

† The Rod and the Staff †

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

† September/October, 2023 †

Vol. 2023, Issue 5

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ASTOR'S CORNER **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

September is a month where we begin again some of the learning opportunities at Shepherd of the Hills. The Sunday School year for 2023–2024 will begin on September 10th. We will also begin our Confirmation classes and begin a brand new year of Bible Study sessions. The Word of our Lord is alive and available for all at Shepherd of the Hills. We also have other opportunities to experience the Word of our Lord—each week there is a daily devotion distributed to many members by e-mail and Daily Reflections on God's Word can be found everyday at 7PM on Facebook and on our website. The Bible or the Word of our Lord is important to each one of us as children of God.

Shepherd of the Hills provides many opportunities to experience the Word of the Lord. Come and Hear His Word on a Sunday morning, and on Thursday morning at our Morning Prayer Service, come and read and discuss His Word in Sunday School and Bible Study. May the Word, the Bible be your favorite book in your life.

In Christ's Love,

Sunday School **resumes on Sunday** **September 10th 9 am!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

All individuals are invited to come and learn of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We have Sunday School classes for all individuals from 3 years old through adults.

Our theme this year will be to "Dig In" and learn all about the Life of Jesus.

Please come and join us as we learn together.

YOUTH MONTH

We are celebrating Youth Month in the month of September. We are rejoicing in our Lord for all the many young people who are a part of our family at Shepherd of the Hills. During the month of September there will be envelopes on the table in the Narthex for our Youth Memorial Fund. This fund sponsors our youth to the National Youth Assembly. Please support our youth at Shepherd of the Hills.



*This issue of the Rod and The Staff is sponsored by the Haberern's.
May God bless all children as they begin a new school year.*

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in memory of loved ones
by Pastor Schlegel and Cindy.*



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Fern A. Kerchner entered into eternal rest on July 22, 20223 We commend Fern into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

Terry L. Bucks entered into eternal rest on February 9, 20223 We commend Terry into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.



THRIVENT GRANTS

Each month Shepherd of the Hills receives a deposit into its Operating Account on behalf of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Thrivent Choice program. By directing designated Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.

Thank you to our sponsors of the Times News SOTHLC ad

September— In memory of Dennis Weaver. Love, Mom.
 October- In honor of the October birthdays of our family and friends by Beverly and Glenn Hacker.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE ENVELOPES IN THE NARTHEX FOR SPONSORING:

- ◆ ALTAR FLOWERS, COMMUNION WINE, BULLETINS
- ◆ TIMES NEWS SPONSORSHIP and NEWSLETTER
- ◆ MEMORIAL DONATIONS?

The envelopes help to provide the church office with the information necessary to properly credit your giving statement We hope having them available will be a convenience for you as well.

Please be aware that when you sponsor altar flowers you should arrange to pick them up after the 10:15 service. They will be distributed to the sick or shut-ins if left until Monday at noon.

Please Keep in Your Thoughts And Prayers:

- A** Louis Albright, Carol Ayers,
 - B** Paul Balaski, Karen Becker, Bill Beidleman, Rosalie Beidleman, Kim Beidleman,, Jacob Braido, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter
 - C** Verna Chandick, B eth Cherry, Ruth Cherry, John Clark,
 - D** Jeffrey Deutsch, Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz,
 - F** Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Annie Frack, Kay Fronheiser,
 - G** Lea Gabrylick, Terry Gerny, Jeff and Carol Gilbert, Elinor Gold,
 - H** Phyllis Handwerk, Ethel Harakal, Brandon Heichel, Brad Heintzelman, Betty and Lamont Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Ann Hricinak, Norma Hrozencik,
 - J** Becky and Kyle Jones and son Adam,
 - K** Alex Katana, Bill Kiefer, John Kotze, Carolyn Kramer, Linda Kressley,
 - L** Scott Lazarus, Matthew and Jillian Lento and twin baby girls Madelyn and Olivia, Rose Leshko, Mary Kay Lewis,
 - M** Diane Masonheimer, Michele McCloskey, Rober McFetridge, Debbie Messinger, Terry Messinger, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Taylor Moyer, Russell Myers,
 - N** Cathy Nelcoski,
 - P** Sandra Phillips,
 - R** Jean Reinert, Jan Reinik, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer,
 - S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Irene Scherr, Cindy Schlegel, Gloria Schmidinger, Mike Schwentner, Wayne Serfass, June Sell, Jim Shope, Grace Siegel, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith,
 - W** Pat Walschburger, Doris Weaver, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling,
 - Y** Daniel Yakubecek, Mary Lou Young,
 - Z** Mary Zader,
- The family of Conn Gallagher*





There will be a **youth group meeting** on September 10 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Any youth in their second year of confirmation or older should attend. Parents should plan to attend for the first hour. Lunch will be served.

Hoagies will go on sale on September 17. The cost is \$5.50 for a hoogie and \$4 for a sandwich, Delivery will be October 8 after each service.

Our gift card sale will begin October 1. Order forms will be available on the table by the stairs. They should be filled out and turned in with a check by November 26. Or you may go to www.shopwithscrip.com, log in and use the code **L9A248FA33862** to order online. All orders must be received by November 26 and they will be ready for pickup by Dec 3.

Our **nut roll sale** will tentatively begin on October 15 with a delivery date of November 12. We are waiting for confirmation from Country Cottage about prices and flavors which will be determined in September. The youth group will be helping at **Parkland CARES Food Pantry** on November 4. They have asked us to donate standard sized cans of Chicken Noodle Soup, SpaghettiOs/Chef Boyardee and Tuna. We will collect these items through the month of October.

SAVE THE DATE!!!: We are planning to have a Roast Beef Lunch on November 19, 11:30-1 pm. We will offer both in person sit down meals and to go meals, so you can enjoy this amazing lunch wherever you feel most comfortable. Tickets will go on sale in October. With beef costs so high right now, we are uncertain of our final price, but we plan to charge between \$10 and \$12.

To order hoagies and/or nut rolls or to have a gift card order form mailed to you, call Lisa at 610-262-4053.

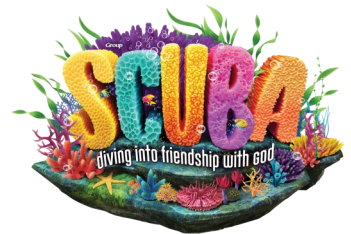


Beginning July 10th and running through July 14th, 19 children and 21 volunteers participated in STELLAR VBS. The children played with some cool Gizmos. They learned that when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad and when people need help, Shine Jesus' Light!! They ate an assortment of snacks and played some fun and wet games. They watched for God and shared their God sightings. Overall, STELLAR proved to be a fun and educational experience!

The children were asked to bring in an item for donation and change every night. These generous children brought in diapers, small toys, t-shirts, small packs of tissues and canned goods and juice for [Daybreak, Operation Christmas Child, Kidspeace and the food bank](#). They also raised over \$102 in loose change. This will be sent to Operation Kid to Kid, who will distribute it [provide](#) bibles to children all around the world!

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors who brought the children every night to attend STELLAR. Without you, we wouldn't be able to have a VBS program. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated food items, supplies or money towards the VBS program. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated. And most importantly, a huge thank you to the volunteers who came every night to help, teach, guide and have fun with the kids. Without you, this program would be impossible!!

We hope everyone involved had a great time and we hope to see everyone again next year when we go underwater in...





**Harvest Home
September 24th**



Our Harvest Home service is September 24th. This year the need is great for canned goods & rice, we are looking for mostly non-perishables. (These can be brought to the church any time before the 24^h) We will be putting a list on the Kiosk for fresh items that we are looking to use to beautify the sanctuary. There will be someone available to receive perishables Thursday the 21st from 6 to 8 PM, and Saturday the 23rd in the morning 8 to 10 AM. Please mark (name or initials or put a note in if they are bagged) any fresh items you would like to take back home with you. These fresh/perishable items will be available to pick up after the 10:15 service on the 24th. If anyone is interested in helping to set up

On July 23, **Caleb Joseph Smith**, the son of LeRoy and Sherry Smith, Jr. was welcomed into the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome Caleb. We wish you, your parents and your sponsors Harvey Yerger and Erin Marley God's Blessings.

*Baptized
IN THE NAME
OF THE
Father,
THE Son,
AND THE
Holy Spirit*



On July 9, 2023 we welcomed Karen and Jeffrey Becker, Sr. and Michelle McCloskey to our family at Shepherd of the Hills. We wish God's many blessings on these new members.



Prayer for Autumn Months

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- Author Unknown

SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

End of Prior Month (as of July 31, 2023)

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$13,360 YTD: \$115,651

Monthly Operating Expenses: \$14,600 YTD: \$116,825

Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:
July \$ 418 YTD: \$ 3,506 (Budget for 2023 - \$18,174)

June Electric \$ 280 YTD: \$ 8,426



**BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS
AUGUST 27**

COMMITTEE PAGE



THE SERVICE TEAM - Support the Food Pantry—new list of needs

The Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative is in need of soups (vegetable, chicken noodle, chicken rice and tomato) ; cereals (all kinds); pasta (rotini, farfalle, frisilli, penne, and elbow—no spaghetti); crackers (saltines, Ritz, and cheese crackers.) We continue to collect pancake mix, and syrup,.

Toiletries They are in need of 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.



THE WITNESS COMMITTEE Take A Look At Our Revamped Web Page.

We have our own web page. You can find out information about our church at www.sothlc-egypt.org.

We also have e-mail. Our address is pastor@sothlc-egypt.org. We still have daily devotions which are sent out by e-mail. If you would like to receive the devotions, please e-mail us and we will add you to the list. Also each day at 7 PM you will find a Daily Reflection on the church’s Facebook page. It includes God’s Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE Assistance Fund

Our Church has an Assistance Fund to help those in our congregation who need assistance. There are envelopes in the Narthex to give toward those in our church family. As we end the Summer and begin the Fall and Winter, the need is more prevalent. Please give so those in need in our Church Family may not go hungry or cold.

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.

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 Morrow, Service
- Drew Null, Youth
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Steven Hanson, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel, Pastor



- ◆ . . . to everyone who helped keep the church grounds, flower beds, walkways and perimeters free from weeds this summer. We so appreciate your efforts. The grounds have looked beautiful.
- ◆ To Norma Hrozencik for directing her Thrivent Choice Dollars to SOTHLC.



**COME AND JOIN US!
LEARN THE WORD OF THE LORD**

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

Monday, September 25 at 10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 27 at 10:00 AM

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

Several Ways to God's Word

We are offering several ways to God's Word. Each day at 7 PM there is a Daily Reflection on the Church's Facebook page which includes God's Word, a reflection, and ending in prayer. We also have a Daily devotion via email, which is sent out almost every day. If you would like to receive the email, please contact the church office.

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.)



DECEMBER 24 ANNOUNCEMENT

December 24, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Advent at our 9 AM service.

Our Christmas Eve services will held be at 4 PM and 7 PM. These will be candlelight and Holy Communion services.



