailto: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 dailly devotion, please e-mail us your request with your address. Both the daily devotional and daily reflection will begin again in the near future.

You can find Pastor Schlegel’s **Daily Reflections** on our web page as well as on Facebook.

**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. Morning Prayer will begin again in June.

## 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

### SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

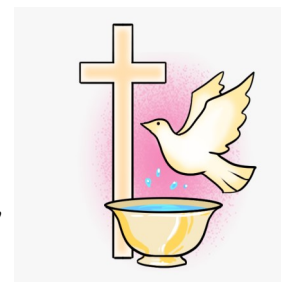
*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”*

#### End of Prior Month (as of March 31, 2023)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$15,965	YTD: \$49,196
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$16,296	YTD: \$49,333
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
March: \$481	YTD: \$1,424 (Budget for 2023—\$18,171)
February Electric	\$1,619

*On April 9, 2023 we welcomed Oliver Reppert into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God’s many blessings on Oliver and his parents.*

*On April 16, 2023 we welcomed Kendyl Jane Fenstermaker into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God’s many blessings on Kendyl, her parents and her sponsors.*





**Alice K. Nero** entered into eternal rest on April 8, 20223 We commend Alice into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

**THANK YOU**

**We will be planting geraniums on Monday, May 29, 2023 At 6:00 pm.**

Volunteers will be needed. Bring your **shovels, trowels**



- ◆ . . . to Tammy Hill, James Shope and Barbara Scheirer for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in March.
- ◆ . . .to Jason Lesinski and Cheryl Reisinger for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC in April.

**We received thank you notes:**

**From Barbara Schussler,**

**Dear Ladies of the Church, Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement. Also thank you for the beautiful afgan. We appreciate your hard work and the colors are perfect.**

**From Irene Scherr,**

**Prayer Shawl Ladies, Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl (my favorite colors) I use it a lot.**



The youth group sold over 111 nut rolls and made a profit of \$460. **Thank you** to everyone who bought a nut roll!

On February 26, 4 youth members went to **Angry Jack's Axe Throwing Club**. They had a great time throwing knives and axes and competed against each other in teams to see who could score the most points or hit the most bullseyes.

The youth group helped at the **WCHI Community Meal** on March 5. While the turnout was a bit disappointing, we did whatever we could to help and entertained ourselves when it was slow.

On March 11, 4 youth members went to **Adventure Aquarium** in Camden. We received free tickets for donating to Operation Christmas Child and we had a fun afternoon checking out the fish, penguins and hippos.

4 youth members went to **Parkland CARES Food Pantry** on Sunday, April 2. The original date was postponed because of the bad weather. We worked in the pantry, checked dates on products, helped to move bags from the pantry to the school and packed up a lot of frozen chicken and fish! Thank you for the donations!!

Our **Penny Party** was on April 16. We had over 60 people in attendance and made a profit of \$2230.05! Thank you to everyone who donated food, money or items for the game. And a special thank you to those who came to play! We hope you had a great time!

Spring is here and with it comes spring cleaning. Don't forget **the 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 continued support of the youth group!



## Get ready to launch your kids into adventure!

At **STELLAR VBS**, kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life!

**STELLAR VBS** is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how 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 Bibles to kids around the globe.

**STELLAR VBS** is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (entering 7<sup>th</sup> in the fall).

Mark these dates on your calendar: **July 10-14, 2023**

The fun starts at **6:00** and ends at **8:30**.

To register, go to <https://vbspro.events/p/sothegypt> and register your child today

OR scan QR code



OR fill out a registration form and drop it off in the church office/mail it to the church at 4331 Main St, Whitehall, Pa 18052

By June 4.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**One per Child**  
**REGISTER BY JUNE 4**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Parent's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Would your child like a STELLAR T-Shirt: Y / N?

Choose size: XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), Adult S (34-36),  
Adult M (38-40), Adult L (42-44)

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Anyone signing up after the deadline of June 4 will NOT be guaranteed a shirt.  
\*Please return to church office. Address is 4331 Main St, Whitehall, 18052\*

**Geraniums**  
**For**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 28, 2023**

Please check the category below and fill in the necessary information. Please use a separate form for each plant ordered. No orders will be taken without payment. Return the form along with \$11.00 for each plant in the offering plate or give to the Church Office.

**Deadline for orders is May 14, 2023**

All geraniums will be planted around the outside of the church as living memorials.

\_\_\_ In Memory of Loved Ones

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Plant given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

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