

† The Rod and the Staff †

A monthly publication of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania
† July/ August, 2023 †

Vol. 2023 Issue 4

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The Holy Spirit is Alive and moving in mysterious ways in this place”. These words were spoken by Bishop Michael Girlinghouse, the keynote speaker at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly on the weekend of June 1-3. Bishop Girlinghouse is the Bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod. Carl France and I represented our Church at the Assembly.

The Holy Spirit is certainly alive at Shepherd of the Hills. This is clearly visible in the activities that have recently occurred at our Church. The Spirit is alive as Dylan Rapchak affirmed his Baptismal vows and was Confirmed into our Church Family. Six Baptisms in the month of June revealed the Spirit's Presence. The Spirit moves in mysterious ways as we welcomed nine new members into our Church family. The Holy Spirit is alive and moving within Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

May we continue to come together and Worship our Lord and Savior and feel the Spirit's presence within our Church. May we realize each and every day that the Holy Spirit is alive and moving in mysterious ways in our life as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love

Rev. James W. Schlegel
Pastor



The Church Council has decided that for June, July, and August there will be one service each Sunday at 9 AM.



Send your kids on a
STELLAR adventure!

AT STELLAR VBS, kids discover God's greatness!

STELLAR VBS is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences. Kids see, hear, touch, and even 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 school supplies for kids living on reservations.

STELLAR VBS is great fun for children from ages 3 through 6th grade (entering 7th 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/sothlc> and register your child today **OR** fill out a registration form and drop it off in the church office **OR** mail it to the church at 4331 Main St, Whitehall, Pa 18052 by June 5.

This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of my granddaughter Abigail's birthday by Rozelle Higgins.



*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given to the Glory of God
By Joe Ebner and Sharon Bodor*



*Attending the Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod Assembly 2023 by Carl France*

The opportunity to accompany Pastor Schlegel to the Synod Assembly presented itself on Saturday, June 3. It was held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in the Poconos.

The convention burst out on a high note with a huge roar in the midst of our Synod Community Band playing uplifting songs. The entire assembly was alert, wide awake and standing with some of the conventioners dancing in the audience.

Our Bishop Christopher deForrest opened with a prayer. He spoke of this year's assembly theme and the phoenix bird logo. A mythical creature that burns up, dies and comes back to life repeatedly. The Bishop further stressed that we're a gathering of resurrection and resilience who will survive.

Assisting our Bishop, Pastor Rachael Dietz acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

The new Director of Evangelical Mission, Deacon Kathleen Tigerman, was introduced to us during the conference. Employed by a wide variety of domestic and overseas nonprofit organizations, Kat is seeking to help marginalized population groups with creative ways to ministry together.

Church-wide presenter, Ian Chester led our synod in prayer during this assembly. Joe Davis and David Scheier were singing songs and poems to promote inclusion and diversity.

Hands down the keynote speaker, Bishop Michael Girlinghouse of Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, was clearly the most interesting and memorable. He gave presentations during both morning and afternoon sessions of congregations facing and overcoming declining attendance. Until we mourn these losses, Bishop Girlinghouse stated, congregations and leadership will not be ready to move forward.

In his book "Embracing God's Future Without Forgetting the Past," Bishop Girlinghouse covers in four parts:

Part 1. Discusses loss and grief.

Part 2, Tell your congregation's story including losses while exploring ways to accept reality.

Part 3, The need for congregations to think adaptively and creatively about the future while continuing to build on its values and strengths.

Part 4, Embracing God's future as a congregation. The need to make changes and move on to a bright and joyful future.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts and Prayers:

Louis Albright, Paul Balascki, Karen Becker, Melanie Becker, Bill Beidleman, David Brobst Sr., Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter, Vera Chandick, Beth Cherry, Nick Cihylik, John Clark, Donna Cordier, Jeffrey Deutsch, Nancy Dietz, Ed Didra, Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Bonnie Flores, Annie Frack, Kay Fronheiser, Marie Gallagher, Joyce George, Teri Gerny, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Elinor Gold, Barbara Greenzweig, Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Jinny Hess, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Ann Hricinak, Becky and Kyle Jones and son Adam, Alex Katana, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Peggy and John Kratzer, Linda Kressley, Scott Lazarus, Aubree Leiner, Diane Masonheimer, Dr. Brandon Matthew and family, Robert McFetridge, Debbie Messenger, Terry Messenger, Kayleigh Moyer, Russell Myers, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Kayleigh Moyer, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Cathy Nelcoski, Chris Ott, Megan Ott, Joanne Pammer, Reynold Reifinger, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Jean Reinert, Jan Reink, Jean Roth, Mary Royer, Michael Saraceno, Irene Scherr, Gloria Schmidinger, Mike Schwentner, Ruth Saadi, June Sell, Wayne Serfass, Sean Skelonis, Sue Sill, Sherry Smith, Doris Weaver, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Frances Worman, Daniel Yakubecek, Wayne Young, Mary Zader, *The families of John Gummo, Cathlene Paules*

The Capital Campaign

"The Sanctuary looks beautiful ." These words were spoken by many members after the work was done in the Sanctuary. The Capital Campaign committee has organized a three year program to defray the cost of the new roof and the work done in the sanctuary. We need your prayers and your support.

Sincerely,

The Capital Campaign committee
Joe Ebner Gary Easton
Charles Church Carl France
Melissa Sassaman Tracy Tacker

Assembly 2023 cont'd

Keynote speaker Girlinghouse is currently serving as the Bishop of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod since July 2011. Previously, he answered the call to serve as a pastor at the University Lutheran Church in Norman, Oklahoma while also serving as Pastor of the University of Oklahoma.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

We visited the **Center for Animal Health and Welfare** on May 3. The cats were a little sleepy and not as interactive as in the past, but it's always a fun day spending time with them and getting to help take care of them. Thank you for all the donations you gave to the Center. They were very appreciative!!

We had a meeting with Pastor on May 21.

Don't forget **the clothing drive will continue through June 15, 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 will be collecting new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves, soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains, and stuffed animals. Every piece helps! We can also accept bicycles, scooters and strollers that are in good working condition. 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.

We'll spend the rest of the summer resting up for the fall and all the fundraisers, activities and meetings we will have to help us prepare for the **ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024**. Thank you for all your support as we prepare for this once in a lifetime trip!!

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD WITH US

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

On Monday, September 18th at 10 AM
On Wednesday, September 20th at 10 AM

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



THE WORD OF THE LORD...

Summer— a time to relax, a time to rest, and a time to renew our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, a time to secure our relationship with Jesus. As we slow down our daily pace and as we reflect upon all our many blessings, may we take the time to strengthen our relationship with Jesus by worshiping Him and praising Him for all His many gifts.



Daily Reflection

Each day - Monday through Saturday there is a Daily Reflection on Shepherd of the Hills Facebook page as well as our website. Each day at 7 PM there is a presentation of God's Word as well as a reflection on the Scriptural passage and ends in prayer. Join us each day. Daily Devotions are available as an email. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this mailing.



The SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church are recognized for their year of faithful dedication to the youth of our church. The efforts of these individuals helps to insure the future of our church.

THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS:

- Lisa Kroboth
- Tara Henry-Morrow
- Carla Myers
- Donna Strawbridge
- Tracy Tacker
- Hunter Weiss
- Kay Weiss



On May 7, 2023, we welcomed **Laurie Zimmerman Andrew, Cheyenne Frankenfield and her children Joey Steimetz, Emma, Evan and Adam, and Mary Lou Young** into our church family here at Shepherd of the Hills.

In June, we welcomed new members **Natalie Daniels and Jason**

McDonald into our church family here at Shepherd of the Hills.

We wish all our new members God's many blessings.



From Debbie and Terry Messinger for the prayer shawls they received. "The colors are so pretty!." Also, thank you for all the prayers and concerns for the both of us.

To Pastor Schlegel and My Friends at Shepherd of the Hills,

I want to thank everyone for all of your prayers and well wishes, I know your concern and thoughtfulness has been a real blessing to me during my recovery. I want to give the members of the Prayer Shawl group a special thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. I certainly felt the warm feelings and prayers I received from the shawl.

God Bless,
Paul Balascki

A special thank you to the 6 volunteers who planted the geraniums and did the mulching. Thank you to all who purchased geraniums. Our church grounds look great!



YARD CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Doesn't it feel good when you come to church on a Sunday and the church grounds look beautiful. Your help is needed. Sign for a two-week period to keep the church flowers beds, walkways and perimeter free from weeds as well as deadhead the geraniums. You choose the day and time you work during the two-week period you volunteer. Please sign up outside the church office or contact Gary Easton at 484-988-0520.



The July Times News Advertising is sponsored in honor of my granddaughter Abigail's birthday by Rozelle Higgins.

The August Times News Advertising is sponsored in honor of Doris Weaver's birthday. Love, Denise.

September 24—We will celebrate **Harvest Home** and thank God for all His many blessings.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges memorial donations given in **memory of Alice Nero** from Linda and Greg Heffner, Ruthann Grieshammer, Joann Nestor McDonald, Maryann Haus (Hovus-Inventive Packaging), Anonymous, Glenn and Bevely Hacker, Frances Worman, Debra A. Gesencser, Phyllis C. McCullough, Michael and Karen Haberern, the Hoffman Family, Verna and Peter Chandick, Phyllis and Barry Brader, Richard and Helen Cath, Rite Ann Zangari, John and Gail Hanzl, Katrina Devito, Christina and David Wegenrich, Brian Molchany, Glenn and Kathy Rader, the Stoudt Family, Denise and Edward Hozza, Debra and Dennis Nero, Josef Fragnito,

2023 CONGREGATION

- President: Keith Moyer
- Vice President: Tracy Tacker
- Secretary: Norma Hrozencik
- Treasurer: Colleen Ebst
- Financial Secretary: Carl France
- Learning Deacon: Lisa Kroboth
- Service Deacon: Tara Henry-Morrow
- Support Deacon: Gary Easton
- Youth Deacon: Drew Null
- Worship Deacon: Denise Smith
- Witness Deacon: Scarlet Randolph
- Youth Representative: Paige Tacker
- 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 May 31, 2023)

Monthly Stewardship Income:	\$13,745	YTD: \$ 87,902
Monthly Operating Expenses:	\$25,383	YTD: \$ 90,089
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:		
May	\$ 394	YTD: \$ 2,552 (Budget for 2023 -\$18,174)
April Electric	\$ 764	YTD: \$ 7,447



COMMITTEE Update

THE SERVICE TEAM

We are collecting funds to help our own members of Shepherd of the Hills who may temporarily find themselves in need of assistance. “Assistance Fund” envelopes are in the narthex for your contributions to this worthwhile fund.



Reach out to those in need—Support the Food Pantry—new list of needs

The Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative is in need of tuna (canned in water), canned fruit and a variety of canned beans—kidney, chick peas, black beans, pinto beans and cannelline. We continue to collect cereal, pancake mix, syrup and coffee-pods, ground and instant.

Toiletries 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. *God’s Work, Our Hands*. Please place your donations on the table in the narthex.

Shepherd of the Hills Youth Group Fundraiser

HELP SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP!

We will be collecting new or gently used men, women and children’s clothing, shoes, purses, belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves, soft household items like towels, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, quilts, comforters and curtains, and stuffed animals. Every piece helps! We can also accept bicycles, scooters and strollers that are in good working condition.

NO Sport equipment (bikes and scooters are OK), board games, books, puzzles, pots, car seats, electrical devices or glass, large toys, highchairs or baby cribs, VCR tapes, furniture and outdoor play sets.

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 15, 2024

Questions? Call Lisa Kroboth 610-262-4053



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR 2023
GRADUATES**

Rosalind Baer graduated from St. Luke's University School of Nursing.

Doctor Alexa Deemer graduated from Louis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

Ryan Gaspar graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Jacob Lewis graduated from Muhlenberg College with a Political Science Degree.

Denine Moyer graduated from Lehigh Valley Health Network School of Nursing.

Brad Erie graduated from Whitehall High School.

Aiden Henry graduated from Whitehall High School.

*YOU HAVE LEARNED MUCH AND
GROWN GREATLY. MAY GOD GUIDE
AND DIRECT YOU TO A BRIGHT AND
BLESSED FUTURE.*

On May 28, 2023 we joined in celebration with **Dylan Rapchak** who affirmed his baptism.

THANK YOU'S CONT'D FROM PAGE 5

To Norma Hrozencik for directing her Thrivent Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills in June.

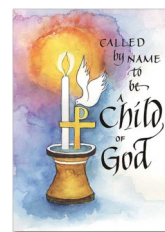
On June 4, 2023, we welcomed Owen Robert Niedermeyer into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on Owen, his parents, Cody and Shannon Niedermeyer and his sponsors, Stephanie Heffelfinger and Robert Niedermeyer.

On June 11, 2023, we welcomed Nolan Josef McDonald into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on Nolan, his parents, Jason and Morgan McDonald and his sponsors, Nichole Thorpe and Michael Reinhart.

On June 13, 2023 we welcomed Brecken Mae Reichard, into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on Brecken and her parents, Jarret and Ashley Reichard and her sponsors Kelly Jenkins and Tony Culp.

On June 13, 2023 we welcomed Caleb Allen Jenkins and Hunter Owen Jenkins into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on their parents, Ryan and Kelly Jenkins and their sponsors Ashley Reichard and Michael Jenkins.

On June 25, 2023 we welcomed Rowan Grace Thorpe into our church family by the Sacrament of Baptism. We wish God's many blessings on Rowan and her Parents, Aaron and Nichole and her sponsors, Megan McDonald and Bruno Moritz.



TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

No experience necessary. All lessons and guides are provided. All you need is a willingness to share God's love with our children. See Lisa Kroboth if you are interested.



July 30—1 service only. 10:15 AM under the pavilion at Egypt Community Park.

The service will be followed by our picnic at noon.

The church will provide the hot dogs. Please bring a salad, dessert or casserole to share. REMEMBER to bring chairs and something to drink.



Pastor Schlegel will be on vacation July 16-22. If you need Pastoral Care, please call the church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. We will have a healing Service Wednesday, October 18 at 7 PM.



Knowing the important role pets play in the life of people, **September 10 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.)