

# † The Rod and the Staff †

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

Vol. 2022, Issue 6

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Now Thank we all our God! As the leaves turn their beautiful color and we consider all the many blessings we receive from God, we need to give thanks to God each day. It may be difficult to see the glory of God around us when we are confronted with doubt and despair. It may be difficult when we see the darkness of this world. We as children of God need to see the Light of Christ still shining even in the midst of all the darkness and doubts as we face each and every day. We need to let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our God in heaven.

As we live each day, we need to spread love and peace with those we meet and not be overcome by the darkness of this world. We have a lot to be thankful for at Shepherd of the Hills and we need to Worship and Praise our Living Lord. May we live each day praying the prayer of St. Francis Of Assisi and come together as the Family of God.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. James W. Schlegel

November 5, 2023



Turn your clocks back 1 hour.

Thanksgiving  
Eve Service

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7 PM**

We will come together to worship God and give thanks to His Holy Name for all our many blessings.

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 9** we are looking for volunteers to set up the Christmas tree. Contact Gary Easton if you can help.

Deck  
the  
Halls

**DECEMBER 10th**

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 10 after the 10:15 service. Come and join us as we prepare for the Savior's Birth.

**DECEMBER 17th**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL**

**MEETING** immediately following the 10:15 service for the election of council members and adoption of a budget. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**DECEMBER 24th**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**4:00 P.M.**

**7:00 P.M.**

We will celebrate in the Sanctuary.

**10:00 P.M.**

Our service will be on Facebook as well as our website. This will be a video of our 4 PM service.



Whichever service you and your family choose to attend, come, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ the child was born for you!



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

*This issue of The Rod and The Staff is given in honor of our Youth  
Group members and their leaders.*



**ALTAR FLOWER POLICY**

Each Sunday after the service the Altar flowers will be placed in the back porch or foyer. 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.

**PRICE FOR 2022 1 Vase - \$30.00  
2 Vases - \$60.00**



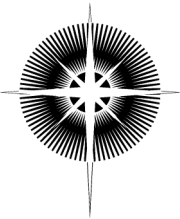
**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

Michele **McCloskey** entered into eternal rest in August, 2023. We commend Michele into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

**Myrtle B. Dietrich** entered into eternal rest September 8, 2023. We commend Myrtle into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

**Karen Becker** entered into eternal rest on September 24, 2023. We commend Karen into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.

**Andrew Sommers** entered into eternal rest on July 19, 2022. We commend Andrew into the hands of Almighty God. We offer our sincere sympathy to the family.



**The church office will be closed during the Christmas Holiday from December 22nd through January 1st.**

Our advertising in the *Times News* for November is In honor of the Wedding Anniversaries of Bob and Denise Smith and Bill and Deneen Kiefer.

The *Times News* December advertising is given in memory of our son Brian by Gary and Judy Lentz.



To Barbara R. Scheirer for directing her Thrivent Choice dollars to SOTHLC in October.

To the 10 pets who came to the Blessing of the Animals. Thank you also for bringing your human with you.

Thank you to Terri Miller, Randy Marushak, Norma Hrozcencik, Fran Worman and Denise Smith who decorated our Sanctuary for Harvest Home. It was spectacular. Thank you to all who brought food for the food bank.

A thank you to Ed Palansky, Russell Kramer, Grege Scheirer and Ryan Kramer for digging the trench for our



Shepherd of the Hills will be sponsoring a giving tree to benefit under-privileged children who attend Community Services for Children's day care program.

The children are taught many life skills and social interactions with others. The parents earn gift cards by attending classes and working at Co.S.C.

Gift cards and books may be purchased in any amount to benefit the low-income families. Please turn in your gifts no later than December 11.



On September 23, 2023, Harry W. Siegel, Jr. and Diana M. Holder were united together as one. May God be with you, Harry and Diana, you begin your life together as husband and wife.



On **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM** we will study the Book of Romans.

Do you ever wonder what the Scripture meant on a Sunday morning and the Pastor didn't explain it? This Bible Study is for YOU! We will continue a Bible Study on **Monday mornings at 10:00AM**. We will discuss the Scripture lessons from the previous day.

*Come and share the Word of our Lord.*

**November 6th**

We will celebrate All Saints' Sunday and we will remember all who were members at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and entered into eternal rest this past year:

- Ruth Weidner
- Alice K. Nero
- Michele McCloskey
- Karen Becker



**Please Keep In Your Thoughts and Prayers**

- A** Louis Albright, Laury Andrew, Ronald and Theresa Anglestein, Carol Ayers,
- B** Paul Balascki, Bill Beidleman, James Blocker, Jacob Braido, Bonnie Brown, Janice Buckwalter
- C** Mitchell Carl, Verna Chandick, Beth Cherry, Patricia Wong Chong, John Clark,
- D** Ed Didra, Nancy Dietz,
- F** Beverly Fekula, Gloria Fischl, Donald Fister, Annie Frack, Carl France, Bobby Frey, Kay Fronheiser, Bill Fronzone
- G** Lea Gabryluk, Teri Gerry, Jeff and Carol Gilbert,
- H** Ethel Harakal, Brad Heintzelman, Chris Henry, Brandon Heichel, Lamont and Betty Hontz, Barbara Horvath, Ann Hricinak,
- J** Diane Jackson, Becky and Kyle Jones and son Adam,
- K** Caroline Kramer, Alex Katana, John Kotze, Linda Kressley, Bob Kuba, Bob Kuhns,
- L** Scott Lazarus, Mary K. Lewis,
- M** Diane Masonheimer, Debbie Messinger, Carol Mickley, John Mikovits, Doris Miller, Richard Miller, Sharon Minnich, Christopher Moakley, Kevin Moyer, Russell Myers,
- N** Cathy Nelcoski, John Nikovits,
- P** Sandra Phillips,
- R** Jan Reinik, Jean Reinert, Dee Renner, Steve Roman, Jean Roth, Tonie Rothdeutsch, Mary Royer,
- S** Ruth Saadi, Michael Saraceno, Irene Scherr, Cindy Schlegel, Gloria Schmidinger, Mike Schwentner, Sean Serfass, June Sell, Joan Shook, Richard and Barbara Shook, John Shope, Sue Sill, Sean Skelonis, Sherry Smith, Ann Stibits
- T** Rosmarie Thrash
- W** Doris Weaver, Bill and Anna Weighknecht, Jennifer Wentling, Frances Worman,
- Y** Daniel Yakubecek, Dennis Yakubecek, Mary Lou Young,
- Z** Mary Zader, Lance Ziegenfus, Bob Zarrizski  
*The families of Edward Searfass, Michele McCloskey, Linda Kressly, Dean Weber, Karen Becker, John Woodling, John Kratzer, Larry Herring, Jeffrey Deutsch, Terrence Pypiuk*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday, October 29 at both services:** Reformation Sunday and Presentation of Bibles. **Wear red.** Join us for the presentation of Bibles to a few of our Sunday School children.

**Sunday, November 5 at both services:** All Saint's Sunday. Join us as we remember those of our congregation who entered into eternal rest this past year.

**Wednesday, November 22:** Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm. Please join us as we give thanks for all the many blessings that God has given us.

**Sunday, December 10 after the 10:15 service:** Sanctuary Decorating. After the decorating is finished, we will share a pot luck lunch and then go caroling to our home bound congregation members. Please join us for a fun afternoon filled with Christmas cheer!!

**Sunday, December 17 after the 10:15 service:** Congregational meeting.

**Sunday, December 24:** 9 AM, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Our **Christmas Eve services** will be at 4 pm and 7 pm. At 10 pm, the service will be virtual and will be posted on Facebook and on our website.

**Sunday, December 31:** On New Year's Eve, we will have only one service at 9 am. A service of Lessons and Carols. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

**Sunday, January 7, at both services:** Installation of Church Council members for 2023.

**Sunday, January 21, immediately following the 10:15 service:** Congregational meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Special Events cont'd

**Sunday January 28:** Youth Sunday. Come out and support these talented young people as they lead us in song, sermon and prayers.

**SOTHLC Signs of Our Faithfulness**

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

**End of Prior Month (as of September 30, 2023)**

Monthly Stewardship Income: \$13,271	YTD: \$142,903
Monthly Operating Expenses: \$14,127	YTD: \$149,972
Stewardship Income includes Benevolence Envelopes:	
September \$ 398	YTD: \$ 4,064 (Budget for 2023 -\$18,174)
August Electric \$ 403	YTD: \$ 8,918

**Youth Group News**

The youth group volunteered at the **Itty Bitty Kitty Shelter** in Allentown at the end of September. They cleaned litter boxes and fed, watered and played with the cats.

**Thank you** to everyone who bought hoagies. We made a profit of \$457!

On October 2, five youth group members went to **Captured LV Escape Room** in Bethlehem. This was the first time we ever escaped from one of the rooms! We had some great teamwork and everyone seemed to have a good time. We finished the day with lunch at the Coplay Eatery.

**Our Roast Beef Lunch is planned for November 19, 11:30-1.** Cost will be \$12 for beef, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, roll, dessert and non-alcoholic drinks. Tickets go on sale the end of October. Call Lisa at 610-262-4053 to order.

The youth group is selling **gift cards**. The order forms are available for pick up on the table at the top of the stairs. Or go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Set up a user name, password and security questions. The enrollment code is **L9A248FA33862**. All checks and orders must be turned in by November 26. Delivery will be December 3.

Join the youth group on **December 10** as we help to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary and go caroling to our homebound congregation members.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our youth!! Only 9 months until we go to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans!!!

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

Ethel Harakal  
Alexandria Manor, Room 12  
313 S. Walnut St.  
Bath, PA 18014

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

Verna Chandick  
2107 Dewey St.  
Northampton, PA 18068

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

Ann Hricinak  
PO Box 76  
Taneyville, MO 65759

John Clark  
918 Oak St  
Coplay, PA 18037

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

Irene Scherr  
800 Hausman Rd.  
Allentown, PA 18104

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



**DON'T FORGET OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS. SEND A CHRISTMASGREETING.**





# COMMITTEE PAGE

**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:** Support the Food Pantry, *Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative* **New to the list, soup-vegetable, chicken noodle, chicken rice and tomato, pasta** (elbow, rotini, farfalle, frisilli and penne—no spaghetti), **cereal** (all kinds, small sized boxes), **pancake mix and syrup, crackers** (saltine, Ritz and cheese crackers) **toiletries**— 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.

## 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**  
**FACEBOOK: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church-Egypt**  
**CALL THE CHURCH**  
**610-262-1600**



## Attention Deacons

**Your Report** will be needed in the church office **by the end of 2023**. The office will be mailing out copies of last year's reports to chairs and deacons (check your bins in the office). Please help us by completing your report ASAP. **Thank you!**

## ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

received by the church **on Sunday, December 31, 2023 will be posted in the year 2023**. Offering Statements for 2023 will be available in January 2024. If you would like to receive your offering statement, please contact the Church office.

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- Keith Moyer, President
- Tracy Tacker, Vice President
- Shelley Hanson, Secretary
- Colleen Ehst, Treasurer
- Carl France, Financial Secretary
- Lisa Kroboth, Learning
- Karen Haberern, Service
- Gary Easton, Support
- Denise Smith, Worship
- Scarlet Randolph, Witness
- Drew Null, Youth
- Steven Hanson, Youth Representative
- Rev. James W. Schlegel

{GIVE THANKS}

for each new morning  
 with its light  
**FOR REST AND SHELTER**  
 OF THE NIGHT  
 for health and food  
 for love and friends  
**FOR EVERYTHING**  
 THY GOODNESS SENDS

~ralph waldo emerson~

*Angela Lee*

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 2023 Christmas 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. Return your completed form along with your check to the Church Office or place in the offering plate.

CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettia - \$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 - NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

The above tributes will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins.

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.



We are starting a choir to sing for November and December HOLIDAY SEASON. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday November 7, 14, 28, and December 5, 12, 19 from 7 to 7:45. Our rehearsal schedule and the Sundays that we sing are flexible depending on our singer's availability. We will meet in the choir room. No previous choir experience is necessary; all are welcome.

## NEPA SYNOD NEWS



### 6261 MINISTRY COMMUNITIES

6 congregations  
2 full-time pastors  
6 lay ministers  
1 fulltime deacon



By 2028, we hope to have **128 interconnected congregations**, formed across **28 unique 6261 Ministry Communities** who are rooted in Scripture and worship, and embody Jesus Christ through active engagement with their neighbors and loving service that addresses the needs of their community.

### What is a 6261 Ministry Community?

The goal is that each 6261 Ministry Community will be bound together in common life, ministry, and mission. For many, this is a cultural, paradigm shift. Leaders work in copartnership with one another and across the 6 congregations for the purpose of deeply rooted, shared ministry within the community.

Whether you are a congregation interested in learning more or joining a 6261 Ministry Community, a pastor or deacon discerning a call to a 6261 Ministry Community, or a lay inister sensing a vocation to serve in a 6261 Ministry Community—this is the place to start!

### 6261 Ministry Projects

Each 621 Ministry Community will be formed around a **primary ministry project**. This might look like healing the hurts by addressing issues of poverty, mental health, food insecurity, affordable housing, or racial inequities. It might mean engaging the stranger by focusing on truly welcoming young people and people of color. It might involve loving the land by working on green initiatives, reducing our waste as congregational institutions and as individuals, or by connecting our rural communities with more creation-friendly methods of farming. Whatever the passion and contextual need, a 6261 Ministry Community can commit to this profound work for the sake of the Gospel and one another.

### 6261 Ministry Communities promote vitality for all 6 of its congregations by providing:

A collective pool of resources to support full-time pastors and deacons, in a time of clergy shortage and in a way that supports clergy health, as well as additional staff such as musicians, Christian education, administration, and more.

- A training structure for lay ministers and inters, allowing for a natural flow of trained leadership some of whom may discern a call to public, rostered ministry.
  - A means for staff and members to practice teamwork in a familiar network as they will have to rely on one another to fully support and sustain ministry.
  - Built-in support for re-identifying values, mission and community in the wake of Covid-19 and in ever-changing landscape.
  - A deeper and broader training and accountability structure for councils, officers, committees, staff, rostered ministers, and lay ministers.
  - Greater oversight to guard against financial malfeasance.
  - Insight into the Church universal as congregations partner together for the sake of the Gospel, reaching beyond their individual doors and into the broader community.
  - Increased opportunities for worship, Bible study, small groups, service, fellowship and other faith practices.
- 
-

**ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION (MEN)**

- Supermarket gift cards
- Powdered eggs
- Corned bee hash
- Granola and cereal bars
- Canned spinach and collard greens
- Low sodium soup and canned vegetables
- No sugar baked beans
- Canned chicken
- Tuna fish
- Coffee (NO K Cups)
- Coffee creamers
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Disposable razors
- Paper Towels
- Toilet paper
- Trash bags (45 & 55 gallon)
- Scouring cleanser (Comet)

**RIPPLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

- Individually wrapped cookies, chips, crackers
- Applesauce/Fruit cups
- Individual Mac N’ Cheese
- Ramen noodle cups
- Coffee
- Tea bags
- Hot chocolate packets
- Chapstick
- Flashlights
- Batteries—AA, AAA and D
- Book bags
- Reusable totes
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos
- Laundry pods
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- \$5 Gift caards for Wawa
- Baby Wipes
- Deodorant

**THE KINDNESS PROJECT**

- Baby Bibs
- Pacifiers
- Diaper Rash Cream
- Diapers—Size4, 6 and Overnight Diapers for big kids
- Pull-ups—All sizes
- Socks, underwear for boys, girls and teens—all sizes
- Long sleeve shirts from 3T to teen sizes (girls, boys, teens)
- New games, cards, puzzles (mostly for teens)
- Crib sheets
- Toddler bed sheets
- Crib mattress protectors
- Potty Seats

**INGATHERING 2023 REQUESTS**

**NORTHERN LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT  
INGATHERING 2023**

Shepherd of the Hills will be collecting food clothing, and gift cards with its ministry to the Allentown Rescue Mission and Ripple Community Center in Allentown that serve homelessness andand those with mental illness or significant trauma.

We will also be collecting items for the Kindness Project in the Lehigh Valley with their mission to provide brighter futures for children in foster card.

Mittens, winter hats and scarves for children and adults are also appreciated for all three organizations.

Children and youth from our Sunday School will once again to asked to bring washable markers, crayons and colored pencils for gift bags being made for the children at KidsPeace. Our *Joyful Noise collections* will go towards purchasing a journal for each child, fruit snacks, Rice Krispies Treats, decks of playing cards, and two individual gifts.

Items will be collected beginning November 12 through December 3. Please see Laurie Andrew, Barbara Scheirer, Karen Zimmerman and Linda Forand to answer questions regarding the Ingathering.

Please select tems from the list to help those in need, and return the items by Sunday, December 3. It would be very helpful and appreciated if you identify what organization you are helping with your items. This will insure that your selection will be boxed properly. Lease attach (with tape) a small piece of paper with the name of the organization on each item ou bring to place on the table in the narthex.

Thank you for supporting this Christmas collection for others in our community.

